

Living in Interesting Times!

Many people will have taken a break over July and August—and some are preparing to head off on holiday in the next few weeks. It is certainly the case that there is a lot happening in the life of the Church—locally, nationally and globally.

In the Diocese we have Forward Together in Hope which is in a crucial phase as parishes and communities reflect together on their circumstances and what these might mean for the future. There are plenty of facts and figures around to be looked at and discussed—but it is also vital that communities pray about things together. The Holy Spirit is at work and waiting for people to listen attentively for grace and guidance about how the Faith can flourish into the future.

Take a look on the diocesan website and see which of the resources might work for you and your community. Do you have Anchors yet? If not, is this something you and a couple of friends could think about organising? Or could a group of you talk to others about ways in which your church building could be kept open as a Gem Church? Is there a group who could arrange to be in prayer—perhaps before the Blessed Sacrament—while the more practical meetings are going on? Could there be a parish awayday—or good use made of the memories of the one you might have had in the summer?

We will also be hearing more about Proclaim 15 which happened in July but which inspired people from our diocese to want to take things further. Its message of mission rather than simply maintenance is one that links powerfully with Forward Together in Hope—so look out for events and news and think about how the Holy Spirit might be encouraging you to be more involved.

And this is not to mention the publication of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment and care of creation. It offers some theoretical teachings—but also some very practical ideas. We will look at some of these over coming months but you could also start thinking about what God might be prompting you to do.

And then the Year of Mercy to start later this year—a chance to reflect on—to celebrate—and to allow the great mercy of God to change our lives—and to bring that mercy to those in desperate need of this message of hope.

A lot happening! It is said that the Chinese have a curse—“May you live in interesting times”! We certainly do—and sometimes it can feel like a curse! But it is also a sign of God alive and active in the world—and his call to us, not to do everything but to find the things he would like us to do—and to do them as well as we possibly can.

If you are heading on holiday—enjoy and make the most of it! If you are looking ahead to the coming months with all that seems to lie ahead, roll up your sleeves and get stuck in to the work of building God's Kingdom! 

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

Following the publication of *Laudato Si'* earlier in the year, Pope Francis has announced an annual **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation** to be held on 1 September.

It is obviously too late to organise very much for this year but there is nothing to stop us praying individually or with family and friends.

Here are some thoughts:

- You might like to look at the document—which is widely available in print or from the Vatican website. There is a whole section on Ecological Education and Spirituality which emphasises that it is about looking at our whole lifestyle—how our prayers and reflections influence the very practical details of our daily lives.
- Book to come on the Holy Island Day with Fr Chris Hughes and members of the Diocesan Spirituality Committee to be held on Saturday 17 October. (Contact Karen using the details below. If you can't make the day but would like us to try to arrange it at a different venue, get in touch!
- Read either Genesis 1 or Genesis 2 (which actually includes a bit that should be in Gen 1!) Take time over it—imagining God at work—and then setting human beings into this wondrous Creation as stewards and keepers of it.
- Find and pray St Francis of Assisi's 'Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon'.
- Take a Prayer Walk—savouring all that you see that is beautiful... and being aware of signs that humans do not always treat Creation with the respect and love that it deserves.
- Think about one simple step you could take towards Care for Creation.



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Upcoming Events in the Diocese and Local Centres

**Celebrating the Fifth Centenary
of the Birth of St Teresa of Avila**
Saturday 10 October, 10am-3.30pm
St Aidan's Church, Ashington



A quiet day in the Carmelite Tradition
hosted by the Northumberland Lay
Carmelite Community .
*Booking essential—please contact the
Department, details overleaf.*

Psalms as Soul Food
Saturday 19 September, 11am-3pm
St Aidan's Church, Holy Island.
Led by Alison Adam
from the Iona Community.



Alison invites you to "Spend a day on
Lindisfarne with the power of the
psalms and the potency
of the island to refresh you."
*More information and booking through
the Department.*

**'God's creation, God's
justice.'**
Saturday 17 October, 11am-3pm
St Aidan's Church, Holy Island.
Led by Fr Chris Hughes and members of
the Diocesan Justice and Peace Committee.

A day exploring Pope Francis' encyclical,
Laudato Si' and other Church teaching on
how we should regard God's creation
and how we
establish a right
relationship with
God, each other
and the world in
which we share'.
*More information and booking through
the Department.*



Centre for Prayer and Mission, Seaham

Mondays, 1.30 pm (beginning 21 Sept)
Scripture for those who wish to go deeper.

Tuesdays, 7pm
15, 22, 29 September, 6 October
Praying with St Teresa of Avila,
looking at her times and writings

2nd Thursday of month, 1.30
(beginning 8 Sept)
Prayer Shawl Ministry
*More information from
Sr Michael on 0191 581 3249
marymichael.lee7@gmail.com*

Diocesan Evangelisation Team

Sunday 6 September
The Joy of the Gospel
An opportunity to come together with
Christians from around the North East
to listen to a dialogue between
Archbishop Malcolm McMahon and
Archbishop John Sentamu inspired by
Evangelii Gaudium (Joy of the Gospel)
and conversations between Pope
Francis and Archbishop Justin Welby.
This will conclude with a service hosted
by Bishop Séamus and Bishop Paul in
which there will be re-commissioning to
live out the joy of the Gospel in our
communities.

*More information from
Sr Michael on 0191 581 3249
marymichael.lee7@gmail.com*

Quiet Day at Ushaw College

31 October, 10.30-3.30
'I am the Door (Jn.10/9)– Enter In'
A time of prayerful preparation for the
Year of Mercy.
Led by Bishop Emeritus Brian Noble
(former Chair of Bishops' Conference
Spirituality Committee and Working
Group behind "Do You Love Me?")
*More information from the Department
for Spirituality.*

St Antony's Priory, Durham

12 September, 10 October
Together in Meditation
Two separate hours of Christian medita-
tion. Come for one or both!

Saturday, 17 October, 10.30am-4pm
**'Exploring the hidden depth
of the Lord's Prayer,
in the Aramaic language of Jesus'**
Led by Maggie and Richard Deimel
(There will be opportunities to continue
exploring the themes and ideas in a
series of monthly evening meetings.

Saturday 14 November 14,
10am-3.30pm
**'Be Still and Know - Meditation, Mind-
fulness and Music'**
Led by Chris Hassell (qualified social
worker working with adult mental
health services), Lynn Nausier with
harp music from Julie Darling.

*More information from
Tel: 0191 384 3747
Email: info@stantonypriory.co.uk*

Minsteracres

18 - 20 September
**Come away to a quiet place
and rest awhile**
Led by Denis Travers CP
A weekend for those living with illness or
who are caring for a person who is ill.

23 September, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Day of prayer
Led by Rosarie Spence RSM
Experience different ways of praying in a
beautiful setting and enjoy time for quiet
personal prayer.

Walking retreat
23 September, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Seven to ten miles walking through the
beautiful countryside around
Minsteracres, with time for prayer and
reflection.

5 -8 October
**Christian mindfulness:
living in the power of now**
Take a step back from everyday life, relax,
reflect and be nourished.
Led by David Mahon from Tumble Trust

6-8 November
God's delight in diversity
Led by John Bell

13-15 November
**Healing in the spirit:
the healing of the whole person**
Led by Jim McManus CSSR

*More information from Minsteracres
01434 673 248 or info@minsteracres.org*