

# the WEAVINGS

Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Department for Spirituality

February 2014

## Lent 2014!

**R**esources are now ready and will be wending their way to deaneries, parishes, schools and individuals shortly.

This is a very rich Lent with the three great gospels for Year A. Alongside Matthew's accounts of the Temptations of Jesus and his Transfiguration, we have the meetings between Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the Well—the Man born Blind and the raised-back-to-life Lazarus. These gospels have played an important part in the formation of people preparing for baptism since the late 300s and are still used in Years B and C when there are people to be baptised at Easter.

As well as the gospels, we also have the exhortation from Pope Francis about the Joy of the Gospel so it seemed appropriate to link the two. For this Lent, we have produced a series of leaflets suitable for use by groups in parishes, schools' staffs or older students and individuals.



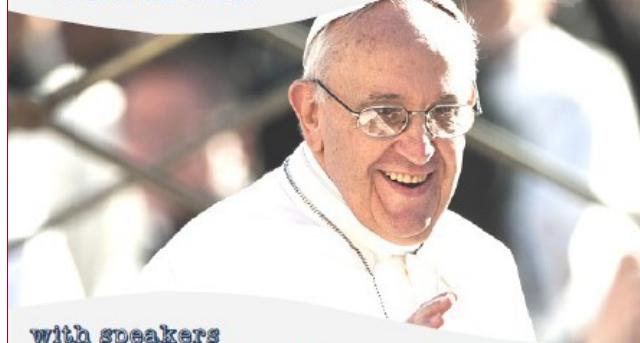
They include opening responses (mainly for groups but allow individuals to have a short reflection on the Sign of the Cross). After the reference for the Gospel of the Week, there are thoughts to prompt personal reflection followed by a few more to help groups to share their thoughts and insights with each other. This is followed by one or more extracts from the Pope's document, "Evangelii Gaudium", that linked with the Gospel and a few thoughts to deepen that link. The final section is to come up with an action point for the week—making the prayer we have shared real for those around us.

The leaflets are available via email or can be sent out on paper (though this costs much more so please use -or get a friend or relative to use- the electronic method if you can!) They are also available on a CD which also contains PowerPoints to use at meetings where the sheets are used.

If you would like to receive either the leaflets or the CD, please contact Karen Brown at the Department for Spirituality using the details opposite.

## DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle DIOCESAN FESTIVAL 2014 THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

Taking Christ's message to heart –  
and to the world



with speakers

**Bill Heubsch**

Internationally known Catholic speaker from the USA

**Karen Kilby**

Bede Chair, Professor of Catholic Theology, Durham University

FURTHER INFORMATION  
TO FOLLOW.  
CHECK WEBSITE OR  
PARISH NOTICE BOARD  
FOR DETAILS

SATURDAY 21 JUNE & SUNDAY 22 JUNE 2014  
YOUTH VILLAGE, CONSETT

Following the publication of Pope Francis' exhortation inspired by the Synod of the New Evangelisation, it was decided to change the theme of this year's Festival to:

### The Joy of the Gospel

The speakers will still include the internationally known speaker, **Bill Heubsch, Karen Kilby** (new holder of the Bede Chair for Catholic Theology at Durham University)

with **TenTen Theatre** and **More than Dance**.

There will be streams for children and young people.

Opportunities for Adoration in the chapel.

Marketplace of things going on in the Diocese.

Festival Mass And more...

Publicity has now gone out to parishes, but you can register your interest and be among the first to receive information by contacting us using the details below.

### 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  
St Vincent's Offices, St Cuthbert's House, West Road, 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

The Holy Island sessions have begun to take off with 17 people spending a day with St Paul on the feast of his conversion on 25 January.

The next day will be reflecting on Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation and particularly on how it calls us to a spirituality that brings us closer to God and to our neighbour (particularly those who are poor). The date is **Saturday 22 February** and the times are 11am-3pm. The day itself is free but donations towards tea and coffee and the upkeep of the church are most welcome. You will need to bring a packed lunch.

In March and April, there are days of reflection on the theme: **Living Water-Light-Resurrection**—which is based on the three great Year A gospels. The days are particularly relevant to people preparing to be received into the Church but will also help anyone wishing to deepen their preparations for Easter. The dates and venues for these are:

**Thursday 27 March—St Michael's, Houghton-le-Spring, 10.30am-3pm.**

**Saturday 29 March—Holy Island, 11am-5pm** (please note that the causeway is closed between 11.15 and 5.15)

**Saturday 5 April—Minsteracres 10.30am-3.30pm** (please note £10 donation requested to support work of the Centre)

**Saturday 12 April—St Thomas Aquinas, Darlington, 10.30am-3pm.**

**Please bring packed lunches.**

On **Saturday 15 March**, Kathryn is taking part in a study day on The Theology and Practice of Prayer in Catholic Tradition at Ushaw College. More information on this from the Centre for Catholic Studies: [www.centerforcatholicstudies.co.uk](http://www.centerforcatholicstudies.co.uk), 0191 334 3968.

Finally, a date for your diary. In **May**, **Fr Jim Clarke** is visiting the diocese from St John's Seminary in the Los Angeles Archdiocese. He is delighted to be leading a day for us on **Holy Island on 17 May**. As the day is likely to be popular, it would be helpful to start to have an idea of numbers. If you think you will be coming along, please could you let us know!

## Great North Passion comes to the North-East

**O**n Good Friday, the BBC will be in Bent's Park, South Shields, televising the Great North Passion.

In the weeks leading up to the events, communities across the North-East will work together to transform shipping containers into a work of art which reflects their area and the Stations of the Cross.

These will be brought together in Bent's Park to form a large cross which will be the focus of the retelling of the Passion. There will be music from a hoped-for 1000-strong massed choir and opportunities for participation in the unfolding drama.

Local churches are exploring ways of using the event to reach a wider, local audience over the Easter weekend – details to follow.

*The Great North Passion will be broadcast on Good Friday, 18 April on BBC One.*

## Upcoming Events at Local Centres

Centre for Prayer and Mission, Seaham

### Tuesday evenings of Reflection

exploring the spirituality of the two halves of life (from Richard Rohr) and exploring the Blessings of Growing Older –at any age - with Joan Chittister.

**4 Feb Blessings of Growing Older**

**11 Feb Regrets along the way**

**18 Feb Facing our fears**

**4 March Finding meaning in life**

**11 March The gift of time**

**18 March Surprised by Joy**

**25 March Transformation – our goal**

**Knit or crochet a Prayer Shawl –**  
a shared ministry based on prayer  
(Half-days)

**Thurs 13 Feb**

**Thurs 13 March**

**Thurs 10 April**

### Icon Retreats/Workshops

**26- 30 May**

**21-25 July**

More information from Sr Michael (0191) 5813249 or email: [marymichael.lee7@googlemail.com](mailto:marymichael.lee7@googlemail.com)

St Antony's Priory, Durham

### 8 February—Together in Meditation

Two separate hours of shared silence at 10am and 11.30am with short introduction and stilling exercises.

### 22 February—Godly Hospitality

A day to explore and experience the welcoming nature of God and its relationship to the Christian call to practice hospitality.

Led by Barry Hutchinson

### 1 March—Healing Broken Hearts

Our experience of loss and failure is always difficult and challenges our faith and our deepest selves. On this day we will explore how such experiences might be embraced and healed in the context of God's love.

Led by Chris Smith and Paul Golightly

### 6 March

#### Quiet Day for the beginning of Lent - To be a Pilgrim

During this day, we will explore the part pilgrimage and journey have played in the lives of spiritual seekers – and the part they might play in our own.

Led by Kathryn Turner

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

Minsteracres

### 19 February—Quiet day

An opportunity to step aside, listen to God in scripture and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the countryside.

Led by Rosarie Spence RSM

### 22 February—Walking retreat

Enjoy a walk of seven to ten miles with time for prayer and reflection. You will need suitable walking boots and warm, weatherproof clothing.

### Friday 28 February – Sunday 2 March

**How remembering liberates and constrains**  
Calls to remember are frequent in the Hebrew Scriptures. The ancient Jews lived out of a story and wanted to keep it in mind. So too, our own stories help us to understand who we are and where we have come from. In this retreat we look at what, for faith, are the benefits and deficiencies in remembering.

Led by John Bell

### 22 March—Walking retreat

#### Friday 28 – Sunday 30 March

**Addiction unplugged: how to be free**  
Led by John and Anne-Louise Flaherty  
More information from Minsteracres website: [www.minsteracres.org](http://www.minsteracres.org)  
01434 673248