FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

# DEEPENING OUR FAITH

"We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives." (Colossians 1:9)

- **Are you looking to venture further in your personal faith journey?**
- **Would you like to confidently guide and accompany others to deepen and explore their faith?**
- **Are you ready to be formed by one another as we discern to be co-responsible for mission?**

Formation & Mission

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

# Formation Pathways

**'Formation' involves helping people develop into the people God intended them to be. Helping them to grow deeper in their relationship with Christ in order that they can respond to God's baptismal calling which is unique to them.**

The Church has many pathways for this:

- Through the Sacraments, especially through Mass and Reconciliation
- Through our prayer lives
- Through our understanding of scripture and reflecting on its relationship to our own experiences
- Through the witness of others including the Saints
- The Diocese offers courses that can help people go deeper in faith. These are intended to support and strengthen the local parish offers of faith formation.

Our formation pathway is designed to give a menu of choices that indicate whether this is for someone 'just starting' on their journey who may opt for a 'starter' course or someone who is more experienced who want something more substantial. The intention with all of the courses on offer is that people don't just take a nibble but feast and keep feasting on the wisdom and teaching available.

So have a look at what is on offer and come to the table, in fact bring a friend.

"We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God."
(COLOSSIANS 1:9-10)

## Understanding the Christian Faith

SYCAMORE

Sycamore is an informal course about the Christian faith and its relevance for life today. It gives you space to meet other people, share ideas, explore your beliefs, and think about questions that really matter. Each session involves a short film and time for discussion. Everyone is welcome.

How can we find happiness? What's the meaning of life? Is there a God? Does prayer make a difference?

https://bit.ly/DHNSycamore

# Scripture

The Bible continues to be the world's best-selling book, with an estimated over 5 billion copies sold to date. For Catholics the Bible is a source for daily reflection, an opportunity to learn the way in which God's nature and will for his children is revealed. In the words of Pope Francis, it offers Catholics the opportunity to 'experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world.' (Aperuit illis) Over the last few years there has been a renewed commitment to encouraging Catholics to connect more with their Bibles.

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

"Every day we read a page of the Gospel, we pray with the Psalms, we read the Prophets! We will be moved by the Lord's faithfulness. Scripture will also help us to understand what the Lord asks of our lives today."
(Pope Francis, 25 July 2021)

The Catholic Bishops' Conference and Bible Society are working together to nurture deeper Catholic engagement with the Scriptures.

If you're Catholic and curious about the Bible, you can view their dedicated website. Here you'll find great resources; events and ideas to help you deepen your faith and love of the Scriptures.

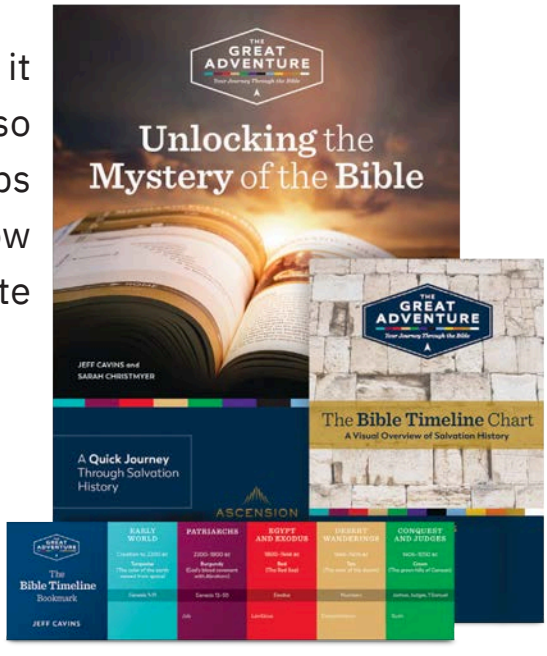
https://bit.ly/DHNTheGodWhoSpeaks

# **Unlocking** the **Mystery** of the **Bible**

AN 8-PART BIBLE STUDY FEATURING

## JEFF CAVINS

Many people want to read the Bible because they know it is God's Word, but they give up because it seems so complicated. **Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible** helps you to get the "big picture" of the Bible by showing how fourteen narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church.

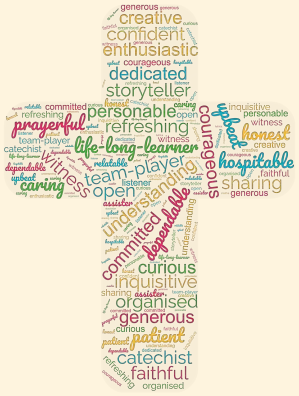



**Visit ascensionpress.com to learn more!**

If you are interested in this course, or running it in your parish, please get in touch with the Formation and Mission team (contact details are on the back page).

# Catechesis

By virtue of our baptism and faith, as servants of the Holy Spirit, we all have the duty and responsibility to catechize, to share our faith with others, to help echo the beauty of the joy of the Gospel, informing people about God, and walking with them, supporting them to experience a living encounter with Jesus Christ.




**A Catechist is:**

- A *Witness* to our living faith, being a sign of faith for and to others.
- A *Teacher* sharing the content of our faith, communicating knowledge of Jesus Christ and of Christian living.
- An *Accompanier* who travels in patient companionship with those seeking God, listening to others' life experiences, supporting others in a gradual maturation of faith.

**Annual Day of Reflection for Catechists.**

The diocesan intention is to offer an annual day for all current and future Catechists: a day of prayer, listening, sharing, reflecting, and development. When confirmed, details of these days will be advertised on the diocesan website.

https://bit.ly/DHNCatechesis

# Spiritual Accompaniment

Spiritual Accompaniment provides a sacred, safe listening space, with a trained Spiritual Director/Companion, where you can explore your spiritual life, your faith journey and where God is at work in all things. It is not a 'fixing' or problem solving space, rather a space to be heard. You may bring things related to your prayer life, your 'interior' life in general, or your family, work, leisure, relationships, Church, but it will always be in the context of where God is in it all.

For further information please visit:

https://bit.ly/DHNSpiritualAccompaniment

**or contact**
**Sr Sheila McNamara RSCJ by email:**

**spiritual.direction@diocesehn.org.uk**

# CALLED &GIFTED

## Have you ever considered what your unique God-given talents and gifts may be?

**STAGE ONE**
Teaching

**STAGE TWO**
1-2-1 Conversation

**STAGE THREE**
Experimenting

***"God has created me to do Him some definite service; he has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another"***

St. John Henry Newman

**God is calling you to a work of love that will fill your life with purpose and joy.** Discerning your Charisms can help you discover that call. If you are wondering how you are to fulfil the mission God has for you, or navigate a life transition, you might find that gifts discernment helps you decide which turn to take next. Called & Gifted is delivered as a 3-stage process of teaching, a one-to-one conversation with a trained guide, and experimenting with charisms (with small group discernment).

## Ready to discern your charisms?

For further information about this formation pathway,
please visit https://bit.ly/DHN_formation_pathways
or email adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk

ADVENTUROUS ACCOMPANIMENT

A PROJECT BY MILLION MINUTES

Adventurous Accompaniment is designed to inspire and equip people who can influence others to explore the 'art of accompaniment' based on the 5 Principles of Accompaniment.

# We are made to walk together

The call to accompany is timeless. With the Church seeking ways to respond to the increasing challenges of today, a focus on genuine accompaniment is especially timely. Pope Francis envisages everyone being initiated into this 'art of accompaniment'.

Our communities can extend God's love to all and walk shoulder-to-shoulder with each other. More than living in solidarity, this is about enabling the flourishing of each person's human dignity, where they can be fully themselves, belong and be deeply listened to.

> ***We need a Church capable of walking at people's side...a Church which accompanies them on their journey.***
>
> ***Pope Francis***

# Who is it for?

- Pastoral leads in Dioceses, Communities, and organisations
- Leaders in schools and other education settings
- Those responsible for formation or outreach within their communities
- Deanery priests, deacons or lay people working in partnership with several parishes
- Other roles and responsibilities (including voluntary roles) which have the potential to reach others.

For further information about this formation pathway, please visit
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or email adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk

ADVENTUROUS ACCOMPANIMENT
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MILLION MINUTES

**ARE YOU INVOLVED IN MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH? WANT TO EXPAND YOUR SKILLS IN PASTORAL LEADERSHIP?**

# CATHOLIC PASTORAL LEADERSHIP COURSE

Liverpool Hope University has partnered with Catholic dioceses in England and Wales to help those involved in church ministry who are wishing to expand their skills to gain fresh perspectives on Scripture and Church teaching.

You will look at real-world issues through the lens of our tradition and consider ways of exploring Christian faith and life with others.

## ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

**Standard Course**
£1900
Online material review
Assessed work

**Postgraduate Certificate**
£2400
Additional work for 60 credits

## MODULES

- **The Word of God**
- **The Synodal Church**
- **Dimensions of Christian Life**
- **The Church's Mission in the World**

To find out more, visit Hope's website at this link or using this QR code:
hope.ac.uk/postgraduate/postgraduatecourses/catholicpastoralleadershippgcert
or email **training@rcaol.org.uk**

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

# DEEPENING OUR FAITH

## SO, YOU WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

## WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP?

**Here at the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle, our friendly Formation & Mission team would be delighted to help you explore opportunities to deepen your faith.**

We'd love to chat with you, so please call us:

0191 243 3316
0737 593 4713

Our office hours are
8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri

Drop us an email:
adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk

Amy Cameron: Director of Formation & Mission
Mark Hindmarsh: Formation & Mission Team Leader
Emma Wynne: Formation & Mission Development Officer
Amy McDonagh: Formation & Mission Administrator

For further areas of Formation & Mission
in the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle please scan the QR code or visit:
**https://bit.ly/DHNFormation_Mission_Leaflets**