



YEAR OF FAITH 2012-2013

THE WEAVINGS

Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Department for Spirituality

June 2013

A Spiritual Legacy (4)

Before Lent and Easter, we began a series of articles looking at the spiritual legacy of the Second Vatican Council. Although this happened 50 years ago, it is to an extent still unfolding as people ponder the richness of the documents that were produced by the world's bishops praying and discussing the life of the Church and how it reaches out to share its graces with people desperately in need of Good News.

In December, we looked at *Lumen Gentium*, the document that looked at the Church herself and in January, we explored *Dei Verbum*, the document that reflected on God's self-revelation in the scriptures and in the Tradition of the Church. This month, we look at *Sacrosanctum Concilium: the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*. As ever, we touch very lightly on its richness—but here are a few extracts with prompts for reflection.

The document says:

'The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the font from which all her power flows. For the aim and object of apostolic works is that all who are made sons and daughters of God by faith and baptism should come together to praise God in the midst of His Church, to take part in the sacrifice, and to eat the Lord's supper.' (Paragraph 10)

How much do you see the Mass and other liturgical prayer as the summit of your life? And the source of the power that feeds into your daily life?

'Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that fully conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy. Such participation by the Christian people as "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a redeemed people (1 Pet. 2:9; cf. 2:4-5), is their right and duty by reason of their baptism.'

What difference does recognising your status as part of a chosen race—royal priesthood, etc, make to how you see going to Mass? How might it encourage people who do not feel the need to attend regularly?

'To promote active participation, the people should be encouraged to take part by means of acclamations, responses, psalmody, antiphons, and songs, as well as by actions, gestures, and bodily attitudes. And at the proper times all should observe a reverent silence.' (Paragraph 30)

(Continued overleaf...)

Diocesan Festival 2013 Opening the



**29-30 June 2013
Youth Village
with John Battle
David Wells
Bud Welch
More than Dance**

**Activities for
school-aged
children and
young people
Marketplace**

Bookings are coming in steadily for the Diocesan Festival. if you have not booked yet, please get your form in as soon as possible! This will greatly help those planning for the event! Posters, flyers and booking forms are in parishes—and are also available on the diocesan website.

A Call for Singers and Musicians

Do you sing or play a musical instrument in church?

Could you be part of the music group being gathered together to enrich the liturgies at the Festival?

If you would like to be involved, Philip Robinson (leader of the Diocesan Choir) would love to hear from you!



Contact him on festival@diocesehn.org.uk, 0191 243 3313

Resources for the Holy Island Pilgrimage on Saturday 13 July are available on <http://holyislandpilgrimage2013.info>. We are working on a 'virtual' pilgrimage (using PowerPoint or video) which groups and individuals who cannot travel on the day can use to share the event. If interested, keep an eye on the websites or get in touch!

Contact Details

To sign up for **Weavings** or the daily e-mail, contact Kathryn Turner, Head of the Department for Spirituality via the Department for Education
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How do you participate actively in Mass? And how can your silence be active participation?

Although it covered much more, this is the document people were most aware of as it encouraged the use of local languages alongside Latin in the Mass and other liturgies. Here is the paragraph in question:

'... since the use of the mother tongue, whether in the Mass, the administration of the sacraments, or other parts of the liturgy, frequently may be of great advantage to the people, the limits of its employment may be extended. This will apply in the first place to the readings and directives, and to some of the prayers and chants...' (36)

What are the advantages of praying in your mother tongue? What are the advantages of having a "sacred language" - like Latin - for certain kinds of liturgy and prayer?

'Composers, filled with the Christian spirit, should feel that their vocation is to cultivate sacred music and increase its store of treasures.

Let them produce compositions which have the qualities proper to genuine sacred music, not confining themselves to works which can be sung only by large choirs, but providing also for the needs of small choirs and for the active

participation of the entire assembly of the faithful.

The texts intended to be sung must always be in conformity with Catholic doctrine; indeed they should be drawn chiefly from holy scripture and from liturgical sources.' (121)

How does music help –or hinder– your ability to pray at Mass or other liturgical celebration? ☩

Near Restful Waters Days for Carers

Days for Carers to come together for a time of rest and reflection.

Wednesday 12 June

St Joseph's Norton (£15-light lunch)

Thursday 13 June

Minsteracres

(£30 to include three course meal)

Saturday 15 June

Holy Name, Jesmond (£15-light lunch)

Parishes may like to consider sponsoring people in their community who would benefit from one of the days.

Please book using the contact details on the front of Weavings.

Rehallowing the Land

The 'roadshow' for the Year of Faith continues with visits to two of our Northumberland deaneries. The evenings look at the legacy left by our Northern Saints and give us an opportunity to pray with icons of them created by local people. Sessions start at 7pm

12 June St Aidan's, Ashington

26 June St Paul's, Alnwick

To be a pilgrim - Jarrow



After two pilgrimages in snow, it was probably inevitable that at least one of the diocesan mini-pilgrimages would happen in a spot of rain. In fact, the pilgrimage to Jarrow in honour of St Benet Biscop and St Bede took place in torrential rain!

This did not stop around 300 people coming along to Mass at St Bede's church in Jarrow and on to Bede's World and St Paul's afterwards—though only a few took the opportunity of a lightening of the rain to make the prayer walk.

There were warm welcomes everywhere—at St Bede's, a beautiful Mass—at St Paul's, with the chance to look at the church St Bede himself would have known and a talk on its history from Jimmy Gibb—at Bede's World where we had reduced entry and spaces to show the prayer walk on screen.

The day closed with a pilgrims' dismissal preparing everyone for the next pilgrimage to Holy Island on 13 July. ☩

Prayer Station of the Month

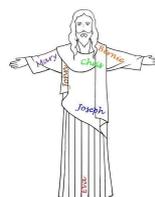
During June, hundreds of children will be making their First Holy Communion. They will receive the Body of Christ for the first time.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, St Paul tells us 'you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.' And St Augustine, writing a few hundred years later, picks up the theme—especially in relation to receiving the Body of Christ in the Eucharist: 'Be what you see, and receive what you are' (*Sermon 272*).

This is an astonishing thing to say – for which one of us is remotely worthy to be part of the Body of Christ? And yet, this is what these great saints tell us we are called to be.

But that 'being the Body of Christ' is not

The Body of Christ is made up of people from all walks of life—
races—
cultures—
languages...
etc.



Use one of the outlines of Jesus and add in the names of as many people who make up the Body of Christ in your community as you can think of!
(If you don't know their name, jot a short description.)

As you write or sketch, pray for each one.

What do you notice as you add more and more to the picture of the Body of Christ?

about being special individuals. Just as bread is not made of just one grain but many—so the Body of Christ is made up of many members—and all are needed.

Our Prayer Station this month, invites us to think about the youngsters making their First Holy Communion, their families and the wider community.

'Who are the people I know in my community who — with me — are members of the Body of Christ?'

You will simply need the Station, copies of the outline of Jesus and pens or felt tips.

Encourage people to take the sheets away as more names will no doubt come to them over the coming days!