

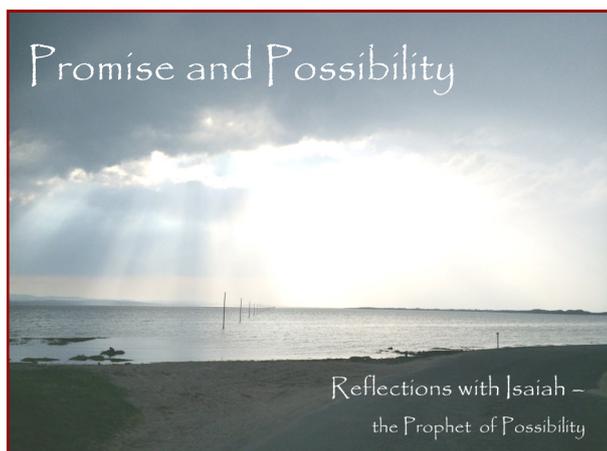
FORWARD TOGETHER IN HOPE

This month sees the launch of the diocesan process of renewal and reflection on our future: **Forward Together in Hope**.

This will be a focus of much prayer over the next few years as we explore ways in which we can ensure that our diocese is viable and flourishes well into the future.

Over the weekend of 15-16 November, there will be a pastoral letter from Bishop Séamus and a leaflet giving more information and a rough outline of the timescale. There will also be a prayer (sneak peek alongside) which can be used at Masses, other prayer services and at meetings.

This year's Advent resources are also designed to link in with **Forward Together in Hope**. The overall theme is "Promise and Possibility".



We have used readings from the prophet Isaiah—sometimes known as the Advent and Christmas prophet as we use his book extensively over this Season. He lived at a very dark time in the history of the Jewish people. They were in exile—far from home—and many felt abandoned by God. Some managed to stay faithful but even they struggled at times. Isaiah did not ignore the realities that the people faced—they were all around him too. But, in the face of all the sadness and sense of loss, Isaiah constantly felt God speaking to him of hope for his people.

It is interesting to note that, at the beginning of the Book of Isaiah, we see him trying to persuade God that he is not really up to the task. This seems to be a common feature of those God chooses! We can imagine his reluctance! Here is God asking him to encourage people when, to be honest, there was not a lot to encourage them about. It was all too easy for the people to turn round and find fault—to be cynical—to refuse to trust or hope.

As we embark on the task appointed to us in Forward Together in Hope, some words from Cardinal Vincent Nichols after the Synod on the family might be helpful. He said that Pope Francis asked that those gathered to "look reality in the eye; to speak openly from the heart" but also "to listen humbly and respectfully to each other."

Like Isaiah, we may wish God had chosen someone else—but God chose us... 

Glory be to the Father –
in whom we live and move and have our being.

Glory be to the Son –
whose name we bear
and who calls each of us to be his disciples;
to build his Kingdom
and to go out into the world and bear its fruit.

Glory be to the Holy Spirit –
pouring out grace and guidance,
forming us and renewing us.

Inspire us all in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle
to live the Gospel,
to be open to change
and to move forward together in hope.

Inspire '15 Diocesan Festival

We are delighted that Fr Jim Clarke from St John's Seminary in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles will be joining us for the Diocesan Festival, Inspire 2015. Many people heard Fr Jim during his visit last May and, by popular demand, we asked him to return in 2015! This was doubly providential



when the dates Fr Jim could offer tied in with the Diocesan Festival: Inspire 15. He has agreed to be our keynote speaker and will explore some of the themes and issues arising from our diocesan process of renewal, Forward Together in Hope.

Publicity and booking forms are in preparation and will be available in the New Year. In the meantime, please make sure the dates are in your diary.

Saturday 20-Sunday 21 June 2015
Venue: Youth Village

Contact Details

Head of the Department for Spirituality: Kathryn Turner
Administration Officer: Karen Brown
St Vincent's Offices, St Cuthbert's House, West Road,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne. NE15 7PY
0191 243 3302
E-mail: spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk



www.facebook.com/spiritualityHN



[@spiritualityhn](https://twitter.com/spiritualityhn)

Upcoming Spirituality and Prayer Events

MINSTERACRES

19 November, 10:00am - 5:00pm
Walking retreat

26 November 10:00am - 4:00pm
Quiet day
led by Rosarie Spence RSM

28- 30 November
Advent renewal retreat

'Are you the one to build a house for me?'
Contact and bookings: Pat Kennedy
0191 284 1690

13 - 15 February 2015
Becoming who you are
Margaret Silf

The TV listings pose the question: 'Who do you think you are?' This weekend we will explore this question in the light of another one: 'Who is God dreaming you to be?' We will look at the unique ways in which God is inviting you to become the person God dreamed into being at your conception.

Margaret is an ecumenical lay Christian who has been trained by the Jesuits in accompanying others in prayer.

More information from
01434 673 248
info@minsteracres.org

FORWARD TOGETHER IN HOPE



Prayer, Reflection
and Holy Hours
with Bishop Séamus

Tuesday 2 December,
10:30am 12:00noon
6:30pm - 8:00pm

St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle
Morning session followed by Mass,
at 12:05pm

Wednesday 10 December,
6:30pm—8:00pm
St Joseph's, Hartlepool

Holy Island Day of Reflection

Saturday 29 November, 11:15am—4:00pm
Advent Day of Reflection
St Aidan's Church, Holy Island
Drawing on the writings of the Prophet
Isaiah—words of promise and possibility
in the place where the Christian life
of our diocese started!

Centre for Prayer and Mission, Seaham

Tuesday evenings, 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Signs of the Times:
seven paths of hope for a troubled world
Sessions based on Jean Vanier's book
written to mark 50 years since the
foundation of L'Arche communities.

Please note—
no meeting on Tuesday 11 November.
More information from Sr Michael
(0191) 581 3249 or email:
marymichael.lee7@googlemail.com

St Antony's Priory, Durham

Saturday 8 November, 10:00am and/or
11:30am
Together in Meditation

27-30 November
Giving birth to God's dream in our lives
Margaret Silf
Tel: 0191 384 3747
Email: info@stantonypriory.co.uk

November: A Month for Remembrance



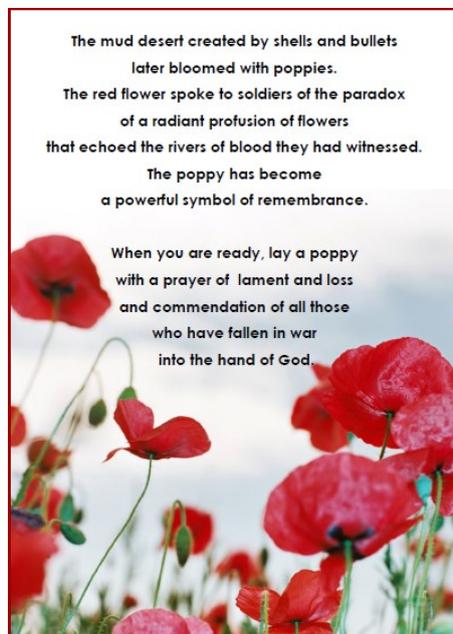
This month's Remembrance Sunday is likely to be particularly poignant as we commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War.

We cannot even say that such things are now part of history. The news each day brings more stories of people—young and old, military and civilian—whose lives are torn apart by war or the consequences of war.

We have created a simple prayer station that you might like to place in your church—or school—or, possibly, even your home. It is possible to buy poppies in bulk from the British Legion (delivery can take a while so try your local branch first). If time does not permit this, cut out poppy shapes in red card and have those available.

There are also a couple of prayers which could be put into newsletters or prayer cards to leave in the church for people who pop in. The focus on them is the sacrifices made by those who died and on praying for peace.

The prayer station will be e-mailed out with Weavings and be available from the diocesan website. It is also available on request from Karen—contact details overleaf. If you would like the prayer texts or ideas for simple prayer cards using them, get in touch and we will send them to you, 



Into your hands, Eternal God,
we entrust the souls
of those who have died in war and conflict—
who gave their tomorrows
that we might have our todays.
Help us to be worthy
of the sacrifices they made
and to work for a world
in which peace and justice reign—
where hearts are no longer broken
by the anguish of loss—
and where the future you offer
to each human person can be fulfilled.
We ask this in the name of your Son—
Our Lord, Jesus Christ,
whose sacrifice of love saved the world.
Amen
+
Lord Jesus,
you gave your life so that we could live.
This year we remember
other men and women
who laid down their lives for others.
We pray that they will find rest
in your everlasting love
and that we will honour their sacrifice
by working for the peace they dreamed of.
Amen