



A Catholic Magazine on the Holy Angels | Vol 9 • issue 3 • 2018 | £ 2,00 € 2,50 \$ 5,00 | ISSN 2081-5077

The Angels

Messengers from a loving God

**Miracles
by Padre Pio
still occur here**

**Master of reiki
returns to God**

**Our Lady is Queen
of the angels**

**St Francis:
imitator of Christ**

**Jesus, I trust in You:
what does it really mean?**

**I felt God's
presence testimony**





Often we ask the saints for healing. Have you ever asked the angels for healing?

The most brilliant of the angels mentioned in the Bible is St Michael. The Holy Church gives to him the highest place among the angels. She refers to him as "Prince of the heavenly hosts." He is considered to be the guardian angel of Jesus Christ and the national guardian angel of the Israelites. We hear his praises from St Gabriel who, speaking to the prophet Daniel, says, "...but Michael, one of the Chief Princes, came to my assistance (Dan 10:13); and, "In all this, there is no one to lend me support except Michael your Prince" (Dan 10:21).

St Michael belongs to the choir of the archangels, which is one of the lowest choirs by nature. Due to his outstanding zeal for the glory of God at the time of Satan's rebellion he merited such glory and power that he excelled through grace the angels that belong to the much higher choirs by nature.

There is a war described in the twelfth chapter of the Book of Revelation. This is a war carried on against the woman and her child by the Dragon and his angels. By the 'woman' is meant in the first place

the Church, but in a symbolic sense Mary. St Michael took part in this battle and finally the Dragon was cast out. A dragon symbolises the Devil, and hence Satan. St Michael never ceases to wage war against his and our enemy. We find St Michael in many books of the Bible and in the lives of many saints. They encourage us to pray to him and to be under his protection. For example, St Francis de Sales wrote, "Veneration of St Michael is the greatest remedy against despising the rights of God, against insubordination, skepticism and infidelity." That is why when we feel strong temptations and we tend to give in to them, we should turn to St Michael the Archangel and ask him for help.

I assure you of the constant daily prayers of the priests of the

Congregation of St Michael the Archangel for all our readers and their families.

God bless you.

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Jesus I trust in You

We are celebrating today – on the second Sunday of Easter – the Feast of Divine Mercy, a day established for the whole Church by Pope John Paul II in the year 2000, the same day of the canonization of St Sister Faustina. She was a humble Polish nun who was asked, a total of 23 times, by Jesus in His revelations, that such a feast would be established.

According to Christ's promise in the (Diary, 300) "whoever approaches the Fount of Life on this day will be granted complete remission of sins and punishment". It is a grace equal only to the grace of baptism.

So, with St Faustina, with St John Paul II and with St Padre Pio let's approach this Fount of Mercy with everything that is in our hearts: all our wounds, our past, our falls, our fears. Jesus wants to heal us.

Lord Jesus, we come to you. To whom shall we go? You are our hope, we trust in You. We give our fears, wounds, our ill feeling of guilt, and our weaknesses to You. We give our disbelief, our disappointment and resentments, our aggression and jealousy to You. We give our entire misery to You. We throw the anchor of trust into the sea of Your Mercy and ask You: O Lord, please, stand among us, in our hearts, in our homes and families. Heal our wounds, and give the Spirit of Love to our hearts. Let us experience that we are loved. O Lord, show us Your Mercy because we trust in You. Amen.

On Divine Mercy Sunday we are gazing at the Divine Mercy image, a painting of the merciful Jesus for longer than usual. We look much deeper at the image than on other days. Silently in our hearts we learn to say, "Jesus, I trust in You." We are

fulfilling the great desire of Jesus, who urged Saint Sister Faustina to have the image painted.

We need this painting

We need the painting of Christ more than we used to, as today we are more and more "visualizers". The media culture of today, is more visual than spoken. On the screens of our computers we still click on the icons. Exactly! Icons. Let us be grateful that Jesus gives us a picture, an icon. You just have to press "enter". This "enter" is **trust**.

The words: "Jesus, I trust in You," are an integral part of the painting of Jesus of Mercy. They cannot be missing! Jesus said to Sister Faustina: I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: "Jesus, I trust in You." *This vessel is the painting with the words: Jesus, I trust in You* (Diary, 327). And He promised: *No soul will be justified until it turns with confidence to My mercy, and this is why the first Sunday after Easter is to be the Feast of Mercy. On that day, priests are to tell everyone about My great and unfathomable mercy. I am making*

you an administrator of my mercy (Diary, 570).

St Paul in the letter to Colossians writes: *He [Christ] is the image of the invisible God* (1:15).

It may seem strange that the Lord orders the nun (with the permission of her confessor) to arrange and organise His "portrait" and ensure that this picture will be a "vessel" for mercy. Why? Perhaps the reason for this unique request is the fact that we have created so many false images of God and we are still creating them? And it is not about images in churches, but something more important – the image of God that we carry in ourselves in our souls. How often is it very far from the one Christ left us in the Gospel? This inner "icon" of God is distorted so much that instead of encouraging trust, closeness or prayer, it can often repel us from God, giving in to fear and discouragement.

Caricatures of God

In 2015, a movie was screened in cinemas "Le tout nouveau testament" (The Brand New Testament). The hero was a caricature of God. God was depicted as a grumpy drunk living in Brussels, who is sitting in his pyjamas and slippers, drinking vodka, tyrannizing his family, spending

days in front of the “divine” computer, dealing with poisoning people’s lives through various acts of malice. The film was advertised as a “devilishly funny comedy”. Indeed, there was something diabolical about it. It was Satan there, and a deep sadness masked by croaking. I am reminding you today of this film because it is a good example of how the distorted image of God can be imprinted into the minds and hearts of modern people. If someone imagines God as a pathological, jealous mischief-maker, who makes life difficult with all of his outdated principles, then the last thing you can do is trust Him.

The Devil’s job is exactly this – to present us with a caricature of God, and thereby, weaken our trust in Him. That’s how it was in Paradise under the tree of knowing good and evil. Satan in the form of a snake told the ancient people – Do not trust God! He prohibits so many things! Be courageous, be yourself, choose freedom, or yourself. This devilish propaganda in new incarnations confuses us in our heads and hearts. Unfortunately, it is successful. That is why the words ‘Jesus, I trust in You’ are so important. This is the answer to this eternal temptation.

What does it mean?

‘Jesus, I trust you!’ What do these words mean? How are we to understand them?

Jesus... Note that we turn to our Lord by His name, directly and personally. Simply “Jesus”. “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4,12).

I trust... Trust appears between people who know each other and are close to each other. If I trust Jesus, it means I know Him enough that I can trust Him. Children inherently trust their parents. The more we become adults, the harder it is for us to trust. Only love destroys the wall of distrust, suspicion and distance.

In You... In You, as if we were on first-name terms with Jesus like in a close intimate relationship. St Thomas, when he touched the Risen Lord, confessed: “My Lord and my God.” Jesus told him, “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed” (Jn 20:28-29). It is a blessing for those who trust, that is, those who believe in the midst of darkness. Trust is like taking a huge jump. Like in this old example about a child who was about to jump out the window from a burning house, but in the clouds of smoke he did not see his father. – “Jump!” the father calls. “But dad, I cannot see you.” “Jump, I am here, I will catch you, do not be afraid.” This is trust. Not theory, but a decision, entrusting oneself. Jump... into the strong arms of the Saviour.

We will never understand what trust is until we start trusting.

A heart transplant named ‘Jesus, I trust in You’

At the end I would like to tell two stories that should give you a greater understanding of this truth. The first is the story of a priest Feliks Folejewski, who died a few years ago and was called the ‘Apostle of Divine Mercy’. Whoever rang him

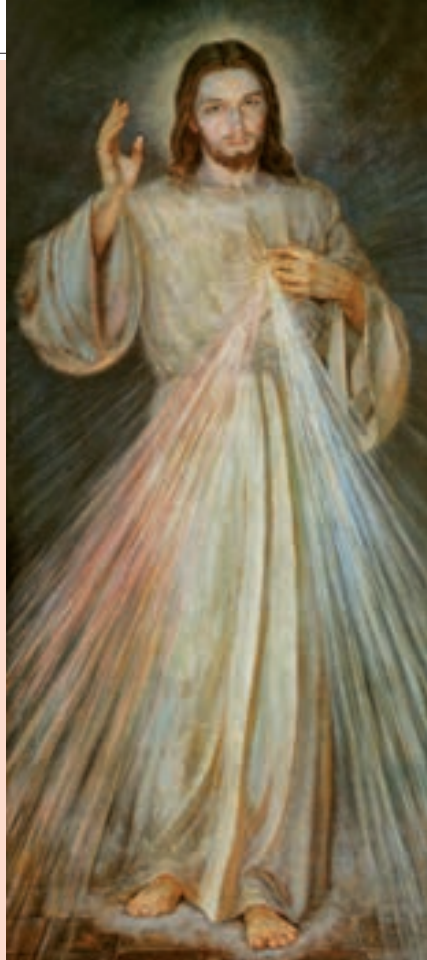
on the telephone did not hear “Good morning” or “Hello”, but always as a welcome: “Jesus, I trust in You”.

The message of Divine Mercy was preached by Fr Feliks throughout his priestly life – that is for over half a century. In 1956 as a young clergyman in a seminary he hung a silver heart as a votive offering on a statue of merciful Jesus. It was an external sign of internal entrustment to the Divine Mercy. He did not know this gesture was a premonition of what would happen to his physical heart.

On March 10, 1980, the first heart attack came. Two weeks later – came a major heart attack. At that time he also experienced clinical death. Two and a half years later in Germany, he had another heart attack and had a bypass operation. The bypass did help, but they did not heal Fr Felix.

Despite the illness and the risk involved of a long journey, in April 1993, he went to the beatification of Sister Faustina in Rome. He later said, ‘During the ceremony at St Peter’s Basilica, he gave Jesus this idea: “Lord Jesus, if you give me strength, I will devote all of my time to preaching Divine Mercy.”’ Two months later doctors said that the only salvation for Fr Felix was a heart transplant. He was put on a waiting list for a donor and preparations for the surgery began, which was to take place in Krakow. Fr Felix said, “It did not suit me psychologically.”

However, he still had enough strength and the doctors agreed to let him travel nearby to the Divine Mercy Shrine in Łagiewniki for an eight-day personal retreat. Speaking with great humility he said, ‘I sat in the chapel in front of the Divine Mercy image of the merciful Jesus praying



to Him, “Lord Jesus, I know there is no problem for you to unblock my closed arteries, with one ray of your heart. I know you can.” But it seemed Jesus did not want to and He had every right not to want to.

On the seventh day of the retreat, in the evening of October 1st, just like every day Fr Felix Folejewski was in the chapel in front of the Divine Mercy image. He prayed for the peace of the heart and for light: ‘What do I do? Have a heart transplant?’ And then he heard an inner voice: ‘Your heart transplant will be called “Jesus, I trust in You”’. These words became engraved in his mind and heart and subsequently, from that day forward they accompanied him constantly. The next day he went to the clinic to advise the doctors that he had decided not to have a heart transplant. He did not experience a miraculous healing, but the

miracle of life, and that with a heart which was three-quarters dead. For the next 20 years Fr Felix ran retreats, and through the grace of God preached sermons on ten Divine Mercy Sundays. He had no doubt that his life in illness was a miracle of God’s Mercy. Fr Folejewski said that the words of Sister Faustina written in her “Diary” are the summit of trust in God. In her Diary, entry 1264, which she calls “an act of total abandonment to the will of God, which is for me, love and mercy itself.”

Fr Felix said, “I am still learning what it fully means ‘Jesus I trust in You’ and I still cannot understand it completely yet. For me these words mean that I thank God for everything. If I do not thank God, it means that I don’t trust and think that God gives unpleasant things to me. It’s not easy. Saying ‘Jesus I trust in You’ with full awareness and conviction of their meaning and it is extremely difficult. Sometimes people keep saying ‘Jesus I trust in You’ carelessly; with an attitude like this: well, doctors haven’t helped, psychologists haven’t helped, maybe Jesus will help. People often ask me ‘How are you, Father?’ and I always reply ‘Jesus I trust in You.’” His heart endured to the end for twenty years and eventually the cause of Fr Felix death was in fact cancer.

A lesson in trust

The second story happened in my own family. My youngest sister experienced a big crisis in her marriage; she and her husband separated for ten years and were reconciled two years ago. They have two wonderful sons: 17-year-old

David and 15-year-old Casper. A few months ago, when I visited the family home, my sister told me she was pregnant. This was totally unexpected as she was not planning any more children. However, it was clearly obvious that she was very happy. Unfortunately, on a subsequent visit to the doctor a scan revealed that the baby in her womb had a serious problem – it was discovered the baby boy was lacking a foetal skull or cranium. If the baby survived the birth, a small percentage lived for around 6 days, but the majority of babies usually lived less than 24 hours. When she last told me this, I asked with some anxiety, “What do you want to do?” She replied, “I will pray until the end, because God can do everything. Of course I will give birth to this child. I trust in God because he knows what He does best, even if we do not understand everything right away”. This was a great lesson in trust for me.

When at the end of our prayer we will approach the image of the Merciful Jesus, tell Him all about your life and say the words: “Jesus, I trust in You.” Let us remember His words, for Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ longs for souls and for the conversion of sinners... No matter how great the sin, God’s Mercy is ALWAYS greater... “[Let] the greatest sinners place their trust in My mercy. They have the right before others to trust in the abyss of My mercy. My daughter, write about My mercy towards tormented souls” (Diary, 1146).

Fr Christopher Poswiata CSMA

Homily at Elmore Abbey, near Newbury, Berkshire, England on Divine Mercy Sunday 8th April 2018

The Italian region of Apulia has two great saints: St Michael the Archangel and St Padre Pio. For pilgrims Monte Sant' Angelo and San Giovanni Rotundo are often shrines pilgrims want to visit. And for many it is a groundbreaking experience in their spiritual growth.

Sanctify and be sanctified

This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Padre Pio's death. The faithful expect the abundance of graces by the intercession of the Capuchin friar. Mrs Beata Grzyb, a guide from the Shrine of St Padre Pio, tells us about her work.

When was the first time you heard about Padre Pio?

It was in Poland in the eighties before I went to Italy. Someone brought a booklet of Padre Pio to my home. I cannot recall if I even read it. But some of my family did and were impressed.

How did you happen to live here in San Giovanni Rotundo?

I got married here over twenty years ago. I started to work in the Polish section of the Pilgrim Office of the Shrine of St Padre Pio. At that time international sections were just developing. Of course the peak was in 1999 after beatification of Padre Pio. The number of international pilgrimages rose significantly.

You are connected to Padre Pio on a professional level. Do you have personal relationship with the saint?

Yes. Fifteen years ago we received the grace of parenthood by his intercession. I prayed with my husband for many years. Our child has been a great gift to us. Today I sometimes share this story with the

pilgrims when they ask whether miracles still do happen here.

There are a great number of letters from the faithful, in which they give thanks for graces received or entrust their problems...

Yes, all these letters and Padre Pio's sarcophagus (glass coffin) gives us a lot to reflect on. If Padre Pio's intercession was not effective, people would not write the letters. There are many documented graces. This year we are planning to organize meetings with people who received graces by the intercession of Padre Pio.

Can we find something new in Padre Pio's life and spirituality?

We hear new aspects of his story all the time. Fifteen years ago we lived in a totally different world than today. Nowadays people face different problems. Each encounter with pilgrims bring something new even if it is seemingly a small thing.

What is most fascinating about Padre Pio for pilgrims nowadays?

They are delighted in his relationship with God and other

people. That, despite great suffering, he managed to be witty, caring and joyful at the same time. His attitude is very up-to-date because it shows that one can carry their cross and still be natural. We admire people who have strength to carry their cross and live a normal life: drink coffee or beer with friends and talk about their cross as a gift. This would be unnoticeable for someone from the outside.

Is a way of the cross a way to sainthood?

There is no other way. This was the way of St Faustina Kowalska and many other saints. The cross was number one in their lives. Saints invite us to choose this way. In prayers we ask them to help us to bear it. This is their job in heaven – to intercede for us on our way of the cross, the most beautiful and the hardest one.

As a tour guide taking our group around the Shrine you said it is our decision to open ourselves to Christ, to accept Him with His cross is just a beginning of the way and this includes the spiritual battle. It seems that San Giovanni



Photo: Jacek Kawa

■ Fr Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA speaking with Mrs Beata Grzyb, a guide of the Shrine of Padre Pio in San Giovanni Rotundo, Italy

Rotundo and nearby areas are particularly marked with the spiritual battle. On one hand, Padre Pio was brutally attacked by demons. On the other hand, there is the Shrine of St Michael the Archangel, vanquisher of the Devil, where Padre Pio often sent his penitents.

Yes, you can view one of the mosaics. It shows St Michael giving a sword to Padre Pio. Perhaps St Michael gives “spiritual swords” to the pilgrims visiting his shrine so that they are able to defend themselves against the Devil.

Padre Pio particularly needed such a sword. Satan really hated him.

He hated Padre Pio the same way he hates all of today’s apostles of Divine Mercy who call us to leave paths leading to nowhere and get onto paths leading to the Truth.

Padre Pio’s ministry, the one in the confessional for instance, was a great torture for a demon. Padre Pio used to say he was a martyr of

the reconciliation sacrament. This ministry exhausted him but he did that to bring people back to God.

There is no point in being afraid of Satan for sure. Evil lies in wait for us constantly. That’s why both the clergy and the lay people need to share their spiritual experiences and testimonies. The time of battle is the time of giving witnesses.

Padre Pio gave a witness of his great devotion to St Michael the Archangel and his guardian angel.

Padre Pio often said he knew what his guardian angel looked like. He thought it a special grace to know his guardian angel here on earth. He also regretted that people did not pray to their guardian angels, they just passed by. He encouraged us to call on the angels, asking for their help and assistance often during the day.

What do you think Padre Pio wants to tell us in the 50th anniversary of his death?

The motto of the jubilee year is “Sanctify and be sanctified”. It means that each person who accepted Jesus in their life passes Christian values to others. Great attention is going to be paid to the youth this year. The young have the idea or impression that Padre Pio was some kind of “ancient saint” whereas he is almost contemporary. It is true to say miracles do happen here these days. We wish to organise lots of meetings with witnesses to those miracles. We trust and hope by the large numbers of testimonies, many who were unconvinced will believe in the message of Padre Pio.

In a few words, how would you encourage our readers to visit San Giovanni Rotundo this year?

If you are going to visit the Shrine of St Michael the Archangel, you need to know the distance is less than 60 minutes to meet Padre Pio. I am pretty sure he is going to give us graces in the special year of his 50th anniversary of his death like he did when on earth. He said “Only after my death all will begin”.

The night 22nd/23rd September, a few days before a great indulgence festival at Monte Sant’Angelo, the vigil will take place in our sanctuary. Several thousands of people attend each year. Lots of talks will be held in various languages here. Groups of between 300 or 500 people will be attending. So you, too, are invited to come to San Giovanni Rotundo.

Fr **Peter Prusakiewicz** CSMA and **Karol Wojteczek** were speaking with Mrs **Beata Grzyb**, a guide of the Shrine of St Padre Pio in San Giovanni Rotundo, Italy

Reiki Master returns to God (Part I)

Thank you Father God for the joy – because Joy comes from Your Son Jesus – my joy will be in You.

Home and school

I was born into an alcoholic family. My first memory, when I was two years of age, was of my father beating my mother and my sister running out of the door. My next memory was looking at my father's feet on a flag stone floor in a basement with my father holding a bottle of whiskey in one hand and Guinness in the other: me crying and him crying and me trying to pull him off the seat for his Christmas dinner. That is the way it was for the next 35 years. A beautiful man went out to work every morning and nothing other than Satan himself came home at night. As soon as my father took a drink into his hand his whole being changed. It was as if there was a plug in his ankle and as the beautiful man drained out Satan was being poured into him through his mouth. From the time I was four my father started to beat me and from then on he told me all my life that I was no good.

Some of my teachers were no better. I went to school in Westport, County Mayo and there were a lot of school teachers who also told me the same thing: that I was no good. By the time I was twelve years of age I felt that I was completely unteachable

and unlovable. The problem was not that I was stupid, the problem was that I could not see and needed glasses, I dare say, since the day I was born; and it was not that I could not read: I could not see. So the dunce was always sent to the back of the class and this made the problem worse because the further I went away from the blackboard the more stupid I seemed to become.

There were three or four days every year that we used to go to Knock Shrine as a family and they were the days I felt that I belonged to some family and had a feeling that I was loved. We walked around the church praying the 15 decades of the rosary, followed by the Stations of the Cross, regardless of the weather. On those days there were no beatings. My mother was born and raised near Brathloan near Swinford and each May and August she would walk, barefoot, the seven miles to Knock shrine. From the time I was three my sister, who was 18 months older than myself, and I were brought on that same pilgrimage that my mother undertook. On one particular occasion, when I was aged about six years, I remember it was a freezing cold and rain-swept day, I was very hungry and I said to my mammy, "What are



we doing here in this awful place? I am cold and starving and I am soaking wet." My mother got down on her knees on the wet ground behind the old church, where the Apparition Chapel is today, and got hold of me by the two hips and said, "Jim, I want you to meet the mother that I can never be."

I started to cry and said, "Mammy do not leave me." She said, "I am not going to leave you but, I cannot always be with you. Ask Our Lady now to be your other mother." I remember consecrating myself to the Mother of God that day.

However, the beatings continued and I hated school and I would leave my breakfast unfinished because at the clinic, which was halfway between home and the school, I vomited my breakfast up because I knew what was in store for me that day. During the years between the age of 12 to 15 there was one school teacher who would pick on about six of us



■ Altar sculpture at Knock, based on accounts of the apparition

with different ‘treatments’ as he used to call it. My ‘treatment’ was that he would call me to come up from the back of the class: I would always take off my glasses and approach him with my hands in my pocket. He would proceed to beat my face from side to side with his hands: I could feel the inside of my jaws hanging down like a loose curtain and the taste of blood inside my mouth. But that was the easy bit. He would then make me bray like a donkey in front of the class and sometimes he would open the door of the classroom and make me stand in the school corridor and bray so that the whole school would know that the donkey had come to school that day to waste his time.

The world of work

My mother would say, “Go out and get a job for the summer.” I never asked anybody for a job because I felt so useless; I thought, ‘Who would ever want me?’ One day when I was 15 years old and I had just finished the Intermediate Certificate examination,

my mother got me a job in Hughes’s shoe shop in Westport. I loved it and they loved me. To use the words of the owner, old Pauric Hughes who said, “Jim Brown is the best shoe salesman that ever came into this company.” The word came down from head office that I could have a summer job as long as I wanted it.

When I left school Old Man Hughes asked for my mother to go up to see him. He said, “I want your son to represent this company all over Ireland.” The company is now part of the Portwest Branch and Carraig Donn shops. At that time they were general wholesalers and retailers and they sold shoes and drapery all over Ireland.

I went into the warehouse and a year later a job came up and I said to Old Man Hughes, “I want that job.” He replied, “You are too young.” I answered, “I am not too young, this is what I came into this company for.” When I was 19 years of age he sent me to his drapery shop and I got a new suit, beautiful 28 inch flairs, a pink shirt, four inch platform shoes and, to top it all, I went to Castlebar to the opticians and purchased a pair

of silver glasses with a grey tint. And the party started.

I started my job as a travelling sales rep and drank every day for the next 20 years. The two days of the year I hated were Good Friday and Christmas Day because in Ireland they were called ‘black days’ when the pubs were closed. So we used to manipulate the bar staff to let us in for a few hours. It was not that I could cope with drink, it was that I could not cope without drink. It was the anaesthetic that allowed me to function and it allowed me to become what I needed to be and it allowed me to be whatever my friends needed me to be.

I was head-hunted by almost all the people in the shoe trade. What surprised me was that at the age of 22 years I was earning twice as much money as the people who told me I was no good. In reality, even though I had the trappings of success and driving top-of-the-range cars, my exterior was like a magnificent boxed Easter egg with a beautiful ribbon and shiny paper but inside there was not even one chocolate smarty in this Easter egg. The outside got

bigger and more beautiful and as the outside grew so did the inside, with emptiness, pain, loneliness and low self-esteem. I had to drink more and more to keep those feelings quiet.

I did not know how to love

During all that madness I met a beautiful girl from Cork and I married her, but I could not love her as I did not know what it was to love. I tried to mimic what love was, but to mimic is a thin veneer and I was not able to sustain the pressure. I did everything I could: bought flowers, good restaurants, holidays to where my wife wanted to go. I even bought her a new car, but she said, "James, I do not want a car, I just want you." I did not understand what she was talking about.

In 1990 I went as far as I could go working for the biggest shoe company in Ireland so I thought the only way

to progress was to start my own business. I did this by opening a shoe shop and importing shoes from Portugal. Within 12 months I made lots of money, the second year I had no money and the third year I was unemployed.

Hope House

In 1993 I could not drink and I could not stop, I did not want to live and at the same time I was afraid to die. I was in fact at a crossroads. I heard about Hope House in Foxford and I went up to see Sister Attracta in August one month before it opened in September 1993. She said, "You are a grand fella, very intelligent, the world is at your feet but you will never get anything out of it because you are an alcoholic." I would have preferred it if she had told me that I had cancer and I had a couple of weeks to live, because at least I would be able to drink for the next two weeks. But the thought of not drinking for the

next two weeks seemed the greatest impossibility of all. I went into Hope House and I have not had the urge to drink since and the only thing I take credit for is that I accepted the help that was available. Then my life started to transform without me having anything to do with it, except turning up. This was my gift that I attended each week and to want to get better and I got the help. I started to attend up to five AA meetings a week.

Introduction to New Age

I had not been a good Catholic and hated the Church, the Christian Brothers and nuns.

My wife gave me three 'reflexology' sessions as a birthday present a few months after I came out of Hope House. On the third session the woman did not touch my feet and I asked her what was she doing and she replied "I am doing this new powerful healing called Reiki and you would be terrific at it."

My wife had got involved with shamanism and a New Age breathing practice called 'holotropic'. During the weekend you select a power animal (as a spirit guide) to bring you through the weekend and then maybe bring you through life. It probably is as near to what the native American Indians used, such as names like 'High Eagle', 'Great Eagle' or 'Running Bear'. My wife brought this pagan ritual into our home and I needed to know these New Age practices and did them as well. After a very short time we were not able to sit in the same room together, no matter what one said, the other would disagree. We wanted to



GentleWhitty, www.unsplash.com

be together but we could not be because we invited nothing other than Satan into our home.

I became a Reiki Master, my wife was doing psychotherapy, which in most cases is borderline with the Occult because they tell you to 'own your power'. Power is an illusion. The super powers in the world are the most fearful of all, they are shaking with the amount of power they have because they know someone else has more. My wife and I did not get on. We did not want to separate but, in the end, we did separate because we had invited this 'darkness' into our home, into our hearts and into our marriage.

There were no crucifixes or pictures of Christ in our home to show that we had heard of Jesus or His Mother. I was seven years sober when we separated and even though we were not living together we dated for 12 months, doing the simple things I could not do before when I first met my wife like going for a walk, going to the theatre or watching a film, because in the past we only went to the pub and my only relationship was with alcohol and my wife was trying to have a relationship with me. The playground had been the pub and so we tried to have that courtship without the pub. We could not wait to be together but as soon as we were together after five minutes it was too long. Once we separated for good I returned to that awful place when I was young.

Beginning of the journey back

When I was six I was moved into the bedroom with my father. Apart from the beatings, the fear and the



Garry Scott, www.pplfreeimages.com

terror, the smell that was in that room was enough that very few people would have been able to live there. But that is where I spent every night and I would wake up with him falling in on me with his elbow in my neck: even the sheer weight of him on my body I would think, 'I am going to suffocate.' The sad part about it was that I hoped I would suffocate and the next morning they would find me dead in the bed. I would say I said my night prayers more diligently than any child that I would have known, as I thought, many a night, it would be all over. He would pull me out of bed several nights and just beat me. I remember one morning coming down the stairs hardly able to walk and I could see the stairs all moving

in front of me and I said to my mother how daddy hit me so badly and she said, "Ask him not to hit you on the head." I remember thinking that day, 'Nobody loves me.' A year later I made my first Holy Communion: my father gave me a ferocious beating and I went back into bed and curled up and I said, "Jesus, I can go to your birthday party on Christmas Day in a few weeks' time."

Years later as an adult, I spent six of the first seven years in full time therapy between one councillor or another. Two councillors at two different stages had to leave the room because they were not able to hear what I had been through; two of them broke down. I had not cried at this stage for 30 years; I knew I

was not right and damaged. I knew when I could not cry that I could not love. I went to workshops to 'heal the inner child' and I could be there yet. I returned to that place at the age of 45 that I wanted to die, even more so than when I was a small boy. As a young boy I had the idea at the back of my mind that sometime this pain would finish. But now at 45 there is not a finishing place for this pain. Only at the end of a rope or at the bottom of the sea. But a friend of mine from Louth, near Dublin, rang me to look at a range of children's shoes. The amazing thing about this gentleman was that in 1997 he left a company to start his own business and a year later I got his job. He was 20 years older than me and even though we were competitors we became great friends. Even though I was a drinker and he was not. He rang me to come up to Dublin and at that stage everything in my life that could have gone wrong, had gone wrong. My health – I had gone to a new low – I lost my two businesses and my marriage was over.

The one thing that I learned when I was asking questions about the New Age, this new occult practice, is that every single person, and I had met thousands, except one, who I believed was not telling the truth. Everybody involved were Catholics. Satan only wants the Catholics. He does not want born-again Christians, Methodists, Protestants or Jehovah Witnesses. I firmly believe that Satan can accept that God is more powerful than him. But I believe that he cannot accept that a young country girl, who was full of fear when she was asked to be the mother of Jesus, is more powerful than him. The other reason I

firmly believe that Satan only wants Catholics is because of the real presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Pleading eyes

So here I was on the way to Dublin by train because even my car was going bad. As I walked up the platform I saw my friend Donald and his wife, Bernadette, turning away. I called him and he looked around with pure shock in his face and he turned away again wiping his eyes and said, "I have some dust in my eyes." It was a Wednesday night and Donald said, "We go up to Murphy's in the RD every Wednesday night to say the rosary", to which I replied, "Donald, I have had enough of all that rubbish and I will watch the television." I could not sit with any comfort on the chairs and I came out of the sitting room and I said to Donald, "Look I will come up with you." So we went to Murphy's. Tony and his wife and Donald and his wife and myself were there. Each said a decade of the rosary and when it came to the fifth decade they all looked over to me with eyes pleading: this is your one. It was the fifth Glorious mystery, the Coronation of Our Lady, so I said my decade and then we had a cup of tea.

Divine Mercy Novena

The journey down to Cullen where Donald lives was only five minutes. As we were getting ready for bed Donald was taking his money out of his pocket and on the table he

put down this picture of Jesus and he saw me looking at it.

He said, "Have you ever seen that picture before?" and I replied, "Yes, I did."

Donald said, "That is the Divine Mercy, and I am telling you as a friend that I cried when I saw you at the train station. I turned away and pretended there was dust in my eye as I did not want you to see me crying. I was expecting this joyful young man that I had known only two years earlier and here I saw an old gaunt, stooped, bent and broken man with grey hair in front of me, who looked older than I did." Donald then said, "Jim, I will only ask you one thing. I am not going to push prayer down your neck, but I am going to ask you to say the Divine Mercy Novena and if you can start it on a Good Friday all the better."

I said, "Donald, would you believe it? With all my giving out about the Catholic Church, I have gone to Knock Shrine every Good Friday for the last 25 years and I walk into the church and I say, 'Hello, Jesus. Everyone thinks you have gone today but I know you are here. Thanks for last year and I will see you next year.' I know that it is not much of a prayer, Donald, but that is what I did and maybe my journey to Knock was a prayer in itself."

He said "Would you bring the Divine Mercy Novena to Knock?" and I said, "I will."

And I started it in the place where my mother knelt in the Adoration Chapel, saying it with my fingers. On day six of the novena I was booked on my first pilgrimage to Medjugorje.

Jim Brown

Westport, Co. Mayo. Ireland

Litany of humility

Need help to overcome pride? Need power in prayer? Try the prayer by Thomas à Kempis, German canon regular and author of “The Imitation of Christ”, one of the most popular and best known Christian books on devotion next to the Bible.

O Jesus! Meek and humble
of heart, hear me.

From the desire of being esteemed,
deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being loved,
From the desire of being extolled,
From the desire of being honoured,
From the desire of being praised,
From the desire of being
preferred to others,

From the desire of being consulted,
From the desire of being approved,
From the fear of being humiliated,
From the fear of being despised,
From the fear of suffering rebukes,
From the fear of being calumniated,
From the fear of being forgotten,
From the fear of being wronged,
From the fear of being suspected,

That others may be loved
more than I,
*Jesus, grant me the grace
to desire it.*

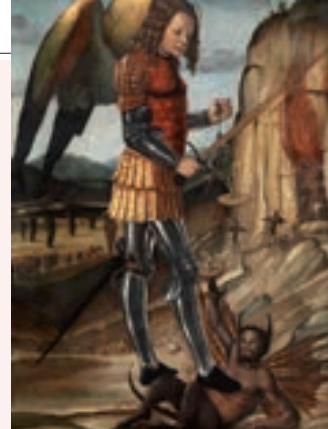
That others may be esteemed
more than I,
That, in the opinion of the world,
others may increase
and I may decrease,
That others may be chosen
and I set aside,

That others may be praised
and I unnoticed,
That others may be preferred
to me in everything,
That others may become holier
than I, provided that I may
become as holy as I should,

AMEN



■ Christ washing the Apostles' Feet by Dirck van Baburen, c.1616



■ St Michael the Archangel
by Riccardo Quattararo, 1506

Novena prayer to St Michael defender of the unborn

Saint Michael the Archangel, loyal champion of God and His Catholic people, I turn to thee with confidence and seek thy powerful intercession. For the love of God, Who hast made thee so glorious in grace and power, and for the love of the Mother of Jesus, the Queen of the Angels, be pleased to hear my prayer.

Thou knowest the value of my soul in the eyes of God. May no stain of evil ever disfigure its beauty. Help me to conquer the evil spirit who tempts me. I desire to imitate thy loyalty to God and Holy Mother Church and thy great love for God and men. And since thou art God's messenger for the care of His people, I entrust to thee this special request: (Here mention your request.)

Saint Michael, since thou art, by the will of the Creator, the powerful intercessor of Christians, I have great confidence in thy prayers. I earnestly trust that if it is God's holy will, my petition will be granted.

Pray for me, Saint Michael, and also for those I love. Protect us in all dangers of body and soul. Help us in our daily needs. Through thy powerful intercession, may we live a holy life, die a happy death and reach Heaven where we may praise and love God with thee forever. Amen.

Another Christ

The life of Francis of Assisi can be summed up in the words of St Paul, “I live, no not I, but Christ lives in me.”

His background and family life was no different from other boys. His father was a cloth merchant who owned a shop and his mother an ordinary housewife. But Francis had one quality more than many others and that was leadership.

He himself tells us in his testament of the moment his life changed. He had a horror of lepers. One day he was galloping along a country road when he met a leper who pleaded for alms. Generous by nature he threw his pouch of money in the leper's direction and galloped on but heard a voice speak to him, “Francis, if that leper was Christ would you dare to treat him like that?” He went back and dismounted, found the pouch of money and placed it in the leper's hands and then embraced and kissed him. What courage! Francis tells us that what before had seemed bitter was from that moment changed into sweetness, and he became a new creature. He began to see Christ in everyone and everything.

His gang of friends noticed how quiet he now was and they teased him, asking “Who was the lady with whom he had fallen in love?” To their surprise he said, “Yes, I have fallen in love and my love is Lady Poverty.”

He knew he had little in common with his circle of friends now, and began to live on his own. He

would often pray in the Church of San Damiano before a crucifix. One day Christ spoke to him from that cross and said, “Francis, go and repair my Church.” Jesus was talking about the universal Church but Francis took the words literally. He could see the building was in a state of disrepair. Immediately he went off to his father's shop, took some rich cloth and along with the horse he rode, sold them and gave the money to the priest but when his father found the cloth missing he requested the money back. This the priest did.

Francis' father took the matter further and reported Francis to the Bishop of Assisi. The whole town gathered to see the outcome. After his father had put forward his case, Francis took off all his clothing and placed them at his father's feet. Then he boldly proclaimed, “Father, I hand you back the very clothes on my back. Up to now I have called you father, but now I have only one father, our Father who art in Heaven.” The bishop covered him with his cloak until a peasant garb was brought which Francis wore and chalked the sign of the cross on it.

From that moment he prayed and looked for guidance from God as to what his future was to be. During the Mass of one of the Apostles when the Gospel was read he heard Christ

saying, “Take no staff for the journey, no two coats, no haversack, no money in your purse and tell everyone the kingdom of God is close at hand.” Francis looked upon this as a direct message from the Lord to himself and from then on the Gospels were to be his rule of life.

Men were soon attracted to him and asked to join his company. When their number reached 12, he was directed by the Lord to seek the approval of his way of life from the Pope in Rome. The rule of life he presented was a long string of Gospel quotations. When the Pope saw the state of Francis' clothing he told him sarcastically to go away and grovel with pigs. Off went Francis and rolled himself over and over again in a pigsty. He returned to the Pope who immediately saw the genuineness of Francis and ordered one of his priests to clean him up and give him fresh clothing. When the Pope and the cardinal read Francis' Rule they were of one mind. “No man can possibly live this life.” One cardinal dissented. “Your Holiness and my brother cardinals, if you deny this man and his men what they ask, you are saying that no one today can follow Christ because all they are asking is to live the life of the Gospel.” Francis and his brothers were told they could preach in the whole world the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

His order spread rapidly. Francis wanted to become more and more like his Lord, telling everyone about the love he had discovered.

Francis wanted to imitate and relive the life of Jesus to the last detail. It was he who made the first crib containing life-size human beings. Like Christ, he spent 40 days in prayer and fasting and it was on one of these occasions that Jesus granted one of his petitions. "Lord Jesus, before I die, may I experience in my body just some of the pain you must have felt on Calvary." Two years before his death Christ gave him the stigmata, the very wounds He bore on the Cross.

Francis wanted to know if the Lord wished him and his brothers to be contemplatives or to have an active ministry. He asked Sister Clare and Brother Sylvester to pray that God's will would be told to him. While the three of them in different places prayed for guidance God revealed to him that he should be both contemplative and active.

Francis also wanted to know whether God wanted him to be a priest and the story is told that an angel appeared to him holding a cruet of water. The angel said, "Francis, do you see how clean and how pure this water is? If you want to be a priest you must be as pure as this." Francis looked upon it as God saying that he wanted him to remain a deacon one step lower than a priest.

Francis had the greatest reverence for all priests. One day someone asked him, "Francis, if you were walking down the street and you met an angel and a priest, whom would you greet first?" Francis said, "I would first kneel in front of the

priest and kiss his hand and then greet the angel, for no angel can give me the Body of my Lord." Another time a man said to Francis, "Do you see that man, he is an evil priest." Francis said, "Whether he is evil or not, I do not know, but since you tell me he is a priest, one thing I do know, that his hands have touched the Body of my Lord." Going over to the priest he knelt down and kissed his hands. From all this it is obvious

and lovingly. It is not surprising that he should be proclaimed the patron saint of ecology.

When he came to die, after bidding farewell to all his brothers and adding a verse to Sister Death in his Cantic of the Sun, he had read to him a section of Saint John's Gospel and died after reciting Psalm 141.

Francis of Assisi, of all the men and women who have ever walked



■ St Francis of Assisi in ecstasy by Caravaggio, 1594

Francis had an ardent love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. He taught his brothers often to kneel towards the Blessed Sacrament and say, "We adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, here and in all your Churches throughout the world and we bless you, because by Your holy cross you have redeemed the world."

He saw all creatures reflect their Creator and trod this earth carefully

this earth is in my opinion the one who tried to be most Christ-like. For this we love him and today, especially, we ask him to inspire us to change our ways that we may be like him, a true herald of the King.

Fr Francis Maple

The Franciscan Friary, Pantasaph,
Holywell, Flintshire, Wales
www.fatherfrancismaple.co.uk

Queen of the Angels

Mary's *fiat* – her joyous “Yes” to the will of God.

The Catholic faith states, as a dogma, that Mary was assumed into heaven and is with Jesus Christ, her divine son. Mary should be called Queen, not only because of her Divine Motherhood of Jesus Christ, but also because God has willed her to have an exceptional role in the work of eternal salvation.

In the month of May, Catholics hold a ceremony in which a statue of the Blessed Mother is crowned by children, accompanied by solemn hymns, joyfully sung. Mary's crown is made of woven May flowers.

The Catholic practice of assigning a special devotion to each month goes back to the early 16th century. In the late 18th century the May devotion to Mary arose among Jesuits in Rome. In the early years of the 19th century, it quickly spread throughout the Western Church and, by the time of Pope Pius IX's declaration of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854, it had become universal.

May crownings in honour of Mary stem from this time and many parishes are reviving them to honour the role that the Blessed Virgin played in our salvation through her *fiat*—her joyous “Yes” to the will of God. This Irish hymn dates back as far as the 13th Century, though in 1883, Mary E. Walsh adapted it.

Queen of the May (Bring Flowers of the Rarest)

Bring flowers of the rarest
From garden and woodland
And hillside and vale
Our full hearts are swelling
Our Glad voices telling
The praise of the loveliest
Rose of the vale

**R: O Mary! we crown thee
with blossoms today
Queen of the Angels,
Queen of the May
O Mary! we crown thee
with blossoms today
Queen of the Angels,
Queen of the May!**

Our voices ascending,
In harmony blending
Oh! Thus may our hearts turn
Dear Mother, to thee
Oh! Thus shall we prove thee
How truly we love thee
How dark without Mary
Life's journey would be
R
O Virgin most tender
Our homage we render
Thy love and protection
Sweet Mother, to win
In danger defend us



■ The Virgin With Angels
by William-Adolphe Bouguereau, 1900

In sorrow befriend us
And shield our hearts
From contagion and sin
R
Of Mothers the dearest
Oh, wilt thou be nearest
When life with temptation
Is darkly replete
Forsake us, O never
Our hearts be they ever
As pure as the lilies
We lay at thy feet
R

Queen of Angels

“Queen of Angels” is one of the titles of the Litany of Loreto, which has the official sanction of the Church.

Mary, who by nature is inferior to the angels, is in dignity superior to them, due to the fact that she has the supreme dignity of being the Mother of God. The great messenger of the Annunciation was St Gabriel. He was the very first one to salute the Queen of Angels and he saluted her as the one inferior salutes the one superior: ‘And he came to her and said, “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is

with you!” (Lk 1:28). Even St Gabriel was awed at the beauty of Mary’s soul and the dignity which no angel could even hope for. He had appeared to the Prophet Daniel (Dan 9:21) and to Zachariah (Lk 1:11); they were holy men and pleasing to God, but Mary was “full of grace”.

In the Kingdom of Heaven, the standard by which all things are measured is heavenly grace, and in this the Blessed Virgin surpasses not only the greatest saints, but even the highest angels. St John Damascene (676-749 AD) calls her an “abyss of grace” and says that “there is an infinite distance between the Mother of God and the servants of God.” St Ephrem (306-373 AD), a Doctor of the Church, proclaims her “holier than the cherubim, holier than the seraphim, and incomparably more glorious than all the rest of the heavenly hosts.” Saint Epiphanius (310-403 AD), one of the Fathers of the Church, addressed her thus, “Excepting God alone, thou art superior to all others, nor can the tongues of men or angels worthily praise thee.” St Bernardine (1380–1444 AD) declares that her perfection is so great that only God can fully understand it.

After her Incarnate Son, Mary is the splendour of the Heavenly Court and the angels behold and honour her in all her glory.

Commenting on her title ‘Queen of Angels,’ Henri Marie Boudon (1624–1702 AD) wrote, “The Mother of God is the general of the armies of God and the angels form the glorious troops; thus they are the soldiers of her, who alone is terrible as a whole army in battle array, and in the beginning they fought valiantly for her honour in opposition to Lucifer and the apostate angels, who would not submit themselves to her empire,

God having revealed to them that she should one day be their sovereign. She is the august and triumphant Queen of Paradise; the angels are those faithful and generous subjects who honoured her... before she was, and who glory in being subject to the laws of her kingdom. She is the Lady of the Angels and is often invoked under this title of Our Lady of the Angels; they are then, her servants, but such zealous servants that they await but the manifestation of her will to execute it, at its least sign, with a promptitude that is indescribable.”

Fr Boudon also went on to exhort Christ’s followers to love and praise the angels because of Mary’s love for them, “The love which she bears them, ...calls upon us for every possible reason to love what she loves and to entertain the profoundest regard for those whom she desires to be honoured. Let us then praise and bless the holy angels, because the most pure Virgin, the august Queen and Lady of the Angels, is praised and blessed by them.”

The necessity of praying to Mary Queen of the Angels

The Church encourages us to pray to Our Lady Queen of the Angels to invoke their help in the battle against temptation and evil.

The first war in history was the heavenly war between the angels and the devils. This war will only end on the last day of history. Until then, the devils will always try to destroy the plan of God for men, and the angels will do the opposite.

Thus, Our Lady wants to expel the devils that infest the world through the angels, her subjects. To invoke her under the title of Queen of the Angels is most efficacious.

In this fight, men have a special role to play. They must ask Our Lady to expel the devils from earth. Without this prayer, she does not do it. If we ask her, she will do it, but it is necessary to ask.

A Bernardine Sister was shown in spirit the vast desolation caused by the devil throughout the world, and at the same time she heard the Blessed Virgin telling her that it was true, hell had been let loose upon the earth; and that the time had come to pray to her as Queen of the Angels and to ask of her the assistance of the heavenly legions to fight against these deadly foes of God and of men.

“But my good Mother”, she replied, “you, who are so kind, could you not send them without our asking?” “No,” Our Lady answered, “because prayer is one of the conditions required by God Himself in obtaining favours.” Then the Blessed Virgin communicated the following prayer, bidding the Sister to have it printed and distributed:

August Queen of Heaven! Sovereign Mistress of the angels! Thou who from the beginning hast received from God the power and mission to crush the head of Satan, we humbly beseech thee to send thy holy Legions, that, under thy command and by thy power, they may pursue the evil spirits, encounter them on every side, resist their bold attacks and drive them hence into the abyss of eternal woe. Amen.

Phil Kerins, Scotland

Guardian angels

The Feast of the Guardian Angels is a Catholic festival celebrated annually on the 2nd October. Pope Paul V was the first pope, in 1608, to authorise a feast day in honour of guardian angels. Pope Clement X changed the date to 2nd October and Pope Leo XIII, in 1883, upgraded the date to a double major feast.

In the first hierarchy God places the Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones; in the second, the Dominations, Virtues, Archangels and Angels. The only scriptural names furnished of individual angels are Raphael, Gabriel and Michael – names which signify their respective and Powers; in the third, the Principalities, attributes.

Pure spirits

Since angels are pure spirits, they do not have bodies and do not die. St Luke (20:36) states, “For neither can they die anymore, for they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.”

The New Testament tells us that mankind – including the Lord Jesus Himself – was made a little lower than the angels, “for the suffering of death” (Hebrews 2:9). Angels do not die, but men and women do. Even Jesus, the Son of God, was a mortal man, but has now received the glory and honour which was His due when,

as He said after His resurrection, “all power is given unto Me in Heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18).

All choirs and orders of angels are completely caught up in awe and the delight of heaven worshipping and praising their King and Lord who came down from heaven in unutterable love to redeem man. The angels lowering themselves in the most humble adoration and by placing all their angelic perfections, intelligence, strength and beauty beneath the throne of the Almighty. It is the expression of the perfections God the Father placed in their angelic nature, they are like living flames who burn in God’s presence.

Guardian angels, according to Thomas Aquinas, are from the lowest rank of angels. St Thomas Aquinas affirmed that every man receives a guardian angel in his *Summa Theologica* (First Part, Question 113 1, aa 2-4) and

he provides irrefutable arguments why this must be so. It was the common teaching in his time and no doctor of the Church has ever questioned it since the thirteenth century.

The existence of angels is a dogma of faith, and the existence of guardian angels is clear from Holy Scripture and tradition since the earliest times. The belief in guardian angels has been taught implicitly in Scripture, in both the Old and New Testament.

Angelic Choirs

Jesus tells us that children have guardian angels, “Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in Heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in Heaven” (Matthew 18:10).

Even if their trust is lost they rejoice in His justice. When the last



■ Guardian angel by Domenichino, 1615

guardian angel is sent by God, that will be to protect the last man created by God. The conversion of a sinner gives great joy in heaven and indeed to all the choirs. Our guardian angel encourages us to thank God for the many humiliations we receive daily, however it is very difficult if we have pride.

The Bible gives us many references to the guardian angels, for example, "An angel touched him, and said unto him, 'Arise and eat'" (Kings 19:5); "He will give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone"; (Ps. 91:11); "Who hath sent an angel and delivered his servants that trusted in him"; (Dan. 3:28); "But an angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them out, and said," (Acts 5:19); "And when Peter was come to himself, he said, 'Now I know of a truth, that the Lord hath sent forth his angel and delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews'" (Acts 12:11:).

Note in particular, that angels are sent forth to minister to them that shall inherit salvation (Heb. 1:14) also that Michael is the patron angel of Israel (Dan. 10:13, 21; 12:1).

St Matthew states, "And the angel answered and said unto the women, 'Fear not ye; for I know that ye seek Jesus, who hath been crucified. He is not here; for he is risen, as he said, 'Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples, He is risen from the dead; and lo, He goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see Him; lo, I have told you'.

Scripture reminds us that we do not always know when we have seen

an angel, "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels" (Hebrews 13:2).

Guardian angels can help to serve as guides in this world. It is much easier, however, if we cooperate with the guardian angel. We often struggle in our sin, only to be further trapped.

St Ambrose tells us, "We should pray to the angels who are given to us as guardians" (De Viduis, early letters).

In an address to American pilgrims on 3rd October 1958, Pope Pius XII said of the holy angels; "The angels are glorious, pure and splendid. They have been given to us as companions along the way of life. They have the task of watching over you all, so that you do not stray away from Christ, your Lord."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches in No. 336 that "from birth to death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession". A guardian angel's mission does not end with death; it continues until we achieve union with God.

How blessed we are to enjoy the protection and vigilance of our guardian angels even at the moment of death. These angels not only accompany us in this earthly life, their action extends into the next life.

The angels are messengers from a loving God, so we should take advantage of all that God provides for us and call on our guardian angel, St Gabriel, St Raphael and St Michael the Archangel often throughout the day for help.

Noreen Bavister
CSMA Office

Padre Pio and his guardian angel

We can learn from the saints many of whom had wonderful relationships with their guardian angels.

Padre Pio had an especially tender love and devotion for his guardian angel. From the time that he was five years old, he was able to see and converse with his guardian angel. In his childlike simplicity, he assumed that everyone had the same experience. Enjoying an intimate friendship with his guardian angel, Padre Pio referred to him as the "companion of my childhood".

The loving relationship continued throughout his life. For Padre Pio, his angel was his support, his protector, his teacher, his brother and his friend. At times, Padre Pio's guardian angel acted as his secretary as well as his heavenly "postman" carrying messages to his spiritual children. Padre Pio's guardian angel awakened him in the morning and together they would join in prayer and praise to God.

Padre Pio wrote to Father Agostino: "Again at night when I close my eyes, the veil is lifted and I see Paradise open up before me; and gladdened by this vision I sleep with a smile of sweet beatitude on my lips and a perfectly tranquil countenance, waiting for the little companion of my childhood to come to waken me, so that we may sing together the morning praises to the Beloved of our hearts" (Ltrs).

Noreen Bavister
CSMA Office

Interested in becoming a Devotional Knight of St Michael?



The Knighthood is overseen by the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel. Many Knights read 'The Angels, Messengers from a loving God' magazine to gain more knowledge in the spirituality of St Michael the Archangel, the angels and the Divine Mercy.

This is a devotion and therefore there is no need for an official enrolment. However, if the General Animator of the Knighthood, in this case Fr Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA is on a mission in a particular country and a person or group want to make their promise before God, then an official enrolment can take place after the Holy Mass.

Devotional Knights are people of quiet prayer, confirmed Catholics, who are open to the Holy Spirit and give themselves to Christ, unite with Him, and help the Church by keeping demons away from Her. The main duty of the Knights is the continuous effort to be in a state of

grace, in friendship with God so they can exclaim about Satan: "He has no power over me" (John 14:30).

All Knights must respect the Holy Father, bishops, priests and all the teachings of the Church. An attitude of humility and obedience towards God and the Church should be an obvious feature of every Knight.

Any Catholic man or woman who desires to become a Knight is required to make a promise between themselves and God.

The Promise

I, (your name) a repentant sinner, renounce Satan and resolve to follow Jesus Christ. I express my faith in the Holy Trinity and the Holy Church. Today in the presence of God, St Michael and the Holy Angels, I promise to be a Knight of St Michael to the end of my life and to take part in the spiritual battle for the salvation of souls. I entrust myself to St Michael as my Patron and Protector in this devotion.

My weapons are:

- Daily Bible reading
- Daily exorcism prayer to St Michael
- Daily angelic chaplet to St Michael
- Fast each Friday on bread and water (or a good deed if a fast is impossible)
- Monthly Reconciliation
- Monthly Eucharistic Adoration
- Nine day Novena to St Michael before the feast day on 29th September

May God help me to fulfil this devotion. St Michael the Archangel pray for me. Amen.

For your daily bible reading, choose any passage from the New Testament. It is good to start with Matthew or Luke. Read the words and ask God to let the passage speak to you. Pay special attention to anything that strikes you and ask God what he wishes for you to draw from that message.



The Knighthood Coat of Arms

Our coat of arms represents two important mottos closely related to the patron saint of the Michaelite Fathers. It displays a round coat divided into two fields. On the left there is a gold sword, the symbol of the spiritual battle. Because of its brightness, gold symbolises what is precious and valuable and so symbolises the presence of God, majesty, joy and celebration. On the right is St Michael the Archangel – “Who is like God” the first knight and defender of the heavenly fight for justice and souls. The white background is the colour of humility, purity, holiness and virtue, as well as respect and reverence in the symbolism of the Catholic Church.

For further information on the Devotional Knights of St Michael please write to me personally or view our website:

www.stmichaelthearchangel.info
or www.stmichaelthearchangel.us

See page 27 to order the Angelic set which includes the scapular of St Michael the Archangel.

Fr **Peter Prusakiewicz** CSMA
General Animator
of the Knighthood
Congregation of St Michael
the Archangel
ul. Pilsudskiego 250
05-261 Marki,
Warsaw, Poland
Email: redakcja.kjb@gmail.com

Rosary on the Coast of the British Isles

Sunday April 29th 2018 at 3pm was a very great grace for both our beloved Church and Nations as Catholics turned out in force to pray the Rosary on the Coast for faith, life and peace in the British Isles.

Rosary on the Coast was a sign of great hope for the spiritual renewal of our Isles, and for the hope of supernatural solutions for the many difficulties we face personally, in our families, as a Church, as the British Isles and globally as nations.

It seemed that we were all caught up in something greater than ourselves and that we became instruments in the hands of our Blessed Mother for heaven's purposes. It was exciting and moving to know we were part of such a mighty “assault of prayer”. And we trust that in God's time his intervention and power will be made manifest in the hearts of the peoples of our isles, Church and governance.

Bishop John Keenan said: “Today we gather at the coast of the British Isles to pray for Our Lady's intercession, in her Most Holy Rosary, for a great renewal of faith, life and peace in our land.” ... “We gather here on the west coast of Scotland, conscious that we are united with tens of thousands of our fellow Catholics and friends

in Christ, spread across 400 locations in every corner of our lands and in the far-off islands.” “We have gathered together on this day sensing an inspiration from Our Lady herself, who reminds us that more is obtained with one day of intense prayer that with years of continuous discussions.”

The beautiful footage both photographic and on video shows us the sensational witness of men, women and children of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities who turned out to pray in spite of the terrible weather conditions throughout most parts of England and Wales. Scotland, the Isles and South Wales were all blessed with glorious sunshine! Some locations had very large numbers running into 200/300 + people. We had 400 confirmed locations with many others not declared and many individuals and families praying wherever they happened to be.

It is difficult to say exactly how many but it seems reasonable to suggest around 45000! We had unprecedented confirmations via our Rosary on the Coast website, Facebook and email assuring us of a great union of prayer from peoples across the world and especially from Ireland, Poland and USA. A great encouragement!

In the British Isles we had locations in the far Isles of Scotland, from Lerwick to Land's End, down to Jersey and Guernsey in the Channel Islands – and extensive locations all down the coasts of Scotland, England and Wales and all the isles around. Such an incredible blessing to see the final map of locations! The British Isles was totally encircled by the Rosary – the Angelic Salutation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

All the Bishops of Scotland, Wales and England supported Rosary on the Coast by encouraging it through diocesan channels, websites and blogs. On the day, 17 bishops attended with all the rest pledging to join us in prayer from where ever they were. It was an enormous grace to have this support from the bishops of the British Isles. Everyone greatly appreciated, the apostolic blessing bestowed on Rosary on the Coast by His Holiness Pope Francis through

the Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Edward Adams.

We thank the Catholic faithful, other Christians and people of goodwill of the British Isles who truly came out in force. They prepared their local venues for Rosary on the Coast with great creativity, apostolic zeal, love and prayerfulness knowing that the times we live in demand a great supernatural response in prayer, penance, fasting and sacrifice in order for us to face the challenges this world throws at us as individuals, families, as a Church, as communities and as nations. Everyone truly bloomed where they were planted! Inland parishes made contact with coastal parishes, people made new friends from other deaneries and parishes. There was a sense that we all connected as Catholics. I found in my heart a great love for the peoples of the far-flung Isles who previously I

had no point of contact with! It was a joy to witness their faith, vibrancy and zeal. Long may these friendships and the spiritual support they have engendered continue!

So what next?

We are asking you all for feedback as to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church at this time? Feedback to date indicates that many want something like Rosary on the Coast to happen again! A preliminary thought is that perhaps parishes might arrange this locally – Rosary around the Parish Boundary or Rosary around the Parish Deanery? All it takes is a local leader! Think about it!

It might be that a follow up include a eucharistic theme or the British Isles under the Cross – a time for repentance and reparation?

Finally there is the international dimension to consider. There is the suggestion of a global call to unite in spiritual warfare prayer on Sunday October 7th – Feast of the Most Holy Rosary. The USA and Lebanon have already declared this date for their National Rosary Coast to Coast. There is a call for a spiritual preparation for this to begin on August 15th – the Feast of the Assumption.

The Irish Rosary on the Coast Team is preparing its response following the catastrophic referendum result in which around two-thirds of the Irish population voted in favour of abortion.

On September 22nd 2018 in Westminster Cathedral there is a Divine Mercy Day of Prayer invoking the powerful intercession of Our Lady of Walsingham from 9.30am to 4.30pm with Mass at 10.30 am.



James Coleman, www.unsplash.com

Bishop John Keenan is the keynote speaker. Save the date! This day of prayer will have a Life theme with an intense time of reparation.

As St Catherine of Siena said “Be who you were created to be and you will set the world on fire”!

St Therese of Lisieux wrote when aged 14 years in 1887 about the Rosary: “Through the Rosary we can obtain everything. It can be gracefully compared to a long chain joining heaven and earth; one end is in our hands and the other in the hands of the Blessed Virgin. As long as the Rosary is recited, God cannot forsake the world, for this prayer is powerful over His Heart. It is like the leaven, which can regenerate the earth. The sweet Queen of Heaven cannot forget her children who unceasingly repeat her praises. The Rosary rises like incense to the foot of the Almighty’s throne. Mary sends it back like a bountiful dew which comes to give new life to our hearts.”

All we can say is that we – “Blow the ram’s-horn in Zion! Call the people together, summon the community, assemble the elders, gather the children, even infants at the breasts! Stand weeping, saying, ‘Spare your people, Yahweh!’” (Joel 2:15-19)

We are full of gratitude to God and Our Lady of the Rosary and we await in hope for great revival of faith, life and peace in these Isles. Ave Maria!

Antonia Moffatt

The Catholic National Shrine
and Basilica of Our Lady
of Walsingham, England
Email: antonia@walsingham.org.uk



TESTIMONIES

I felt God’s presence

During a Eucharistic healing hour at St Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church in San Diego, California on 9th June 2018 I received a healing.

Fr Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA had just finished preaching about St Michael the Archangel. Towards the end of the Eucharistic healing hour God healed my knee when Fr Peter with Jesus in the monstrance prayed over me. My right knee has been hurting for almost two years.

An MRI scan showed my knee to be in bad shape. My doctor told me that I have osteoarthritis and that the only solution would be to have a knee replacement, which I did not want.

I limped that day as I walked into St Maximilian Kolbe Church from my car. Approaching the stairs leading to the front door of the church I had to carefully hold on to the rail and take each step slowly using my left leg only, because when I bent my right knee it hurt.

I didn’t kneel at the altar because I knew it would hurt a lot and I would not be able to get up afterwards. I had my head down when I received God’s

healing. I was surprised when the priest’s shawl touched my head. From that instant I felt God’s presence. I had to go to the bathroom right after the blessing. Since the bathroom was in the basement by the church porch, I was holding on to both rails to avoid bending my right knee. To my surprise it didn’t hurt when I went down the stairs. Afterwards when I was returning from the basement to the inside of the church my knee didn’t hurt either. Praise God!

Since that day my knee is doing better than before. I still have problem standing up after sitting too long. But the pain is not as intense as before. I thank God every day for healing my knee.

I thank Fr Peter, he is such a holy priest. I am so glad that I went to hear him talk about St Michael that day.

God is so good!

Lily Loh, California, USA

St Michael invited me to Italy

I am writing to share a little of my beautiful spirit-filled pilgrimage in May 2018 led by Fr Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA.

The only challenge for me was being mindful of walking along the cobbled streets as we travelled to several shrines, such as the professional way the pilgrimage was organised. There were 52 people altogether with pilgrims from Ireland, England, Scotland, Cameroon, India, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, USA and other places. A truly international group.

Rome

Our group had Sunday Mass at the Church of the Holy Spirit in the Saxon District, a 12th-century titular church in Rome, which houses the Divine Mercy picture and the St Faustina relic. It is located near St Peter's Square.

At midday on Sunday 6th May I was more than excited as the Holy Father appeared at the window of his study in the Vatican Apostolic Palace to pray the Angelus with the faithful and pilgrims gathered in Saint Peter's Square. At the Regina Coeli, Pope Francis reflected on the words of Jesus: "Abide in My love". Pope Francis said, "Dwelling in the current of the love of God, taking

up a stable residence there, is the condition for ensuring that our love does not lose its ardour or audacity. We must welcome the Father's love, without separating ourselves from it through selfishness and sin. This is a challenging program, not a superficial feeling but rather, a fundamental attitude of the heart which is shown by observing Jesus' commandments. This love, must be realised in everyday life, in our attitudes and actions, or else it will prove illusory."

Love one another

The Pope said that "the other" we are called to love is "the one I encounter along the way", those who challenge us, those who "await our readiness to listen, to take a part of the journey together." We must be open, he said, to "every one of our brothers and sisters, whoever they might be, and in whatever situation they might find themselves." Pope Francis continued "This love, must be a part of our everyday lives."

We are called to care for the sick and the elderly when they are approaching the end of their lives as a precious treasure. To always welcome the unborn and life must always be defended and loved, from conception to its natural end. But we cannot love one another as Christ loved us unless we have His own

Heart within us. "The Eucharist, in which we are called to participate each Sunday, is intended to form within us the Heart of Christ," the Pope said, "so that our whole life might be guided by His generous attitude."

After the Angelus our group went for a two-hour tour with a professional guide inside the Papal Basilica of St Peter in the Vatican, we saw the tomb of Paul VI and prayed at the tombs of St John Paul II and St John XXIII. At the tomb of St Peter I prayed for a strong faith for all of us. It was beautiful.

St Michael the Archangel cave

The next morning the *bishop* of the region presided over the Holy Mass for our group and the local people. The Church celebrates the feast of Saint Michael on 8th May, the anniversary of the apparition of St Michael which happened in the year AD 490. In the afternoon we had a tour guide of the museum and crypt which was fantastic. The whole group had the opportunity to go to confession in the reconciliation chapel at the cave. What a grace for us all, after the Holy Hour in the evening we were all able to touch and venerate St Michael's footprint he left 500 years ago.



Photo: Jacek Kawa

■ The Grotto of St Michael, Gargano, Italy

Pompeii

We went to the shrine in Pompeii, for the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary in Pompeii which has a beautiful image of Our Lady. At the shrine I prayed for all of you.

A tour guide took us to the vast archaeological site. Once a thriving and sophisticated Roman city, Pompeii was buried under meters of ash and pumice after the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79. The preserved site features excavated ruins of streets and houses that our group explored. It must have been a beautiful city.

San Giovanni Rotondo

The next day we went to the Shrine of Saint Padre Pio in San Giovanni Rotondo. His body is on display in the tomb and I prayed for everyone there as well. We had a two-hour guided tour and saw his cell, the cross before which he stood when he received the stigmata and some of the thousands of letters he received from people, stacked neatly in glass cabinets across the walls. Padre Pio used to correspond with people from

all over the world with the help from his guardian angel. In the museum we viewed his vestments, chalices and blood stained clothes.

After lunch we said the Stations of the Cross led by Fr Peter and this was followed by Mass for our group. The highlight for me was when I was chosen to do the responsorial psalm during the English Mass for our group at the very altar St Pio used to say Mass. I was so happy... what a miracle, I had to give my best as I am his spiritual child.

Lamis

The following day we went to San Marco in Lamis and onto the Shrine of St Matthew where we venerated the relic of Saint Matthew and were blessed with his oil by local priests. I felt close to him as I remember him in my night prayers with the three other Gospel writers.

Pulsao

We travelled to the Abbey of St Mary of Pulsao, a Catholic sanctuary on Mount Gargano, Italy, a part of the commune of Monte

Sant'Angelo, in the province of Foggia where they teach icon writing. A beautiful abbey with breathtaking views.

Abbey of Monte Cassino

Our group were privileged to have our Mass in English at the abbey. The earthly remains of St Benedict and his twin sister St Scholastica rest today at the celebrated hilltop monastery of Monte Cassino and can be found today at the high altar of the reconstructed cathedral of Monte Cassino, surrounded by ornate and beautiful decorations. Both saints passed away in the mid-6th century, St Scholastica at her nearby convent and St Benedict at Monte Cassino.

Throughout the week Fr Peter gave informative and inspiring talks on St Michael and the holy angels, St Faustina and St Michael and each day made himself available for all our needs and to hear confessions. All new pilgrims had an opportunity to partake in the readings of the day, bidding prayers or Stations of the Cross.

Finally, as all good things come to an end, we had our last Mass at 6.00 am in the chapel at Casa per Ferie, Rome, before our departure to different destinations.

Fr Peter, Noreen and the pilgrims were excellent and the food was very good. Even the sun shone most of our week away.

I came home very happy and uplifted and consider this pilgrimage very prayerful and special and I prayed each day for the readers of this magazine and all your families.

Anna D'Souza, London, England

Brief introduction to the nine choirs of angels

1. Seraphim

The Seraphim is said to be the highest order of angels who guard God's throne. They are often depicted as 'burning angels' to represent them on fire with love for God. In the Bible Isaiah saw them as six winged beings. These heavenly creatures praise God.

2. Cherubim

The word Cherubim is said to mean 'fullness of knowledge'. The Cherubim have the honour of observing and keeping the records of God's creative powers. Cherubims are said to have four wings and four faces. The Cherubims also act as heavenly counselors and are the seekers of the eternal truth.

3. Thrones

Throne Angels represent the divine majesty and are associated with the power of judgement. They carry out God's justice according to spiritual and universal laws. The Thrones also act as angels who are friends of all the planets. It is the Thrones who will drive forward God's chariot, often they are portrayed as angels who carry the scales of justice.

4. Dominions

The Dominions are angels of leadership and are said to ensure that God's will is carried out by other angels. They help balance the force of creation and of the material and spiritual worlds. The Dominions represent the superiority of wisdom over intellect and govern the natural world and the elements.

5. Virtues

Virtues are known as angels who watch over the heavenly bodies and nature. The Virtues are often associated with miracles performed on earth. Shining bright and

often depicted with swords, shields or sceptres, these wonderful angels will assist you in your darkest hour.

6. Powers

Powers are warrior angels who maintain order around planet earth and protect it from being overthrown by Satan, defending the cosmos and human souls. They fight against evil spirits who attempt to wreak chaos through human beings.

7. Principalities

The Principalities are a realm of angels who keep a watchful eye of the nations of planet earth and its leaders. They are protectors of religion, giving strength in times of hardship.

8. Archangels

The Archangels are the most frequently mentioned throughout the Bible. They are the leaders of the angelic armies and are Holy messengers of God. There are only three archangels acknowledged by the Catholic Faith: Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. They also command God's armies and act as guardian angels to leaders of world movements. They may be of this or other hierarchies like St Michael the Archangel.

9. Angels

These include guardian angels who are assigned by God to every human being at the moment of conception. Angels are closest to the material world

and human beings. They deliver our prayers to God and return with God's answers. Guardian angels have the capacity to access all other angels at any time, their role is to watch over us during our lives. They are also the most caring and social of beings who assist those who ask for help.

Noreen Bavister, England



■ The Golden Stairs by Edward Burne-Jones, 1880

Relic stones from the grotto

Among the devotional items available for sale during missions on St Michael the Archangel are white stones in special reliquaries from the Shrine in Mont Sant' Angelo. Stone plays an integral part in the story of the revelation of St Michael in Gargano. When, in 1656, the plague was decimating the population of Italy, a worried Bishop Alfonso Puccinelli entreated the help of St Michael the Archangel. In order to prevail on the Archangel for his swift intervention with the Lord, he placed into the hands of this statue the words of a prayer composed on behalf of all the town's inhabitants. The reply received on 22nd September at the bishop's palace was swift in coming. During his morning prayer, Bishop Alfonso first heard what sounded like an earthquake, after which, in a flash of dazzling light, he saw St Michael the Archangel. He was also commanded to bless stones from the grotto, on which he was to inscribe the sign of the cross and the letters M.A. (Michael the Archangel).

See
Subscription
form inside
middle
of magazine



Scapular of St Michael, angelic beads and St Michael prayer card

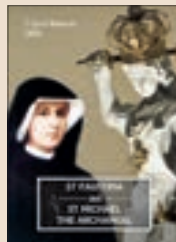
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ANGELIC BOOKSHOP RECOMMENDS

St Faustina and St Michael

St Faustina is full of wonder, respect, reverence and admiration for St Michael the Archangel. The fundamental and only reason behind such an attitude is, as she is at pains to stress, the fact that he did the will of God. He is for her the angel resplendent in his wonder and boundless humility towards the Creator. He is the angel who gazes at God with love, who learns the will of God and courageously carries it out.



Knighthood booklet

With angelic chaplet, Litany and many prayers to St Michael.



Q&A Booklet St Michael the Archangel and holy angels

Many questions answered on your guardian angel, St Michael and a descriptive representation of the nine choirs of angels



Each item sold separately Book / Booklets

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Double CDs Talks by Fr Peter Prusakiewicz (CSMA)

Angels in the Bible talks including Fr Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA leading and explaining each decade of the angelic chaplet to St Michael the Archangel



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ENGLAND 2018

21st – 23rd September 2018

**Talks: Holy Angels and Divine Mercy
St Michael of All Angels**

Belmont Abbey

Ruckhall Lane, Hereford HR2 9RZ

Contact: Geraldine Downing

Phone: +44 (0)1978-357-367

Email: dgdown@dgdwn.plus.com

9th – 11th November 2018

**Holy Angels and Knighthood
of St Michael with Eucharistic
Healing Hour**

Sandymount House of Prayer

16 Burbo Bank Road

Liverpool, L23 6TH

Contact: Stuart

Phone: +44(0)756-488-2006

Email: sandymount@

mountford.org.uk

www.sandymountcrosby.co.uk

SCOTLAND 2018

19th October 20

**Knighthood of St Michael
the Archangel**

**7:00 pm Holy Mass followed
by Benediction Eucharistic
Healing with the sick**

Saint Columba, RC Church

74 Hopehill Road, Glasgow G20 7HH

Contact: Craig Mathieson

Phone: +44(0)784 5906 820

Email: craiggm@live.co.uk

**5th National Divine
Mercy Conference**

20th October 2018

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

St Augustine's Church

12 Dundyvan Road, Langloan,

Coatbridge, ML5 1DQ

Contact: Helen Border

Email: Helen.Border@glasgow.ac.uk

**Theme of conference: 'For if you
forgive other people when they
sin against you, your heavenly Father
will also forgive you.**

**But if you do not forgive others
their sins, your Father will not forgive
your sins' / Matthew 6:14-15 /**

21st October 2018

St Michael and the Holy Angels

11:00am Holy Mass followed

by Eucharistic Healing Hour

Saint Columba, RC Church

74 Hopehill Road, Glasgow G20 7HH

Contact: Craig Mathieson

Phone: +44(0)784 5906 820

Email: craiggm@live.co.uk

IRELAND 2018

6th September 2018

7:30 pm Holy Mass

Talk: The Knighthood

of Michael the Archangel

Church of Immaculate Conception

Convent Hill, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork

Contact: Fr Michael Fitzgerald

Phone: +353(0)86-258-4062

Email: michaelstownparishoffice@eircom.net

7th September 2018

7:00 pm Holy Mass

**Talks: St Michael the Archangel
and St Faustina**

Pallottine Retreat Centre

Kickham Street (Opposite Topaz),

Thurles, Co. Tipperary

Contact: Fr George and Br Stephen

Email: pallthurles@gmail.com

8th September 2018

5:00 pm Teaching on St Michael

and The Knighthood including

private devotion and prayers

7:30 pm Holy Mass and homily

followed by Holy Hour

St Eunan's Cathedral

Sentry Hill, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

Contact: Fr Eamonn Kelly

Email: eamonnkellys@eircom.net

9th September 2018

Noon: Holy Hour followed by

Talk: St Michael the Archangel

St Cloumba's Church

Knocknabollan, Termon,

Co. Donegal, F92 X4D6

Contact: Fr Pat McHugh PP

Phone: +353-74-913-9016

Email: frpatmchugh@ircom.net

www.gartantermonparish.ie

9th September 2018

5:00 pm Holy Mass

Talk: St Michael the Archangel

Ards Friary

Creelagh,

County Donegal, F92 P2E1

Contact: Frances Ford

Email: francesjford@yahoo.ie

11th September 2018

7:30 pm Holy Mass

**Talk: St Michael the Archangel
and St Faustina**

St Anne's Church

Cranmore Road,

Abbeyquarter North,

Sligo City, County Sligo, F91 C3YT

Phone: +353(0)71-914-5028

Email: stannesparish@eircom.net

Contact: Fr Pat Lombard PP

12th September 2018

6:30 pm Adoration

7:00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

7:05 pm Confessions

7:15 pm Rosary

7:30 pm Holy Mass

8:30 pm Veneration of the relic

Talks: St Michael and St Faustina

The Oratory of Mary

Mother of God

7 Main Street, Newtown Stewart

Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland

Contact: Fr Roland Colhoun CC

Phone: +44(0)2881-661-445

Email: roland@derrydiocese.org

13th September 2018

Talks: St Faustina and St Michael

7:30 pm Holy Mass

St Patrick's Chapel

6 Tullinval Road,

Cullyhanna, Newry,

Co. Down, BT35 0PZ

Contact: Fr Gerard Tremer

Phone: +44(0)28-3086-1235

14th September 2018

8:00 pm Holy Mass

Talks: Knighthood of St Michael

Corpus Christi Prayer Group

Killadoon Louisburgh,

Westport. Co. Mayo.

Contact: Jim Brown

Phone: +353-87-258-2154

USA 2018

26th – 27th September 2018

Divine Mercy

Holy Spirit Church

355 E. Champlain Dr.

Fresno, CA 93730

Contact: Marie Farley

Phone: +1-805-878-6902

Email: mariefarley@live.com

28th – 30th September 2018

25th Annual Marian Conference

**Theme: Jesus is calling,
are you listening?**

Fresno, California

Contact: Christy Villas

(Adult registration)

Phone: +1-559-824-0732

www.holycrossministries.net

1st – 2nd October 2018

Guardian angels

and the three Archangels

St Raphael Catholic Church

5444 Hollister Ave,

Goleta, Santa Barbara, CA 93111

Contact: Msgr. Jon Majarucon.

Email: raphstgo@yahoo.com

Phone: +1-805-967-5641

4th – 7th October 2018

Divine Mercy

**Parish Mission – The secrets
of Saint Faustina**

414E Church Street,

Santa Maria, California 93454

Contact: Ole von Frausing-Borch

Email: ovonfrau@gmail.com

Phone: +1-805-202-9335

USA 2019

8th February 2019

Angels in the Life of St Faustina

St Thomas Aquinas Society

and Divine Mercy of the Rockies

St Patrick Church

6455 Brook Park Drive

Colorado Springs, Colorado 80918

Contact: Therese Lorentz

Email: thereselorentz@aol.com

Phone: +1-719-448-0020

14th, 15th & 16th June 2019

Divine Mercy

The secrets of St Faustina

and St John Paul II

St Clare's Retreat Centre

2381 Laurel Glen Road, 95073

Soquel, California

Phone: +1-831-423-8093

Email: stclaresretreatcenter@gmail.com

www.stclaresretreatcenter.com

July 31st – August 4th 2019

22nd Annual Conference

St Thomas Aquinas Society

Theme: Christ the King

Pikes Peak Center

190 South Cascade Ave

Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

Contact: Therese Lorentz

Email: thereselorentz@aol.com

Phone: +1-719-448-0020

SCOTLAND 2019

25th October 2019

St Michael the Archangel

7:00 pm Holy Mass followed

by Benediction Eucharistic

Healing with the sick

Saint Columba, RC Church

74 Hopehill Road, Glasgow G20 7HH

Contact: Craig Mathieson

Phone: +44(0)784 5906 820

Email: craiggm@live.co.uk

26th October 2019

Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

6th National Divine Mercy Conference

Theme of conference: TBC

St Augustine's Church

12 Dundyan Road,

Langloan, Coatbridge, ML5 1DQ

Contact: Helen Border

Email: Helen.Border@glasgow.ac.uk

27th October 2019

The Nine Choirs of Angels

11:00am Holy Mass followed

by Eucharistic Healing Hour

Saint Columba, RC Church

74 Hopehill Road, Glasgow G20 7HH

Contact: Craig Mathieson

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On one occasion, I heard these words: "My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy." (Diary, 1793)



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I understand that temptations seem to tarnish, rather than to purify the spirit; but let us hear what the saints have to say, and for that purpose it suffices to choose Saint Francis de Sales from among so many: 'Temptations are like soap, which, when spread over the clothes, seems to stain them, but in reality, purifies them.'

If certain thoughts bother you, it is Devil who causes you to worry, and not God, Who, being the spirit of peace, grants you tranquillity.

If we need patience to bear the faults of others, how much more do we need to tolerate ourselves!

I never cease to ask Jesus to bless you, and pray to our Lord to transfigure you entirely in Him.

He who attaches himself to the earth, remains attached to it. We are obliged to leave it. It is better to become detached a little at a time, rather than all at once.

He who never meditates is like a person who never looks in the mirror; therefore, not knowing that he is untidy, he goes out looking disorderly.

Let us listen to the voice of our conscience, to the voice of the royal prophet: 'Today, if you hear the voice of the Lord, do not turn a deaf ear.'

Chaplet of St Michael

L. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

A. *Amen*

Say the following prayer on the medal:

O God, come to my assistance.

O Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

1. By the intercession of St Michael and the celestial Choir of Seraphim, may the Lord make us worthy to burn with the fire of perfect charity. Amen.

(1 Our Father on the first large bead, 3 Hail Marys on the next three small beads)

2. By the intercession of St Michael and the celestial Choir of Cherubim, may the Lord vouchsafe to grant us grace to leave the ways of wickedness, to run in the paths of Christian perfection. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Marys)

Prayer of Pope Leo XIII

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the Divine Power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

3. By the intercession of St Michael and the celestial Choir of Thrones, may the Lord infuse into our hearts a true and sincere spirit of humility. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Marys)

4. By the intercession of St Michael and the celestial Choir of Dominions, may the Lord give us grace to govern our senses and subdue our unruly passions. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Marys)

5. By the intercession of St Michael and the celestial Choir of Powers, may the Lord vouchsafe to protect our souls against the snares and temptations of the Devil. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Marys)

6. By the intercession of St Michael and the celestial Choir of Virtues, may the Lord deliver us from evil and suffer us not to fall into temptation. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Marys)

7. By the intercession of St Michael and the Celestial Choir of Principalities, may God fill our souls with a true spirit of obedience. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Marys)

8. By the intercession of St Michael and the celestial Choir of Archangels, may the Lord give us perseverance in faith and in all good works, in order that we gain the glory of Paradise. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Marys)

9. By the intercession of St Michael and the celestial Choir of Angels, may the Lord grant us to be



protected by them in this mortal life and conducted hereafter to eternal glory. Amen.

(1 Our Father, 3 Hail Marys)

Recite on the next four beads:

1 Our Father in honour of St Michael

1 Our Father in honour of St Gabriel

1 Our Father in honour of St Raphael

1 Our Father in honour of our Guardian Angel

O glorious prince, St Michael, chief and commander of the heavenly hosts, guardian of souls, vanquisher of rebel spirits, servant in the house of the Divine King, and our admirable conductor, who shines with excellence and superhuman virtue, vouchsafe to deliver us from evil, who turn to you with confidence, and enable us by your gracious protection to serve God more and more faithfully every day. Amen.