

Hearing the Cries

There has been a lot in the news about the environment and the need to care for it. Our Diocesan Justice and Peace Department has developed a policy document that offers thoughts to reflect on, as well as suggestions for living out a more environmentally friendly lifestyle.

There are some people who think this does not have much to do with our faith but from the earliest pages in the Bible—actually from the very first page!—we are taught about God’s love for the world and his desire that human beings should share in the care of it. It is a shame that, in many translations, the phrase used for this is “have dominion” - which people have very easily then translated into “having the right to dominate”. This is not the vision God had. Later this month, we will have a Reading from the Book of Wisdom which reminds of how intricately bound up in the work of Creation the Holy Trinity are. Here is part of the Reading:

The Wisdom of God cries aloud:

*When the Lord ... marked out the foundations of the earth,
then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.'*

Joy and delight seem to be the hallmarks of God’s relationship with the earth—and with human beings in particular. This calls us into a similar kind of relationship. If God delights in Creation—then surely as beings co-created with it, we should delight and treasure it also. How we do it is not rocket science—but, for us as Christians, it does include something of a conversion of heart. Many people recycle paper, for example, but if we do it as an act of love for Creation and for the Creator, we bring an extra power to it. If we remember to switch off a light—for love of Creation and the Creator, we are doing more than saving electricity. And every time, we hear the cry of the poor who are most affected by things like pollution and climate change, we are hearing with the ears of God—whose heart breaks for these children of his who are unable to share the wonder and delight in the world he created for them to live in.

Pope Benedict said, “The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast” And Pope Francis continues, “A commitment this lofty (to protect the world) cannot be sustained by doctrine alone, without a spirituality capable of inspiring us, without an “interior impulse which encourages, motivates, nourishes and gives meaning to our individual and communal activity”. Take a look at the Diocesan document—it is easy and accessible and full of practical ideas. And pray for the conversion of heart that will help you to do it not just as a good thing to do—but as the Right Thing to do.

You can find “Hearing the Cries of the Poor and of the Earth” at this link: http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/social_concerns/justice_and_peace.php or by following the links on the Diocesan website to the Justice and Peace Department pages.



The Bishops of England and Wales have announced that 2020 is to be a Year of the Word—with the theme, “The God who speaks.”

The Year will actually be soft-launched on 30 September, the Feast of St Jerome who translated the Bible into the everyday language of the time (Latin). It then takes off fully on the First Sunday of Advent. We have time in hand but this just flags up the opportunities it will offer for those who will be starting to plan ahead! More information in coming months!



Contact Details

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Upcoming Events in the Diocese and Local Centres

Centre for Prayer and Mission

Tues June 11th, 2.00pm

Fr David Smith will be joining us to give us an update on his recent visit to Kenya. Once again, we have a great consignment of knitting ready for him. We hope to see you along with your knitting friends and acquaintances join us for this afternoon.

CRAFT DAY ON STAINED GLASS

Sat June 15th 10.30am-3.30pm

Rita Griskonyte whom many of you have met, is a stained glass artist and will come to show us how to use small bits of stained glass to make small objects eg jewellery, key rings etc.

Icon Painting (Writing) Workshop/ Retreats

The second Icon Painting (Writing) Workshop will take place with Sr Annette - **July 20-27th** Includes board preparation.

The workshop is open to beginners as well as the more experienced. Further details available by contacting Sr Michael.

RE-DEDICATION as DOWRY OF MARY

St Mary's Cathedral Newcastle Oct 14-16th.

On March 25th 2020, England is going to be re-dedicated as the Dowry of Mary, an ancient medieval title. The first dedication of England as the Dowry of Mary was in 1381 by Richard 11. The original statue of Our Lady of Walsingham, from England's national shrine, is being taken on pilgrimage from the Slipper Chapel, Walsingham to all the Cathedrals of England and Wales as part of the spiritual preparation for this event.

This will be a weekend of prayer.

To mark the event and pray for our nation, the Icon Group which meets in Seaham, is going to "paint" the 20 Mysteries of the Rosary for an Exhibition which will be held in Ushaw in Spring, 2020.

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

Ushaw College

Hand in hand: The artistic and spiritual life of Dame Werburg Welch, running until 29th June.

Eileen Grace Welch entered the Benedictine Stanbrook Abbey in 1915 at the age of twenty, receiving the name of Werburg. Before entering Stanbrook she had trained at Bournemouth and Bristol Art School's and on taking religious vows she was encouraged to continue her artistic career becoming known for her vestment designs, paintings and carvings. This exhibition will reveal the life and work of a truly hidden talent of our nation and will include textiles, paintings, wood carvings and prints.

*For further Information or to book please contact
Ushaw College
0191 334 5119 | meet@ushaw.org*

Minsteracres

Pentecost renewal, Sr Maria Natella OP

Fri 7 June 2019 - Sun 9 June 2019 7.00 pm - 2.00 pm

During this weekend of praise, worship and reflection, Sr Maria Natalla OP will lead us to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Sr. Maria is a Dominican Sister of St Joseph who is involved in preaching ministry. She is an engaging, inspiring and popular international speaker. She leads retreats and is engaged in parish missions as well as in a national youth ministry 'Fanning the Flame'.

Suggested donation: £145

On a journey with the Northern Saints

Mon 10 June 2019 - Friday 14 June 2019 6:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Spend a week at Minsteracres following in the footsteps of the Northern Saints such as Aidan, Cuthbert, Oswald, Hild and Bede. Find out about their spirituality and motivation, early Celtic spirituality and visit the iconic places where they lived out their faith. Includes visits to Holy Island, Bamburgh, Durham and Hadrian's Wall. *Suggested donation: £380*

Quiet day

Wed 12 June 2019 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

Sr Rosarie Spence RSM

An opportunity to step aside, listen to God in scripture and enjoy the peace and tranquility at Minsteracres. Coffee and tea are provided. Please bring a packed lunch.

This retreat will take place on Wednesday 12 June from 10:00am until 4:00pm. *Suggested donation: £15*

Daring Disciples

Fri 21 June 2019 - Sun 23 June 7.00 pm - 2.00 pm

A weekend of prayer, reflection and nourishment on our life's journey led by the Minsteracres team; for groups from parishes and partnerships. Individuals are also welcome to join in. *Suggested donation £135*

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

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

And you will renew the face of the earth.

