

Tempted-Transfigured


Our theme this Lent is taken from the Gospels of the first two Sundays which are always the Temptation of Jesus and the Transfiguration. It gives us an opportunity to look at temptations in our own lives and how we are given the grace to face and, hopefully, to overcome them. It reminds us also that we are on a journey of transformation.

In his message for Lent, Pope Francis speaks about the dangers of indifference and how this blinds us to the needs of others. It is also possible to be indifferent to or to avoid looking after our own deepest needs.

There are three traditional strands to the disciplines the Church encourages us to use during this holy Season—prayer, fasting and almsgiving. They are taken directly from Jesus' own teaching which we will hear on Ash Wednesday.

The first element is to focus more on our prayer-lives—and, as we will hear from Jesus, our *personal* prayer time with God in particular. As we give God this space in our lives, we find that we become more aware of what God has done for us and for humanity. We are reminded that, even if we are often indifferent to God, to other people and even our own needs, God is never indifferent to them or to us. How we use this time will vary according to our personal needs and preferences—perhaps using the Prayer of the Church (the Hexham and Newcastle calendar is now available from www.universalis.com) — the Rosary — meditation — time before the Blessed Sacrament... or taking time this Lent to try something new.

Fasting, paradoxically, also challenges the temptation to indifference. Think of how often we eat but are pretty indifferent to what we are putting in our mouths. By restricting our intake of food, we can become more aware of the blessing that food is. As you prepare for Lent, you may be aware that this applies to other things which you might choose to focus on in Lent.

Reaching out to others by giving money or time to support them is an obvious way to overcome the temptation to indifference. It takes us out of the comfort zone we create around ourselves and reminds us that God loved and loves the whole world—including us, of course—but also our brothers and sisters most in need. 



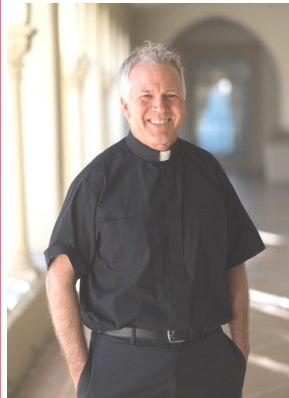
Pope Francis' Lent message is available from:
www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-francis-lenten-message-2015

DIOCESAN FESTIVAL


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

Bookings are now being taken for the Diocesan Festival later this year. We are looking forward to welcoming back Fr Jim Clarke to be one of our key speakers.

Many people in the Diocese heard Fr Jim last year when he



led a retreat at Minsteracres and days on Holy Island and for school chaplains and others. Fr Jim is a priest of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles where he is a member of the staff of St Johns Seminary. He is an engaging and thought-provoking speaker—well worth listening to!

Come along to hear him and to be inspired! 

Please continue to pray for Bishop Séamus and the Team as they work on the materials to help the Diocese to move

FORWARD TOGETHER IN HOPE

Glory be to the Father –
in whom we live and move and have our being.

Glory be to the Son –
whose name we bear
and who calls each of us to be his disciples;
to build his Kingdom
and to go out into the world and bear its fruit.

Glory be to the Holy Spirit –
pouring out grace and guidance,
forming us and renewing us.

Inspire us all in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle
to live the Gospel,
to be open to change
and to move forward together in hope.

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Notes from the Spirituality Network

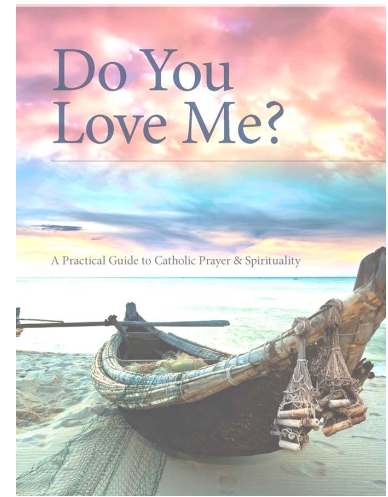
Around 30 people braved the weather to attend a meeting of the diocesan Spirituality Network in early January. It was a busy but very energising meeting!

The group received the Lent packs to take back to deaneries or their interest groups as well as a copy of "Do you love me?" to promote with their contacts.

The contents of the Lent packs are now available from the diocesan website: <http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/spirituality/>

spirituality_lent2015.php — there is a link from the home page. They include outlines for small group meetings, daily reflections and more...

The group also received an update on *Forward Together in Hope* and looked at the materials being created to support its next stage, "Preparing the Way". They gave very useful feedback and the materials will be going out with the main pack in mid-March. More on this next time.



On **Friday 13 February**, Kathryn will be talking about the new book from Bishops' Conference on Spirituality, "Do you love me?" This will be held at the Cloister Café next to the Cathedral after the 12.05 Mass.

The event is free but places are limited. Please contact the Pauline Bookshop for more information: 0191 231 6040 or newcastle@pauline-uk.org

Centre for Prayer and Mission, Evangelisation Team

16 March—13 April
Display of the Icons
written by local people.

Durham Cathedral

Sr Michael is encouraging small group or parish pilgrimages and will have a prayer service for them to use.

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Thursday 2 April (Maundy Thursday)
Straight after the Chrism Mass (12.15-ish)
Central Station

Flash Mob on Passion

using dance and movement.

More information from Sr Michael
(0191) 581 3249 or email:
marymichael.lee7@googlemail.com

The Centre for Catholic Studies,
Durham University *in association with*
The Newman Association and
The National Board of Catholic Women
Saturday 21 March, 10.00am-5.30pm
A Study Day on

"Catholic Perspectives on Poverty

Ushaw College, Durham DH7 9RH

Pre-booking is essential.

£50 including a buffet lunch;

£40 without lunch.

Limited number of concessions available.

To book, or for further details, please
contact Eddie Jarvis:

e.t.jarvis@durham.ac.uk or

0191 334 1656

Holy Island

Saturday 14 March

A Day of Prayer

Led by members of

Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

A day of worship, praise,
healing and reflection.

For more information contact

Pat Kennedy

pat.kennedy@diocesehn.org.uk

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Saturday 28 March 11.30am-4.00pm

A Quiet Day of Prayer

Led by Deacon Jude Newton

and Eileen Richardson

An ideal way to prepare for Holy Week.

More information from
Department for Spirituality

St Antony's Priory, Durham

Saturday 14 February, 10am-12.30pm

'Together in Meditation'

Two separate hours of meditation in the
Christian Tradition.

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Thursday 19 February

**The call to pray in desert times,
Quiet Day for the beginning of Lent'**

Led by Di Johnson

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Saturday 21 February

'Craft workshop'

Led by Heather Keogh and Lynne Burke.

More information from

Tel: 0191 384 3747

Email: info@stantonypriory.co.uk

Minsteracres

13 - 15 February 2015

Becoming who you are

Margaret Silf

The TV listings pose the question: 'Who do you think you are?' This weekend we will explore this question in the light of another one: 'Who is God dreaming you to be?'

21 February, 10.00am-5.00pm

Walking retreat

Enjoy a walk of seven to ten miles through
beautiful countryside around Minsteracres.

25 February, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

Quiet day

Led by Sister Rosarie Spence

Step aside, listen to God in scripture and
enjoy the peace and tranquility of the
Northumberland countryside.

27 Feb-1 March

Christian meditation and Tai Chi

Led by Terry Doyle

A reflective weekend in a silent atmosphere
to nourish mind, body and spirit.

28 February 10.00am-4.30pm

By your cross and resurrection

Led by Liam Lawton.

Liam reflects on Lent, Holy Week and the
Easter season in a workshop for parish
choirs. He looks at how we can celebrate
this time of renewal in our music ministry to
bring people into a more meaningful
understanding of this sacred time.

More information from

01434 673 248

info@minsteracres.org

www.minsteracres.org