

the WEAVINGS

Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Department for Spirituality

May 2014

Mary: Disciple of Joy!

May is traditionally the month dedicated to Mary—when the beauty of spring in the northern hemisphere seems to reflect the beauty of the Mother of God.

Mary is the perfect disciple and her example of a faith-filled life can inspire our own. It is, therefore, not surprising that Pope Francis draws on her life when he wants to speak of the joy that the Gospel of Christ offers to the world.

Here are some extracts that you might like to reflect on—perhaps with an icon or favourite picture or statue of Mary—or out in the open savouring the loveliness of spring.

The Gospel, radiant with the glory of Christ's cross, constantly invites us to rejoice. A few examples will suffice. "Rejoice!" is the angel's greeting to Mary (Lk 1:28). Mary's visit to Elizabeth makes John leap for joy in his mother's womb (cf. Lk 1:41). In her song of praise, Mary proclaims: "My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour" (Lk 1:47). (paragraph 5)

- Look at the extracts referred to here and think about these and the other Joyful Mysteries...and the place joy has in your own life.

The memory of the faithful, like that of Mary, should overflow with the wondrous things done by God. (142)

- What memories do you have of wondrous things done by God—for you or for others or simply for the world at large?

Mary was able to turn a stable into a home for Jesus, with poor swaddling clothes and an abundance of love. (286)

- What does Mary's example suggest about what you could do with a few "poor" things and an abundance of love?

Mary let herself be guided by the Holy Spirit on a journey of faith towards a destiny of service and fruitfulness. (287)

- What might your own "destiny of service and fruitfulness" look like?

Whenever we look to Mary, we come to believe once again in the revolutionary nature of love and tenderness. In her we see that humility and tenderness are not virtues of the weak but of the strong who need not treat others poorly in order to feel important themselves. (288)

- What is the message in these words for you today?



Diocesan Festival 2014

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

Author, teacher, speaker, theologian

Ten Ten Theatre

Award-winning drama company

More Than Dance

Contemporary dance group

YMT

Young Musicians Trust Youth Music Team

The Whole Shebang

Ceilidh band

DCMA

The Diocesan Church Music Association

Featuring talks, social activities,

music, adoration, marketplace,

music, dancing and activities for

children and young people

SATURDAY 21 JUNE, 10.45AM - 9.30PM

SUNDAY 22 JUNE, 10.45AM - 9.30PM

DIOCESAN YOUTH VILLAGE, CONSETT

£15 PER PERSON INCLUDES BOTH DAYS OR £10 STATED SUNDAY ONLY

BOOKING FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM YOUR PARISH OFFICE OR ON OUR WEBSITE

FOR MORE INFORMATION: TEL: 0191 243 5355

EMAIL: FESTIVAL@DIOCESEHN.DCO.UK

On't forget to book your place at the Diocesan Festival to be held next month!

Accommodation in the chalets is still available but to be sure of getting a room, please get in touch soon. Camping spots are also available.

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. They will be joined by **TenTen Theatre** who will offer thought-provoking drama and **More than Dance**, **Diocesan Church Music Association** and **YMT** who will inspire the children and young people in their own activities.

Last year, people were welcomed by **St Cuthbert's Primary School Hartlepool Steel band** and disappointed when they had to head home. This year, they will be with us for the whole of Saturday. In the evening there will be the chance to let you hair down (or simply enjoy the spectacle) with the welcome 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**.

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.

Afternoons with Pope Francis' Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*

Led by Sr Michael and Kathryn Turner

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 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

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

Open Doors, Open Hands: Church with a Mission

In the Easter break, Kathryn had the great joy of welcoming a young Missionary of Africa, Fr Anselme Tarpaga, for a few days. He hails from Burkina Faso and is concluding studies in Rome before heading to take up a post at the Basilica of Our Lady of Africa in Algiers.

Fr Anselme fell in love with the north-east and Holy Island in particular and was interested in hearing of the approaches taken by Aidan and Cuthbert as well as Benet Biscop and Wilfrid and how they reflect the work of contemporary missionaries.

Most of us are not called to a ministry that takes us far from home but it is worth noting that in his Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis takes Blessed John Henry Newman's phrase, "I have my mission" a step further and says, "**I am a mission**" - and he does not mean

just himself! Each of us is called to share the joy and comfort that our Faith brings us with others. And to sustain it, Pope Francis says, the Church needs the deep breath of prayer—to get life-giving spiritual oxygen flowing through its veins!

It also needs practical action and on 24 May, the Evangelisation Team will be holding a day preparing for Welcome Back Sunday (Pentecost). The session is at St Aloysius, Hebburn and runs from 10-1.00pm. Invitation Cards can be picked up for parishes to be distributed to those who have drifted away from church.

There will be a **Follow up and Support Day** in St Joseph's Gateshead on 28 June (10.00am—1.00pm) where the team will share more ideas. Sr Michael says, 'This is exactly what Pope Francis is asking for – a missionary church not a church that exists for itself and is inturned.'



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Over Easter, Kathryn visited a friend recuperating from cancer who showed her a blanket created for her by a group from a local church. This was not the church she attends—nor did she know the people—but the love and warmth of the blanket was a real comfort during a very difficult time.

A group in the diocese undertakes a similar ministry at the Centre for Prayer and Mission in Seaham. If you enjoy crocheting or knitting and would like to help to create prayer shawls for distribution to hospices or the sick or elderly, future meetings will be held on

8th May 1.30pm– 4.00pm
12th June 1.30pm – 4.00pm
10th July 1.30pm – 4.00pm

For more information, contact Sr Michael (0191) 5813249 or email: marymichael.lee7@googlemail.com

Upcoming Spirituality and Prayer Events

Saturday 10 May

10.30am—4.00pm

Baptised into Hope

Annual Diocesan Day of Reflection

A day of reflection led by *Rev Chris Thomas* of the Irenaeus Community in partnership with Council of Laity.

St Aloysius Parish Hall, Hebburn
No charge but booking essential.

Contact adult.formation@diocesehn.org.uk

Saturday 17 May

10.30am—2.30pm

Spirituality for a Busy Person

Fr James Clark,

St John's Seminary,
Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

St Aidan's Church, Holy Island

More information from Dept for
Spirituality—details overleaf.

Saturday 17 May 2014

10.30am—3.30pm

Called to the Supper of the Lamb

A Day of Reflection for Extraordinary
Ministers of Holy Communion

Sr Catherine Darby SND

St Joseph's Parish Centre, Gateshead
Cost £10

Contact: The Secretary, Tel. 0191 2852651
E-mail litformation@yahoo.co.uk

Saturday, 17 May

1.00pm

Christian & Muslim Women's Prayer Event

Jesmond Shrine, Newcastle

More information from Anne Shaw
07986376726

Saturday 31 May

10.30am—4.00pm

A Day with Hilda of Northumbria

in partnership with the
National Board of Catholic Women.

St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre,
West Road, Newcastle, NE15 7PY
No charge but booking essential.

Contact adult.formation@diocesehn.org.uk



Saturday 7 June

10.00am—4.00pm

'Peace Making'

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

Fr Bill Cooke and Fr Chris Hughes

St Lawrence's, Byker, Newcastle
Please bring a packed lunch

Centre for Prayer and Mission, Seaham

Tuesdays, 7.00pm

Tuesday 13 May The Gift of Time

Tuesday 20 May Surprised by Joy

Six weeks from 3 June

Looking at aspects of *Evangelii Gaudium*

More information from Sr Michael

(0191) 5813249 or email:

marymichael.lee7@googlemail.com

Minsteracres

Friday 9 – Sunday 11 May

Remembering the past,
healing the present

Fr James Clarke

St John's Seminary,
Archdiocese of Los
Angeles.



A retreat to explore the
skills for authentic healing
of the past, reconciliation, and
transformation in order to live freely
in the present.

Friday 6 – Sunday 8 June

Pentecost Renewal

Ann Liddell

A weekend of praise, worship, silence,
reflection and testimony to celebrate the
power of Pentecost.

Friday 6 June – Sunday 8 June

Aidan, Cuthbert & Lindisfarne Monastery in the 7th Century

Colm O'Brien

Using insight from the Venerable Bede, a
political and historical look at the
development of Lindisfarne, the outcomes
of the synod of Whitby and the beginnings
of the great tomb shrine of St Cuthbert,
with a day out on Saturday to visit
Lindisfarne.

*More information from Minsteracres
website: www.minsteracres.org*

01434 673248