

Latest Happenings in the Diocese of Mandeville: The Annual Pilgrimage at Our Lady of Dunsinane Mission

“Do whatever He tells You”. John 2:5. Mary’s words to the stewards at the wedding of Cana, over two thousand years ago continued to resonate as the Catholic faithful from various parishes around the island gathered at the Marian Shrine in Dunsinane, Manchester for the annual pilgrimage on Saturday August 2, 2014.



Congregants participate in a spirit-filled sing along

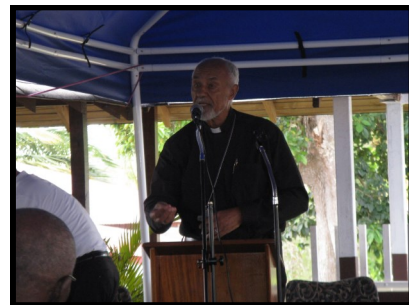
The morning began with a vibrant Praise and Worship session led by Hope Wood-Salmon, which had all the faithful on their feet, singing out in joyful chorus. Deacon Dennis Hendriks then gave a brief explanation of the history of Our Lady of Dunsinane National Marian Shrine, which was developed by the Allegany Franciscan Sisters, in an effort to promote Marian devotion in a Jamaican context. In 1992, Bishop Boyle conferred a new title on Our Lady - Our Lady of Dunsinane, and established this indigenous shrine in which our Lady is represented as a Jamaican Madonna.



The Grotto of Redemption at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Dunsinane

Reverend Timothy Gadziala, Vicar General for the Diocese of Mandeville, along with Alicia Christie, Youth Coordinator, led an informative question and answer session addressing such questions as “Why do Catholics pray to Mary?” and “What is the Biblical precedent for Mary to act as intercessor?” He reminded us of Mary’s role at the wedding at Cana, where, despite Jesus’ reluctance, she gently interceded, and persuaded him to reveal His power by performing his first public miracle.

His Grace Archbishop Emeritus most Rev. Donald J. Reece was the main speaker of the event. He reiterated Mary’s role as our mediator, reminding listeners that “...because of her ‘Yes’, our own pilgrimage back to God is made possible.” He pointed out that she, as Jesus’ mother, would have known Jesus best, and so if she says to trust Him, then surely she knows what she is talking about.



His Grace Archbishop Emeritus of Kingston—Most Rev. Donald J. Reece



The Blessed Sacrament is held aloft by Fr Aloyce Komu

In demonstrating the difficulty people have in trusting God, he told the story of the man who, having been thrown from a crashed vehicle, is hanging from a tree over a ravine. So he calls for help. When God answers and says “Do you trust me?” The man responds that he does, so God tells him “Let go.” But after looking down into the ravine below, the man calls out “Is there anybody else out there?”

His Grace reminded congregants that doing as Jesus says is a process, and that God, knowing the weakness of His people, provides help in the form of the Church and the sacraments.

The Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration followed, after which lunch was served. The next activity was the recitation of the rosary led by youth volunteers, during a procession to the Grotto.

The guest choir from St. Richard of Chichester Church in Kingston led the faithful in song as the day culminated on a high note with Mass, led by main celebrant, Rev. Neil Tiedemann, Bishop of Mandeville.



The pilgrimage was attended by young and old alike. Left: Sisters pose for the camera. Inset: Margaret Jackson celebrated her 104th birthday by attending the event.