

Youth Matters

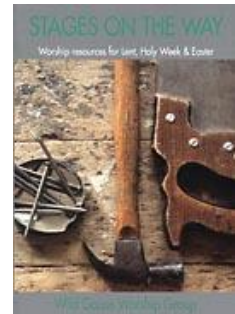
A Lenten Prayer:

*Living God, we confess our faults and admit our frailty;
We own our brokenness and recognise the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others and the life of our world.
By your abundant grace, forgive us,
Renew us in mind and in spirit and enable us to grow in love.
Move among us and give us life;
With the spirit of freedom sustain us
So that our worship may be joyful and our witness faithful:
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen*

A Prayer by Norman Shanks quoted in Lent and Easter Readings from Iona Wild Goose publications. This is a useful reflection book for the Lent season.

Other Lent resources:

- Stages on the Way. Worship resources for Lent, Holy Week and Easter: published by Wild Goose publications, £14.99. Both this book and the one above are available from: Wild Goose Publications, 4^h Floor, Savoy House, 140 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 3DH; Tel 0141 332 1090.
- www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/ Follow links to Spirit of the Season.q
- <http://www.nymo.org/standard.asp?id=444> This is the Northampton youth ministry site. It should take you to Lent resources and if you go to the main site, follow links to leaders, then resources and downloads, you may find other useful resources.
- <http://www.caseresources.org/resources/Lent.htm> CASE is the National Agency for Evangelisation. They will provide you with links to other sites.



You may also find the CAFOD and the Pax Christi sites helpful.

The Pastoral Guidelines “Called to be a People of Hope”

There are many issues in this document important to young people and those who work with them. Perhaps you might like to consider the topic of Vocations.

Vocation, is, of course, to be understood in the widest sense of the word. We are all called by God. As the document *In Verbo Tuoq* (New Vocations for a New Europe) says, **“there is a dream within the heart of God for each of us”**. One of our tasks is to help young people discover, reflect on, and respond to that dream. We do, however, also need to pay special attention to the need for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Seeds which we sow with young people may lead to a response later in life. There are a variety of resources on Vocations to help you work with young people including national resources available from <http://www.ukvocation.org/> This site includes prayer resources



and suggestions for discussions and activities for a variety of age groups. Closer to home Fr Robert King is our Vocations Director.

Fr Robert has prepared a series of approximately ten minute videos about Vocations on *you tubeq* These include interviews with various priests, seminarians and lay people with specific vocations. There are a number of clips on *you tubeq*at present and more to follow. We also have other diocesan resources

including, available from Easter, a PowerPoint presentation suitable for 6th form students or adults outlining the ideas expressed in *In Verbo Tuoq* This is an inspiring document and if you haven^t yet read it, it is certainly worth doing so.

It can be downloaded from the Vatican website. If you go to www.cliftodiocese.com/vocations you will also find interviews with some seminarians about the choices they made and the reasons for those choices as well as posters, leaflets and information which you can use. Fr Robert can be contacted on robert.king@bristol.ac.uk



Fr James Finan (pictured) who was ordained a priest in 2006 is just one of the clergy who give an account of what inspired them to become a priest and the choices they made along the way.

thyspace retreat

Aged 20-35? Want to make space for God? Need time for reflection?

Following a successful summer retreat and events throughout the year, this group of 20-35 year-olds have invited back Fr. Stephen Wang (lecturer in Philosophy at Allen Hall Seminary in London) to lead another weekend retreat at the Marist Centre in Nympsfield, Glos. There will be space for: quiet time and

contemplation; prayer and catechism; Reconciliation and Mass, as well as a chance to interact with other young Catholics. We would like to invite any other Catholics in the age group to join us. The weekend will take place on 3rd - 5th July 2009. For further details or to book a place please contact Nicola Harris. Email: nharris@nailsea.n-somerset.sch.uk Telephone: 01275 342828.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Taizé

This pilgrimage will take place this year between Saturday, July 18th and Monday July 27th and is open to all young people between the ages of 17 and 30 years of age. The cost is £190 which includes transport, all food while in Taizé, accommodation and insurance. The pilgrimage will be led by Fr Kevin Hennessey. Travel is by coach from London and pilgrims will have to make their own way to and from London.

Taizé is a small village in the south of France and was founded by Brother Roger in the 1940s as a place to shelter refugees during World War II. The small community also welcomed children orphaned by the war.

Today the community is made up of over a hundred brothers from Catholic and Protestant

backgrounds. The Brothers come from over thirty different countries and seek to be an example of reconciliation between divided Christians and separated peoples.

Brother Roger seen with some young visitors to Taizé



Over the years young adults have been coming to spend time with the community in ever increasing numbers. Today, each summer, the community welcomes over 5000 young people a week. It is a place of hope and inspiration and has given many people an opportunity to discover more about themselves and their relationship with God. For many the highlight of the week is the opportunity to pray. Brother Roger himself died whilst at prayer on the 16th of August 2005 aged ninety. His successor Brother Alois, seen here with Brother Roger, carries on his work.

Bishop Declan is looking forward to meeting the pilgrims who will be going to Taizé and, at a special evening on Tuesday 23rd June, will be commissioning the pilgrims before their trip.

If you have young people that you think might be interested in joining the pilgrimage to Taizé then an information sheet and booking form is available from



ronnie.mitchinson@cliftdioocese.com or phone 0117 9025595. Places on the trip are limited and unfortunately we are not able to take anyone under the age of 16. For those who wish to go to Taizé, there will be an information evening on Thursday April 30th at 6.30pm at Alexander House in Bristol.



*The community
at prayer*



Just the odd one or two people!

Future Dreams, Present Realities: Called to be a People of Hope

On Saturday June 20th at St Augustine's School Trowbridge, there will be an opportunity for young people, representing every parish in the diocese, to gather together and share their views with Bishop Declan. Every parish is asked to send at least two young people between the ages of 16-25 to the event.

The day will begin at 11am with Morning Prayer, drinks available from 10.30am, followed by an opportunity to listen to Bishop Declan as he shares with the young his vision of the future of the diocese and the role of young people. During the day there will be a focus on youth issues arising from *Called to be a People of Hope* and an opportunity to discuss and share with young people from around the diocese and with the Bishop. The day will end with Mass at 4pm. Please encourage young people to come, and assist them in getting to the venue. To take part in this day young people must be registered in advance. (Please note if you are arranging to bring young people other than your own children, you must consult with your Parish Safeguarding Children Officer so that all child protection regulations are observed).

We are also looking for a parish folk group to lead the music on this day. If your parish wishes to be part of this day, contact Ronnie Mitchinson on 0117 9025595 or ronnie.mitchinson@cliftdioocese.com. During this day we will be launching the next World Youth Day 2011 which will take place in Madrid.

We welcome articles and stories from around the diocese regarding any youth work taking place. Please email to the above or write to Ann Fowler or Ronnie Mitchinson, Alexander House, 160 Pennywell Rd, Bristol BS50TX. Articles should reach us no later than the beginning of May for inclusion in the next edition of *Youth Matters*.