



Medjugorje Irish Centre News Letter

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2017

Celebrating the feast of Christmas in Medjugorje



*Replica of Bethlehem outside
St. James Church 2017*



Welcome to the Medjugorje Irish Centre's monthly Newsletter

Each month we gather together stories and events taking place in Medjugorje and the surrounding area to help people keep in touch with this special place.

Nov. / Dec. 2017

**On Friday 15th
December, the parish
began its nine days of**

preparation to celebrate Christmas.

The 7am morning Mass has been moved to 6am and the Cenacolo community is constructing the site of "Bethlehem" in front of the church of St. James for a live Nativity scene on Christmas eve. During the nine days, daily Rosary will take place on Apparition Hill at 2 pm.

Medjugorje weather remains mostly dry with some heavy showers and temperatures between -1 and 5 degrees celsius.



Even during the colder months pilgrims have come from around the world including Croatia, Ireland, USA, Scotland, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Austria, and England partaking of 57,000 Holy Communions and celebrated by 1,404 priests.

Medjugorje Events

Radio Mir Medjugorje celebrates its 20th Anniversary

On Saturday 25th November 2017, Radio station Mir Medjugorje, celebrated 20 years of their work. The original programme lasted for only five hours each day in Medjugorje. Today, this radio station broadcasts 24 hours to listeners from all over the world.

17th Anniversary of the death of Fr. Slavko

On Friday 17th November, Medjugorje commemorated the 17th Anniversary of Fr. Slavko Barbaric's death. Fr. Slavko died on 24th November 2000, after having completed the Way of the Cross on Cross Mountain and he was later buried in the local cemetery Kovacica behind St. James' Church. This year, Fr. Marinko Sakota P.P., led the prayer of the Way of the Cross on Cross Mountain with many faithful participating.



Airline announces new flights into Mostar Airport for 2018

Eurowings has said it plans to launch flights from Stuttgart and Cologne to Mostar in a recent statement. It comes after Mostar was chosen as the low cost airline's newest destination from Cologne in a popular vote. The new routes will help overturn Mostar Airport's declining passenger numbers. General Manager, Marin Raspudić said, "this was just the beginning of Eurowings' presence in the city."

Lufthansa's low cost subsidiary, Mostar Airport's management, representatives from the Bosnia and Herzegovina Directorate of Civil Aviation and local tour operators began talks over the introduction of flights from Stuttgart in January 2017, after which the Premier of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton said the route would be subsidised. Flights were expected to begin in October 2017 but will now launch jointly with the new Cologne service next summer season. Mr Raspudić said, "We are in constant contact with Eurowings and we believe Cologne and Stuttgart are ideal destinations for Mostar. We are also in contact with Wizz Air and have commenced talks with Croatia Airlines as well. I hope that in the coming year we will have more scheduled flights. It is important that Eurowings will start first. When one comes the others will follow".

Mostar has struggled to attract scheduled flights but sees a significant number of charter traffic throughout the year primarily from Italy, carrying religious pilgrims visiting Medjugorje. The Airport has been in talks with Wizz Air over potential services from Sweden and recently held meetings with Croatia Airlines over the resumption of flights from Zagreb in 2018 following a twelve-year hiatus. This is excellent news for pilgrims coming from Ireland and the UK. Traditionally the season time in Medjugorje ended with the last direct flights returning on the first week of November. Off season flight prices were very expensive alongside the additional taxi transport from Split or Dubrovnik airport of €120 each way. Now the option exists to purchase low cost connecting flights from Dublin or London via Stuttgart or Zagreb directly into Mostar. Off season journey time is now almost the same as the season time, there are no border crossings, Mostar is only 40 minutes from Medjugorje and the cost to get here is the same or even less than the season time.



MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGES 2018

Save up to €200, book your low cost flights now for the dates that suit you, pay only €50 deposit with the **Irish Centre** and the rest is payable up to 6 weeks before you arrive.

Flights from England

Gatwick to Dubrovnik or Split	Easy Jet & Norwegian
Stanstead to Dubrovnik	Easy Jet & Jet 2
Manchester and Leeds to Dubrovnik or Split	Jet 2

Choose an apartment or room in the Irish
Centre Hotel located right beside St. James
Church

or

an apartment in the 4 star Irish House Hotel

	7 nights B&B	7 Nights Half Board
Shuttle from Dubrovnik or Split	€279	€321
Shuttle from Zadar	€319	€361

All meals served between 8am - 10pm
in the Irish Centre so come whatever
time suits you

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Valid for 3 years for the value you choose, a gift voucher covers our accommodation, meals and shuttle services for the next time you are in Medjugorje



ANY FLIGHT - ANY TIME

Offer includes guaranteed
shuttle service when staying
with us, even if you are
traveling alone.

We arrange airport shuttle
from Dubrovnik, Split or
Zadar airports.

Our driver, displaying a sign
for Irish Centre, meets you
at the airport and leaves you
off outside your
accommodation where one
of our English speaking
staff will meet you and help
you settle in.

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020 3239 8662 or
Email to
[reservations@med-
irishcentre.com](mailto:reservations@med-irishcentre.com)

For single supplement just add €100

To book an Irish Centre Apartment
please add €5 per night per person

*Offer valid from March - October

Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican's Secretary of State speaks on Medjugorje

In a recent press conference held in the Great Hall of the Croatian Catholic University in Zagreb, Cardinal Pietro Parolin spoke about the Church's current stance on Medjugorje.



The report from the Informative Catholic Agency present at the event outlines that after the ceremony of blessings, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State said: "Yesterday, while I was flying to Croatia from Rome to Split, I was able to meet a big group of pilgrims from Argentina who were travelling to Medjugorje. Recently, I spoke to some people who told me that there is a great interest for Medjugorje. As far as I know, there was a great gathering for the youth held this summer in that place. You know that the Commission for investigation of this phenomenon was established and this Commission filed and submitted their results to the Holy Father. Naturally, when it comes to the supernatural character of the events in Medjugorje, at the same time there is the whole issue regarding pastoral care taking place in Medjugorje, which is of the highest interest at the moment considering the number of pilgrims who are coming there. Therefore, it was the desire of the Holy See to help regulating that phenomenon, so all faithful who are coming to Medjugorje could listen to the Word of God, celebrate the sacraments, and thus have an authentic experience of faith. Archbishop Hoser was recently appointed for that purpose, precisely so that he could study the issue of pastoral care at the site and inform the Holy See about the situation, but again I am emphasising it was all with the purpose of responding to the challenges of the pastoral care. The goal was to gather as much information as possible and see which would be the following step in that matter to be undertaken."

Irish Centre Update

Renovation work in the Irish Centre Hotel beside St. James Church is near completion.

Following on from our customer feed back, we have installed a new elevator for easier access to the hotels first floor.

We have combined some of our rooms and upgraded them into apartments making them more spacious. We have also opened up a new laundry and dry cleaning service available to all visitors to Medjugorje.

Major Roadworks currently taking place in Medjugorje

After the successful implementation of the roundabout at Tromeda (the main entrance into Medjugorje), the local council has began major roadworks in the village centre. The river that flows through the centre each winter has been dammed off and at the site of the bridge as you enter the main street close by to the original post office, massive new infrastructure is being installed. The project is for a new roundabout linking the new road to nearby Citluk. The completion date is for mid June 2018 and aims to reduce traffic congestion to and from the village.



Medjugorje Gift Certificate

Not sure what to get your loved ones for that special occasion?

How about a gift certificate for the next time they come to Medjugorje?

Ideal for:

Birthdays

Anniversaries

Christmas Present

Call us on 020 3239 8662 for details or email us at reservations@med-irishcentre.com



Gift Certificates cover all of our services including Accommodation, Airport Shuttle and Food

Gift Certificates are valid for up to 3 years and are available in any amount from €25 up to €500

We email you your Gift Certificate so you receive it immediately



GIFT CERTIFICATE *Medjugorje Irish Centre*

Voucher Number: 121212121
Purchase Date: 1st December 2017
Expiration Date: 1st December 2020

Voucher Value: **€100.00**
SAMPLE
CERTIFICATE

Hotel Telephone: 00387 36 651 518
Email: reservations@med-irishcentre.com

Our Lady's Message to Mirjana

December 2nd 2017



“Dear children, I turn to you as your mother, the mother of the just, the mother of those who love and suffer, the mother of those who are holy. My children, you too can be holy – this depends on you. Those who are holy are those who immeasurably love the Heavenly Father, those who love Him above all. Therefore, my children, always strive to be better. If you strive to be good you can be holy even though you may not think so of yourselves. If you think that you are good, you are not humble, and arrogance distances you from holiness. In this peaceless world full of threats, your hands, apostles of my love, should be extended in prayer and mercy.

And to me, my children, give the gift of the rosary, the roses which I love so much. My roses are your prayers pronounced with the heart and not only recited with the lips. My roses are your acts of prayer, faith and love. When my Son was little, he said to me that my children would be numerous and that they would bring me many roses. I did not comprehend Him. Now I know that you are those children who are bringing me roses when, above all, you love my Son, when you pray with the heart, when you help the poorest.

Those are my roses. That is the faith which makes everything in life be done through love, not knowing arrogance, and always ready to forgive; never judging, always striving to understand one's brother. Therefore, apostles of my love, pray for those who do not know how to love, for those who do not love you, for those who have done evil to you, for those who have not come to know the love of my Son. My children, I ask this of you because, remember, to pray means to love and to forgive. Thank you.”

Our Lady's Message to Jakov

December 25th 2017

“Dear children, Today, on this day of grace, I am calling you to ask the Lord for the gift of faith. My children, decide for God and begin to live and to believe in that what God is calling you to. To believe, my children, means to surrender your lives into God's hands - the hands of the Lord who created you and who loves you immeasurably. Do not be believers only in words but live and witness your faith through works and through your personal example. Speak with God as with your Father. Open and surrender your hearts to Him and you will see how your hearts are changing and how your life will marvel at God's works in your life. My children, there is no life without God and that is why, as your mother, I intercede before, and pray to, my Son to renew your hearts and to fill your life with immeasurable love. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

NOTICE BOARD

Group Leaders wanted for Pilgrimages to Medjugorje

Ever thought about organising a pilgrimage to Medjugorje?

For help and further information contact us at 020 3239 8662 or by email at reservations@med-irishcentre.com

Gift Certificate

The Irish Centre now offers gift certificates for all our services including accommodation, transport and food.

Choose the value that suits you. Vouchers valid for 3 years

Medjugorje Prayer Groups

If you are part of a prayer group or there is a Medjugorje event taking place in your parish, let us know and we'll include it in next months Newsletter

Just for fun

A family was having some people to dinner. At the table the mother turned to her six-year-old daughter and said, "Dear would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say", replied the little girl shyly. "Just say what you hear Mommy say sweetie", the woman said. Her daughter took a deep breath, bowed her head and solemnly said, "Dear Lord, why did I invite all these people to dinner."



Statue of the Risen Christ in Medjugorje



Vicka the Visionary Praying



Evening service at the back of St. James Church

CHECK THE CALENDAR FOR 2018

26th February

25th International Pilgrimage Leaders meeting in Medjugorje

28th March

First flight Gatwick to Split with Easy Jet

29th March

First flight Stanstead to Dubrovnik with Jet 2

29th March

First Flight Manchester to Dubrovnik with Jet 2

1st April

Easter Sunday

7th April

First flight Gatwick to Dubrovnik with Easy Jet

9th May

6th International Spiritual Retreat for Life to be held in Medjugorje

2nd July

23rd International Spiritual Retreat for Priests

**Reminder: Book
your flights early to get a
good price and we'll pick you
up at the airport**

Medjugorje Seminars and Events

25th International Meeting for Organisers of Pilgrimages, Leaders of Peace Centres and Medjugorje Prayer and Charity groups

The 25th International Meeting for Pilgrimage Organisers will be held in Medjugorje from February 26th -March 2nd 2018

Participants are asked to book their own accommodation.

More details will be released at a later date.

6th International Spiritual Retreat for Life to be held in Medjugorje from 9th - 12th May 2018

With the Mother of Life: the spiritual retreat for doctors and all medical workers, for those who are fighting for life, prayer for those who have lost a child, all who have been wounded by abortions, spontaneous miscarriages, for spouses who are longing for a child, for pro-life activists, victims of domestic violence, single parents, pregnant women...

The theme of the retreat is:

Living on the Word of God

“Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures” (Lk 24:45)

The Retreat shall be held in the hall of St. John Paul II, behind the church. The participation fee per person is €40. Reservations may be made via email: seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr (for Marija Dugandžić). The number of participants is limited due to the space constraints. We therefore kindly ask that you submit your registrations as soon as possible. In addition, we ask that those participating in the Retreat arrange their own accommodation in Medjugorje.

THE 23rd INTERNATIONAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR PRIESTS Held in Medjugorje from 2nd - 7th July 2018

The theme is:

Living on the Word of God

“Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures” (Lk 24:45)

"In Our Lady's School

Reservations may be made via email: seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr (for Marija Dugandžić).

PREVIOUS DRAW WINNERS



Medjugorje Irish Centre Draw

TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE

1. SEND US IN A PICTURE OF YOURSELF
2. THIS PICTURE WILL APPEAR ON OUR WEBSITE AND ON FACEBOOK
3. YOU CAN COME ANY TIME EXCEPT YOUTH FESTIVAL AND ANNIVERSARY WEEK
4. THE PRIZE IS VALID FOR ONE YEAR



Winner

Rev. Dan O'Neill
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Accommodation

Guests can choose between an apartment or room in the Irish Centre Hotel located right beside St. James Church or an apartment in the Irish House Apart Hotel.

All accommodation comes with air conditioning, free Wi-Fi and tea & coffee making facilities.

Transport

Our driver , displaying a placard for Irish Centre, meets you at the airport and leaves you off outside your accommodation where one of our English speaking staff will meet you and help you settle in.

For transport only customers traveling to or from Dubrovnik or Split **€30** each way per person and from Zadar **€55** each way per person depending on availability.

Food

All meals are served in the newly renovated Irish Centre restaurant between 8am and 9pm so no more rushing back - come whatever time suits you.

We offer B&B, half board and full board options.

The Irish Centre hotel reception provides services for laundry, online check in, boarding passes, excursions, guides, information, the parish program, upcoming events and Gaelic games. It is the ideal place in Medjugorje to get a home cooked meal or to meet a friend for tea and scones.



MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE CUSTOMERS

Booking Rules and Benefits:

Any Flight Any Time:

- Even if traveling alone, our guests get a guaranteed shuttle price
- It only applies to guests staying their entire time in Medjugorje booked through the Irish Centre
- To get the guaranteed price, customers must book return shuttle service at the same time
- Shuttle service guarantee valid from March until October

Bi-Monthly Draw:

- Bi-Monthly draw to win one week's all included package trip to Medjugorje for one person.
- This includes 7 nights B&B, airport shuttle service and flight (up to €300 flight value).
- Winners can claim their prize at any time within a 1 year period. i.e. the winner of October 2017 can claim their prize anytime up to and including October 2018.
- The only exceptions are dates occurring during Anniversary Week or Youth Festival.
- The winner can also choose to delegate their prize to a single person of their choice.
- To claim their prize the winner must send in a picture of themselves

Bi-Monthly Newsletter:

- Newsletter with updates from Medjugorje
- Stories of interest
- Upcoming events
- Pilgrimage Information

Special Offers:

- For every 2 weeks booked during any calendar year get 1 night's free accommodation
- 10% souvenir discount at the Irish Centre souvenir shop
- Special discounts on selected dates (see website for details)

