

Reaching out in Mercy



A key part of the celebration of the Year is a series of 14 services being held at various places around the Diocese. They are a shared offering from the Department and the Evangelisation Team. The series got off to an amazing start at St Joseph's, Hartlepool and we hope that this is a sign that they will be great blessing to people over the coming months.

They are titled 'Celebrations of God's Mercy' and are fairly informal liturgies with a strong focus on

welcoming *everyone* and particularly those bearing heavy burdens so many people carry and which Jesus longs to help them to bear.

They offer an opportunity to invite family members or friends who may feel on the fringes of the Church—to come and to feel supported by the love of God. Priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and/or anointing. Experienced listeners will also be present for those who would simply like to talk about a particular issue.

The dates and venues are:

Thursday 4 February	St Aidan's, Ashington
Thursday 25 February	St Augustine's Darlington
Wednesday 9 March	St Mary's, Hexham
Wednesday 16 March	St Mary Magdalene, Seaham
Thursday 14 April	English Martyrs, Fenham
Thursday 28 April	St Joseph's, Durham
Wednesday 11 May	Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lobley Hill
Wednesday 25 May	St Mary's, Bishop Auckland
Thursday 9 June	St Patrick's, Consett
Thursday 23 June	St Joseph's, Sunderland
Thursday 7 July	St Bede's, Jarrow
Thursday 21 July	St Edward's, Whitley Bay

About a month before, a small team will come to each venue to meet clergy and laity from the various parishes in the locality to work with them to prepare for their liturgy. A couple of weeks before it, speakers will come to share the news with the parishes and to give out invitation cards for people to take away.

Do watch out for more information locally and come along — with your own burdens and to support others.

If you are one of the "Anchors" in our diocese or a person who prays often at home, you have an indispensable role in praying for those we are hoping to reach out to. Please pray in the time leading up to each service and, if you can, during it so that God's grace and mercy will touch those in need of them. ☩

Lent Resources 2016



With a very early start to Lent this year, our January issue became lost in the printing of our resources and other preparations for the Year of Mercy! However, we hope that you will enjoy the fruits of the labours!

Our Lent resources reflect several of the themes in the papal bull that launched the Year of Mercy.

In this, Pope Francis writes:

Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him. ...

Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father. Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy of God.

The Lent gospels for Year C—the Year of Luke—are particularly appropriate for helping us to explore how Jesus reveals that mercy. We have called it "The Seven Faces of Mercy" - with each face reflecting an aspect of God's mercy as revealed by Jesus in the Sunday Gospel.

These include:

- The God-seeking Face of Mercy
- The Prayerful Face of Mercy
- The Patient Face of Mercy
- The Forgiving Face of Mercy
- The Restorative Face of Mercy
- The Suffering Face of Mercy
- The Radiant Face of Mercy

The resources include ideas for prayer sessions and prayer stations—even a few audio files that might be useful. The resources are now available on the Diocesan website at: <http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/spirituality/spiritlent16.php>. CDs with them are also available from the Department. ☩

Contact Details

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Upcoming Events in the Diocese and Local Centres

Bishop Seamus' Call to Prayer

As part of the Year of Mercy and linked to *Forward Together in Hope*. Bishop Séamus will offer a series of talks around the Diocese over coming weeks. Look out for one near you.

Tuesday 23 February

St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle

10.30 am Bishop Séamus reflection,

11.15 am Exposition

12.05 pm Concelebrated Mass

7.00 pm Bishop Séamus

7.45 pm Exposition

8.30 pm Concelebrated Mass

Thursday 25 February (morning)

St Mary's, Sunderland

Tuesday 1 March (morning)

St Paul's, Alnwick

Wednesday 2nd March (morning)

St Aloysius, Hebburn

Thursday 10 March (morning)

St Joseph's, Hartlepool

Voices of Mercy

The Voices of Mercy series is being run in conjunction with the Department for Justice and Peace and of Interreligious Dialogue. These are evening sessions during which we can listen to the voices of people who are involved in various "corporal works of mercy". More information will be available shortly here are dates and venues leading up to the summer:

Visit the Imprisoned

24 February—St Mary's, Sunderland

16 March—St Patrick's, Hartlepool

Visit the Sick

13 April—St Cuthbert's, Crook

25 May—TBC

Shelter the Homeless

15 June—St Mary's, Hexham

20 July—TBC

Diocesan Festival 2016

'Limitless Love:

Making All Things New'

Weekend of 25-26 June

Emmaus Youth Village

More information next time!

Lent at Minsteracres



17 February 10 am—4 pm

Walking retreat

A walk of seven to ten miles through the beautiful countryside around Minsteracres, with time for prayer, reflection and sharing of the beauty of creation. You will need suitable walking boots and warm, weatherproof clothing. Please bring a packed lunch.

Quiet Days of Reflection during Lent

Each day runs 10am - 4pm

24 February - Minsteracres Team

2 March - Kathryn Turner

9 March - Rosarie Spence

16 March - Anne McCarthy RSCJ

Walking Retreat

19 March 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

Holy Week Retreat

24 March- 4.00 pm -

27 March 2.30 pm

Join the community on their journey towards Easter, including time for reflection and the opportunity to take part in the ceremonies of Holy Week.

*More information from Minsteracres
01434 673 248 or info@minsteracres.org*

St Antony's Priory

Exploring our Sacred Journey

Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living

Developing our personal relationship with God through different forms of prayer.

Saturdays 9.30 am -2.00 pm

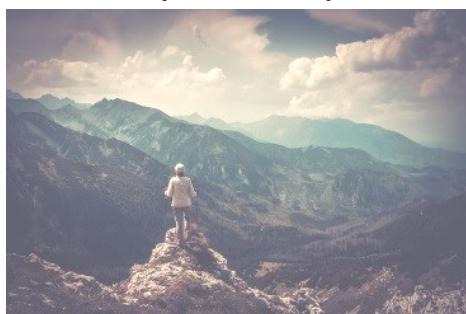
February 20, March 19, April 16,

May 21, June 18, July 16

and Tuesday evenings 6.30 pm—8.30 pm

March 1, April 5,

May 3, June 7, July 5



Exploring Personal Prayer

Do you feel the need for some help with personal prayer?

Wondering where to begin?

St Antony's offers an opportunity for one to one meetings with an experienced prayer guide who will offer time and space to explore ways to develop a closer relationship with God. Whether you feel you are just starting to pray, have no time to pray, have got a bit stuck or just want to explore new thing this could be for you.

Contact Paul at info@stantonypriory or 0191 384 3747

Centre for Prayer and Mission, Seaham

Tuesday Evenings

2 February

Mary Mother of Mercy

Tuesdays in Lent: reflections on the Seven Faces of Mercy based on the

Sunday Gospels

9 February

The God-seeking Face of Mercy

16 February

The Prayerful Face of Mercy

23 February

The Patient Face of Mercy

1 March

The Forgiving Face of Mercy

8 March

The Restorative Face of Mercy

15 March

The Suffering Face of Mercy - through a Taizé reflective evening

Monday afternoons - 1.30 pm -3.00 pm

Exploring Scripture

for those who wish to go deeper into understanding the Word of God

16-22 July

Icon Workshop with Sr Annette

Artistic ability not essential – these are primarily spiritual experiences. If you are interested please send for Application Form and details.

All materials available.

More information from

*Sr Michael on 0191 581 3249
marymichael.lee7@gmail.com*