

THE WEAVINGS

Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Department for Spirituality

April 2015

FORWARD TOGETHER IN HOPE

On 18 March, resources for the first phase of **Forward Together in Hope** team were distributed to deans, parish clergy and representatives of parishes around the Diocese. Around 160 people were there to hear Fr Jim O’Keefe and Tony Sacco talk about “the case for change” - the things that are happening in the diocese and the wider world that are now impacting on our lives as Catholics in this area.

All these materials are on the diocesan website and the contents of the accompanying DVD have been uploaded to YouTube.



Alongside this case for change and a short history of the Diocese, there are ideas for prayer and spirituality. These are not simply prayers for various occasions but helping to develop different ways in which prayer can underpin the process. Last month, we took an overview of some of the ideas—this month we look at a few in more details: the Preparing the Way Liturgy, Anchors and pilgrimages.

The Preparing the Way Liturgy is designed to be flexible and reflects on the call of Jesus and our response. It takes two Gospel passages—the call of the disciples by the Sea of Galilee and the “Great Commission”, when Jesus asked them to continue his mission after his ascension. The first stage reminds us that those first disciples had no idea where they would be led if they followed Jesus. A quick trawl through the gospels (and through the pictures on the PowerPoint that can accompany this section) shows that he had them up mountains, into the temple, meeting lepers and women of ill-repute and many others. It is quite possible that had they known where Jesus would lead them, some of them would have thought twice—and the gospels record that some did and some even stopped following him. This opens the way for us to reflect on a very similar journey for us. Christians have never known for sure where they will be led during their earthly journeys—and nowhere does Jesus say it will be easy! This could then be a point at which to watch the DVD and, if the prayer is being used as part of a meeting, to think about how those early disciples’ experiences are reflected in our own. Where have we been led so far—and what are we afraid of being led into next?

The liturgy then moves on to remind us that, yes, Jesus does ask a lot of his disciples—he said that we must take up our cross for a reason. But he also assured those early disciples that he would be with them always—and he has not gone back on that promise now that the baton has been passed on to us.

Anchors is the name we have given to our modern-day anchorites—people who pray at home. There are many of them and we probably rely on their prayer far more than we realise. *Forward Together in Hope* gives us a reason to identify those who could be asked to fulfil this particular ministry on behalf of the parish and diocese but we hope that this could become part of the life of our diocese well beyond the three year process.

At its simplest, Eucharistic Ministers or SVP visitors could suggest the idea of being an Anchor to those they visit and ask them to pray the *Forward Together* prayer—or add the diocese to their prayer list. It might also be possible to honour their prayer by having a short service to commission them and give them a candle or holding cross. In some parishes, an afternoon tea with entertainment by youngsters from the school might be possible.

The other idea for this month is to encourage parishes or other groups to organise a pilgrimage. This is does not have to be too far away—our Diocese is full of places to visit! One advantage of “going local” is that it can remind us of our heritage and also help us think about how much change local Catholics have already lived through. It is a great way of bringing people together—to share a physical journey on a coach or in sharing lifts, times of prayer, and fun and conversation over shared meals.

Talk to people around you and see which of these ideas you can help to develop! Remember, we are here to help! 



Saturday 20—Sunday 21 June
Venue: Emmaus/Youth Village

Bookings are now being taken for the Diocesan Festival later this year. More information from the diocesan website or from the Department!

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Days with Henry Wansbrough OSB

The Bishops' Conference Spirituality Committee which brought you the popular introduction to Catholic spirituality, "Do you love me?" has organised two "consultation days". These are to be led by Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB who will look at the theme, 'The Psalms – River of the Spiritual Life'.



The dates and venues are:

Tuesday 5 May at St Aloysius' Parish Centre, near London Euston station.

Wednesday 6 May at Salford Cathedral Centre.

The days start with coffee from 10.30 and end at 3.30pm. More information from the Department. 

Icon Exhibition in Durham Cathedral



Many people in the Diocese have prayed with the beautiful icons of some of the Northern Saints and they are now speaking to hundreds more in Durham Cathedral.

Sr Michael and the Evangelisation Team organised the exhibition which will run through until after Easter. There are prayer cards for visitors to pick up and take away as well as information about the icons and the saints they speak of.

The Team has also put together a self-led service so if you are able to call into Durham, think about including a short pilgrimage to our icons and spend time in prayer with them. 

Visit by member of Taizé Community

Early in March, Br Paolo from the Community in Taizé made a short visit to the Diocese. He took the opportunity to catch up with staff at Our Lady and St Bede's Secondary School who have already taken students from the school and to meet chaplains from several other secondary schools who would like to do the same.

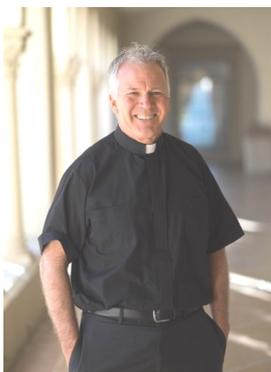
In the evening, St Joseph's, Sunderland welcomed around 160 people for a time of Prayer Around the Cross. This is a very moving form of veneration celebrated every Friday evening in Taizé. It was a beautiful service—even though the poor flute player's car broke down on his way! Fortunately, local violinist dropped everything to come and support the small ad hoc group that came together and beautifully led the music and prayer. 



Fr Jim Clarke

Alongside his talks at the Diocesan Festival, Fr Jim will be leading sessions for chaplains, teachers and diocesan staff. Plans are also underway for sessions on men's spirituality at

St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre. Further information about Fr Jim's visit can be obtained by contacting the department.



Evangelisation Team

Thursday 2 April (Maundy Thursday)
Straight after the Chrism Mass
Central Station

Flash Mob on the Passion
More information from Sr Michael
(0191) 581 3249 or email:
marymichael.lee7@googlemail.com

Holy Island

Saturday 25 April, 11.15am—3.15pm
(Causeway Open 10:55—19:15)

Can you hear me?

An invitation to reflect on God at work in our daily lives.

Saturday 23 May, 11.00am—3.00pm
(Causeway Open 10:10—17:40)

The love of God:

a day of meditation with the help of Julian of Norwich

Led by Professor Karen Kilby
More information from the Department

Holy Week at Ushaw

Wednesday 1 April 7.30.p.m.

Trois Leçons de Ténèbres, Couperin.

Traditional Office of Tenebrae for Holy Week in St Cuthbert's Chapel.

With Emily Owen and Charlotte Lathrope (Sopranos), Sam Stadlen (Viola Da Gamba) and John Green (Organ). Admission £10.00.

Saturday 4 April 3.00.p.m.

Haydn's Seven Last Words

performed by the Ushaw Quartet
Admission £5.00. Chapel, Gardens, Shop and Cafe open from 12.00.noon
More information: www.ushaw.org

Minsteracres

2 April (6.30pm) -5 April (2pm)
Holy Week retreat

Join the community on their journey towards Easter, including time for reflection and the opportunity to take part in the liturgies of Holy Week.

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10 April (7pm)-12 April (2pm)
Dancing our calling

Led by Janette Blakemore
Dancing and reflection on the inspiring words of Irish poet, philosopher and priest John O'Donohue. Suitable for beginners.
More information from
01434 673 248
info@minsteracres.org
www.minsteracres.org

St Antony's Priory, Durham

11 April

'Together in Meditation'

Two separate hours of Christian meditation.
More information from
Tel: 0191 384 3747
Email: info@stantonypriory.co.uk