

THE WEAVINGS

Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Department for Spirituality

July/ August 2014

The Joy of the Gospel – Diocesan Festival 2014

A lot of hard work and planning came to fruition at Youth Village in June in the very successful Festival 14 based around the theme of Pope Francis' Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, The Joy of the Gospel.

Around 250 people came together in the June sunshine to hear great speakers, pray and worship – to meet old friends and make new ones – and to celebrate the Joy of the Gospel as a Diocesan Family.

Here are photos of just a few of the highlights of the Festival!



Karen Kilby, the new Bede Chair of Theology at the Centre for Catholic Studies in Durham, made one of her first public appearances in the Diocese. She spoke of the Joy of the Gospel and the fact that the themes of joy and rejoicing appear throughout the Scriptures but also brought out the questions of what happens when we do not feel joyful – which happens to all of us at some point in our lives. ✚

Bill Huebsch gave talks at the beginning and end of the Festival. He looked at Pope Francis' background and how this is influencing his papacy. The themes of prayer and justice thread through *Evangelii Gaudium* and Bill kindly gave permission to the Diocese to use a resource he has developed that can be used by individuals and groups to look at how we might live in greater awareness of the poor and just living. ✚



The Festival Mass and Adoration helped to underpin the Festival with prayer.



Young people led prayers of reflection and thanksgiving after an exuberant entrance procession by the children at the liturgy concluding the Saturday session.



The steel band from St Cuthbert's Primary School, Hartlepool added to the Festival atmosphere by playing to welcome participants—and entertained them during the lunch break!

Interviews from the Festival are available on the North-east section of Premier Christian Media's website: www.premier.org.uk and will be broadcast on air (Premier on DAB radio/ Freeview 725) on Wednesday 9 July, 12:30.



Children and young people had their own sessions linked to the theme of the Festival. In this session, the 8-11 year olds created crosses inspired by those from El Salvador. Other workshops helped the young people prepare for the liturgies and Festival Mass through art, song and dance.

Bill Huebsch Resource: The Joy of Just Living
These materials are now available in electronic form. If you would like to receive them, please contact us by e-mail below. We regret that the licence only permits us to distribute these within the Diocese.

Contact Details

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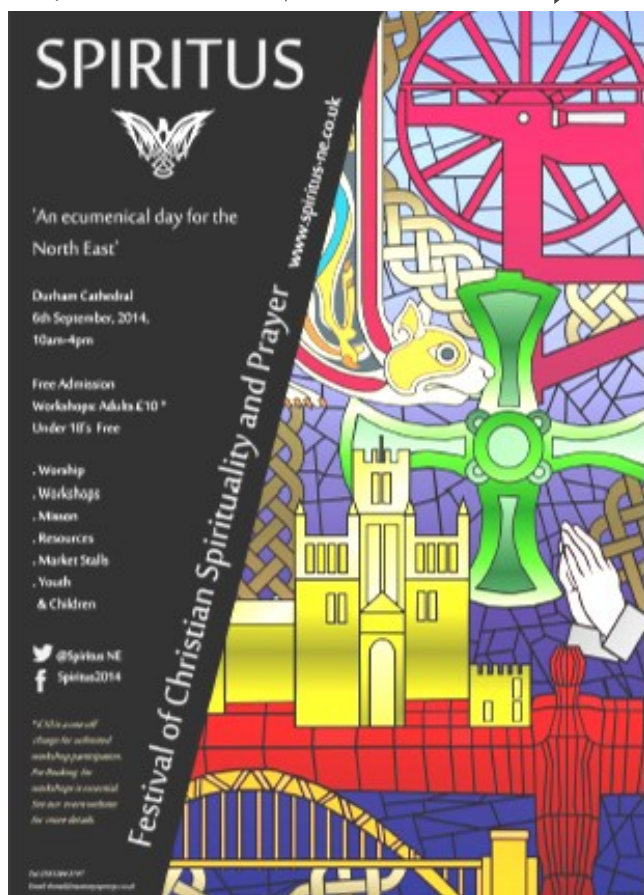
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SPIRITUS—Festival of Spirituality Saturday 6 September



An exciting day is in prospect in Durham on Saturday 6 September when an ecumenical Festival of Spirituality will be held there. There will be liturgies and other activities in the Cathedral itself and workshops in the nearby Colleges. There is even an opportunity for those fit enough to join the new Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, praying for the whole of the North East at the top of the tower of the Cathedral!

After Registration, the day begins with a Welcome and Worship in the Cathedral and then there is a choice of 14 workshops. These include the prayer at the top of the tower and some from familiar names such as Charismatic Prayer with Gerry Nelson of Charismatic Renewal and Imaginative Contemplation with Sr Sheila McNamara. You might also join Praying with the Cosmos—or Dancing one's prayers—or explore how spiritual practice can lead us

into deeper solidarity with the poor. There are two more sessions for workshops so you have plenty of choice! There are sessions for children and families as well as for young people and youth workers.

The Evangelisation Team are organising some of the activities in the Cathedral, focusing on ideas that will attract people who are "just tourists" - offering simple ways of praying that they might find helpful.

The day concludes with a Closing Worship during which Bishop Séamus will give the address.

For more information about Spiritus, see the website: www.spiritus-ne.co.uk or contact Fiona Fidgin at St Antony's Priory, Durham or email fionaf@stantonyspriory.co.uk. The cost of the day is £10 (to include all workshops). Booking forms are available from the Department for Spirituality, details overleaf.

Ideas for Summer Praying...

With the summer break ahead of us and the possibility of a little more time on our hands, it might be good to try to use some of it to give your spiritual life a bit of a boost. If you are involved in tourism or farming or other work that peaks at this time of year you will, obviously, have less time but, hopefully, will find something that you could squeeze into the busy-ness to recharge your batteries.

Here are a few ideas to get you started.

- ✿ Take an awareness walk. This is as simple as going for a walk locally or by the sea or in the hills. Before you start, ask the Holy Spirit to open up your senses so that you see—hear—touch—taste—smell more clearly. As you walk pause frequently and tune your senses in to what is around you. You might like to pray something like St Francis' Canticle of the Sun or

the canticle in Daniel 3 or one of the hymns that celebrate God's Creation.

- ✿ Prepare a picnic or barbecue—even if it is just for yourself. Bring to mind some of the many meals Jesus and his friends shared in the open-air. Find a spot where you—and, if with others, your family and friends can simply relax, enjoying good food and good company just as Jesus did. You could use one of the Gospels (the barbecue Jesus made

for his friends after his resurrection for example, (John 21)) and chat about what this tells you about the importance of taking time to enjoy being with each other and sharing a simple meal.

- ✿ Catch up with prayer. If you find that there are things that you have not been able to pray about recently, make a point of taking a morning—afternoon—a whole day—or longer to give the issues some time and space. You can do this alone or with someone you trust.
- ✿ Take a prayer walk around your neighbourhood—physically or imaginatively from home. Pray for the places you pass—schools—doctors' surgeries—workplaces... You do not need to make this embarrassingly obvious—just pause to pray a short prayer and move on.



Durham University, in partnership with the Centre for Catholic Studies and St. Mary's University Twickenham, is hosting a Conference on Mystical Theology from 3-12 September 2014

Keynote speakers include Kallistos Ware, Andrew Louth, Rosalind Brown, Bernadette Flanagan, Corinne Saunders and Peter Tyler.

More information is available from Rachel Davies at r.a.u.e.Davies@durham.ac.uk.