

THE WEAVINGS

Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Department for Spirituality

October 2014

Date for the Diary

Plans are underway for our third Diocesan Festival over the weekend of 21-22 June 2015.

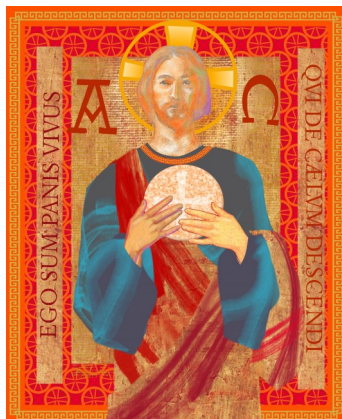
This will again be held at Youth Village. More details to follow—but please make a note of the date!

Behold what you are— Become what you receive

This was the title of a day for Eucharistic Ministers which we held in Ashington and Darlington recently.

Around 75 people came to each and experienced times of input—silent prayer—shared reflection—and good company over teas and coffees and lunch.

The words come from St Augustine and remind us of the grandeur of the mystery of the Eucharist and the privilege we have of being a part of it.

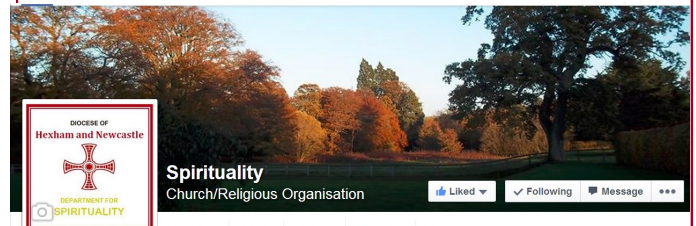


In the morning, we looked at a bit of cosmology! Not in terms of maths and physics but in terms of the fact that every sun—every galaxy—possibly, every universe—came into being through the creative Word of God. We cannot explain how—and if we think too hard about it, our brains can quite rapidly begin to overheat! But we can stand before the awesomeness of it—and even more so, when we reflect on the fact that this creative Word took on the matter of the universe and became a human being. And that this vulnerable baby grew into a man who gave his body for us—on the cross and in the Sacrament. We picked up on Pope Francis' words of advice for adoration—not to feel that we have to fill the silence with lots of prayers but to let ourselves be gazed upon by the Lord. This was the challenge the groups took into a substantial time of exposition—and many returned saying that it was the first time they had tried this—and had found the time fly by.

In the afternoon, we looked at the other side of the story—as we behold and receive the Body of Christ, so we are called to become that Body in the world. We reflected on words of St Paul—and then from St Teresa of Avila about how Christ has no body but ours through which to love and to act. The time of reflection linked us to the “I am” statements of Jesus. If, for example, Jesus says “I am the Light of the World” how am I (with the grace of the Holy Spirit) that light in my turn.

It is an awesome responsibility and reminded us all of the great grace we have in being Eucharistic Ministers. It also highlights the fact that, in order to become the Body of Christ in the world, we need to spend time beholding and receiving it deeply so that the Lord can nourish and inspire us.

The Department on Facebook and Twitter



Many thanks are due to Fr Dan Fitzpatrick who has helped us to set up a Facebook page for the Department! We are still playing with it and exploring its possibilities but hope that it will become a useful space for sharing news and ideas. It will link closely with the main diocesan web-site.

We have had a Twitter account for some time and we will continue to use this for updates and links to news and other items that might be of interest.

Looking Ahead to Advent!

The Advent packs of resources for sessions of prayer and reflection are now ready! Members of the diocesan Spirituality Network made the valuable comment that it is useful for parishes and groups to have things in very good time so we aimed to have the packs ready for the meeting on Saturday.

The theme is “Promise and Possibility” and links into the early stages of our diocesan reflections in “Forward Together in Hope”. We look to some of the First Readings from Isaiah who was a prophet who spoke to the people of God who were living through difficult times. Although he acknowledged the problems, he also emphasised that God had not abandoned them but would lead them through it. In Pope Francis's words, he pointed people to “a horizon of beauty”. This is our job too—and, hopefully, the resources and ideas will be a good lead in to the self-reviews to come.

The resources will be available online later in the year but can be ordered through Karen now. Contact details below.

Contact Details

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Rosary Leaflet

DIocese of Hexham & Newcastle
DEPARTMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY

The Rosary



A Prayer of
Contemplation

A simple introduction to the Rosary as a contemplative prayer has been produced by the Department. It will be available for download during the month of October but has also been printed as a tri-fold leaflet. To obtain a copy or copies for your parish please use the contact details overleaf. ✂

Mission Sunday

Be Missionaries of God's Love is the theme chosen for this year's World Mission Sunday which is held on 19 October.

In his letter to mark the occasion, Pope Francis says: Dear brothers and sisters, on this World Mission Day my thoughts turn to all the local Churches. Let us not be robbed of the joy of evangelization! I invite you to immerse yourself in the joy of the Gospel and nurture a love that can light up your vocation and your mission. I urge each of you to recall, as if you were making an interior pilgrimage, that "first love" with which the Lord Jesus Christ warmed your heart, not for the sake of nostalgia but in order to persevere in joy. The Lord's disciples persevere in joy when they sense his presence, do his will and share with others their faith, hope and evangelical charity.

Let us pray through the intercession of Mary, the model of humble and joyful evangelization, that the Church may become a welcoming home, a mother for all peoples and the source of rebirth for our world. ✂

Titular Bishop of Lindisfarne
appointed to the
Diocese of Salford



Bishop John Arnold

Bishop John Arnold has become a familiar face on Holy Island during his time as the Titular Bishop of Lindisfarne. Many people popped into Mass in St Aidan's to find that he was the celebrant during one of his regular visits to the Island.

Bishop John has been appointed to the Diocese of Salford so we hope the blessings of his time on Holy Island sustain and encourage him in this new stage in his service of the Lord. ✂

Upcoming Spirituality and Prayer Events

MINSTERACRES

Friday 10 - Sunday 12 October
Christian Meditation & tai chi
with Terry Doyle

Reflective weekend in a silent atmosphere to nourish mind, body and spirit. Terry is founding member of Jason Chan's Light Foundation and acts as UK coordinator for overcoming addictions using Christian Meditation with the World Community for Christian Meditation.

21 October, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Open House

Exhibitions, tours, tea, coffee
and good home cooking.

24-26 October
Remembering the love that flows from
the cross

This retreat is led by Paul-Francis Spencer CP and is a reflective introduction to the spirituality of St Paul of the Cross, mystic and founder of the Passionists.

More information from
01434 673 248
info@minsteracres.org

St Antony's Priory, Durham

Exploring Personal Prayer
Introductory evening:

Thursday 2 October, 7.00pm- 8.30pm,
Then: 9, 16, 23, 30 October, 6 November
2.00pm-4.30pm or 7.00pm- 8.30pm.
Final session 13 November
7.00pm-9.00pm.

Whether you feel you are just starting to pray, have no time to pray or are a seasoned veteran—come along to our Weeks of Prayer and enjoy the opportunity to have this time to yourself to explore your own prayer life.

'Swords into Ploughshares'
Thursday 23rd October, 7.15pm - 9.00pm
Martin Newell CP will give an address and a discussion will follow.

Martin is an active campaigner for a World without Warfare
9.00pm A short reflection as a tribute to those who gave their lives in WW1
There will be a soup and cheese supper served from 6.00pm
Suggested donation £5:00

Tel: 0191 384 3747
Email: info@stantonypriory.co.uk

Centre for Prayer and Mission, Seaham

A Retreat with Pope Francis
Tuesdays, 7.00pm
October 7, 14, 21

Final dates of the six-week retreat with
Pope Francis

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Scripture Sessions

Mondays 1.30pm-3.30pm
beginning 6 October

In response to people's desiring to go
deeper into understanding Scripture.

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Prayer Shawl Ministry
Every second Thursday of the month,
Meet 1.30pm - 3.30pm to crochet/ knit
shawls and pray for sick and elderly
people.

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

