

## England: Our Lady's Dowry

May and October are months traditionally dedicated to honouring Our Lady—May as “Mary’s Month” and October as a month of the Rosary. This October (24-26), we will have the joy of welcoming the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham to the Diocese. This is a stage in the statue’s two year “Dowry Tour” which is part of the spiritual preparation for the rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary in 2020.

This title of England as the ‘Dowry of Mary’ has a very long history—possibly from even before the Norman Conquest—and reminds us of the great devotion to Our Lady that flourished here throughout the Middle Ages.

In our own Diocese, we have a shrine to Our Lady of Jesmond. Pilgrim Street, in the centre of Newcastle is said to have derived its name from the pilgrims who lodged there on their way to Our Lady’s chapel at Jesmond. Its name (in Latin) can also be found in the copy of a grant of a house made to Brinkburn Priory, Northumberland in 1292.

The 2020 re-dedication is the latest in a long series of dedications over the centuries. It is seen as the people of England offering their personal gift of faith to the Mother of God, asking her to guide and protect the country in the years to come.

The hope is that people may work together to build a

Common Good, as we ‘seek to embrace the truth of the Gospel, that inspires us to create a culture that respects life, embraces the great diversity of our people, and inspires all to a greatness of heart that will serve our community, seeking the good of others before ourselves, especially the poor and the marginalised of our world.’

These are high aspirations but are rooted in the Incarnation which is at the heart of the devotion to Mary—the fact that, through her, the Word of God became flesh.

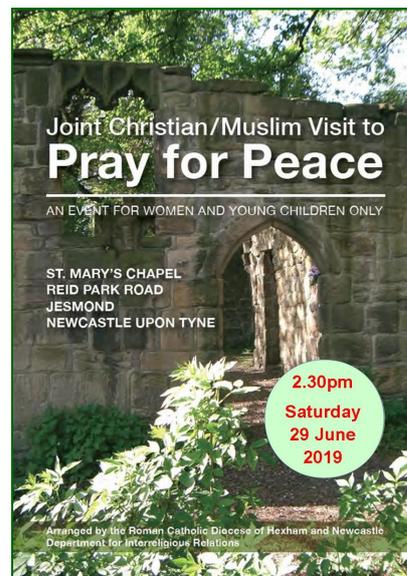
Image taken from “Dowry of Mary” Exhibition booklet



The Annunciation in Nazareth marked a new beginning in the history of the world—and it was Mary’s “fiat” - her “yes” that allowed it all to happen. It is, naturally, the first of the Mysteries of the Rosary but it is also celebrated in the short prayer: the Angelus. It takes just a couple of minutes to pray but it takes us back to that world-changing event. During May, see if you can get into the habit (if you do not have it already!) of praying the Angelus. The traditional times are 6am, 12 noon and 6pm so think about setting an alarm on your phone or clock to remind you. The key thing is to *stop!* Stop what you are doing and focus for two minutes on the great mystery of God becoming human because a young woman in Nazareth agreed to let it happen. In doing so you are, in a way, re-inserting the event into time and space.

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,  
And she conceived by the Holy Spirit. *Hail Mary...*  
Behold the handmaid of the LORD.  
Be it done unto me according to thy word. *Hail Mary...*  
And the Word was made flesh.  
And dwelt among us. *Hail Mary...*  
Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.  
That we might be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray,  
Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O LORD, Thy grace into our hearts; that, we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.  
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Shrine of Our Lady of Jesmond is still a place of prayer... Women and young children are invited to a make a Pilgrimage to the shrine—details on the poster alongside.

### Contact Details

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# Upcoming Events in the Diocese and Local Centres

## Centre for Prayer and Mission

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thursday 9th May, June 13th, July 11th.

Meet every second Thursday of the month a 1.30pm to pray together and knit/crochet shawls for sick people, vests and hats for babies in Kenya, pullovers for street boys in Nairobi, hats for seamen scarves and mitts for the homeless and anything else that is needed. Newcomers always welcome.

### 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 20-26th** Includes board preparation.

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

Booking is essential for each workshop which involves prayer, input and practical tuition.

Beginners are welcome to both workshops—you don't need any artistic ability and you are guaranteed a prayerful and inspiring time!

### Craft Day on Stained Glass

Saturday 15 June 10.30am—3.30pm

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

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

## St Antony's Priory

Exploring Spiritual Accompaniment is a one-year course, based in the Ignatian tradition led by an ecumenical team at St Antony's Priory in Durham.

### Exploring Spiritual Accompaniment



St Antony's Priory  
2019-20

It provides an opportunity for personal spiritual development as well as offering practical and experiential training in some of the skills needed to accompanying others on their faith journey.

The programme includes taught input, personal reflection and group work, individual mentoring and the compilation of a portfolio of resources.

For more information, contact us or

St Antony's Priory, 74  
Claypath,  
Durham, DH1 1QT  
0191 384 3747

admin@stantonyspriory.org

## Minsteracres

Monday 6 May;

### Open Day:

Spend a full day at Minsteracres exploring our House and Grounds with exhibitions, tours, reflection, tea, coffee and good home cooking.

Wednesday 8 May, 10.00am - 4.00pm;

### Day of Prayer:

Led by Sr Rosarie Spence RSM, spend a day experiencing different ways of praying along with time for quiet personal prayer.

Friday 10 (7.00pm) - Sunday 12 May (2.00pm);

### Our Relationship with Nature - The Challenge to Christians

Spend a thought provoking weekend with Mary Colwell looking at some of the environmental issues facing the world and how we might respond as Christians.

Mary makes programmes for the BBC and the independent sector, mainly on nature and the environment and recently featured in BBC Wildlife's UK 50 Top Conservation Heroes awards.

### Daring Disciples

17 May 2019 - 19 May 2019 7:00 pm - 2:00 pm

With the Minsteracres team.

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.

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

DIocese of Hexham & Newcastle  
DEPARTMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY

## THE MISSION TO ACCOMPANY

with Bill Huebsch

"Journeys of accompaniment" help people to "read their own story; to adhere freely and responsibly to one's baptismal call; to recognize the desire to belong and contribute to the life of the community."

© Image Les Edwards 2006 Youth Synod report 2019 cf#150

**SATURDAY 18 MAY 2019**  
9.45am—3.30pm  
St Mary's Catholic School  
Benton Park Road  
Newcastle Upon Tyne NE7 7PE  
REFRESHMENT & LUNCH DONATION £10.00

TO BOOK PLEASE VISIT:  
<https://billhuebsch.eventbrite.co.uk> or telephone 0191 243 3302