

Hope on the Horizon Advent Resources



We are coming to the end of a Jubilee Year of Mercy and many people feel grateful for the ways in which they have encountered God's mercy in a whole range of ways. As we look back, though, we are aware that many others have suffered greatly over the past year – and continue to do so.

It is a perennial problem for people of faith. We try so hard to help people to come to know the God of mercy and compassion – but constantly see around us hunger, conflict and violence. How do we make any sense of this?

This Advent we will again hear from the prophet Isaiah. He lived at a time not unlike our own with war and bloodshed and exile. He knew that God felt the pain of his people – and heard the cries of those suffering oppression and poverty. Isaiah also knew that, unworthy though he was, his job was to help to raise people's heads and hearts up – to encourage them to look towards a horizon of hope.

This is actually our task too.

We are called to be in solidarity with those who are downcast and brought low by the trials of life. We are charged with helping to raise their sights to the horizon of hope.

This is what Advent does. It allows us to look back to those who looked ahead to the horizon of the coming of the Messiah – to reflect on the horizons of our own day – and to look even beyond those to the horizon over which Christ will come to establish his kingdom of wisdom, justice, peace and truth.

Over 200 Advent packs have already found their way into people's hands but if you would like to have one to use in your parish, school or prayer group, please get in touch.

All the resources are online and it is easy to download just the bits you want.

There are ideas for a meeting or prayer service with detailed guidance for leaders and an outline sheet for participants.

As well as this there are Prayer Stations; booklets of the daily reflections that will go out each evening but which can be printed to hand out to interested parishioners each week and reflections for the week leading up to Christmas itself.

Some parishes may be interested in the "Blue Christmas" services which are geared to people who, for all sorts of reason, are dreading the "festive season". The service gives them an opportunity to acknowledge their pain but also to find strength and courage from the prayer to face Christmas and, hopefully, to be blessed by it.

Take a look at the diocesan website: www.rcdhn.org.uk—the link to the Advent resources is on the home-page or contact us using the details below. ♀

Mass for the Close of the Year of Mercy



A Mass to mark the end of the Year of Mercy and the graces so many people have received will be celebrated on

**Saturday 19 November at 12 noon
in St Mary's Cathedral.**

The Mass will also honour the work of the Sisters of Mercy in the Diocese and beyond.

The Holy Door will be closed and we will look ahead to how the mercy received becomes the mercy we in turn share.

Learn more about Spirituality

Interested in learning more about Catholic Spirituality?.

Did you know that it is possible to come along to the Spirituality Module of the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies just for personal interest? You share the content and join in the prayer and discussions but you don't need to do the essays!

A lot is packed in but people seem to enjoy learning more about our rich heritage of prayer and spirituality.

If you are interested the course dates are:

Saturdays 21 and 28 January—9.30am -3.00pm

Tuesdays 14 and 28 February—9.30am -3.00pm

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact

Eamonn Diffley on 0191 243 3313 or
eamonn.diffley@diocesehn.org.uk

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 or 0753 0917 219

E-mail: spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk



www.facebook.com/spiritualityHN



[@spiritualityhn](https://twitter.com/spiritualityhn)

Upcoming Events in the Diocese and Local Centres

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

Voices of Mercy

Bury the Dead

Wednesday 16 November
7.00pm
(Refreshments from 6.30pm)

Listen to the voices of those who offer dignity to those who have died, and comfort to those who mourn.



St. Bede
Catholic Row
Bedlington
NE22 6HS

FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
Department for Spirituality,
Telephone 0191 243 3302 | email spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

Voices of Mercy

Bury the Dead

Wednesday 7 December 2016
7.00pm
(Refreshments from 6.30pm)

Listen to the voices of those who offer dignity to those who have died, and comfort to those who mourn.



St. Anne's Parish Centre
Hylton Road
Pennywell
Sunderland SR4 9AA

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Department for Spirituality,
Telephone 0191 243 3302 | email spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle
DEPARTMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY

HOPE ON THE HORIZON



AN ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION

a place to pray, and space to be ...

SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER 2016
(10.00am — 4.00pm)

Sacred Heart and St. Cuthbert
37 High Street
Amble, NE65 0LE

FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
DEPARTMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY
TELEPHONE 0191 243 3302 | email spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk

Minsteracres

19 November
Walking Retreat

23 November
Quiet Day

Led by Rosarie Spence

25-27 November
Advent: 'The season of the seed.'
Led by Anne McCarthy RSCJ
More information from Minsteracres
01434 673 248
or info@minsteracres.org



Centre for Prayer and Mission,

Tuesday evenings at 7.00pm
Advent Light:
an in-depth Scriptural approach to the beautiful season of Advent



Nov 1: Anticipation
Nov 8: No meeting
Nov 15: Preparation
Nov 22: Promise
Nov 29: Presence
Dec 6: Fulfilment
Dec 13: Advent Taize:
prayer, music and reflection

More information from Sr Michael
marymichael.lee7@googlemail.com
(0191) 581 3249

Date for your Diary

Following the very successful Interfaith gathering reflecting on the Mercy of God, another event is being planned. It is some time away but please get the date in your diary!
Interfaith Peace Pilgrimage to Flodden Field and Crookham Peace Centre
21 October 2107

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle
DEPARTMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY

HOPE ON THE HORIZON



SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER
10.00am — 12.30pm
1.30pm — 3.30pm

Take a short time out from your shopping, to rest, relax, and reflect with the One whose birth we celebrate

St Andrew's
Worswick Street
Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 6UW

FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
DEPARTMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY
TELEPHONE 0191 243 3302 | email spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk

St Antony's Priory

Saturday 12 November 10.00am - 3.30pm
Be still and Know

Exploring different paths into stillness.

Saturday 3 December, 10.00am - 4.00pm
Advent Waiting

Led by Rev Di Johnson

Sunday 4 December, 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Winter/Advent Sing

Saturday 10 December, 10.00am - 11.00am, 11.30am - 12.30pm
Together in Meditation

Two separate hours of silent meditation rooted in the Christian tradition.

More information from St Antony's Priory
info@stantonypriory.co.uk,
0191 384 3747

