

THE WEAVINGS

Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Department for Spirituality

June 2014

Seeds of the Spirit

Over the last few days of Eastertime, the Gospels have looked at the promise of the Holy Spirit and the commission of Jesus to go out into the world and to bear the fruit of the Kingdom.

Here are some thoughts from paragraph 279 about this—and some prompts to help your personal reflection.

Because we do not always see the seeds (of the Kingdom) growing, we need an interior certainty, a conviction that God is able to act in every situation, even amid apparent setbacks: “We have this treasure in earthen vessels” (2 Cor 4:7). This certainty is often called “a sense of mystery”. It involves knowing with certitude that all those who entrust themselves to God in love will bear good fruit (cf. Jn 15:5).

When have you experienced God at work amid the setbacks of situations in your life?

This fruitfulness is often invisible, elusive and unquantifiable. We can know quite well that our lives will be fruitful, without claiming to know how, or where, or when. We may be sure that none of our acts of love will be lost, nor any of our acts of sincere concern for others. No single act of love for God will be lost, no generous effort is meaningless, no painful endurance is wasted. All of these encircle our world like a vital force.

How does this section make you feel—to know that “no single act of love” will be lost and that they “encircle our world like a vital force”?

Sometimes it seems that our work is fruitless, but mission is not like a business transaction or investment, or even a humanitarian activity. It is not a show where we count how many people come as a result of our publicity; it is something much deeper, which escapes all measurement. It may be that the Lord uses our sacrifices to shower blessings in another part of the world which we will never visit.

How does this sense that God can use your work in ways you may never know in this life help you—or cause you concern?



The Holy Spirit works as he wills, when he wills and where he wills; we entrust ourselves without pretending to see striking results. We know only that our commitment is necessary. Let us learn to rest in the tenderness of the arms of the Father amid our creative and generous commitment. Let us keep marching forward; let us give him everything, allowing him to make our efforts bear fruit in his good time.

How might you learn to trust yourself to the Holy Spirit and recommit yourself to any tasks for God that lie in store for you?

Diocesan Festival 2014

We are now very close to the Diocesan Festival! There is still time to book—so if you would like to come, please let us know as soon as you can. This will ensure that we have everything booked and in place in good time.

A reminder that this is a Festival for everyone—with talks for adults and activity streams for children and young people.

There will be entertainment on and off during the day, culminating in a ceilidh on Saturday evening.

You can learn more about groups and organisation who work around the Diocese—and might think about joining one of them!

Premier Christian Radio will be at the Festival interviewing our speakers but also catching up with people attending the Festival. Come along and meet them!

An Afternoon with Pope Francis' Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*

Led by Sr Michael and Kathryn Turner

Sunday 29 June: St Robert's Church, Morpeth
2.30pm - 4.30pm

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

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Visit by Fr Jim Clarke

During the first two weeks of May, the Diocese hosted a visit to the UK by Fr Jim Clarke. He is Director of Spiritual Formation at St John's Seminary in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and has considerable experience in leading workshops and retreats around the world. Fr Jim and his co-worker, Joan Corfee from Melbourne, Australia, were guests of the Minsteracres Community and greatly appreciated the hospitality and spiritual support they were generously offered. Fr Jim led a day of recollection for diocesan clergy as well as an overnight retreat for schools' chaplains which looked at developing personal spirituality and ideas for enriching their ministries. He also facilitated a powerful weekend at Minsteracres on healing, particularly of memories, and, during the course of the weekend, offered one-to-one meetings to help individuals address issues that had come up and to pray with them.

The following weekend, Fr Jim headed to Holy Island where he led a day of reflection for diocesan staff and a similar day for the wider community including a bus-load from St Aidan's, Ashington. He also visited the Archdiocese of Liverpool where their brand new Archbishop Malcolm McMahon attended a session (within a couple of days of his installation!). Middlesbrough also organised a couple of very successful events and his visit concluded in the Archdiocese of Edinburgh and St Andrews for sessions with clergy and laity there. In between his other engagements, Fr Jim attended two consultation days organised by the Spirituality Committee of Bishops' Conference where he acted as keynote speaker. These days also offered attendees the opportunity to see a chapter of the new document on Catholic Spirituality due to be published later this year and to begin to consider how it might be used in their

dioceses, parishes and communities.

It was not all work, however! During the brief times of relaxation, Fr Jim and Joan visited Escomb Saxon church, Whitby and other abbeys and ended their stay with a trip to Inner Farne. One particular highlight for them was Fr Jim's walking the Holy Island Pilgrim Poles with pilgrims from Our Lady Queen of Peace, Penshaw and others who had followed St Cuthbert's Way and



Fr Jim Clarke and Joan Corfee on Holy Island

concelebrating Mass with Fr Chris Jackson in St Aidan's church. It is also unlikely that either Fr Jim or Joan will forget the rendition of 'The Lambton Worm' at dinner later that day—even if they did not quite understand it all!

Upcoming Spirituality and Prayer Events

Saturday 7 June 'Peace Making'

10.00am—4.00pm

The annual day for spirituality organised by Diocesan Coordinating Council for Justice and Peace

Fr Bill Rooke and Fr Chris Hughes
St Lawrence's, Byker, Newcastle
Please bring a packed lunch

MINSTERACRES

Friday 6 – Sunday 8 June
Pentecost Renewal

Ann Liddell

Friday 6 June – Sunday 8 June
Aidan, Cuthbert & Lindisfarne
Monastery in the 7th Century

Colm O'Brien

Wednesday 2 July, 10am – 4pm
Quiet day

Rosarie Spence RSM

Friday 4 - Sunday 6 July
Weekend for families and friends of
substance misusers

Minsteracres team

Monday 14 – Monday 21 July
Six day preached retreat

John Farrell OP

More information from Minsteracres
website: www.minsteracres.org
01434 673248

Holy Island Days of Reflection

Saturday 7 June

Gifts and Fruits

1 00pm—3.30pm

Preparing for Pentecost.

A shorter session to allow time to join the Apostleship of the Sea Mass and other events of the day.

Please Note: This session will now be held in St Cuthbert's Centre, Holy Island

Centre for Prayer and Mission, Seaham

Tuesdays, 7.00pm

A series of evenings looking at aspects of *Evangelii Gaudium*.

3 June: Transformation our goal

10 June: A Pope who models the Church

17 June: What kind of church?

24 June: Encouragement to church workers

1 July: Spirituality for all

8 July: Our call to be "missionary disciples"

15 July: Called to be a poor church for the poor

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

Saturday 6 September

10.00am-4.00pm

Spiritus

An ecumenical Festival of Spirituality in Durham Cathedral and Colleges of Durham Cathedral. Prayer—workshops—marketplace—resources.

Bookings:

email fionaf@stantonyspriroy.co.uk

Phone 0131 384 3747

Register on line at

www.spiritus-ne.co.uk