



YEAR OF FAITH 2012

THE WEAVINGS

Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Department for Spirituality

October 2013

The Catechism on Prayer

In the section, At the Wellsprings of Prayer, the Catechism looks at different wells 'where Christ awaits us to enable us to drink of the Holy Spirit.'

The Word of God

The Church "forcefully and specially exhorts all the Christian faithful . . . to learn 'the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ' by frequent reading of the divine Scriptures.... Let them remember, however, that prayer should accompany the reading of Sacred Scripture, so that a dialogue takes place between God and man. For 'we speak to him when we pray; we listen to him when we read the divine oracles.'"(paragraph 2653)

It is interesting to note the use of the word "forcefully" when the Catechism speaks of how we are exhorted to read the scriptures and to pray with them.

How often do you pray with the Word of God? And, if the answer is "not much", how could you change that?

The Liturgy of the Church

In the sacramental liturgy of the Church, the mission of Christ and of the Holy Spirit proclaims, makes present, and communicates the mystery of salvation, which is continued in the heart that prays. The spiritual writers sometimes compare the heart to an altar. Prayer internalises and assimilates the liturgy during and after its celebration. Even when it is lived out "in secret," prayer is always prayer of the Church; it is a communion with the Holy Trinity.(2655)

You might find it helpful to reread this paragraph through a couple of times! Basically, it links the prayers of our heart with the prayer of the liturgy of the Church.

How does the Mass feed your personal prayer? And how do you bring your personal prayer to the sacramental liturgy?

The Theological Virtues

The theological virtues of faith, hope and love are nourished by prayer—here is the paragraph about hope:

The Holy Spirit, who instructs us to celebrate the liturgy in expectation of Christ's return, teaches us to pray in hope. Conversely, the prayer of the Church and personal prayer nourish hope in us. The psalms especially, with their concrete and varied language, teach us to fix our hope in God:

"I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry."

As St Paul prayed: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy

Spirit you may abound in hope."(2657)

Hope is fed by resting on the prayer of those who have gone before—who have lived through their own difficult times and found that they have not been abandoned.

When have you found your hope sustained by prayer?

"Today"

We learn to pray at certain moments by hearing the Word of the Lord and sharing in his Paschal mystery, but his Spirit is offered us at all times, in the events of each day, to make prayer spring up from us. Jesus' teaching about praying to our Father is in the same vein as his teaching about providence: time is in the Father's hands; it is in the present that we encounter him, not yesterday nor tomorrow, but today.

Prayer in the events of each day and each moment is one of the secrets of the kingdom revealed to "little children," to the servants of Christ, to the poor of the Beatitudes. It is right and good to pray so that the coming of the kingdom of justice and peace may influence the march of history, but it is just as important to bring the help of prayer into humble, everyday situations; all forms of prayer can be the leaven to which the Lord compares the kingdom. ((2659,2660)

Ordinary, everyday prayer is seen as just as important as praying for the great events in the life of the world.

How can you ensure that prayer percolates the whole of your life and not just "special" moments?

More from the Catechism on Prayer can be found from: www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM



Diocesan Festival 2014

Following the great success of this year's Festival, the second Diocesan Festival will take place over the weekend of 21-22 June 2014. It will again be at Youth Village.

More details to come—but please make a note in your diary now!

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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Coming up

Holy Island

26 October

Spirituality for Busy People

St Aidan's Church

11am-3pm

The first of a series of Days of Reflection.

For more information, see diocesan website or contact Spirituality Dept, details overleaf.

Centre for Prayer and Mission

1 Antrim Gardens, Seaham

1st October

Weakness of Faith:

Jonah the Prophet

22 October

Ordinary woman-extraordinary faith

St Gianna, canonised 2004,

29 October

The Cost of Faith: two modern martyrs— Maximilian Kolbe and Oscar Romero

For more information,

contact Sister Michael

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Minsteracres

11-13 October

The Growing Edge

Weekend with Margaret Silf

As part of the Year of Faith theme

"On the Margins"

Contact: 01434 673248

info@minsteracres.org

Mini-Pilgrimages: Durham



It was a wonderfully fitting celebration that marked the last of the mini-pilgrimages around the Diocese, held to mark the Year of Faith. Around 1500 people came to Durham Cathedral for a service that beautifully combined Evensong with a service of light and enthroning of the icons of the Northern Saints. The latter were processed into the Cathedral behind St Cuthbert's Banner—based on an original which, it is believed, included the *corporax cloth* used by Cuthbert himself to cover the chalice. This original was, sadly, destroyed in the Reformation.

Prayers were said at Bede's shrine and, at the end of the service, the whole congregation was invited to move to the Chapel of the Nine Altars to join diocesan and Anglican clergy in prayers around St Cuthbert's tomb.

Sr Michael, who worked so hard to bring the vision of the pilgrimages—and this one in particular—to fruition, concludes, "Goodness and holiness attract and will prevail. Two saints – Cuthbert in seventh Century and Bede in eighth Century - are still relevant to us today and their memory remains fresh. If stones could smile, I'm sure this massive church of God looked on in wonder to see Christians bound together in love, worship and thanksgiving – living stones, grounded in Christ, in his Gospel and in his Saints."

PRAYER Station of the Month...

October is the month of the Rosary and, as part of the Year of Faith celebrations, there is to be a Marian Day—which actually covers the weekend of 12-13 October. It is entitled: "Blessed are you because you believed." As part of the weekend, Pope Francis will welcome the original statue of Our Lady of Fatima and there will be prayers "With Mary during the night" during which the Rosary will be prayed with people at Marian shrines around the world.

This month, you might like to encourage people to pray the Rosary with a prayer station in your church or school.

You could create a focal point with a

Blessed are you because you believed

Over the weekend of 12-13 October, Pope Francis will be leading a Prayer Vigil in honour of Mary as part of the Year of Faith celebrations.

During the Vigil, the Rosary will be prayed around the world.



Pray a decade (or more) of the Rosary.

Hold in your prayer:

- people who do not believe -
- people who cannot believe -
- people who cannot express their belief -
- people who are seeking something— or someone—to believe in -

statue of Mary or a large rosary—flowers and an electronic candle (so that you do not need to worry about ensuring it is blown out!)

Have simple leaflets available for people who may not be very confident about praying the Rosary to take away. These are available at reasonable cost and could be seen as a gift from the community. You might also have a few sets of beads available for people to buy or to borrow. You might invite people to borrow the beads— use them for prayer—and then to pray for the next person who will use them before returning them to the Station.