



This is the sixth edition of our Parish newsletter, designed to keep you in touch with activities in our parish. We welcome your input, so please let us have your comments and contributions. Contact details:

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Alternatively, leave a note on the letter board.

This newsletter is also available on the parish website [www.knaresborough.co.uk/stmaryrcchurch](http://www.knaresborough.co.uk/stmaryrcchurch)

## Medjugorje

Our main feature is about St Mary's in Jablanica,



approx 50 km from Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the destination of our Pilgrimage group on 20<sup>th</sup> May. This is where six young people claim to have seen visions of Our Lady. Over many appearances starting in June 1981, Mary told the visionaries that God sent her to our world to help us convert our hearts and lives back to Him. Our Lady's call is one of Peace, Love, Faith, Conversion, Prayer, and Fasting. Tens of millions have journeyed to the shrine and many say their lives have changed, often dramatically.

## Links with Mostar

Through the Medjugorje Pilgrimage Group, the Parish also support Matthew Procter (of the charity Miracles) in his work for underprivileged children in Mostar, especially those who have lost limbs through landmines.



Funding has been provided for his work at the prosthetic centre in Mostar while trainers and clothing have been donated to enable children from poorer families to attend school.

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## SPOTLIGHT on Links with St Mary's, Jablanica

Our parish has had links with St Mary's Jablanica (near Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina) since the early 1990's. Each year the Pilgrimage Group to Medjugorje visit and meet with Don Ivan (Parish Priest) and his parishioners. This is usually for Sunday Mass in their little village church in the mountains, followed by a meal provided by them.

Although the Bosnian war ended some ten years ago, the country is the most land-mined region in Europe. Despite the heroic efforts of the Norwegian bomb disposal teams, children and adults are still being mutilated and blinded by picking up or stepping on landmines and the main routes in the country still carry warnings not to leave the road because of this danger.

Jablanica was one of the villages ethnically cleansed during the Bosnian war. All the men and boys over 14yrs were shot and the women and little children escaped as best they could over the mountains to Mostar.

On our earliest visits to the parish we saw how this had affected the community. The congregation was mainly made up of elderly widows and a few families where the father and toddlers had escaped execution. Those toddlers are now very impressive young men and women with a great commitment to their faith who are looking to help establish peace ever more firmly in their community.

children, otherwise they are fully integrated.

Over the last three years the Pilgrimage Group has been raising funds to enable two young girls to complete their university education in Sarajevo. They have one more year of study and have promised that once qualified they will contribute from their earnings to enable other young people to access higher education. In addition the Pilgrimage Group provides money



The children insisted that after the war Jablanica should have one school for all in order to help heal divisions. Don Ivan provides Religious Education for the Catholic children in the school and the Imam for the Muslim

each year so Don Ivan can give the children in the parish presents on St Nicholas Day (their normal day for gifts) and can help support the elderly at Christmas. This has all been achieved through generous donations, car boot sales,

market stalls and other forms of fund-raising among friends and the wider Knaresborough community.

St Mary's Knaresborough and St Mary's Jablanica keep in touch by email. In particular there is always an exchange of greetings at Easter and Christmas and on 8 September, which is the Patronal Feast of both parishes. If you would like to know more about this parish link or would like to help support it in some way, please contact Maureen on 869264.

### Update on Viva La Fun

Viva la fun Junior Youth Club continues to meet, although sessions are currently monthly rather than fortnightly - we are in need of more volunteers! There are currently about thirty young people attending the Youth Club from Years 6, 7 and 8 taking part in a range of activities and they seem to be enjoying themselves.

Earlier this year, a group of about thirty young people went to see the pantomime at the Frazer Theatre and another trip is planned to the Carlton

Lodge Outdoor Education Centre.

Before Christmas we had "Viva la Fun's Got Talent." The show was excellent, featuring all sorts of talents including magic tricks, jokes, playing the guitar, singing, drumming, and a scene from Macbeth. At the end of the show the whole room danced the cha cha slide. The Youth Club is a great place where the kids of the parish can come together and have fun. We would love to hear from anyone who could offer their help, no matter how small. We also need more games - we now have a shed so storage is not a problem. If you are interested please contact Maggie Chandler on 545050.



On February 6<sup>th</sup>, St Mary's Singers staged "Angels & Trumpets", described by The Knaresborough Post as "a triumph of music and song." The programme showcased an impressive array of local talent, and raised nearly £1300 for the Church Building Fund. Thanks to all, but especially Maryjo Mainwaring-Taylor who conceived the idea and whose vision, drive and determination turned it into a roaring success!

## Why Punctuality is Important

A priest was being honoured at his retirement dinner after 25 years in the parish. A leading local politician was chosen to make the presentation and give a little speech at the dinner. He was delayed, so the priest decided to say his own few words while people waited.

"I got my first impression of the parish from the first confession I heard here. I thought I had been assigned to a terrible place. The very first person who entered my confessional told me he had stolen a television set and, when questioned by the police, was able to lie his way out of it. He had stolen money from his parents, embezzled from his employer, taken illegal drugs and had an affair with his boss's wife. I was appalled! But as the days went on, I knew that my people were not all like that, and I had indeed come to a fine parish full of good and loving people."

Just as the priest finished his talk, the politician arrived, full of apologies for being late. He immediately began to make the presentation, giving his talk.

"I'll never forget the first day our parish priest arrived," said the politician. "In fact, I had the honour of being the first one to go to him for confession!"

## The Rule of St Benedict

Chapter 43 deals with lateness. It is entitled "Of Those Who Are Tardy in Coming to the Work of God or to Table"

### Rule, Chapter 43

As soon as the signal for the time of the divine office is heard, let everyone, leaving whatever he has in his hands, hasten with all speed, yet with gravity, that there may be no cause for levity. Therefore, let nothing be preferred to the Work of God. If at Matins anyone comes after the Gloria of the 94th psalm, which on that account we wish to be much drawn out and said slowly, let him not stand in his place in the choir; but let him stand last of all, or in a place which the Abbot has set apart for such careless ones, that he may be seen by him and by all, until, the Work of God being ended, he makes satisfaction by public penance.

The reason, however, why we think they should stand in the last place, or apart from the rest, is this: that seen by all they may amend for very shame. For if they stayed outside the oratory, there might be one who would go back to sleep, or anyhow would seat himself outside, indulge in vain

gossip, and give a "chance to the devil". Let him go inside, therefore, that he may not lose the whole, and may amend for the future.

At the day hours, however, whoever does not arrive for the Work of God after the verse and the Gloria of the first psalm, which is said after the verse, let him stand in the last place, according to the rule which we stated above; and let him not attempt to join the choir of the chanters until he has made satisfaction, unless, perchance, the Abbot's permission has given him leave to do so, with the understanding that he atone the fault afterwards.

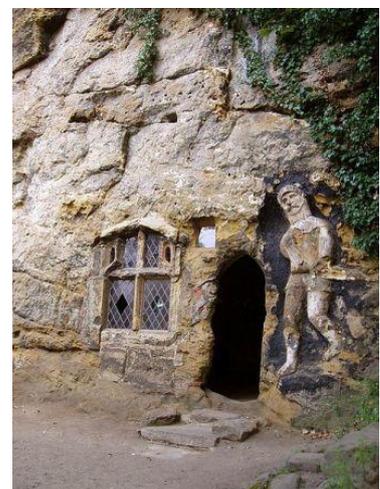
If anyone does not come to table before the verse, so that all may say the verse and pray together and sit down to table at the same time, let him be twice corrected for this, if he failed to come through his own fault and negligence. If he does not amend after this, let him not be permitted to eat at the common table; but separated from the company of all, let him eat alone, his portion of wine being taken from him, until he has made satisfaction and has amended. In like manner let him suffer who is not present also at the verse which is said after the refectation.

And let no one presume to take food or drink before or

after the appointed time. But if anything should be offered to a brother by the Superior and he refuses to accept it, and afterwards desires what at first he refused or anything else, let him receive nothing at all, until he makes due satisfaction.

### Update on ROCK (Restore Our Chapel Knight)

Last year's fundraising for the sexcentenary celebration of the Chapel of Our Lady of the Crag raised £2788.99 towards the restoration of the knight carving at the entrance. Funds now stand at just over £4500. We now have two costings for renovation of the knight carving and both are just less than £5000.



Through the summer the Shrine will be open on Sunday afternoons from 2 - 4 pm until the end of September.