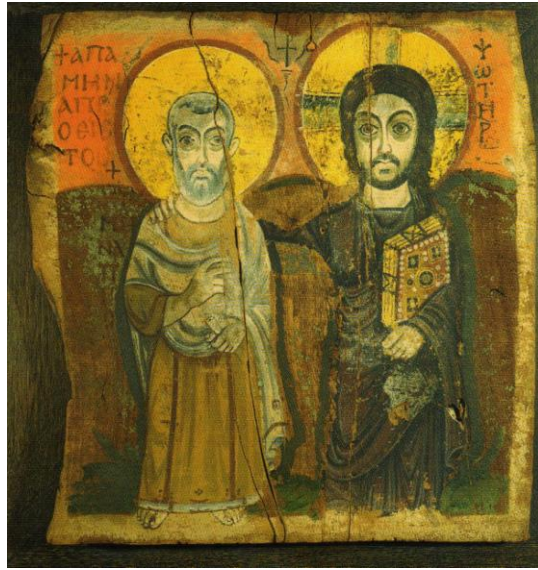


DEPARTMENT OF ADULT EDUCATION AND EVANGELISATION
Summer 2010 Newsletter



Youth Ministry Coordinator

David Wheat has been appointed as the new Youth Ministry Coordinator for our diocese and took up his position on Monday 7 June. This is an exciting time for our diocese and David comes fresh from working in the Archdiocese of Westminster with their young people. David is already busy working with young people as they prepare for their important role during the papal visit. He will begin to contact our parishes once he has settled in and hopefully will be able to support the young people of our diocese as well as those who work with them. He can be contacted at Alexander House on 0117 902 5594 and dave.wheat@cliftdioocese.com. He would most certainly appreciate being invited to your deanery or parish to support you in whatever way he can.

Symposium: St Bede's Catholic College, Saturday 3 July *Catechesis in Art, Art in Catechesis*

Tina Beattie will lead two sessions in the morning on 'Catechesis in Art and Art in Catechesis'. After lunch we will look at some of the art in our diocesan churches and also at the structure, fixtures and fittings asking the question: *What is this building about?* The day will also offer an opportunity to ask catechists to think about what *they* feel they need to support them in their role as catechists in our parishes. The day is open to all who might be interested in taking part in the day. Details and booking forms have been sent to parishes. Further information can be obtained from Ronnie at Alexander House and cliftdioocese.com.

Scripture news

TO PONDER as we read St Luke on Sundays of this year: Sometimes in a book, a play, or a film, the main character only gradually emerges from the crowd; but often his or her first appearance and first words are a 'big moment', intended to make an impression that we shall remember. It happens in real life too: the first big speech of a newly elected political leader, or a bishop's homily at his enthronement, can be an occasion to set the agenda for the years ahead. On 24 January, (the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time), we heard of Jesus preaching in the synagogue at Nazareth in Luke 4:16-21. It is worth asking: has St Luke carefully selected this as the first big public pronouncement Jesus puts before us, as a way of saying, "This is what it is all about"? Does he see it as setting the agenda for all that follows?

SPEAKER WANTED? A reminder that John Huntriss is available to visit parishes or deaneries looking for a speaker for a Lent course, or for a single evening, or day – whatever is required. The repertoire includes, *The Diary of God*, introducing the whole Bible in eight evenings; and series on *Why did Jesus die?* And on how the Church reads Scripture; and a talk on *The Priesthood of Christ in the Letter to the Hebrews* appropriate to the current Year for Priests; and other things besides. He'll also enjoy putting together something new, given a little notice. You've only to ask: please do!

RCIA - Making it work in your parish

In November 2008 Bishop Declan presented a new pastoral plan for our diocese entitled '*Called to be a People of Hope*'. In the section on mission, pastoral councils were invited to help people grow in confidence and knowledge in sharing their faith with others especially those who seek to join the Church. The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the way in which we welcome and share with others our faith and our way of life as Catholics. At the printers as we write, this booklet has been produced in response to the call to pastoral councils to develop an RCIA team and offers practical first steps for setting about the task. '*Making it happen in your parish*' builds on our '*Guide to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*' which was launched last autumn. This and other resources can be obtained from our Department for Adult Education and Evangelisation at Alexander House. The diocesan RCIA Team offers many training opportunities throughout the year, details of which are circulated to parishes. The Team is always available to provide more direct help to parishes, if required. Each parish will be sent copies for priest and RCIA team before the summer break. All '*Called to be a People of Hope*' publications can be downloaded from cliftondiocese.com.

Catechists Certificate Course 2009 to 2010

The response to this course was very encouraging and over 70 participants have completed the first two modules. The first module, through presentations, sharing and discussion, covered the nature of catechesis and the ministry of the catechist. The second module was devoted to an understanding of the shape and nature of the scriptures.

Some comments from journals:

“The catechist shows how the Christian faith enables a person to live life more fully.”

“If we realise that catechesis is not just the role of the parish priest, the clergy and the teachers but the role of the whole parish community then we can call ourselves true disciples of Christ.”

“The links between OT and NT have been highlighted for me, which was great.”

“I need to think how I talk or present material to different age groups or coming from a different place in their faith journey.”

The third module completes the course. The power of sacrament was the subject of the first session. Whether the participants feel called to undertake ministry with children, young people or adults, they will be preparing others for sacramental initiation and the three remaining sessions will give very practical help.

Those having successfully completed the course were awarded certificates by Bishop Declan on 19 May at Holy Family, Patchway, where the course has been run this year. You may have seen the coverage on cliftondiocese.com and heard about it on local radio.

The course will begin again in January at Alexander House. Details will be sent to all parishes as well as featuring on cliftondiocese.com. Please contact Ronnie Mitchinson at Alexander House for further information on 0117 902 5595 and ronnie.mitchinson@cliftondiocese.com.

Rite of Election - Saturday 20 February

For many of those attending this was their first diocesan event. After a personal greeting and registration, the parish groups took their places in the body of the Cathedral. Bishop Declan entered to the rousing hymn: ‘Come down, O Love Divine, Seek thou this soul of mine ...’ and the service began with the Bishop’s own words of welcome.

After the reading of the day from the prophet Isaiah, the names of the candidates were called and as they stood, there was a great sense of unity and yet diversity,

people having come from far and wide, to this mother church of our diocese. Accompanied by their sponsor, each signed his or her name in the Book of the Elect, and then met the Bishop, while the choir led the assembly in song and prayer.

In his homily, Bishop Declan talked about surprises, pointing out that Jesus often did unexpected things like calling Matthew, a tax collector, to change his life and follow him. Maybe the candidates and catechumens are similarly surprised to have taken this step in their life, but, he says, they have listened to the Word of God and been touched by it. Easter is a time when the whole Church is called to conversion, by listening to the Word of God which calls us to life. Then it was the turn of the Catechumens, after which they then took their place on the sanctuary while the Book of the Elect was taken to the Baptistry to be displayed there throughout Lent. After the Prayers of intercession were said and a final blessing, the elect led the procession off the sanctuary to another rousing hymn: 'Church of God, elect and glorious'. You can listen to Bishop Declan's homily at cliftondiocese.com/answering-the-call.

The Promise of New Life

The Triduum seen through Word & Symbol

At the Church and Hall of St Nicholas of Tolentino

Saturday 13 March

More than 70 people were welcomed by Father Richard McKay, the parish priest, heralding the start of an inspiring day led by Father Christopher Whitehead, Director of Adult Education and Evangelisation.

Father Christopher opened the day by saying that we are perhaps inclined, year after year, to go through Holy Week, without giving much thought to the shape of those three days which form the Triduum, which is ONE celebration, not THREE. The richness of the ritual flowing through these three days brings to life the very meaning of the completion of our salvation.

He then went on to look at some of the readings on Holy Saturday night, starting with the story of Abraham and Isaac. It is not just about the sacrifice of Isaac, it is also about the testing of Abraham's unwavering faith in the fulfilment of God's Promise to him and the tension between God promising one thing and seemingly asking another. It is perhaps, one of the things we have overlooked since the reforms of the Second Vatican Council. We are strong in our understanding of community and a gathered, holy people but there has been a certain loss in the sense and meaning of sacrifice. The sacrifice of the Mass is not about the Son of God being re-sacrificed every time in the Eucharist, but re-'membered', that

through the remembering of what Christ has done for us in the past – once and for all – we bring the saving effects of what he achieved, into the present.

The celebration of the Paschal Triduum is Christ's 'fulfilment' of the Jewish Passover. It is the celebration of the beginning of his new law, his new family, his new covenant. His Passover meal links the old with the new. Although the three synoptic gospels give a good factual account of what led up to the Passion and Death of Christ, John's Gospel gives a richer theology behind Christ's sacrifice and a more intimate and personal look at his final days, his Passion and Death. John's Gospel is always the one proclaimed on Good Friday. It is here we see, once and for all, irrefutable proof that Jesus is not only man, but also the Son of God: "I am he".

At midday, we had a moving and meaningful celebration of the Mass which seemed to bring the 'strands' of the morning together in the reading: "...since what I want is love, not sacrifice; knowledge of God, not holocausts." (Hosea 5). After lunch, we then looked at some of the images associated with the Triduum: unleavened bread, blood, water, fire and community and the way in which they are incorporated into the liturgy. This was followed with a look at the Exultet. We ended the day with a cluster of handouts to take home and a much richer and deeper understanding of the Paschal Mystery of the Triduum.

A podcast report of the event is online at cliftondiocese.com/triduum-thoughts-with-father-christopher.

Marriage and Family Life

Anne-Marie Sparrow was appointed by Bishop Declan to act as coordinator for Marriage and Family Life following the launch of *'Called to be a People of Hope'*. Since then many parish priests have appointed someone to act as the parish contact for marriage and family life. Anne-Marie is happy to come and talk to parishes and deaneries about her role as our Marriage and Family Life Coordinator. If you are interested in finding out more, contact her at annemarie.sparrow@cliftondiocese.com or 07871 106992.

Rooted in Christ

Beginning in October of this year, our department will be facilitating a course running through until July enabling those who take part in it to deepen their understanding of the faith that has been passed on to them. Who is the course for? It is intended for those who simply want to know more; those who want to ask questions about their faith, and those who are just hungry for a little more

understanding. The course will give us a real opportunity to root ourselves back into scripture and also familiarise ourselves – in a simple and uncomplicated way – with what the church teaches us and what we hold to be true. Each session will be led by a different speaker and all our speakers come from within our diocesan family. The course kicks off on Tuesday 12 October and the full details along with posters and registration forms will be sent to parishes before the end of June. There are 18 talks in all and the course is designed for people to pick and choose the subjects they would like to delve into rather than having to feel they need to be part of the whole course.

Looking for venues

So often the comment is that everything happens in Bristol! If there is something that your parish would like to host or an event that you would like to see happen in your part of the diocese, do get in touch with the office and offer your venue. We would gladly come to wherever we are welcome and wanted.

Ongoing formation for our Priests

cliftondiocese.com reports on many of the events that form our yearly programme for the ongoing formation of the priests of our diocese. Next year's programme (beginning in September) will be sent to priests before the end of June. Do encourage your priests to take part in some of the opportunities the programme offers them. A group of priests from the diocese will be taking part in the diocesan retreat at Oscott College from 12 to 16 July led by Father John Farrell OP. Do keep them and all our priests in your prayers.

Schools of Prayer

The Poor Clare Convent in Woodchester is hosting a series of four Saturdays for us in October to enable us to explore the prayerful charisms of some of the major religious orders of the Church. Each Saturday will find us reflecting upon what one of the great religious families has to offer us in our lives of prayer. We explore a Benedictine spirituality on 9 October, a Cistercian/Bernadine spirituality on 16 October, a Franciscan spirituality on 23 October, and a Dominican way of praying on 30 October. The days begin at 10.30 am and aim to finish by 12.30 pm. Full details will be sent to all parishes soon and will also be available on cliftondiocese.com

Dates for the Diary - autumn & winter 2010

5 June	Who do you say that I am?	Woodchester Convent
3 July	Symposium	St Bede's Catholic College, Bristol
29 Sep	Diary of God	St Bernadette's Whitchurch
2 Oct	Diocesan Pastoral Council	St Bede's Catholic College, Bristol
6 Oct	Diary of God	St Bernadette's Whitchurch
7 Oct	Diary of God	Our Lady of Lourdes, Newent
9 Oct	Schools of Prayer - Benedictine	Woodchester Convent
12 Oct	Rooted in Christ	<i>venue to be confirmed</i>
13 Oct	Diary of God	St Bernadette's Whitchurch
14 Oct	Diary of God	Our Lady of Lourdes, Newent
16 Oct	Schools of Prayer - Cistercian	Woodchester Convent
19 Oct	Rooted in Christ	<i>venue to be confirmed</i>
20 Oct	Diary of God	St Bernadette's Whitchurch
21 Oct	Diary of God	Our Lady of Lourdes, Newent
23 Oct	Schools of Prayer - Franciscan	Woodchester Convent
28 Oct	Diary of God	Our Lady of Lourdes, Newent
30 Oct	Schools of Prayer - Dominican	Woodchester Convent
3 Nov	Diary of God	St Bernadette's Whitchurch
4 Nov	Advent Liturgy Day	<i>venue to be confirmed</i>
10 Nov	Diary of God	St Bernadette's Whitchurch
17 Nov	Diary of God	St Bernadette's Whitchurch
23 Nov	Rooted in Christ	<i>venue to be confirmed</i>
24 Nov	Diary of God	St Bernadette's Whitchurch
7 Dec	Rooted in Christ	<i>venue to be confirmed</i>
14 Dec	Rooted in Christ	<i>venue to be confirmed</i>