The Weavings

Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Department for Spirituality **September 2018**

World Meeting of Families

In late August, thousands of people gathered with Pope Francis to share the joys and challenges of family life. In his closing homily, Pope Francis picked up on the words from the Gospel of the Day:
"You have the words of eternal life!" (Jn 6:68)

Here are some extracts with thoughts for you to consider in relation to your own family—whatever its shape or size.

Jesus said, "The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (Jn 6:63). These words, with their promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit, are teeming with life for us who accept them in faith. They point to the ultimate source of all the good that we have experienced and celebrated here in these past few days: the Spirit of God, who constantly breathes new life into our world, into our hearts, into our families, into our homes and parishes. Each new day in the life of our families, and each new generation, brings the promise of a new Pentecost, a domestic Pentecost, a fresh outpouring of the Spirit, the Paraclete, whom Jesus sends as our Advocate, our Consoler and indeed our Encourager.

+ How does each new day bring blessings and new life to me—to us?

But let us also humbly acknowledge that, if we are honest with ourselves, we too can find the teachings of Jesus hard. How difficult it is always to forgive those who hurt us; how challenging always to welcome the migrant and the stranger; how painful joyfully to bear disappointment, rejection, betrayal; how inconvenient to protect the rights of the most vulnerable, the unborn or the elderly, who seem to impinge upon our own sense of freedom.

+ What teachings do we find hard? And how does my family—of whatever shape or size—help?

The Church as a whole is called to "go forth" to bring the words of eternal life to all the peripheries of our world. May our celebration today confirm each of you, parents and grandparents, children and young people, men and women, religious brothers and sisters, contemplatives and missionaries, deacons, priests and bishops, to share the joy of the Gospel! Share the Gospel of the family as joy for the world!

+ How can ordinary people like us share the joy of the Gospel of the Family with the people around us?

Advent Resources

Our Advent resources are close to being finalised and will be available at the Discipleship Conference on Saturday 15 September—and online soon after that.

Our theme this year picks up on Pope Francis' recent encyclical *Gaudete et Exsultate* which means 'Rejoice and Be Glad'. As the Pope says,

> *The prophets proclaimed the times of Jesus, in which we now live, as a revelation of joy. "Shout and sing for joy!" (Is 12:6). "Get you up to a high mountain, O herald of good tidings to Zion; lift up your voice with strength, O herald of good tidings to Jerusalem!" (Is 40:9). "Break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and he will have compassion on his afflicted" (Is 49:13). "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he" (Zech 9:9). Nor should we forget Nehemiah's exhortation: "Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!" (8:10).*

Advent is the Season during which we can tune back into these messages of hope and promises of joy for a world that often seems dark and hope-less.

For more information, please get in touch using the contact details below.

Risen Christ,
from your abundant grace,
pour out afresh your Holy Spirit upon our Diocese.

As we build on the deep foundations of faith
laid by the countless saints of these Northern lands,
by Aidan and Cuthbert, Hilda and Bede
may we form Partnerships which continue the mission
of building your Kingdom on the earth:
to give living witness to your love,
and to your compassion and hope for our world.

We pray in trustful confidence
that your power working in us
can do more than we can ask or imagine.
Through the same Christ our Lord,
Amen

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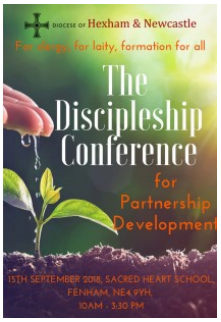
Upcoming Events in the Diocese and Local Centres

Saturday 15 September
10am-3.30pm
Sacred Heart School, Newcastle



An important part of Partnership Development is prayer and spirituality. The day will include two workshops looking at these at the Discipleship Conference.

In the morning, we have
Spirituality: Ensuring prayer is at the centre
and in the afternoon a session on
The Art of Accompaniment.

The day is free and includes lunch!

To book, please visit
partnershipconference2018.eventbrite.co.uk
or contact our colleague,
Amy McDonagh on 0191 243 3316
or adult.formation@diocesehn.org.uk

Centre for Prayer and Mission

Ongoing Formation
Tuesday 7pm—9pm
Following Jesus then and now as a disciple. We will continue with this programme which we interrupted to discuss Pope Francis' exhortation Gaudete et Exultate—Rejoice and be Glad.

18 Sept. Mary Mother of the Church
25 Sept. Mary the Model Disciple
2 Oct. No meeting
9 Oct. Disciples of our times: Oscar Romero
16 Oct. Thomas Merton
23 Oct Henri Nouwen

The clocks go back on 28 October so from 30 October we will meet at 1.30pm

Biblical Scripture
Monday 1.30pm—3.30pm
For those who wish to go deeper into understanding the Word of God. We follow a form of Lectio Divina - reading and understanding the Word of God, reflecting and discussing how it touches our lives, praying with words and without words.

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Thursday 13 September 1.30pm
We meet every second Thursday of the month to pray together and knit/crochet shawls for sick people, vests and hats for babies in Kenya, pullovers for street boys in Nairobi, hats for seamen, scares and mitts for the homeless.

Minsteracres

Sacred Journey Themed Retreat
Friday 7 September at 7pm and ends on Sunday 9 September at 2pm
A weekend of prayer, reflection and nourishment on our life's journey led by the Minsteracres team; for groups from parishes and partnerships. Individuals are also welcome to join in.

Day of Prayer
Wednesday 19 September
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Led by Rosarie Spence RSM, this day enables you to experience different ways of praying in a beautiful setting and gives you time for quiet personal prayer. Lunch, tea and coffee are provided.

The Way Of The Embodied Contemplative
Friday 28 Sept.—Sunday 30 September
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
This retreat will explore how the practice of meditation can also be encountered through the language of the body using breathing exercises, gentle stretching and slow Tai Chi movements to complement the seated meditation periods. Suitable for all ages and abilities. Please wear loose clothing.

Armistice Day Centenary 1918-2018

Here is a suggestion from Sr Michael at the Centre for Prayer and Mission:
As we approach the anniversary of the Armistice perhaps we could join in a Novena for peace in our world.
It was exactly 100 days after King George V called for 100 days of prayer for peace that the war ended quite unexpectedly.
I suggest we have 50 days of prayer for peace.
Beginning on Friday 22 September, there are 50 days to Sunday 11 November.
Could we say the adapted Jesus prayer 50 times a day (takes less than 10 mins) for 50 days?

Jesus Christ Son of the Living God,
have mercy on our world
and bring us peace.

You can use an ordinary Rosary for a guide
If 50 people said the Jesus Prayer 50 times a day for 50 days, we would have 125,000 prayers by Armistice Day!
And if each reader recruited 50 people from among your friends,family and parish to do the same imagine how many prayers that could be!