

Partnership Prayer Ideas

Now that the Partnership arrangements for our parishes have been announced, people are beginning to look at ways forward. One key area will be in bringing people together to pray. In fact, what better way to start bringing the Partnerships to life.

Ideas have been put together which will be going out in a mailing from the *Forward Together in Hope* Team but we thought it would be good to give our newsletter readers something of a sneak preview!

Many people were very taken with the idea of “**Anchors**” - the name we gave to people who pray mainly at home. Several parishes held commissioning services for those who wanted to undertake that ministry which brought great joy to many of them. As one now house-bound “Anchor” said, “I feel useful again”.

The need for prayer is, perhaps, even more important now as parishes work out ways of collaborating with each other. Even with the best will in the world, there are going to be tensions and issues to be addressed so the ministry of those who keep an anchor-hold of prayer as the storms fly around could bring untold blessings!

Another idea we put forward was that of **24 Hours of Prayer** (called One Night, One Day). A few people thought this meant that people had to pray for the full 24 hours. Well, one or two people actually did—but this is not essential. The idea is that throughout a full day and night, prayer is ongoing with people coming and going at times that suit them.

Partnerships might choose one church as the base for this—one that has good transport links, for example. In some places, with long distances involved, it might be better to have the prayer spread over several churches with some kind of “baton” passed on. Communities from the Partnership can be invited to lead one or more of the “hours” using a wide variety of prayer-styles- a 10-15 minute slot is ideal. With Pentecost in June (and short nights!), this might be an ideal time to pray for an outpouring of the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit on your Partnership.

Also looking ahead to the summer, Partnerships might think about a **pilgrimage**. This does not have to be overseas—our diocese has many places that people come from all over the world to visit! It does not have to be complicated—people can use their own cars and bring packed lunches with a coach put on for those who do not have their own transport. It is good—though not essential—to have Mass; if the weather permits, think about having it outside.

More ideas will be forthcoming over coming months but these are here as reminder that, just as the *Forward Together in Hope* process was underpinned by prayer, what is put in place to take it forward should be even more firmly rooted in the prayers of our communities. ✚

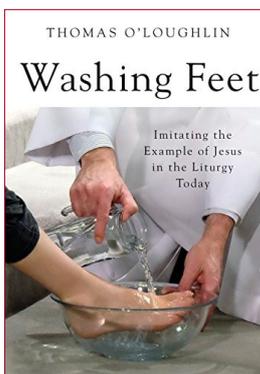
Lent Resources

Still thinking about what you might do in Lent?

Don't forget our Lent resources are available online or on CD from the Department! The theme is “To be a Pilgrim: In the Footsteps of Jesus” and each week takes you to a different place that Jesus visited with reflection and prompts for your own thoughts. They can be used individually or in groups. ✚



Lent Reading



There are always a lot of books around for Lent but one that attracted our attention was one called “Washing Feet”. Written by Thomas O'Loughlin, it looks at the radical thing Jesus did for his disciples—and also how this has been “tamed” over the course of the centuries—with ideas about how we might revitalise it. It is a short book and well-worth a read as we look ahead through Lent to Holy Thursday ✚

Voices of Peace

We are delighted that our Voices of Peace series is to be opened by Pat Gaffney. She has worked with *Pax Christi* for many years and will join us to explore themes of hope, reconciliation, non-violence and peace with justice. In a world where conflict, mistrust and violence seem to be gaining ground again, it will be good to hear from someone whose life's work has been to work for the peace and justice Christ promised for the world. **More details on the poster overleaf.** ✚

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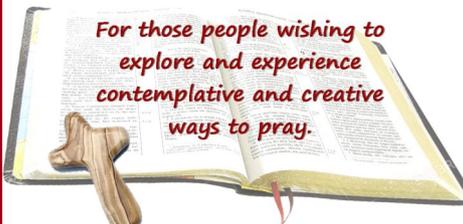


[@spiritualityhn](https://twitter.com/spiritualityhn)

Upcoming Events in the Diocese and Local Centres

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle
DEPARTMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY

LORD, TEACH ME TO PRAY



For those people wishing to explore and experience contemplative and creative ways to pray.

Wednesday 15 March 2017
Wednesday 22 March 2017
Optional Day of Reflection
Wednesday 29 March 2017
at *Minsteracres Retreat Centre*

Wednesday 5 April 2017
Wednesday 12 April 2017
10.00am for 10.30am start
ending with Mass at 12.05pm

St Mary's RC Church
Major Street
STOCKTON ON TEES
TS18 2DD

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

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle
DEPARTMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY

To be a Pilgrim: In the Footsteps of Jesus

SATURDAY 25 MARCH 2017

10.30AM—3.30PM
(PLEASE BRING A PACKED LUNCH)

Ushaw College
DURHAM
DH7 9RH

A Day for Lent in this beautiful and historic spiritual place.
An opportunity:
to pray where hundreds have prayed before you,
to spend time with Jesus,
and to explore some of the history
and treasures of Ushaw

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 PEACE

TUESDAY 28 MARCH 2017
7.00pm
(Refreshments from 6.30pm)



Guest Speaker
Pat Gaffney
Campaigner on Peace

St. Cuthbert's Church
Albion Road West, North Shields
NE29 0JB

PAX CHRISTI
International Catholic Movement for Peace

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

QUIET DAYS OF REFLECTION: Each Wednesday during Lent 10am—4pm

15 March—Sr Rosarie Spence, RSM

22 March—Sr Anne McCarthy, RSCJ

29 March—Kathryn Turner

5 April—Sr Sheila McNamara, RSCJ

An opportunity to step aside during the season of Lent, listen to God in scripture and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the countryside. Light lunch provided.

The Practice of Faith in a Dismissive World.

Saturday 18 March 10.00am - 4.00pm

A recent British Social Attitudes Survey found that the number of people who say they have no religion now significantly outweighs the Christian population. *Patrick Woodhouse is a writer and Anglican priest. He was, for thirteen years, a Canon of Wells Cathedral. He is the author of 'Ettie Hillesum: a Life Transformed' and 'Life in the Psalms: Contemporary Meaning in Ancient Texts,' (both published by Bloomsbury).*

For further information please contact
Minsteracres Retreat Centre
01434 673248

St Antony's Priory

Saturday 11th March: Together in Meditation

Two separate hours of Meditation rooted in the Christian tradition. Come to either or both. 10am and 11.30am

Saturday 18th March: "Wonders of the Universe"

Led by Ruth Grant,

A day to be open to awe, radical amazement and transformation as we consider the wonders of the universe we are coming to know. Ruth is a member of St Antony's Team and loves watching the moon rise. 10:30-3:30pm

Saturday 25 March The Love of Mary Magdalene

Led by Suzanne Saoirse Magdalena Dance

*'Those who have eyes let them see,
Those who have ears let them hear'*

Mary the Magdalene, the close companion of Jesus Christ, the last at the Cross, and the first at the tomb. A workshop for women interested in exploring Mary and her place in the Christian tradition.

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

Centre for Prayer and Mission,

ON-GOING FORMATION AND SPIRITUALITY

Tuesday evenings at 7.00pm – Seaham
All welcome

EXPLORING SCRIPTURE

Monday afternoons – 1.30pm -3.00pm

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

A group meets on the **second Thursday** of every month **1.30pm-3.30pm** to pray and to knit shawls for sick people, balaclavas for seamen and any other requests from those in need. Recently we parcelled up 1,000 vests and hats for the "fish and chip" babies in Kenya. Newcomers always welcome. Next date Thursday 9 March 2017.

BEING DISCIPLES OF JESUS

Every Wednesday morning 10.30am-12 noon in Oak Lea Convent, Sunderland
Being the Light of Christ
(bring Advent Light Books)
Wed 18th Jan – 5th April: we will look at the call and cost of being disciples today.

More information from Sr Michael
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