

Share in the Joy of the Annunciation



The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord: be it done unto me according to your word.


And the Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us.

On Sunday 29 March, England will be rededicated to Mary. This dedication has its origins back in 1381 when Richard II made England Mary's dowry. This 'dowry' is not a bride-price such as exists in some countries today but meant that England was 'set aside' as a gift for Our Lady, under her guidance and protection.

Several churches in the Diocese are planning events associated with the rededication—details will be available nearer the date.

Alongside the communal celebrations, there is the invitation to reflect on the Angelus—the prayer that is traditionally prayed at intervals during the day: 6am, 12 noon or 6pm. Many people will remember the Angelus bell which rang out to prompt people to pray. The Angelus has a very simple structure and is deeply scripturally-based. It reminds us of the turning-point in human history—the moment when the Creator of all that exists became human.

The suggestion from the Bishops of England is that we reflect on Mary's invitation and response—but also make it our own. The Latin word for 'let it be done' or 'be it done' is *fiat*. It is not as passive as it might sound—but is actually giving permission for something to be done or to happen.

Although we are not called to be part of such world-changing events, God does invites each of us to work with him on something that will make the world a better place. That is the invitation—but, like Mary, we have a choice. As we pray the Angelus, we can ask her for guidance and support as we work out what it is that God would have us do and, like Mary, trust that God will give us the wherewithal to carry it out. 

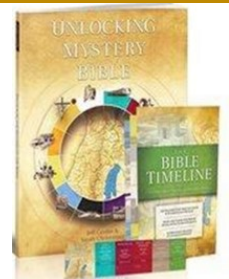
Lent Resources—Last Chance for 2020!



We have the last few Lent packs still available. The resources will be online for a while longer but if you would like a pack, please get in touch as soon as possible!

Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible

On Saturday 21 March, there will be a training day St John Vianney Church, Newcastle for representatives from Partnerships to learn more about this excellent resource — and then take back what they have learnt to their Partnerships. Check that your Partnership is represented!



Contact Details

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Upcoming Events in the Diocese and Local Centres

Minsteracres

Quiet Days of Reflection during Lent

10:00 am - 4:00 pm (lunch provided)

11 March— Sr Anne McCarthy RSCJ

18 March—Sr Sheila McNamara RSCJ

25 March—Patrick Woodhouse

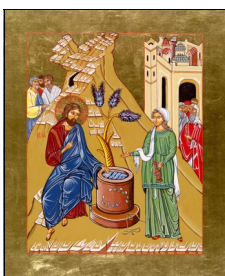
1 April—Kathryn Turner

A day to reflect on the extent of the climate crisis and how, as people of faith, we might shape our response to it.

13-15 March—Touching the Water

A unique opportunity to spend the weekend with the Retreats Association Icon of the Woman at the Well—whose Gospel we will hear this weekend in Lent.

Magdalen Lawler SND
and Tom McGuinness SJ



9-12 April—Holy Week Retreat

Join the Community for the Passover meal and Easter Triduum as we accompany Jesus on the way of the cross and on to his resurrection.

17-19 April

Horror and humour in the Bible

To the casual reader, humour in the Bible can be totally lost, mostly because we have a habit, when reading privately, of hearing the dullest lector or priest reading the verses in a monotone. But the humour is there, in the Old Testament and in the New for those who have ears to hear.



Horror – as bloodshed, lightning bolts, the cursing of enemies – is more commonly known, and we may well wonder what it's doing there if God is a God of love. By taking a cool look at these awkward texts, we can find in them resources for faith rather than for doubt. In this retreat, John Bell of the Iona Community will help us to deal boldly with both.

For further information or to book please contact
Minsteracres Retreat Centre
01434 673248 | info@minsteracres.org

Oak Lea Centre

Every Monday—Letters of St Paul

Every Tuesday— Retreat with St Matthew's Gospel



13 April - 31 May

Icon Exhibition

Ushaw College

The Life of Christ

as depicted in the Rosary
An exhibition of the work of those who have attended icon workshops in Seaham and now in Sunderland

Using the Rosary—
a perfect Scriptural Prayer—
to mark the re-dedication of
England to Mary
and the Year of the Word.

For further information or to book please contact
Sr Michael on 0191 567 4653 or
marymichael.lee7@googlemail.com

Ushaw College

Wednesday 25 March—A Lenten Reflection at Ushaw
led by Sister Rosarie Spence RSM.

For further information or to book please contact
Ushaw College
0191 334 5119 | meet@ushaw.org

Dates for the Diary— 8-10 May 2020

As part of its national tour, the **Word on the Road** is coming to Ushaw College .

Interactive exhibitions—talks— art tours—music—
a sky-dancing St Jerome and cuddly lions!

More details to follow—but book the date!



THE POPE'S
PRAYER
INTENTIONS

MARCH
2020



Pope's Worldwide
Prayer Network



Remain faithful to Christ, who remains faithful to you

CATHOLICS IN CHINA

We pray that the Church in China may persevere
in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity