

Spirituality in Times of Trauma

Over 100 people have now undertaken the Ministry of Consolation course which helps people to develop their listening and other skills so that they can support people during terminal illness and in bereavement. Feedback has been very positive and Partnerships are gradually working out how best to use the people who have been trained in serving their people.

The course was launched following a very successful day at Ushaw College—and evaluations of that day also asked for more! In response to this, we are organising another day but with a different focus.

Many people undergo a final illness which gives them an opportunity to say the things they always wanted to, to ask for and give forgiveness and so on. But what happens when the death is sudden? And, even worse, when it is high-profile and spread all over the news? Our speaker, Bishop John Wilson, has had experience of such situations and more. He was a priest in the Diocese of Leeds when Ann Maguire, a teacher at Corpus Christi School was murdered. He was part of a team of clergy, religious and lay people who supported the staff, students and their families.

Fr John was later ordained for the Archdiocese of Westminster where he has special responsibility includes the area in which the Grenfell Tower is situated. When he heard about the fire, he attended the scene—simply listening and encouraging emergency services and then visiting local schools and centres where survivors were struggling to come to terms with what had happened to them.

When Bishop John shared his stories with people representing the Diocese at a Bishops' Conference Spirituality Day, we felt he had much to share with us too so, last spring, we invited him to the Diocese and were delighted when he said he could join us at Ushaw College on 23 March. Bishop John will offer us a talk and then there will be opportunities for workshops or simply to spend time to reflect or talk to a trained listener or a priest—or a bit of both.

We anticipate that this day—like the last—will get pretty full so, if you plan to come along, please book early! For more information, please see the poster overleaf or contact the Department. 

Lent 2019

The Lent resources are now making their way through the Diocese—and beyond as people download them from the diocesan website.

Our theme this year is “God’s Gifts of Love and Mercy” and takes us on a journey during which we meet several key characters from the Old Testament.

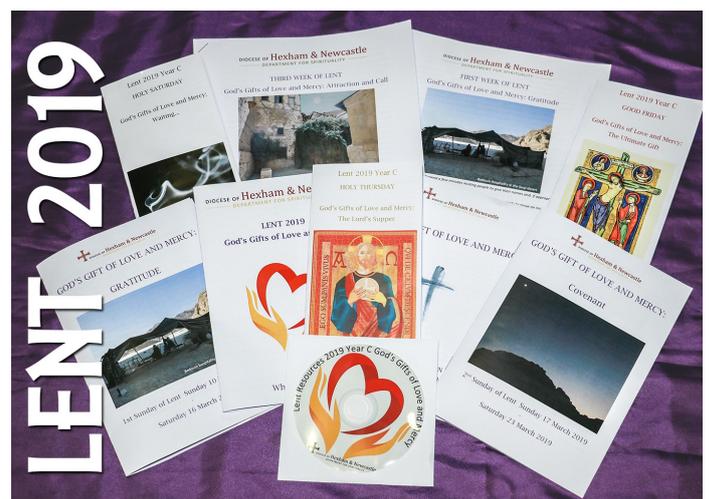


For many Catholics, the Old Testament is a bit of a mystery! Some of our older folk will remember being told that we should not read the Bible – and especially not the Old Testament! This was part of the legacy of the Reformation and one that took a lot of prayer and work on the part of the Holy Spirit to work through. One of the crucial points that is made in the Vatican Council document that opened up the Scriptures to us was that the Bible is not to be used to score points off others. Dei Verbum (the Word of God) says,

“Let them remember that prayer should accompany the reading of Sacred Scripture, so that God and man may talk together; for “we speak to Him when we pray; we hear Him when we read the divine saying.”

Our Lent materials give us a chance to do just that—as individuals and in groups. We use the First Readings of the Sundays and then ponder how people living in very different times and places encountered God and how this speaks to us in our own day... and, astonishingly, it does! The CDs (and the Lent section of the diocesan website) is packed with material and ideas for praying and reflecting and should go some way to helping you have a good Lent when it starts on 6 March.

For more information, please contact Karen using the contact information provided.



Contact Details

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Upcoming Events in the Diocese and Local Centres

Centre for Prayer and Mission

Craft Day Sat 9 Feb from 10-3pm.

Cynthia who led the Patchwork and Quilting Day which was enjoyed by all, will come with some new ideas. Please book if you intend to come so that we can regulate numbers.

Icon Painting (Writing) Workshop/ Retreats

As usual. there will be two workshops:

The first is with Catherine Ferguson in **Spring Week: starting 27th May for 5 days.** Boards are already prepared.

The second with Sr Annette - **July 20-27th** Includes board preparation.

Both workshops are open to beginners as well as the more experienced.

You may want to secure these dates in your diary .Further details in due course for those who are interested.

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

Minsteracres

Looking ahead a while but worth getting in your diary!

**Our relationship with nature – the challenge to Christians
10/05/2019 - 12/05/2019 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Mary Colwell.

It is no secret that the natural world is under immense environmental pressure. Species are disappearing and resources are being depleted. We have degraded the natural world on all continents. This thought-provoking weekend will examine what it is to be a Christian today, faced with difficult choices and overwhelming problems. Where do we find the joy and sustenance to sustain us to bring about a better world for all of life on earth?

Mary Colwell is an award winning writer and producer of TV and radio programmes on natural history and environmental issues and a regular contributor to 'The Tablet'.

This retreat runs from Friday 10 May at 7pm until Sunday 12 May at 2pm

The Minsteracres Team is also planning themed retreats called "Daring Disciples". This ties in with a lot of work that is happening in our Partnerships and one of these weekends could be a good way to explore what it means for you individually—or with others from your Partnership.

Dates:

17-19 May, 21-23 June, 13-15 September, 4-6 October

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

LOOKING AHEAD DURING 2019

DIOCESE OF **Hexham & Newcastle**
DEPARTMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY

SPIRITUALITY IN TIMES OF TRAUMA

Bishop John Wilson is an Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster who has considerable experience in supporting people through times of trauma. He comes with a deep awareness of the part prayer and spirituality can play in times of pain and trauma and will share some of his wisdom and insights with us.



As well as the talk from Bishop John, there will be:

- Workshops
- Spaces for reflection
- A market place offering resources

Saturday 23 March 2019

Ushaw College, DURHAM. DH7 7DW

9.45am refreshments

10.15am - 3.30pm

Soup & Roll Lunch provided

To book please complete booking form and return to:
Department for Spirituality
Telephone 0191 243 3302 | email spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk

SAVE THE DATE

**'THE CHURCH THAT
ACCOMPANIES'
with
BILL HUEBSCH
SATURDAY 18 MAY 2019**



Further information available shortly

Diocesan Festival Saturday 22—Sunday 23 June

'On Fire'

**Guest Speaker Sherry Weddell
Author of "Forming Intentional Disciples"**

More information to be
distributed to parishes shortly.

