

# THE WEAVINGS

Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Department for Spirituality

April 2014

## Looking ahead to Easter

For quite a few people around the Diocese, memories of last Easter will come with thoughts of snow and ice! Things are much better this year and, as the clocks changed last weekend, we are more aware of lengthening days and the promise of the coming of Spring.


There is a raising of the spirits and, over halfway through Lent, we begin to look forward more earnestly to Holy Week and its culmination with the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

As we prepare for the Triduum (Three Days), here are a couple of thoughts from Pope Francis' Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* which may help us to reflect on the great mysteries at the heart of our faith. They also remind us that they are not just about our personal salvation but call us to share the good news of God's great love and mercy with other people.

**When we stand before Jesus crucified, we see the depth of his love which exalts and sustains us, but at the same time, unless we are blind, we begin to realize that Jesus' gaze, burning with love, expands to embrace all his people.**

Spend some time with a crucifix or icon cross and simply reflect on the love that is so deep that it gave everything to give life to the world.

**Christ's resurrection is not an event of the past; it contains a vital power which has permeated this world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force. Often it seems that God does not exist: all around us we see persistent injustice, evil, indifference and cruelty. But it is also true that in the midst of darkness something new always springs to life and sooner or later produces fruit. On razed land life breaks through, stubbornly yet invincibly. However dark things are, goodness always re-emerges and spreads. Each day in our world beauty is born anew, it rises transformed through the storms of history. Values always tend to reappear under new guises, and human beings have arisen time after time from situations that seemed doomed. Such is the power of the resurrection, and all who evangelize are instruments of that power.**

Give yourself an hour or so "mini-retreat" - longer if you can. Look back at your own life and remind yourself of the times when death and darkness have given way to the power of new life. Take a walk and see "razed" or dead ground being broken through with new growth. How might you orientate your soul towards the hope and power of the resurrection that permeates a world—and share them with others? 



## Diocesan Festival 2014



DIocese of Hexham & Newcastle  
**DIOCESAN FESTIVAL 2014**  
**THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL**  
Taking Christ's message to heart – and to the world  
**Bill Huebsch**  
Internationally known Catholic speaker from the USA  
**Karen Kilby**  
Bede Chair, Professor of Catholic Theology, Durham University  
**Ten Ten Theatre**  
Award winning theatre company  
**More than Dance**  
Dance group fusing together faith and dance  
**YMT**  
Hexham and Newcastle's Youth Ministry Team  
**The Whole Shebang**  
Ceilidh Band  
**DCMA**  
The Diocesan Church Music Association  
Featuring talks, social activities, Mass, adoration, marketplace, music, dancing and activities for children and young people  
**SATURDAY 21 JUNE, 10.45AM - 9.30PM**  
**SUNDAY 22 JUNE, 10.00AM - 1.30PM**  
**DIOCESAN YOUTH VILLAGE, CONSETT**  
£15 PER PERSON (INCLUDES BOTH DAYS) OR £15 TO ATTEND SUNDAY ONLY  
BOOKING FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM YOUR PARISH OR ON OUR WEBSITE  
WWW.PCDHN.ORG.UK. PLEASE BOOK BY 25 MAY 2014  
FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
EMAIL: FESTIVAL@DIOCESEHN.ORG.UK | TEL: 0191 243 5315


Posters and booking forms are now available for this year's Diocesan Festival which will help us to focus on **The Joy of the Gospel**. They have been sent to all parishes and are downloadable from the diocesan website.

Regular readers will know that our keynote speakers will be **Bill Huebsch** from the United States and **Karen Kilby**, the new holder of the Bede Chair for Catholic

Theology at the Centre for Catholic Studies. **TenTen Theatre** will offer thought-provoking drama and **More than Dance**, **Diocesan Church Music Association** and **YMT** will inspire the children and young people in their own activities.

Entertainment during the day on Saturday will be provided by the **St Cuthbert's Primary School Hartlepool Steel band** and Saturday evening will see a return of the **Whole Shebang Ceilidh band**.

Groups working around the diocese will be setting up a **Marketplace**. There will be opportunities for prayer and worship and the event will culminate in a **Festival Mass** for the Feast of Corpus Christi.

We are also very excited by the news that **Premier Christian Radio** will be covering the Festival as an outside broadcast! They will be interviewing Bishop Séamus and our speakers but will be out and about chatting to people at the Festival. We hope that they will set up a base and have an "open house" to meet people and to talk about their work—as well as helping us to share **The Joy of the Gospel** in Hexham and Newcastle with the rest of the world! 



**Premier Radio North East Team—looking forward to being at the Diocesan Festival!**

## Contact Details

To sign up for **Weavings** or the daily e-mail, contact Kathryn Turner, Head of the Department for Spirituality via the Department for Education  
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Newcastle-upon-Tyne. NE15 7PY

**0191 243 3313**

or

**0191 534 4212**

E-mail: [spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk)

# Department for Spirituality News

Lent is always a busy time for the Department! The Lent resources based on the Sunday Gospels and the Pope's Exhortation, "The Joy of the Gospel" have been very well-received around the diocese—and beyond. Around 250 CDs have been distributed and packs sent out to parishes, schools and retreat houses around the country. A few CDs are still available and the resources can be downloaded from the diocesan website. As we approach Holy Week, you might like to look at a journey through the Week in the company of St John and St Mary Magdalene. In this journey, we imagine some of their thoughts as the events of the gospel of each day unfold. This is on the CD but will be posted daily on the website and can be obtained from the Department if you do not have internet access.

This month also saw the first run of a new Spirituality and Prayer module for the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies. This covered the history and


development of Catholic Spirituality—what the Catechism teaches about prayer—and looked at the legacy of some of the great spiritual teachers from the Desert Fathers and Mothers through to Teresa of Avila and Ignatius. The course will be repeated for the DCRS in May.

In June, catechists will also have the opportunity to learn more about prayer and spirituality as one of the modules on the new Catechists' course.

Other sessions this month included a day on pilgrimage through Lent at St Antony's Priory. This looked at some of the landscapes we meet in this year's gospels—deserts - mountains-wells and linked them to the inner journey we make as the pilgrim people of God.



Another session at a Study Day on Prayer with the Centre for Catholic Studies explored prayer and *Evangelii Gaudium* and how Pope Francis insists that all our evangelising must spring from a prayerful heart. This Study Day also saw the launch of a new prayer book edited by Eamonn Duffy. It is called 'The Heart in Pilgrimage: A Prayerbook for Catholic Christians' and is a beautiful book with prayers from many sources. It might make a good gift for someone being received into the Church this year though others would also find it a rich treasury from which to draw!

Later in March, Kathryn attended the conference of the Catholic Network for Retreats and Spirituality. This took the theme of how poetry and art could feed our spiritual lives. What was also very gratifying was the enthusiasm for the resources from our diocese and interest in the work of the Department. Hexham and Newcastle blazing something of a trail! 

## Events in Local Centres of Prayer and Spirituality...

Lent Days of Reflection

**Living Water-Light-Resurrection**  
**Saturday 12 April** 10.30am-3pm  
**St Thomas Aquinas, Darlington, .**  
Please bring packed lunches.

*To book or more information, please contact Department, details overleaf.*

Centre for Prayer and Mission,  
Seaham

**Tuesday 1 April**  
**Stations of the 21st Century**

**Tuesday 8 April**  
**Lenten Taize – evening of prayer**  
*More information from Sr Michael*  
*(0191) 5813249 or email:*  
*marymichael.lee7@googlemail.com*

Afternoons with Pope Francis'  
*Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium*  
*Led by Sr Michael and Kathryn Turner*  
**Sunday 27 April**

St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle  
**Sunday 1 June**

St Joseph's Church, Hartlepool  
**Sunday 29 June**

St Robert's Church, Morpeth  
2.30pm - 4.30pm

*More information from Sr Michael (details above) or Kathryn Turner (details overleaf)*

St Antony's Priory, Durham

**Friday 11-Sunday 13 April**

**Imagining the Passion- an Ignatian way into the last week of Jesus life.**

Sheila McNamara and Paul Golightly  
A weekend of input, time and space, prayer and personal reflection and optional one to one faith accompaniment.

**Saturday 3 May**

**Walking with Gospel Women**

A quiet day reflecting and journeying with some of the women in the Gospels through poetry, film, images and silence.  
Led by Sheila McNamara rscj

**Saturday 24 May, 10am - 1pm**

**Singing Gregorian Chant**

Note: You do not need to be able to read music just have a desire to sing along with others.

Led by Deryk Webb, Gregorian Chant specialist and Lay Clerk of Durham Cathedral.

*More information from St Antony's website: [www.stantonymspriory.co.uk](http://www.stantonymspriory.co.uk) or 0191 384 3747*

Minsteracres

**Wednesday 9 April 10am – 4pm**  
**Day of prayer**

*Rosarie Spence RSM*  
Experience different ways of praying in beautiful setting.

**Friday 11 – Sunday 13 April**  
**Introduction to Individually Guided Retreat**  
An opportunity to try a short with one-to-one meetings with members of the Minsteracres team.

**Thursday 17 – Sunday 20 April**  
**Holy Week Retreat**  
*Minsteracres team*

**Friday 9 – Sunday 11 May**  
**Remembering the past, healing the present**  
*Fr James Clarke*  
Oftentimes, despite our best efforts, we remain emotionally stuck in the past as we strive to live in the present. In this retreat we will learn the skills for authentic healing, reconciliation, and transformation in order to live freely in the present.

*More information from Minsteracres website: [www.minsteracres.org](http://www.minsteracres.org) 01434 673248*

**This is just a selection of the rich offerings from local Centres. Please see their websites or contact them directly for more!**