

## Mary's Meals Launches Medjugorje Pilgrimage

September 14, 2021 – Global school feeding charity Mary's Meals will host its second virtual family pilgrimage to Medjugorje on October 2nd this year for those who would like to pray and give thanks for its mission.

Since 2017, members of the Mary's Meals family have been coming together annually in prayer, reflection, and thanksgiving at the Marian shrine in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where the charity has its roots. This year, with continued restrictions on travel, Mary's Meals is once again inviting anyone who would like to join online to mark the date - Saturday, October 2, 2021 - on their calendars.

The program of activity will follow the format of past years as closely as possible in a virtual setting, with attendees from all over the globe praying the Rosary together in many different languages; listening to the charity's founder, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, and his wife, Julie, speaking about the work of Mary's Meals and its connection to Medjugorje; and having the chance to follow the stations of the cross on Mount Krizevac (cross mountain).

There will also be opportunities to attend Holy Mass and a Holy Hour online, streamed from St. James' Parish, and to pray together and give thanks to Our Lady Queen of Peace.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow said, "Whilst we would love co-workers to join us from the Mary's Meals family (regardless of faith background etc.) in the place where it all began, we realize, sadly, that travel from many countries is still not possible. If you would like to join this pilgrimage of thanksgiving but cannot travel, there will be the opportunity to join some of it virtually. (Last year, over 10,000 people from 103 countries joined our pilgrimage online, so you won't be alone!)"

Further details on the online part of the pilgrimage will follow in the coming days, as will further information on the program in Medjugorje itself for those of you who might join the pilgrimage in person.

Please keep your eye on [our social media channels](#) for direct links to content on the day. We hope you will be able to join us.

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### Notes to Editors

- Mary's Meals has a visitor center in Medjugorje, located near the Church of St. James, where pilgrims often visit to learn about the charity, to pray and fast for the mission, and to come together with other supporters from around the world. The visitor center was blessed by Bishop John Keenan during the 2018 family pilgrimage, which took place soon after the center opened.
- The first Mary's Meals family pilgrimage took place in 2017 to mark 25 years since the charity's founder, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, made his first delivery of aid to people in a relief camp outside Medjugorje during the war.
- Mary's Meals provides daily meals to children through school feeding programs in 19 countries: Malawi, Liberia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Haiti, Kenya, India, South Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Benin, Lebanon, Syria, Myanmar, Thailand, Ecuador, Niger, Madagascar, and Romania.

- When schools closed because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the charity implemented community distributions of food parcels and hygiene items. Through these distributions, Mary's Meals continued to reach almost every child in its feeding programs, enabling parents or guardians to cook meals for the children at home – their temporary place of education.
- As schools return, Mary's Meals is working with local communities and trusted partners to reinstate school feeding where possible – and in line with local safety advice – while continuing with community distributions in places where schools remain closed.
- Mary's Meals is operated by local communities in its program countries. Where possible, meals are prepared using food that has been grown locally. This helps to support families and boost the local economy.
- Mary's Meals began in 2002 when Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow visited Malawi during a famine and met a mother dying from AIDS. When Magnus asked her eldest son, Edward, what his dreams were in life, he replied simply, "I want to have enough food to eat and to be able to go to school one day."

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