



YEAR OF FAITH 2012-2013

THE WEAVINGS

Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Department for Spirituality

November 2013

The Catechism on Prayer

The section on Prayer in the Catechism closes with an extended reflection on the "Our Father" - the Prayer that Jesus taught his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray. We close our series with just a few extracts from the Catechism—you may like to make time to look at the whole section and pray it through. Use the techniques of Lectio Divina where you read it slowly and see which words or phrases speak particularly to you and then ponder what they mean for you.

The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer is the most perfect of prayers.... In it we ask, not only for all the things we can rightly desire, but also in the sequence that they should be desired. This prayer not only teaches us to ask for things, but also in what order we should desire them" (2763)

This is actually a quotation from St Thomas Aquinas. Look through the Lord's Prayer and see if you can work out what he means about it covering all right desires in the right order.

Pray the Lord's Prayer slowly—taking each sentence or phrase one at a time. At the end, reflect on anything that might seem to be "missing". Where might you place other needs and concerns into the Prayer?

A Gift to the Children of God

In Baptism and Confirmation, the handing on of the Lord's Prayer signifies new birth into the divine life. Since Christian prayer is our speaking to God with the very word of God, those who are "born anew" . . . through the living and abiding word of God" learn to invoke their Father by the one Word (Christ) he always hears. They can do so, for the seal of the Holy Spirit's anointing is indelibly placed on their hearts, ears, lips, indeed their whole being. (2769)

The giving of the Lord's Prayer to people preparing to be received into the Church is not always made much of—and almost never happens with the Baptism of babies or at Confirmations. Yet it is the prayer that marks their new status as adopted sons and daughters of God who can now address the God who created the universe as their Father.

How aware of you of your great privilege in praying to God as your loving Father? And what difference does it make to how you pray?

The Lord's Prayer in the Eucharist

In the Eucharistic liturgy the Lord's Prayer appears as the prayer of the whole Church and there reveals its full

meaning and efficacy. Placed between the anaphora (the Eucharistic prayer) and the communion, the Lord's Prayer sums up on the one hand all the petitions and intercessions expressed in the movement of the epiclesis and, on the other, knocks at the door of the Banquet of the kingdom which sacramental communion anticipates. (2770)

The placing of the Lord's Prayer in the Mass gives the whole assembly the opportunity to stand and, in a way, summarise the Eucharistic Prayer and to become united as children of that one God in readiness to receive Communion.

How can you be more aware of the power of the Lord's Prayer when you are at Mass?

The Prayer of Heaven

The final doxology, "For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever," takes up again, by inclusion, the first three petitions to our Father: the glorification of his name, the coming of his reign, and the power of his saving will. But these prayers are now proclaimed as adoration and thanksgiving, as in the liturgy of heaven (2855)

This paragraph reminds us that, although our prayer may feel earth-bound, it is always linked with the prayer and liturgy that is happening in heaven.

How can you develop a sense of joining your prayer with that of the saints and angels in heaven? And what difference might it make for you to be more aware of that?

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
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

A Funeral in the Parish

November is the month when we are particularly conscious of remembering those who have died— but, of course, deaths and funerals are a regular occurrence in our parishes.

Here, Fr Dennis Tindall, parish priest of St Mary's Bishop Auckland, shares some of the ideas that work well in his parish.

Sometimes simple ideas take off and become a great help.

Announcing to a weekend congregation the name of someone who has died leaves some folks exchanging looks. "Who's she?" - you can see it in their faces. So that began the practice of borrowing a photo of the deceased from their family and making a visit to the local printer - or today, to a well-equipped print room of the local school - and an A4 enlargement of the person placed on the church notice board usually helps recognition. With a note underneath "Please pray for..... (aged....) May she rest in peace", the picture can remain there for a few weeks and be referred to in prayers for those who have died recently.

Should the family wish it, and many do, an A3 enlargement from a sharp original picture of their loved one is mounted on

card and placed on an easel in front of the family benches for the funeral. The feedback indicates it helps. After the funeral the big picture is given to the family and sometimes we see it again, framed on a living room wall.

Home visits to support the family and gather information to help make the funeral personal require a standard array of pastoral listening skills. If necessary, making the kind of prompts that encourage memories not only brings up

factual and anecdotal material but helps individuals process important emotional content too. It's sacred stuff.

Personal preferences will vary, but I don't take notes during these visits. All attention needs to be given to the family, to their needs, their conversation, questions and non-verbal signals. But a dictaphone kept in the car is invaluable immediately following the visit for recording a plethora of facts, feelings, images and memories and by the time I

get home a fair volume of material is registered - to be later quarried and shaped to suit appropriate input for the funeral liturgy.

People give so much at these times. To attend to what's going on and yet not to lose the freshness of it is not easy. The Lord is in it all. However we do it, it's a requirement. 



Prayer Station of the Month...

November is the month of the year when people all around the world remember those who have died in conflicts and it has long been a tradition of the Church to set this month aside to remember those who have gone before.

This month's Prayer Station is a simple invitation to cut out a card hand and then to write the name of a loved one on it. Outlines of hands can be found on the internet.

This does not happen in isolation, though. The person is then invited to recall words from the prophet Isaiah: Can a mother

Can a woman forget her baby—
or show no compassion to the child within her womb?
Yet even if they forget, I will never forget you—
see I have written your name on the palm of my hand.
Isaiah 49: 15-16



Cut out a hand.

Write the name of someone who has died on it.

As you cut out and write,
consider the fact that God knew this person
before they came into existence—
God called them—though love—to life.

Whatever happened throughout their life—
as they make their way into the next—
their name is written on the palm of God's hand.

Hold the hand in your own and say the words of Isaiah—
adding the person's name.

Either keep the hand, or place it in the basket for the
community to remember and pray with you.

forget her baby—or show no compassion for the child within her womb. Yet even if they forget, I will never forget you—see, I have written your name on the palm of my hand. It reminds us that, just as we remember our loved ones, so too does God with a love that is eternal.

You can give people the option of taking the hand home to put in a prayer space or in a bag or purse or to place it in a basket which can be placed in a Lady Chapel or near the Paschal Candle.



Upcoming Prayer and Spirituality Events

There is a veritable feast of prayer and spirituality events at local spirituality and retreat centres during November and early December! Take a look and see if there is something that takes your eye—and try to go along and feed your soul!

St Aidan's Church, Holy Island

Saturday 7 December

I have a dream...

Using some of the words of the Advent prophets—and more recent ones to look at hope for our own lives and for the world.

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

Centre for Prayer and Mission

1 Antrim Gardens, Seaham

Sat 2 November 10am-4pm

Calligraphy Day

Marian Bradley

Tuesday 12 Nov, 7pm

Crisis of Faith: danger or opportunity?

Tuesday 19 Nov, 7pm

Strength of faith -John Paul II. Film night

Tuesday 3 December

Mary, Woman of Faith

Sat 7 Dec, 10am-4pm

Craft Day with Maureen Doyle

For more information,

contact Sister Michael

(0191) 5813249

marymichael.lee7@googlemail.com

Minsteracres

Thursday 7 November, 7.30pm

'Beautiful Music in Beautiful Places' Tour

Howden Jones,

Friday 8 – Sunday 10 November

Weekend retreat for families and friends

of substance misusers

Minsteracres team

Friday 15 – Sunday 17 November

You are the apple of my eye

Pat Kennedy

Saturday 16 November, 10am - 5pm

Walking retreat Minsteracres team

Friday 22 – Sunday 24 November

Men of faith for the 21st century

Chris Thomas

Wednesday 27 November, 10am - 4pm

Quiet day

Rosarie Spence RSM

Friday 29 Nov – Sunday 1 Dec

All is made new - Advent renewal retreat

Pat Kennedy

Contact/ bookings: Pat Kennedy 0191

2841690 or

pat.kennedy@diocesehn.org.uk

For information about Minsteracres

events, contact: 01434 673 248

or info@minsteracres.org

St Antony's Priory,

Durham

2 November

**'Solas – touching divine Light through
Brigit, Julian and Hildegard'**

(Deborah Thorne, Denise Treissman and
Julie Darling)

3 November, 2pm - 4pm

'Sunday Sing'

Sr Sheila McNamara

8-10 November

'Person-Centred art therapy training'

9 November

'Together in meditation'

16 November

'A word announced in silence'

Tom McGuinness SJ

23 November

'Sounding the body, Moving the Soul'

Philip Roderick

29 November, 7pm - 8pm

'Taize Service'

5-8 December

Rejoice, Rejoice, Immanuel shall come to us!

Lynn Nausner

More information, 0191 384 3747 or

info@stantonypriory.co.uk

End of Year of Faith Mass

Saturday 23 November, 11am

St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

Come along to a celebratory Mass to mark the official end to the Year of Faith.

If you completed all seven mini-pilgrimages during the Year, make sure that you contact Sr Michael as Bishop Seamus will be presenting awards to those who have during the Mass!

Evangelisation Support Day

Saturday 16 November 10 – 1pm

Centre for Prayer and Mission

1 Antrim Gardens, Seaham

...to encourage, to pray together and support those working in their homes, parishes and deaneries to pass on the faith and make it relevant to our times.

During the session, there will be Ideas for Christmas evangelising.

Contact Sr Michael for more information

(0191) 5813249

marymichael.lee7@googlemail.com

Change of Date!

The Theology and Practice of Prayer in Catholic Tradition Study day

planned for Saturday 30 November

will now take place on

Saturday 15 March 2014.

More information in the New Year.

