

THE WEAVINGS

Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Department for Spirituality

July/August 2018

ENCOUNTER—Diocesan Festival 2018

What became clear at the Diocesan Festival this year was that we come face to face with God—with Christ—in many different ways.

Sr Judith Russi highlighted various encounters in the Hebrew and New Testaments that changed people's



lives. What emerged were stories of people such as David and Judith who were very ordinary people facing overwhelming odds and with little but their faith in God to hold them together. David faced Goliath with nothing more than his shepherd's sling—when

hours of practising came to fruition when he felled the giant and saved the day—and the nation of Israel. Judith was a wise and beautiful widow who fasted and prayed as the nation again came under threat. Her prayer led her to an awareness that she was to act while others prepared to surrender. Her method of leaving the comparative safety of the town—albeit one under siege—and going directly to the enemy camp where she entranced the leader whom she later killed is unorthodox but was founded on her belief in a God who would save his people. In both these cases—and others Sr Judith spoke about—it is significant that pretty well everyone else had given up and saw no solution.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow shared the origins of Mary's Meals—inspired by encounters in Medjugorje. From tiny beginnings, when friends and family accompanied him to Bosnia-Herzegovina taking essentials out to those suffering as a result of a vicious war, the charity now serves meals to over a million children. A real life encounter of faith—followed by countless encounters with children they have helped and those inspired to step up and support financially or practically.



Sara Bryson spoke from a more secular perspective—but everyone there saw strong links with our theme. The work of Tyne and Wear Citizens is founded on encounters. These are between people who share an



anger or concern about an injustice and work out how to address it—and between them and those who have the ability to help it to be overcome. A small example, though not if you are affected, was

from a young person who had free school meals: "What happens to the dinner money if I am off?" Someone who pays would retain it—but where does it go for someone on free meals? The answer—it stayed with the catering company... in effect, money was being taken from some of our poorest children—who might well go hungry on those days. An investigation showed that this raised thousands for the companies! When this was mentioned to Bishop Séamus, he pointed out that we have many Catholic schools and they would be a good place to start to address this issue.

There were times of prayer in which reflection, drama and music explored the theme and, this year, a group of people from the Association of the Eucharist held the Saturday of the Festival in very special prayer by maintaining a continuous Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel. A rich blessing! 



And some fun for the children too!

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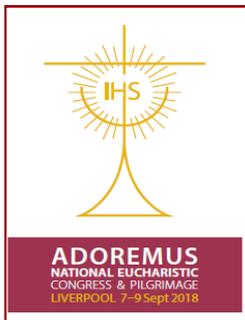


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Upcoming Events in the Diocese and Local Centres

Adoremus

Over the summer, many of our Gospel readings will be coming from John's Gospel, chapter 6. This is the one that takes us from the miraculous feeding of



the 5000, to Jesus teaching his disciples about his being the Bread of Life. They really did not get it and many left him. The teaching is still a problem for many people but in September,

there is a major gathering of people which will explore and celebrate it. Tickets are available and more information can be found on the diocesan website www.rcdhn.org.uk, or alternatively contact either diocesan Department for Liturgy on 0191 243 3312, email liturgy@diocesehn.org.uk, or diocesan Department for Education on 0191 243 3313, email education@diocesehn.org.uk

An early date for the diary

Just over a year ago we held a very successful day on the Ministry of Consolation which has led to several courses being run forming people in the ministry—with more to come over the next year.

We are planning a second event and are delighted to say that Bishop John Wilson will be joining us on Saturday 23 March 2019 at Ushaw College. Bishop John spoke at a meeting of Bishops' Conference Spirituality Committee diocesan representatives in February and everyone there was moved and inspired by his talk. This was on the theme of Spirituality in Times of Trauma and drew on Bishop John's experiences following the murder of Anne McGuire at Corpus Christi, Leeds when he was the Vicar General there and later, his support of those involved in the Grenfell Tower fire which happened in the part of London he is now responsible for. It seems a long way away but do put the date into your diary and watch out for further information in the autumn.



Minsteracres

Three day walking retreat

This retreat starts on Tuesday 10 July at 10am and ends on Thursday 12 July at 5pm

Three days with walks of 8-10 miles through the beautiful countryside around Minsteracres. Every day starts with a reflection. You will need suitable walking boots and weatherproof clothing.

Summer Fayre

Saturday 14 July, 11am – 4pm

A fun day out in the beautiful setting of Minsteracres.

Enjoy the music of John Rutter

Monday 16 July at 11am—Sunday 22 July 2pm

A singing workshop led by Monique van den Hoogen with a week full of sacred and secular music by John Rutter. *Monique has conducted choirs for over 35 years and has led many successful workshops at Minsteracres.*

Rosary Rally

Saturday 11 August, 12 noon – 4pm

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

Individually Guided Retreat

This retreat starts on Friday 31 August at 6.30pm and ends on Friday 7 September at 10am

This retreat is held in silence and will be led by members of the Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow in collaboration with the team at Minsteracres.

Walking Retreat

Saturday 1 September starting at 10:00am and ending at 5:00pm

Enjoy a walk of seven to ten miles through the beautiful countryside around Minsteracres, with time for prayer, reflection and sharing of the beauty of creation. You will need suitable walking boots and warm, weatherproof clothing. Please bring a packed lunch.

The walk will be led by the Minsteracres team.

For further information or to book please contact Minsteracres Retreat Centre 01434 673248 | info@minsteracres.org

St Antony's Priory

Together in Meditation

Saturday 7 July: 10am - 12.30pm

Two separate hours of meditation rooted in the Christian tradition at 10am and 11.30am.

Monday 9th - Monday 16th July

Painting and Prayer Retreat: with the Creative Arts Retreat Movement, CARM.

Bursaries now available to cover one third of the costs. Please apply direct to CARM. For more information please call 0191 384 3747 or email info at stantonypriory.co.uk, or durhamjoang@aol.com

Monday 30th July – Sunday 5th August:

A six day individually guided silent retreat in the Ignatian tradition.

A daily meeting with a retreat guide to help your prayer, a daily Eucharist and shared silent prayer each evening. Suggested donation for residential full board £360.

For further information or to book please contact 0191 384 3747 | info@stantonypriory.co.uk

Centre for Prayer and Mission

On-Going Formation

Tuesdays 7pm—9pm

Following Jesus then and now as Disciples.

Thursday 12th July 1.30pm – 3.30pm

To pray together and knit/crochet shawls for sick people, vests and hats for the Fish and Chip Babies, hats for seamen, scarves and mitts for the homeless, pullovers for the street boys in Nairobi. All is done in the context of prayer and ministry and company.



Icon Workshop/Retreats

Tuesday 28 July— Friday 3 August.

Led by Sister Annette, The workshop includes tuition, demonstrations, teaching on icons and prayer. Details will be sent to all who have applied. If you have not yet applied or need further information please contact Sr. Michael.

For further information or to book please contact Sr Michael on 0191 5813249 | marymichael.lee7@googlemail.com