

## Celebrating the Mercy of God

The summer has been filled with stories of horrible things happening to good and decent people who happened to be in the wrong places at the wrong times. For those who see religion as a problem it has been something of a field day. But, as we know, true faith in God is about truth, justice and peace. It does not mean that there are no differences—or that there will not be hard questions - or even points where people simply cannot agree.

But fundamentally, our faith—and that of all who can trace their faith heritage back to Abraham and Sarah—declares that we are children of the One God.

A year ago, the Department for Spirituality teamed up with the Departments for Interreligious Relations and Justice and Peace to look at how we might mark the Year of Mercy together. You will have read accounts of one idea we came up with—the Voices of Mercy looking at the works of mercy and how people put them into practice.

On Wednesday 21 September we are holding a much bigger event—at least we hope it is going to be bigger! It is called 'Celebrating the Mercy of God' and will involve three people from the three Abrahamic faith (Jewish, Muslim and Christian) talking about their tradition's understanding of the God of Mercy we all



believe in. They will also offer a short prayer.

We will be joined by Bishop Séamus, Anglican Bishop Frank White, other faith and civic leaders and guests from other faiths. It is important that, as the hosting community, we are there in decent numbers too so, if you are free and able to come, we would be delighted to see you!

The details are:

**Date: Wednesday 21 September**

**Venue: Cardinal Hume Catholic School, Old Durham Road, Wrekenton, NE9 6RZ**

**Time: Light supper buffet from 6pm. The main event starts at 7pm.**

**NOTE—It would be very helpful if you could book in advance. If you plan to come from work/ college, etc., and would like to be there for the buffet, please could you let Karen Brown know by 14 September so that we can give the catering company reasonably accurate numbers! 🙏**

## PRAYER for the Diocese - Please continue!

Thanks to everyone who tuned in to the daily prayer for the diocese on the Spirituality Facebook page. We averaged between 250 and 450 people reached which was excellent.

Please pray now for the parishes who are working together to discern who they might enter partnership with for mutual support and development over the next few years.

It is a tough task in a short time-scale so every prayer is precious!

## Voices of Mercy

There are two opportunities to mark the Year of Mercy by listening to Voices of Mercy at work in our region this month.



Rachel and Liz have been very busy since their first talk on **Visit the Imprisoned** in Sunderland. They will be visiting **St Joseph's, Durham** on **Tuesday 20 September** at 7pm to offer their insights into the prison system and give ideas about what we can do to support prisoners and their families. If you have not heard them, do come along for a very thought-provoking evening.

On **28 September**, we will be guests of the **Gurdwara Sri Gura Singh Sabha** for a session on **Feed the Hungry**. At the Gurwarda, in Cottenham Street, Newcastle, NE4 5QU. Here, the Sikh community feed around 300 people every day. They will share something of their work with us as will David Cross from CAFOD and Walter Knoblauch Newcastle Food Bank. The talks start at 7.00pm and finish at 8.30pm but, in keeping with the tradition of the Community, we are invited for a meal beforehand that will start at 6.15pm.

## Contact Details

**Head of the Department for Spirituality: Kathryn Turner**  
**Administration Officer: Karen Brown**

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# Upcoming Events in the Diocese and Local Centres

## St Antony's Priory

**Saturday 10 September, 10a.m. -3p.m.**  
**Tai chi and Together in Meditation**  
Led by Terry Doyle  
Also the normal two separate hours of silent meditation at 10 and 11.30 a.m.

**Monday 12 September**  
**"Listening to the Wisdom of our Bodies"**  
2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and each Monday following led by Capacitar trained volunteers

**Wednesday 14 September 2.15 -4 p.m.**  
**Dancing our Prayers**  
Dance as the language that unites body, mind and spirit .  
Lead by Judy Turner & Mary Grimes  
Also: September 28, Oct 12 and 26, Nov 9 and 23, Dec 7)  
No previous experience necessary

**Sat 17 September, 10 a.m. -4.30p.m.**  
**Let the Spirit flow - Writing for Spirituality**  
Led by David Kirkham  
This one-day writing workshop takes participants on a journey through three different kinds of spiritual writing.  
Inspired by writing from both the Christian tradition and other spiritual traditions.

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**Exploring Spiritual Accompaniment**  
**Tuesday 4 October 10 a.m.-4.15p.m and then 17 Tuesdays over 3 terms + two residential.**  
To provide the groundwork and the on-going discernment for the ministry of accompanying others.

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**Thursday 6 October 6.30 – 8pm**  
**Autumn Sing**

**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.

*More information from St Antony's Priory*  
*info@stantonypriory.co.uk,*  
*0191 384 3747*

## Minsteracres

**14 September, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**  
**Day of Prayer**  
Experience different ways of praying in a beautiful setting.  
Led by Rosarie Spence.

**16-19 September**  
**Congruence in and with nature**  
Led by Chip Ponsford  
The retreat will explore the experience of how being outdoors affects our relationships with ourselves and each other.  
It will include a walk of about 7 miles and some outdoor cooking and eating.

**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  
28/10/2016 - 30/10/2016 4:00  
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*

## Lord, teach us to pray

Following the success of our first series of prayer sessions at **St Andrew's Newcastle**, we return for a second daytime series **starting on 20 September at 10.15.**

We are adding **an evening session which commences on the same date.**

This starts with light supper refreshments at 6pm.

It will finish at 8.30pm.

There will also be sessions later in the year at **St Robert's Fenham (starting 15 November) and during Lent next year in St Mary's Stockton.**

More details later.

We are very happy to run the sessions in YOUR parish/ partnership. They can be held weekly or over one or two Saturdays. If you are interested please get in touch—contact details overleaf.

## 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?

**13 September**  
**The foolishness of faith**

**20 September**  
**Prayer in the lives of Saint and Pope**

**27 September**  
**Poverty and the poor**

**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**

**Sept 15; 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  
marymichael.lee7@googlemail.com  
(0191) 581 3249