

The Shrine Messenger

Issue April 2011 No. 359

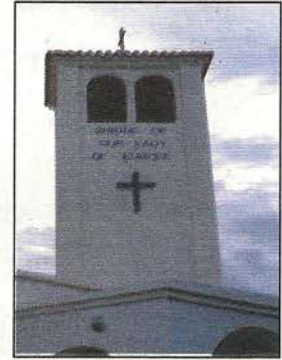


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MARY AND THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

Sacred Scripture does not record Our Lord's Resurrection in detail, merely the fact that St Mary Magdalene found the tomb empty and He then appeared to her. But what of His Mother, who would have mourned His death more than the others? Why do we not see her there with the women? Why does St Mary Magdalene not also run to her to tell her the wonderful news? Pope John Paul II taught in one of his Wednesday General Audiences that it is wholly reasonable to believe that Our Lord appeared first to the Blessed Virgin, even though Scripture does not record this intimate moment between the Redeemer and His Beloved Mother. This is the official Vatican news release on the Holy Father's catechesis:

He is *Risen!* Alleluia

The Holy Father focused the catechesis on "Mary and the Resurrection of Christ," and recalled that "the Gospels narrate different apparitions of the Risen One, but not the meeting between Jesus and his Mother." "From this silence," he continued, "one must not deduce that Christ, after his Resurrection, did not appear to Mary." This omission might be attributed to the fact that "what is necessary for our saving knowledge is entrusted to the word of those 'who were chosen by God as witnesses,' that is, the Apostles," he said, citing the Acts of the Apostles.

John Paul II asked how the Blessed Virgin, who was "present in the first community of the disciples, could have been excluded from the number of those who encountered her divine Son risen from among the dead. On the contrary, it is legitimate to think that the Mother may really have been the first person to whom the risen Jesus appeared. Could not the absence of Mary from the group of women who approached the tomb at dawn constitute an indication that she had already met Jesus?"

"The unique and special nature of the presence of the Virgin at Calvary," added the Pope, "and her perfect union with the Son in his suffering on the Cross, seem to postulate a very particular participation on her part in the mystery of the Resurrection."

The Blessed Virgin, who was present at Calvary and at the Cenacle, "was probably also a privileged witness to the Resurrection of Christ, in this way completing her participation in all the essential moments of the paschal mystery. Embracing the risen Jesus, Mary is, in addition, a sign and anticipation of humanity, which hopes to reach its fulfilment in the resurrection of the dead."

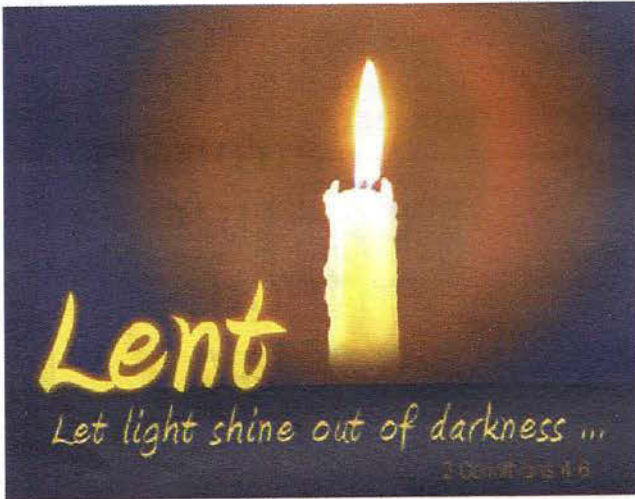
HAPPY EASTER TO ALL OUR READERS

Editorial

Dear Friends,



Since our last edition of the Shrine Messenger, there has been an important event. Gibraltar has had the privilege of having the World Youth Day Cross & Icon for four days.



This event has been covered in an article about the Via Matris Procession from St Bernard's Church to the Shrine of Our lady of Europe and was indeed a happy occasion.

Now that lent is almost over I reflect on the meaning of Lent.

Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Lent is marked by fasting, both from food and festivities.

Whereas Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus after his death on the cross, Lent recalls the events leading up to and including Jesus' crucifixion by Rome.

Why 40 days is a significant number?

- In Genesis, the flood which destroyed the earth was brought about by 40 days and nights of rain.
- The Hebrews spent 40 years in the wilderness before reaching the land promised to them by God.
- Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the ten commandments on Mount Sinai.
- Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry.

Most Christians regard Jesus' time in the wilderness as the key event for the duration of Lent.

To conclude let us rejoice that Easter is almost here and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus (see main article "He is Risen").

Happy Easter and God Bless you all

Fr Charlie

ANNUAL FLAG DAY

**In aid of The Shrine
Friday 20th May 2011**

We rely on your generosity

**TRIDUUM IN HONOUR OF
OUR LADY OF EUROPE
3 to 5 MAY 2011
St. Theresa's Church & The Shrine**



**Come to celebrate the
Feast of our Patroness
OUR LADY OF EUROPE
Triduum from
3rd to 5th May:
Daily Mass at 7.00 pm
at St. Theresa's Church.**

**On 5th May 2011 (Feast)
at the Shrine:
Rosary at 08.45; 10.45
and 12.45
Holy Mass at 1.15pm
Rosary & Benediction
at 4.30pm**

***Please bring a flower
for Our Lady
on this day!***

WORLD YOUTH DAY CROSS AND ICON - PROCESSION (VIA MATRIS) FROM ST. BERNARD'S CHURCH TO THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF EUROPE



Since then the WYD Cross has made its way around the world, throughout Europe, behind the Iron Curtain, and to parts of the Americas, Asia, Africa and Australia. The WYD is present at each international celebration of World Youth Day. In 1994 the Cross began a tradition of traveling for a year around the host nation of the International World Youth Day, as a means of prayerful preparation for the big event. Hence the Cross is known as the "World Youth Day Cross". The media also called the Cross the "Olympic Torch" of the

The World Youth Day Cross & Icon is also known as the "Holy Year Cross", the "Jubilee Cross" and the "Youth Cross". It was in 1984 that Pope John Paul II, at the conclusion of the Jubilee Year, entrusted the cross to a group of young people to be carried out into the world.



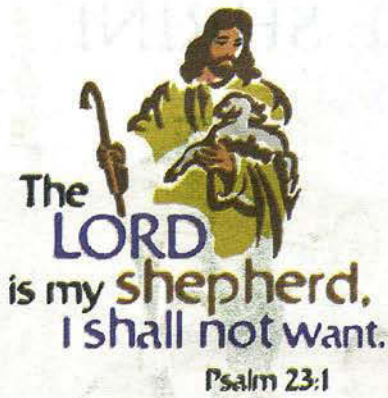
World Youth Day. In each country that the Cross visits, it travels from cities to towns, parishes to prayer groups. Young people take charge of it, spend time in prayer with it, and encourage their peers to do the same.



WYD ICON

In 2003, Pope John Paul II gave young people a second symbol of faith to be carried in the world, accompanying the WYD Cross the Icon of our Lady, "Salus Populi Romani" a contemporary copy of a sacred and ancient icon housed in the first and greatest basilica to Mary the Mother of God in the West, St Mary Major. It is therefore fitting that the WYD Cross & Icon of Our Lady visited the most southern tip of Europe namely the Shrine of Our Lady of Europe.





This Psalm is truly a beautiful parable fitting of the times some 2000 years ago, when life was not that demanding nor jobs as complicated as today. So perhaps if Jesus had delayed his presence in this world to the 21st century the words could have been as follows: The Lord is my Internet,

The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want is probably one of the favourite Psalms for Christians and Jews alike. It is thought that David wrote this Psalm and thus it is beloved by Christians and Jews. The Psalm's text is:-

The Lord is my shepherd,
There is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
Where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
To revive my drooping spirit.

The Lord is my shepherd;
There is nothing I shall want.

He guides me along the right path ;
He is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
No evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff,
With these you give me comfort.

The Lord is my shepherd;
There is nothing I shall want.

You have prepared a banquet for me
In the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
My cup is overflowing.

The Lord is my shepherd;
There is nothing I shall want.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
forever and ever.

The Lord is my shepherd;
There is nothing I shall want.

There is nothing I shall want.
My thirst for knowledge is satisfied,
With a click of my mouse
you lead me to the right link
and uplift my spirit.

The Lord is my Internet,
There is nothing I shall want.

He guides me along the right links,
He is true to his name.
If I should be attacked by viruses,
No evil shall I fear.
You are there with your firewall and anti-virus software,
With these you give me comfort.

The Lord is my Internet,
There is nothing I shall want.

You have provided me with a fountain of knowledge,
in the sight of my foes.
My head has been enlightened
and overflows with know-how.

The Lord is my Internet,
There is nothing I shall want.

Surely goodness shall follow me
All the days of my life
With facebook, twitter and social networking
I shall dwell in the Lord's own house
Forever and ever.

The Lord is my Internet,
There is nothing I shall want.



DOUBLE BAPTISM AT THE SHRINE

On Saturday 26th February, Mgr Charlie Azzopardi baptised sisters Ellen Louisa (aged 7) and Sophie Megan (aged 3) at the Shrine. They are daughters of Richard and Margaret Herbert.

Pictured are Ellen and Sophie with their family and Godparents.

We welcome them into the Christian Community and ask for God's blessing on all of them.

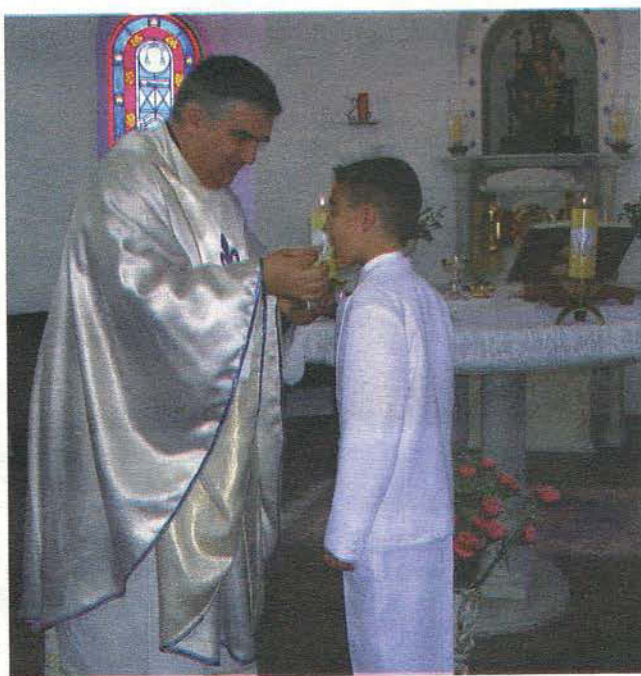


DOUBLE EVENT FOR JESSY

Jessy Franco was received into the Catholic Church and received his First Holy Communion from Mgr Charlie Azzopardi during the noon Mass on Saturday 5th March 2011 at the Shrine.

It was a joyous event for Jessy, his family, and all who attended the noon Mass.

We welcome Jessy into the Catholic Community. May God richly bless him and his family.



SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF EUROPE

The Shrine's new web site is now up and running.

Web site is: www.ourladyofeurope.net (best viewed with Java and Flash plug-ins).

Please send to all your contacts (and beyond). Thanks.

God bless