



SUNDAY 26 MAY 2019

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

The Parishes of: Bishop Auckland || Newton Aycliffe & Shildon || Willington
Crook, Tow Law & Wolsingham || Tudhoe || Coundon, Ferryhill & Windlestone

ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

6th Sunday of Easter

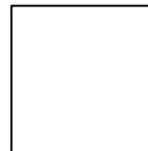
What do you think of when you use or hear the word 'peace'? Our use of a word may describe something different from the next person's use of the same word. The pictures we have in our heads when we use a word may not necessarily correspond well with the picture the same word will conjure up in the mind of someone else. So what does peace mean to you personally? The Gospel message today from St John tells us that Jesus gave his followers peace. His peace. And it's not like the peace the world gives. That means it's foolish to automatically assume his peace is like our experience, or like 'not being at war'. It's more personal than that. It's about being guided by the Spirit.

This Spirit is God within us - and God chooses to be within us. How aware are you in an ordinary day that this Spirit is real and present within you? Finding our support in God's Spirit - and it's the gift of the Father and Jesus to you, making God present with you - doesn't mean asking God to underwrite our plans. We need to be led by the Spirit, seeking what God would have us do. This requires prayerful thought. It's the message at the heart of our Partnership - to become more like Jesus through actively taking steps to deepen our relationship with him.

We don't like not being in charge, in control. Being guided by God's Spirit means we're open to the movement of grace within us. It means Jesus can say 'Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid'. The Spirit is given to remind us what Jesus taught and to act on it. It doesn't end.

His peace is a gift coming from an increasing trust in God's providence and love so that we rest in the assurance that we are cherished and God believes in us. We're all on a journey of conversion, being invited to change constantly to see the world, our life and others through God's eyes.

Feel important and blessed because the God of life and creation works through you. Becoming more in tune with God's ways gives us a direction and character that can change the world. So when you say at Mass "Peace be with you", what do you mean, and what does it mean to you to hear it from others?



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The Bishop Auckland CAFOD group - would like to invite members of the partnership to join our annual walk on Sunday 2 June. The walk leaves from St Wilfrid's at 2 pm and returns there for afternoon tea about two hours later. Entry fee is £1 per person. All are most welcome.

CAFOD Annual Pilgrimage to Holy Island - will take place on Saturday 22 June. A coach is being organised and will leave from St Mary's, Newton Aycliffe (no costs available as yet), if interested please contact Maureen Osborn on 01325 315320. Please see poster at the back of church. There is also the Mass Lobby of Parliament taking place on 26 June. More details of this can be found on our website cafod.org.uk

More from Pope Francis on our common home (Laudato Si)

Pollution is part of daily life for many people. Breathing in pollutants causes a host of health issues, especially among the poor who cannot escape it. Technology cannot solve this problem. Toxic waste is a culprit in the pollution puzzle. We pile it everywhere, but it's making the earth, which is our home, into an "immense pile of filth". Once beautiful landscapes are now littered with rubbish. (para 20 and 21)

We live in a "throwaway culture" in which we think nothing of using a carton or other item once and then disposing of it. Paper, which is easily recycled, is often used once, for example. The dialogue to which I'm calling us as a human family could deal with this by creating a circular model of production in which everything is used and reused, we engage in moderate consumption, and we guard the non-renewable resources. (para 22)

The poor will be affected by these climate changes more than the rich are. Nearly two-thirds of all people on earth live along the coastlines. These changes adversely affect farming, fishing and forestry, the means of livelihood of most poor people on earth. The poor are forced to follow the migrations of animals and move away as deserts expand. They must leave behind their homes and live with even greater insecurity. How can we be indifferent to them? (para 25)

The ones on earth with power and money, however, try to deny there is a problem at all. They argue with the scientific consensus on this while ignoring the plight of the suffering masses. We need an urgent plan to drastically reduce polluting gases and increase access to renewable energy. (para 26)