

THE WEAVINGS

Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Department for Spirituality

July and August 2016

Limitless Love— Making All Things New

The Diocesan Festival took place over the last weekend in June.

It was a great opportunity to hear good speakers—to learn—to share experiences—to spend time in personal and small group reflections—and much, much more!

Karen Kilby, who holds the Bede Chair in Theology set the Festival in the context of a rich tradition of understanding God as mercy. She reminded us that, just as God shows mercy so do we—but not because we are better than those we serve but because we see Christ in them.

Margaret and Barry Mizen shared the story of the murder of their son, Jimmy, and how—almost to their own surprise—they have not only been able to show mercy in their thinking about the young man who committed the murder but also in terms of being inspired to work towards reducing violence—particularly among young people.

There was also time to think about what we heard—with prayer walks and a new labyrinth mown into part of the field. In the chapel, we were delighted to show the new Icons of Northern Saints written by local iconographers.



There were many moving moments during the weekend but one was an invitation to pass on a message to a refugee. This was inspired by having one of the Lampedusa Crosses with us. These are crosses made by an Italian carpenter from the wood of boats wrecked off the Island of Lampedusa. You can find more information here: <http://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Year-of-Mercy>



With vibrant liturgies and great company, it was a wonderful event! And we are looking forward to Festival 2017! 

PRAYER FOR THE DIOCESE - SUMMERTIME RE-CREATION

The Questionnaires that parishes completed earlier this year have now been reviewed and moderated and summaries are now with our communities with information about what is to come later this month and in the autumn.

There will be a lot of discussion—and, no doubt, some concerns but, as Bishop Séamus has often reminded us— it is important that we remember to call upon the Holy Spirit to guide us.

Leaflets are now in parishes with ideas for using the quieter few weeks ahead. These include:

Praying at Midday—to create a sense of solidarity.

Prayer for the Diocese—we will post the names of three communities to pray for on Facebook each day—using the same order as in the Catholic Calendar if you do not do Facebook.

Make a Pilgrimage—join some of the thousands who come to our Diocese to visit one or two of our holy sites.

You can find the leaflet from here: <http://hope.rcdhn.org.uk/>

Voices of Mercy: Sheltering the Homeless

Alison Gelder from Housing Justice joined parishioners from Hexham and surrounding area to explore one of the Corporal Works of Mercy: Sheltering the Homeless.

She gave figures about homelessness in this country that were staggering and was very supportive of what local



people are doing to support those who are often simply in need of a safe places to sleep. She did not minimise the issues but highlighted the need for us not to forget those who are most vulnerable in our society.

We are delighted that Alison will be back with us later this month—details overleaf.

Celebrating God's Mercy

These liturgies celebrating God's love and mercy continue in the following churches over coming months:

Thursday 7 July

St Bede's, Jarrow

Thursday 21 July

St Edward's, Whitley Bay

Contact Details

Head of the Department for Spirituality: Kathryn Turner

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0191 243 3302 or 0753 0917 219

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Upcoming Events in the Diocese and Local Centres

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

Celebrating the Mercy of God

An Interfaith Gathering
in the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Short talks on the theme of Mercy from
Mrs Hengameh Ashraf Emami
Professor Karen Kilby
Rabbi Aaron Lipsey

Also featuring performances from
More Than Dance and Cardinal Hume School Choir

Wednesday 21 September 2016

Cardinal Hume School,
Gateshead NE9 6RZ

Main event: 7.00pm –8.30pm.
Refreshments (light supper) from 6.00pm

For further information or to book, please contact
Department for Spirituality
Telephone: 0191 243 3302 | email spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

VOICES OF MERCY

"SHELTER THE HOMELESS"



Alison Gelder
Chief Executive, Housing Justice

Housing Justice is the national voice of Christian action to prevent homelessness and bad housing. Human dignity is challenged by the lack of a decent home, and Housing Justice aim to mobilise Christians united in their determination to work with and for homeless and badly housed people.



Wednesday 20 July
7.00pm
(Refreshments from 6.30pm)
St Cuthbert's, Albion Road West
North Shields. NE29 0JB



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT DEPARTMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY
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Centre for Prayer and Mission, Seaham

Reflections for the Year of Mercy

5 July From Gift to Duty

5 July Taizé Prayer Service 7pm

More information from Sr Michael
marymichael.lee7@googlemail.com
(0191) 581 3249

Spiritual Accompaniment Formation

St Antony's Priory in Durham is offering a year-long course in Spiritual Direction starting in October.

This is an important ministry and demand for it is growing. This course can help you to develop your own prayer and spiritual life and give you skills to accompany others on their faith journey.

The course is recognised by the Diocese and is led by an ecumenical team. The course is experiential and practical and is rooted in the Ignatian tradition. More information from the Department or direct from St Antony's,
0191 3843747 /
info@stantonyspriory.co.uk

Minsteracres

11 - 17 July

Songs of Love and Life

with Monique van den Hoogen

A singing workshop with a variety of songs that touch the heart and speak of life. Monique van den Hoogen has conducted choirs for over 30 years and has led many successful workshops at Minsteracres.

18-25 July

Six day Individually Guided Retreat

Anne McCarthy, Anne Rennie and Minsteracres team lead this six day individually guided retreat.

There is a daily personal meeting with your retreat guide to reflect on each day and help you to see where and how God is working in your life.

19-21 July

Walking Retreat

Enjoy three days of walks between eight to ten miles through the beautiful countryside around Minsteracres. Every day starts with time for prayer, reflection and sharing of the beauty of creation. You will need suitable walking boots and warm, weatherproof clothing.

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

European Gathering heads to Minsteracres!

We are delighted to pass on the news that Minsteracres has been chosen as the venue for a major gathering of spiritual directors in March next year. Spiritual Directors in Europe are organising the meeting which will run from **8th - 13th March 2017**.

A local planning team has been set up and is preparing what looks like an inspiring and exciting few days for our guests who will come from all around Europe. We will be drawing on the traditions of our region and looking at how the spirituality of our Northern Saints can still help to develop our own. There will be a day of pilgrimages to share our beautiful countryside and rich Christian heritage—as well as social activities to showcase the North East. Obviously most people will be residential visitors but we anticipate that there will be spaces for day participants.

More information on the event will emerge over the next few months but for an idea of who SDE are visit:
<http://www.sd-europe.eu>