

# THE WEAVINGS

Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Department for Spirituality

October 2016

## Celebrating the Mercy of God

On 20 September, Pope Francis invited people from different faiths to come together in Assisi to mark the 30th anniversary of St John Paul's day of prayer for peace.

On 21 September, after a year in the planning, people from our own diocese came together for a similar event—though not on quite the same scale!

However, it brought together people from around the Diocese with people from the Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Sikh communities to hear talks reflecting on the mercy of God.



Rabbi Aaron Lipsey with Graham Wilkins, a member of the Interreligious Relations Department

Rabbi Aaron Lipsey opened the evening with reflections from the Jewish tradition. Jews were the first people to receive the revelation of God as a God of mercy who, through the ages and countless experiences of suffering, continued to hold fast to their belief that God is merciful. He told stories from Jewish tradition offering examples of mercy in action...

A rabbi, for example, who was missing from Sabbath observances—and was found to have been with a woman who had just given birth. He was disobeying the rules about work on the Sabbath—but was showing mercy by lighting a fire and keeping her warm and providing food. In this, he was acting in accordance with the example of God. He also reminded us of the negotiations between Moses and God after the disobedience of the Israelites in creating a statue of the golden calf to worship. Rabbi Aaron closed with a call to prayer using the ram's horn—a sound which has called Jews to prayer since Moses' day.

He was followed by Hengameh Ashraf Emami who spoke of the Muslim understanding of God the merciful—a central teaching of Islam and how this is the way of life to which Muslims are called.

Finally Fr Colin Carr OP offered a Christian perspective drawing from Pope Francis' document *Misericordiae Vultus*. In this, Pope Francis spoke of the urgent need for people of

faith to create opportunities to enter into dialogue with each other and, even more importantly, to witness to the God of Mercy at the heart of almost all religious beliefs.



Cloud Singh, Marian Bell and Kathryn Maggs

The evening was a resounding success and we are reflecting on the possibility of holding similar events in the future.

## Spirituality Network

The Spirituality Network met at Minsteracres to look at how prayer and spirituality can support parishes and communities as they look ahead to the next stages of Forward Together in Hope.

It was a very full meeting and people found it helpful to have space to express some of the anxieties they and others have about what the future holds—whilst, at the same time, realising that change is inevitable and that we have the skills and the talents to do it well.

After time to talk and reflect together, the group came up with practical suggestions that could be developed over the next few months. One that came out as particularly significant was of extending the network right to the grass roots of the Diocese. The dream is that each Partnership would have a representative who would be part of a wider network and would be able to get ideas and find support for encouraging people to try different forms of prayer—and even things like running parish and partnership meetings differently!

We will have another meeting on 14 January where we will focus on Lent resources and another overnight meeting on 31 March-1 April. We are very under-represented in areas south of the Tyne so if you would like to come along, please get in touch and we can explore possibilities with you. ✍

## Contact Details

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# Upcoming Events in the Diocese and Local Centres



**Hope on the Horizon** is the theme we have given to the Advent resources.

It takes forward some of what we have been thinking about during the Year of Mercy and looks at our world where so many live in places where hope and mercy seem like dreams.

We use the prophet Isaiah as our guide as we remember God's promise over and over again to bring his light to people in darkness. The packs and CDs are now available—please get in touch if you would like one.

## St Antony's Priory

**Saturday 8 October**  
10-11a.m., 11.30-12.30 p.m.

### Together in Meditation

Two separate hours of silent meditation rooted in the Christian tradition.

**Saturday 12 November (10am. - 3.30pm)**  
**Be still and Know**

A day is for all who wish to explore different paths into stillness. Led by St Antony's team and others.

**Saturday 3 December, 10am - 4pm**  
**Advent Waiting**

This quiet day at the start of Advent will offer us time and space to reflect on the importance and blessing of waiting for the Lord's Coming. Led by Rev Di Johnson

**Sunday 4 December, 2 - 4pm**  
**Winter/Advent Sing**

Carols and chants to remind us of the meaning of this precious time before Christmas.

**Saturday 10 December,**  
10-11am, 11.30-12.30 p.m.  
**Together in Meditation**

Two separate hours of silent meditation rooted in the Christian tradition.

More information from St Antony's Priory  
[info@stantonypriory.co.uk](mailto:info@stantonypriory.co.uk),  
0191 384 3747

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

**VOICES OF MERCY**

## "Visit the Sick"

With Dr Kathryn Mannix,  
Consultant in Palliative Care

**THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER 2016**  
7.00pm  
Refreshments from 6.30pm

St. John Vianney  
Hillhead Parkway, West Denton  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 1DP

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: Department for Spirituality,  
Telephone 0191 243 3302 | email spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk  
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## Minsteracres

**5 October, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**  
**Quiet Day**

Led by Rosarie Spence RSM.

**19 October**  
**Walking Retreat**

**21-23 October**  
**Compassion in every step**

Led by Janette Blakemore  
A weekend of circle dancing ( a form of moving meditation designed to connect body, mind and soul)

**26 October, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**  
**The embodied contemplative**

Led by Terry Doyle  
Terry Doyle leads a workshop that will explore how the practice of meditation can be encountered through the language of the body, and how in turn the perception of the body is restored through meditation.

**28-30 October**  
**Rediscovering mercy:**  
**Elgar's Dream of Gerontius**

Led by Euan Tait  
Euan Tait leads this weekend in the form of a pilgrimage through Elgar's great work.

**19 November**  
**Walking Retreat**

**23 November**  
**Quiet Day**  
Led by Rosarie Spence

**25-27 November**  
**Advent: 'The season of the seed.'**  
Led by Anne McCarthy RSCJ  
More information from Minsteracres  
01434 673 248  
or [info@minsteracres.org](mailto:info@minsteracres.org)

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

**Voices of Mercy**

## Bury the Dead

**Wednesday 16 November**  
7.00pm  
(Refreshments from 6.30pm)

*Listen to the voices of those who offer dignity to those who have died, and comfort to those who mourn.*

St. Bede  
Catholic Row  
Bedlington  
NE22 6HS

FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:  
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An opportunity to hear how different faiths honour the dead and comfort those who mourn.

A similar session will also take place on 7 December at St Joseph's Sunderland.

## Centre for Prayer and Mission,

**Tuesday evenings at 7pm**  
**The Saint and the Pope:**

What can the spirituality of two men named Francis teach us about Christian Living in the areas of prayer, poverty, mercy and care for the environment?

**4 October (Feast of St Francis)**  
**Mercy – both changed by mercy**

**11 October**  
**Mercy – the greatest virtue**

**18 October**  
**The Cry of the earth and the cry of the poor in Saint and Pope**

**25 October**  
**Walking in the footprints of Francis.**

**Exploring Scripture**  
**Monday afternoons – 1.30 -3.00**

**Oct 13; Nov 10; Dec 8, 1.30pm**  
**Prayer Shawl Ministry**  
**Pray together** and knit or crochet shawls for sick people in hospices/care homes, hats and scarves for seamen/homeless vests & hats for "Fish and Chip Babies" in Kenya.

**8 October, 10.30-4pm**  
**Craft Day with Maureen Doyle- choice of crafts including encaustic painting**

More information from Sr Michael  
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