

## Approaching Pentecost

Pentecost is sometimes referred to as the "Birthday of the Church". It is the day when the Holy Spirit was poured out on a group of confused and anxious people and gave them what they needed to begin the mission Jesus had placed before them.



We know that those early disciples were not the "best of the bunch"! Their time with Jesus on his mission through Galilee to Jerusalem was marked but misunderstandings—thoughts that being a disciple was a short-cut to greatness and power—and, at the end, fear and desertion. Even after meeting Jesus in his risen life, they were not much better. They were, understandably, afraid of him—but were at the receiving end of a lot of kindness and forgiveness on the part of Jesus. This did not stop them heading back to their fishing nets and day-to-day business. At the Ascension, Jesus commissioned them to go and share the good news he had taught them. They returned to Jerusalem and, at last, spent time together in prayer—preparing themselves for whatever the Coming of the Holy Spirit might mean for them. This time of prayer helped them to be open to the gifts the Spirit would give them. The presence of Mary would have reassured them that they were not going mad but that the Spirit was alive and powerful and capable of doing more with and through them than they could ever have imagined.

Pentecost 2015 marks the beginning of the next phase of Forward Together in Hope, Exploring the Way.

As part of the prayer that Bishop Séamus has asked us to ensure underpins the process, various resources will come out at the same time as the new pack.

One thing that will come out before the pack is a Pentecost Novena. This encourages us to follow the example of the early disciples—to pray with an expectation and hope that the Spirit will be renewed among us and the gifts we need to determine God's will for our diocese and to take it forward will be given. It has a simple structure and takes us from Ascension (Thursday if possible) through to Pentecost. It is based on the Gospel for each day with a thought for reflection and then an action point inspired by a short extract from Pope Francis' writing. We have attached it to this e-

mail—feel free to send it on to anyone else you think might be interested. It will also be available through the diocesan website or can be obtained in advance from the Department.

Other materials will be going out to parish clergy and contact people. More information about these next time but they will be available on the diocesan website from Pentecost. 

## Pentecost Retreat

If you are looking for a deeper experience of Pentecost, you might like to join Ann Liddell and the Minsteracres Team for a weekend of praise and worship, silence and reflection, teaching and testimony, healing and reconciliation, to celebrate the way in which we have been called to live in the Spirit of Christ and to renew our response to our baptismal call.



Ann is a music and worship leader with interest in praise and intercession.

More information from Minsteracres (details overleaf).



**DIOCESAN FESTIVAL**  
INSPIRE 15

**Saturday 20—Sunday 21 June**  
**Venue: Emmaus Youth Village**

Bookings are coming in for the Diocesan Festival next month. The event is a great way to come and meet other people from around the diocese as well as to hear inspirational speakers and to share ideas.

There is plenty of opportunity to relax and to socialise with the ever-popular ceilidh on the Saturday evening.

Accommodation in the chalets is still available—but please book soon to assure yourself of a room!

More information from the diocesan website or from [festival@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:festival@diocesehn.org.uk) or telephone: 0191 243 3313

### Contact Details

**Head of the Department for Spirituality: Kathryn Turner**  
**Administration Officer: Karen Brown**  
St Vincent's Offices, St Cuthbert's House, West Road,  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne. NE15 7PY  
**0191 243 3302**  
**E-mail: [spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk)**

 [www.facebook.com/spiritualityHN](http://www.facebook.com/spiritualityHN)  [@spiritualityhn](https://twitter.com/spiritualityhn)

## Spirituality Network Meeting

The Diocesan Spirituality Network met last month and enjoyed a session packed with ideas and good conversation.

Tony Sacco joined the meeting to talk about *Forward Together in Hope* and the session continued with a preview of some of the prayer and spirituality materials that will be going out support the next phase, *Exploring the Way*, which will be launched at Pentecost. These include ideas for parish meetings and personal reflection. One idea that particularly caught people's imagination was a 24-hour Prayer. This is exactly what it says – 24 hours with a different kind of prayer for each of the hours. This idea has already been taken up by St Aidan's parish in Ashington—their 24 Hour prayer will take place 12-13 June. (More details from the parish or the Department).

Deacon John Hawthorne talked about the idea he is working on with Deacon Neil Munro in developing men's spirituality groups. A series of meetings starts this month—details alongside.

Sr Sheila McNamara spoke about a course which offers a form of "school of prayer". At their January meeting, the Diocesan Directors proposed schools of

prayer as something to promote and "Come to the Well and Drink" seemed to fit the bill. It has been run in several parishes and has been very well-received. Sr Sheila, Chris Smith and the team from St Antony's are more than happy to offer this to other places. Alongside this, Sr Sheila and Kathryn are offering a training day on Saturday 4 July for people who might be interested in coming along to learn more about the course and work with it locally. This day is being subsidised by the Department for Spirituality and participants will receive the training and course folder (and lunch!) free. However, there will be an expectation that they will, in return, use their training – in a group in their parish or, possibly, as they gain confidence, in other parishes in their deanery.

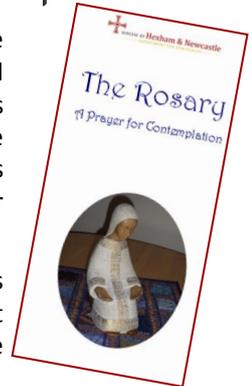
Sr Michael updated the group on Evangelisation matters and Fr Jeroen Hoogland on events coming up at Minsteracres.

The next meeting will be in October and will look at the Advent resources. There are "gaps" in deanery representation – if you think you would like to join the Network and help its work, please contact the Department.

## Rosary Leaflet

Last year, the Department produced a leaflet which offers an introduction to the Rosary and its possibilities for contemplative prayer.

If you would like copies of the leaflet please get in touch using the details overleaf.

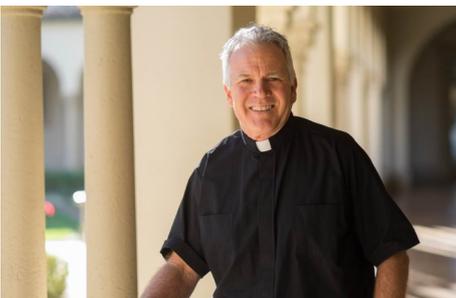


### From Wild Man to Wise Man Exploring male spirituality

St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre  
10.00am - 12.00pm:  
Wednesdays 6 & 20 May, 3 & 17 June,  
1 & 15 July,  
7.30pm - 9.30pm:  
Wednesday 13 & 27 May, 10 & 24 June,  
8 & 22 July.

Also  
**A Man's Path to God**  
Saturday 6 June  
(10.30-4pm—refreshments from 10am)  
St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre  
A day with Fr Jim Clarke  
*More information and contact details via  
the Department.*

## Fr Jim Clarke



Fr James (Jim) Clarke currently serves as director of spiritual formation at St John's Seminary in California and chair of the spirituality commission of the archdiocese of Los Angeles.

He visited the diocese last year and touched many people with his wisdom and insights.

His schedule is now complete and he will be working with the new men's spirituality groups, school and hospital chaplains, teachers and diocesan staff. If you do not come under any of those categories, you can meet and hear Fr Jim at the Diocesan Festival.

Further information about Fr Jim's visit can be obtained by contacting the Department.

## Holy Island

Saturday 23 May, 11.00am—3.00pm  
(Causeway Open 10:10—17:40)

**The love of God:  
a day of meditation with the help of  
Julian of Norwich**

Led by Professor Karen Kilby  
*More information (including times of  
connecting buses in Berwick upon  
Tweed) from the Department*

## St Antony's Priory, Durham

Saturday 9 May, 10.00am-12.30pm  
**'Together in Meditation'**

2 separate hours of meditation in the  
Christian Tradition.

*More information from  
Tel: 0191 384 3747  
Email: info@stantonyspriory.co.uk*



## Minsteracres

15-17 May  
Parish Retreat

Take part as one of a group, or come  
along by yourself and join in with others.  
Also 29-31 May.

22-24 May  
Pentecost renewal with Ann Liddell  
More information overleaf

3 June (10:00 am - 4:00 pm)  
Quiet Day

An opportunity to step aside, listen to  
God in scripture and enjoy the peace and  
tranquillity of the countryside.

12-14 June  
You are my beloved: come walk with me  
Led by Fr Jim Clarke

By baptism we are consecrated to the  
Lord. How do we recognise the many  
ways in which God speaks to us and loves  
us into wholeness?

How then do we share that love?

*More information from  
01434 673 248*

*info@minsteracres.org  
www.minsteracres.org*