

June 2017: A Month full of Good Things!

June was an amazing month with a wealth of activities and experiences to suit all sorts of people. Here we look back at some of the highlights.

Pentecost Weekend

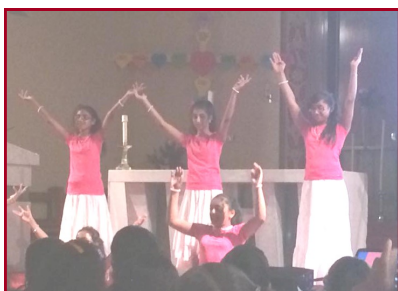
Life in the Spirit—24 Hours of Prayer

When the Partnerships were announced, parishioners of English Martyrs and St Robert's, Newcastle extended their planned 24 Hour prayer to include all the churches in Blackfriars — their new Partnership. This proved to be no mean feat as this is a Partnership of 15 churches!



There was actually very little time between the announcement and the event but pretty well every parish was involved in some way—be it making cakes and being part of the wonderful hospitality team or leading one of the sessions of prayer—or simply coming along and contributing their presence and support.

On the hour every hour a different form of prayer was offered—ranging from reflection on the Readings for Pentecost—to an experience of Christian meditation—to Taizé prayer—to reflection on the gifts of the Spirit—to music, drama and dance from the Indian members of the community—music from an African group—and prayer and song with the Filipino community members.



There was a real buzz around the refreshment tables—perhaps especially at 4am when around 16 people came to the Sunrise Service and were rewarded with bacon butties!

It was a super way to bring people together in a relaxed and prayerful way—though this was brought about by a lot of hard work by the planning team.



Definitely something to recommend to other Partnerships. The planning team would be happy to share their experience with others. You can contact them via our details alongside.

Saturday 10 June

Ministry of Consolation

It is very rare that we have to put a cap on the numbers of people able to attend one of our days—but this was one of the those occasions.



Dr Paul Paes, Fr Jim O'Keefe and Dr Karen Groves MBE

Over 100 people came to Ushaw College to listen to Dr Paul Paes and Dr Karen Groves MBE who are consultants in palliative care. Their wisdom and compassion shone through as they helped us to see how a Ministry of Consolation actually needs to begin before the death of a loved one.

The morning concluded with a time for questions and answers which helped people to address concerns from their own experiences of illness, death and bereavement.

The afternoon offered four workshops. These included a Death Café which opened up ways into talking about a subject many of us shy away from but which it is helpful to explore. The format is very simple—tea, coffee and cake and some cards with questions that start a conversation.

A course is being developed to take formation for the Ministry of Consolation further. More details will be available in the next issue of Weavings in early September.



A time of quiet reflection

Contact Details

Head of the Department for Spirituality: Kathryn Turner

Administration Officer: Karen Brown

St Vincent's Offices, St Cuthbert's House, West Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE15 7PY.

0191 243 3302 or 0753 0917 219

E-mail: spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk



www.facebook.com/spiritualityHN



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Monday 12 June: Inspiring Evening with Richard Moore

Richard Moore may not be a household name but deserves to be. His story could be sad and bleak as he was blinded by a rubber bullet fired by a British soldier when he was just 10 years old.



Richard Moore with Fr Chris Hughes

He joined an audience of over 50 people at St Cuthbert's Primary School, North Shields to share his story of trauma, loss and the journey to forgiveness and reconciliation with the soldier who shot him.

Richard's story is made more powerful by his sense of humour and straightforward way of telling a harrowing but, ultimately, hopeful account. His talk was backed by slides and many people were deeply moved by the one that showed his two daughters as children when he reminded us that we were seeing what he himself had never seen.

Following a successful career as an owner of two pubs, Richard sold his business and founded a charity, Children in the Crossfire, to support children who

do not have the advantages he had to help him cope with the trauma in his life.

The school laid on a superb welcome which greatly added to the success of the evening—it is the first place we have been to where there was an option of bucks fizz alongside the tea and coffee and nibbles on the tables!



A great welcome from St Cuthbert's Primary School, North Shields

24-25 June: Diocesan Festival

The fifth Diocesan Festival was another great success with around 250 people of all ages coming to Emmaus Youth Village for a weekend of great talks, drama, music, prayer and, basically, a lot of fun!

David Wells captured the stage our Diocese is at brilliantly—

exploring aspects of family and parish life that were full of humour but also pauses for



thought. He made discipleship and evangelisation more user-friendly words and helped everyone to see that they were things everyone could do—not just experts.

Claire Dixon from CAFOD spoke about Blessed Oscar Romero whose centenary

is celebrated this year. It reminded us of the cost of discipleship—a theme picked up by RISE Theatre in a drama that showed the journey Romero took from fear to courage—from silence to speaking out on behalf of the poor and marginalised.

Sr Judith Russi was unable to attend due to illness but her place was taken by Fr Jim O'Keefe who spoke of his own experiences in South America and the people he had met whose Christian faith led them to challenge and question the status quo.

Saturday evening offered a lively ceilidh - much enjoyed by everyone!

With time to prayer, reflection and praise and worship, the Festival offered something for everyone...with many people already booking their places for next year!



Walking the wildflower labyrinth

Upcoming Events

Minsteracres

SUMMER FAYRE

Saturday 8 July 11.00am—4.00pm

A fun day out in the beautiful setting of Minsteracres with lots of entertainment for the family.

SONGS FOR THE JOURNEY

10 July 2017—16 July 2017

11.00am—2.00pm

A week providing regular teaching in voice technique using songs that give inspiration, hope and orientation on life's journey. The week will also include reflections for our pilgrim journey with visits to places connected with Northern Saints, and travellers of times past.

The retreat will be led by Monique van den Hoogen. She has conducted choirs for over 30 years and has led many successful workshops at Minsteracres.

Residential and non-residential options available.

ROSARY RALLY

12 August 2017 12.00pm—4.00pm

A prayerful day with celebration of Eucharist, rosary procession through the grounds and benediction.

*More Information from
Minsteracres Retreat Centre
01434 673248*