

50(+) Days of Renewal

As promised last month, we are using the period of Eastertime as a time to reflect and pray that complements our spiritual spring-clean of Lent—which probably seems a very long time ago now! This issue also covers the Feast of the Trinity which has important insights for us so we will include them in our ponderings.

6 May—Sixth Sunday of Easter—Jesus commissions his disciples—and us—to go out into the world and bear fruit through our words and actions... with the promise that this fruit will last and, hopefully, bear seeds of future growth for others.

- + *Where does my life bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit? (See Galatians 5:22-23 for the list if you have forgotten them!)*

13 May—Seventh Sunday of Easter—Jesus asks the Father to consecrate us in the truth—to live and work in a world where so often lies and “spin” have great influence—and where many actually fear the clear light of truth.

- + *How do I view the truth? Do I seek it or am I too complacent when I think something might be a lie or “fake news”?*

20 May—Pentecost—The Holy Spirit comes upon the first disciples when they are at prayer. This was not a one-off event as communities around the Mediterranean also prayed and received the Spirit. This gift is still ours—if we are open to receive it.

- + *What would have happened if the disciples had just decided to stay in a “holy huddle” in that upper room? How might my life bear witness to the abundant gifts of the Holy Spirit?*

27 May—Trinity Sunday—Jesus tells the disciples that they are to go and share the good news with people around the world and promises that he will be with them always to the end of the age. He makes exactly the same command and promise to us.

- + *How can I share the good news of Jesus among my family, friends, colleagues—and others in ways that they can receive? And how do I have confidence in the fact that the Lord will be with me as I do?*



Pentecost Novena

The Feast of Ascension has moved back to its traditional Thursday this year. It gives us a natural beginning to a Novena—nine days of prayer leading us up to Pentecost. It echoes what those first disciples did—going back to Jerusalem and spending time in prayer as they awaited whatever it was Jesus had told them to wait for!

The Novena will be available on the diocesan website—direct to your email Inbox if you send us your email address (you will automatically get it if you subscribe to our daily reflections). We can also offer a limited number of booklets.



Rejoice and Be Glad!

Last month saw the publication of a new exhortation from Pope Francis on the theme of holiness. Its Latin title is *Gaudete et Exultate*—which means “Rejoice and be glad”. Over coming months, we will be looking at some of the themes from the document and how they might help us to develop holiness in our own lives.

Holiness has become an unfashionable word. We tend to imagine holy people as a bit other-worldly which can be a bit off-putting but Pope Francis wants everyone to respond to that the Vatican Council called the “universal call to holiness”. He acknowledges that it is not easy in today’s world—but it is not impossible.

To give you a flavour of what it contains, here are a couple of sentences from the Pope’s introduction to ponder—especially in the light of our celebration of Pentecost this month.

“The Lord asks everything of us, and in return he offers us true life, the happiness for which we were created. He wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence...”

“... My modest goal is to re-propose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time, with all its risks, challenges and opportunities. For the Lord has chosen each one of us “to be holy and blameless before him in love” (Eph 1:4).”

Contact Details

Head of the Department for Spirituality: Kathryn Turner
Administration Officers: Karen Brown & Nancy Gash
 St Vincent’s Offices, St Cuthbert’s House, West Road,
 Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE15 7PY.

0191 243 3302

E-mail: spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk



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Upcoming Events in the Diocese and Local Centres

Northern Scripture Festival



the surprise of the Gospel

a day for Christians to experience the Bible afresh through informative and inspiring talks, workshops, and worship

Sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Northern England, Religious Orders, Bible Charities, and Others

KEYNOTE Speaker Fr Eamonn Mulcahy

WORKSHOPS include the Bible and ...

- Art • Song • Lectio Divina • Gifts of the Spirit
- Mary • Iconography • Evangelisation
- Post-Resurrection Narratives
- Family Life • Drama

RESOURCES include ...

- Prayer stations
- Word on the Go: the Bible for busy Catholics
- Bookstall • Art displays

Sunday
12th May 2018
10am – 4.30pm
All Saints School
YORK

only £5 registration fee
ensure your place by booking early at

www.scripturefestival.org

or get a booking form by sending a stamped addressed envelope to
Carmelite Communications, More House, Heslington, York, YO10 5DX

*Last few FREE places left on bus!
Contact us for more details!*



Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle
DIOCESAN FESTIVAL 2018

COMING FACE TO FACE WITH CHRIST

ENCOUNTER

With talks on the theme of encounter from
Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow OBE,
Sr Judith Russi and Sara Bryson
Featuring **More Than Dance**

Including activities for families, children and young people.
Mass, music, marketplace, adoration, ceilidh and much more

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 June 2018
Emmaus Youth Village, Consett

£20 per person (inc both days) or £5 for Sunday only. Under 18s free.
Booking forms available in your parish or on our website www.rcdhn.org.uk
For more information contact festival@diocesehn.org.uk / 01207 592244
Please book by 26 May 2018.

'Don't be afraid of sharing the journey.
Don't be afraid of sharing hope.'
(Pope Francis)

St Antony's Priory

Tai Chi and Together in Meditation.

Saturday 5th May 10am - 3pm With Terry Doyle who will lead Chi Gong energy work and Tai Chi. Also the normal two hours of meditation rooted in the Christian tradition at 10am and 11.30am, and shared sessions of Tai Chi and meditation in the afternoon.

Together in Meditation. Saturday 26th May 10am - 12.30 Two separate hours of meditation rooted in the Christian tradition at 10am and 11.30am

"This is wonder without end!" 10am—1pm Saturday 2nd June So Rumi described sitting in the shade of an ancient tree. Come and spend some time contemplating in the garden of creation; to find in the natural world a gateway to the sacred. 10am—1pm ending with lunch.

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

Minsteracres

Open House 7 May 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Have you ever wanted to have a look around our house and grounds? Now's your chance! With exhibitions, tours, moments of reflection, tea, coffee and good home cooking.

Flowering—a retreat led by the Creative Arts Retreat Movement

14 May to 18 May 6:30 pm - 2:00 pm
This retreat will be led by Mary Gilbert and Jock Stein. Mary Gilbert is a Church of England minister, and Jock Stein is a published poet who used to run a conference centre in Scotland.

Pentecost Renewal with Ann Liddell
18 May to -20 May 4:00 pm - 2:30 pm
Ann is a music and worship leader with great interest in the role of praise and intercession.

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

Centre for Prayer and Mission

On-going Formation Tuesdays 7pm—9pm

Following Jesus then and now as Disciples.

Icon Workshop/Retreats

There will be two workshops this year – (28th May—1st June) which will be a 5 day event led by Catherine Ferguson, The second led by Sister Annette, 28 July—3 August. Both workshops include 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.

Craft Day led by Maureen Doyle Saturday 9 June 10.30am—3.30pm

An enjoyable day of crafts—encaustic art and alcohol art but no artistic skills required!. If you want to dabble in encaustic, please bring a travel iron.

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