

northern cross

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On the morning of May 1, Bishop Stephen Wright was overjoyed with the welcome he received at St James' Church where he celebrated Mass on the feast day of St Joseph the worker. The bishop met Year 7 students from neighbouring St Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn, and also spent time talking to members of staff after the service.

What is the Lord calling us to be and do?

BISHOP Stephen Wright unveiled a bold initial synodal vision for the diocese of Hexham and Newcastle last month, with supporting resources for parishes and two modelling spiritual workshops at St Mary's Forest Hall, Newcastle, and English Martyrs and Sts Peter and Paul's, Stockton.

In his introduction, the bishop wrote: "Dear Sisters and Brothers... In order to grow as a synodal Church it is important that we all have a chance to pray and discern how the Holy Spirit is inviting us to grow in mission in our parishes and communities."

"To facilitate this I, together with others, offer an initial diocesan vision for your prayerful reflection. Our discerned diocesan commitments are: To Walk with Jesus and Enable Others to Encounter Him; To Grow as One Diocesan Family – Rebuilding Relationships; Forming and Developing People for Mission; Living Justly and Caring for Our Common Home."

"Each of these commitments are developed in the vision. It is not my intention to impose this vision. It is offered for further reflection and I invite all of our parishes and communities to prayerfully reflect on them. We offer accompanying resources and support to enable this reflection. Please contact your parish office if you would like hard copies of these materials which are all available on the diocesan website. With assurances and prayers, Bishop Stephen."

Further workshops are planned this summer. Guides to help people engage with the diocesan vision can be downloaded at diocesehn.org.uk



New cross for St Alban's

THE children in our school – St Alban's Catholic Primary school, Pelaw – worked together to create this wonderful new cross for our school hall under the expert guidance of local art teacher Geri Mole, writes deputy head teacher Laura Colligan.

We were delighted to invite our parish priest, Fr Patterson, to bless it, and Nick Hum, the CEO

of our school's trust, to join us to help celebrate the occasion.

We are all very pleased with the cross which provides a beautiful focal point, reminding us of our faith journey when we gather together.

Head teacher Maria Robinson said: "We are delighted with our new cross. It looks fantastic in our school hall and the children are rightly proud of what they have made together."

Stretch your tent curtains wide

AN EVENT to welcome and celebrate refugees, asylum seekers and migrants to our diocese will be held at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle, on Tuesday, June 18, at 6.30pm.

It will celebrate the richness of our diocesan family by bringing together people of different nationalities who make their home in the North East.

We will have the opportunity to listen to people's stories, celebrate their talents and recognise that we are better off when we welcome the strangers and make them our friends.

We will hear what the diocese has to offer and see the gifts and talents of our new neighbours.

During the event Bishop Stephen will receive, on behalf of the whole diocese a Lampedusa Cross donated by CAFOD. This will then be housed in the cathedral as a sign of our commitment and welcome to those who are enriching life in our diocese.

Everyone is welcome to join in this celebration organised by the Vicariate for Caritas.



The Annual Blessed John Ingram Walk

It's on Sunday 28th July 2024



LED BY

Father Luke Wilkinson

Meeting at St Andrew's Anglican Church, Newgate Street, Newcastle upon Tyne 2.30pm for 2.45pm start

Then to St Edmund's Chapel, High St. Gateshead for an Ecumenical Service followed by refreshments

(non-walkers please meet at St Edmund's at 3.30pm) Organised by the St Vincent de Paul Society with the help of clergy and parishioners of St Andrew's and St Edmund's