



YEAR OF FAITH 2012-2013

THE WEAVINGS

Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Department for Spirituality

May 2013

A Universal Call to Holiness (4)

We are approaching the end of Eastertime and, during May, have several key feasts which we will use to reflect on this on-going call to each of us to holiness.

On **Sunday 5 May**, the **6th Sunday of Eastertime**, we will hear Jesus say, 'If anyone loves me they will keep my word' - and later tell us that he leaves us his peace so that we should not be troubled or afraid. The two go together. If we take time to read—to listen—and reflect on Jesus' words and actions, we grow in trust and confidence in him. This takes time and attention. There is a danger with Lent long behind us that the habits we tried to forge then are slipping—or have slipped entirely!

As you hear Jesus' words, think about how you might regularly fit a short time into your day or week just to ponder the upcoming Sunday Gospel. Perhaps set aside a coffee or tea-break. Don't make it complicated or it simply won't happen!



The Gospel for **Sunday 12 May**, the **Feast of the Ascension**, reminds us of Jesus' blessing on his disciples—but also his commission to them to witness to what they have seen and heard. He knows that they will not be able to do it on their own strength—and neither can we. He tells them to go and to pray—waiting for the Holy Spirit to come upon them. In our Baptism and Confirmation the Holy Spirit came upon us with all sorts of gifts. Most of them are not dramatic—at least not in the way they came upon the disciples at Pentecost—but they are there. In order to grow in personal holiness—and to help others to grow in theirs, we need to use the gifts. We may be nervous—or unsure about whether we are "good enough"—but, as St Paul tells Timothy, we have a responsibility to fan into a flame the gifts God has given to you.

So—how might you do that and take the risk of letting the great graces God has given to you flow out to others?

At **Pentecost**, (**Sunday 19 May**) we remember the day the wider Church was born. The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and they tumbled out into the streets telling everyone they met about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Most of us are quite content that this is unlikely to happen to us after the Pentecost Mass! But we should not be complacent. The Holy Spirit has been given to us every bit as much as to the early Christians. We can be helped by others—and the Word and the Sacraments—but we also have to cooperate personally with the Spirit. In the Prayer Station of the Month, there is a suggestion for reflecting on how our lives bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

How might you give time to reflecting on where your life already bears the fruit of the Spirit? And how might you work with the Holy Spirit in ensuring that your weaker fruits grow stronger and a bit more productive?

On **Trinity Sunday, Sunday 26 May**, we hear about the intimate and totally loving and self-giving relationship that is the Trinity. It is beyond human comprehension but truly amazing that each one of us is baptised into that love. Whenever we pray the Gloria—or say the Creed—we remind ourselves of the Three-in-One God whom we worship. Every time we start or end a prayer with the sign of the cross, we are saying that we are doing something in their name—"In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". In a way, though, because of our Baptism and Confirmation, *everything* we do is in their name.

What difference might it make to how you do—or say—something if you recall that you are doing it in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit?

Diocesan Festival 2013 Opening the Doors of Faith!

29-30 June 2013

Youth Village.

With **John Battle—former MP**

David Wells—from Plymouth Diocese

More than Dance

With plenty to see, hear and do for people of all ages, the Festival promises to be a highlight of the **Year of Faith!** We are all praying hard for kinder weather than last year so that we can come together and celebrate the great gift of our Faith.

Posters, flyers and booking forms are now in parishes—watch out for them.

They are also available on the diocesan website.

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
St Vincent's Offices, St Cuthbert's House, West Road,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne. NE15 7PY

0191 243 3313

or

0191 534 4212

E-mail: spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk

Celebrating and Praying the Word of the Lord

Ushaw College recently hosted a national conference called "The Word of the Lord".

The Conference was attended by Bishop Séamus, along with Bishop Emeritus Edwin Regan and Bishop of Wrexham, Peter Brignall. The speakers included Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP, Dom Henry Wansbrough and Michelle Moran who looked at different aspects of how Scripture is used in Catholic life and teaching.

One highlight was the launch of a study guide from the Bishops' Conference on the Vatican document "Verbum Domini" (The Word of the Lord). The guide, "**The Word of the Lord: Discovering Verbum Domini**" is available from the Pauline Bookshop in Newcastle. It can be used by individuals but also has reflection and discussion material for groups. 



Delegates at the Word of the Lord conference with new Bishops' Conference guide

Spirituality and Dementia

How can we ensure that the religious and spiritual needs of people with dementia and those who care for them can be met?

This was one of the questions looked at during a conference co-organised by North Tyneside parishioner, Isabel Quinn, at the University of Northumbria. People from churches, councils and charities came together to look at ways of ensuring that, when memories and skills fail, a person with dementia is still cherished and enabled to pray and feel

loved by God and those around them.

Many ideas were put forward, but particularly moving was a YouTube video in which someone who seemed to have been "locked in" by dementia was drawn out by loving affirmation and the singing of old, familiar hymns. (youtube.com, search for *Glady's Wilson and Naomi Feil*).

Another suggestion was that each church community could have at least one Dementia Champion or Friend. Such a Champion/Friend would have training in

the needs of those with dementia and their carers and could work with clergy and pastoral councils to ensure that our communities and churches become truly dementia-friendly places. There are training sessions locally in Newcastle on 22 May and Northallerton on 4 June.

If you, or someone you know might be interested, you can find more information from www.alzheimers.org.uk or www.dementiafriends.org.uk; telephone 0191 275 1950



Prayer Station of the Month

In his letter to the Galatians, St Paul writes that the fruits of the Holy Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Gal 5: 22-23)

As we approach Pentecost, you might like to have a prayer station that invites people to reflect on these fruits—and how their own life reflects them... however imperfectly!

The suggestion on the prayer station template is to use fruit shapes on which people can write the name of the spiritual fruit they would particularly like to work on. You could use card or paper and use different fruits and sizes. Ensure that you have pens or pencils handy!

Bearing the Fruits of the Spirit

The fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, generosity, faithfulness,
gentleness, and self-control
(Galatians 5: 22-23)



Spend a few minutes thinking about
where your life bears the Fruits of the Spirit.

Choose one of the fruit shapes
and write on it the Fruit of the Spirit
you would like to work on.

Take it away as a reminder to pray that your
life bears that fruit in coming days and weeks.

You could even have a small display of fruit alongside (taking away what needs eating and replacing as necessary). When people have chosen their fruit, they can then take it away and either put it in a purse or pocket or somewhere prominent at home as a reminder.

You could also think about investing in pebbles and using the paint used to outline glass-painting designs to write the names of the spiritual fruits on them. People could either choose one to take into the church or quiet spot to reflect with and return. Or, you might invite them to take one away to put in a prayer-space at home. 

To be Pilgrims... Hexham



Icons of some of the Northern Saints lead pilgrims to Hexham Abbey

At last—a mini-pilgrimage that did not take place in the snow!

Around 600 people began the pilgrimage at St Mary's church in Hexham and, following a blessing from Bishop Séamus, followed icons of some of the Northern Saints to the Abbey, site of St Wilfrid's church, where the first public Mass since the Reformation was celebrated.

Some of the pilgrims then went on to Heavenfield where King Oswald won the

battle which set the seal on his determination to establish Christianity in the north-east. Others went back to St Mary's to enjoy a presentation on the Northern Saints with Sr Michael and other members of the Evangelisation Team.

The next pilgrimage, in honour of St Benet Biscop and St Bede, is on **Saturday 18 May**. It begins with Mass at **10am at St Bede's, Jarrow** followed by a **Prayer Walk to St Paul's** and optional visit to **Bede's World**.

... Holy Island ...



At the time of writing, we are still awaiting information about ticketing for the pilgrimage in honour of **St Aidan to Holy Island** on **Saturday 13 July**.

Reflection material has been prepared for those hoping to

go along—or who would simply like to pray in solidarity with them. The sessions can be used by groups as a way of getting to know their fellow-pilgrims.

They should be on the pilgrimage website: www.holyislandpilgrimage2013 ready to start by Pentecost Sunday.

They are also available directly from Kathryn Turner (contact details on front page)

... and Durham

At this stage, more of a date for the diary—but one not to be missed! **Sunday 22 September** is the date set for the final pilgrimage in the series. This is in honour of one of the patrons of the diocese, St Cuthbert, and St Bede

and will culminate in Evensong with Bishop Seamus in **Durham Cathedral**. More information closer to the time but make a note of the date and consider booking a slot to see the Lindisfarne Gospels that day too!

Upcoming Events

Saturday 11 May

In the Footsteps of the Northern Saints

Minsteracres Retreat Centre

A day exploring the heritage of some of the holy people of the north who kindled lights that continue to burn today.

For more information, contact Kathryn Turner or Minsteracres.

Near Restful Waters

Days for Carers

During Carers' Week, there will be three days around the diocese for Carers to come together for a time of rest and reflection.

Wednesday 12 June

St Joseph's Norton

(£15 to include lunch)

Thursday 13 June

Minsteracres

(£30 to include three course meal)

Saturday 15 June

Holy Name, Jesmond

(£15 to include 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

Contact details for information about events at local retreat centres:

Minsteracres

info@minsteracres.org

01434 673 248

Centre for Prayer & Mission, Seaham

marymichael.lee7@googlemail.com

0191 581 3249

St Antony's Priory, Durham

bookings@stantonypriory.co.uk

0191 384 3747

Rehallowing the Land

As part of the Year of Faith activities, the Diocesan Evangelisation Team and the Department for Spirituality are visiting each of the deaneries. The evenings include a presentation about the legacy of the Saints of the North-east and an opportunity to learn about how to pray with icons of some of the saints.

This month's dates and venues are:

1 May – St John Boste, Washington

8 May—St Joseph's, Hartlepool

15 May—St Joseph's, Stanley

22 May—St Joseph's, Murton

All 7pm start