When we hear the word "exodus",
we immediately think
of the origins of the amazing love story
between God and his people,
a history which passes through
the dramatic period of slavery in Egypt,
the calling of Moses,
the experience of liberation
and the journey toward the Promised Land.

The Book of Exodus, the second book of the Bible, which recounts these events is a parable of the entire history of salvation, but also of the inner workings of Christian faith. Passing from the slavery of the old Adam to new life in Christ is a event of redemption which takes place through faith (Eph 4:22-24).

This passover is a genuine "exodus"; it is the journey of each Christian soul and the entire Church, the decisive turning of our lives towards the Father.



Pope Francis Letter for Vocations Sunday 2015

# Exodus A People Moving Forward Together in Hope -

From the familiar...
Through a wilderness...
Through discovery...
Through challenge...
Through personal encounters with God...

To a Promised Land:
A heritage to pass on to future generations.

Department for Spirituality
St Cuthbert's House
West Road
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE15 7PY
Tel: 0191 243 3302
Email: spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk

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Also available in other formats

### **Exodus**

## A People Moving Forward Together in Hope

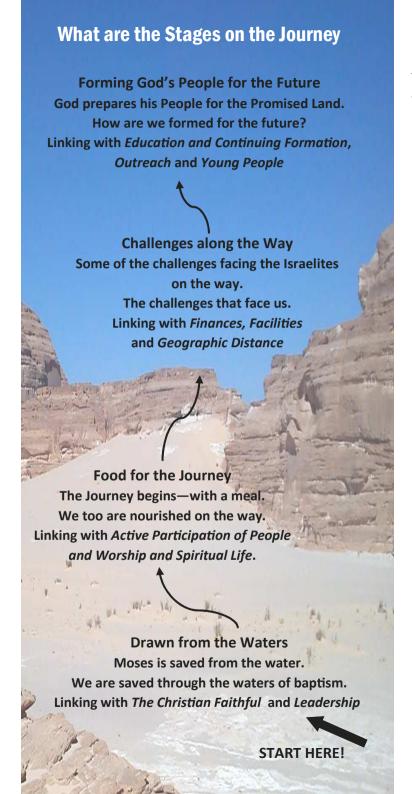




### Why use Exodus?

In some ways, it seems odd to use a book written thousands of years ago to inspire our thoughts and reflections about *Forward Together in Hope*. But it is a story that has lasted so long because it is full of truth. It has many echoes with the Journey we are embarked on.

- It is a story of a people who already had a long history and who had lived many years in Egypt—but things had changed. They had a choice—to stay where they were or to listen to the voice of God through Moses to move on.
- The people were led into a place with no clear signposts and no firmly defined destination... only the assurance that God would be their guide.
- There were challenges along the way.
   Natural hazards—lack of water and food and human ones—people who became disheartened and, even, rebellious.
- There were times when the people were powerfully aware of God at work in their midst.
- And more!



#### How could we use it?

The material is designed to be flexible—so the first thing to remember is that you are free to adapt it. Here are some ideas—but you may have more!

- It could form the basis of a series of meetings. There is material for four.
- You might look through the sessions and find one that appeals to you—use this for a oneoff meeting (perhaps to look at the Reflective Questions in the main pack).
- You could take extracts from the four sessions to build up a Day of Reflection for a group—or your parish.
- You might think about a parish Awayday—
  going to a "wilderness" away from the busyness and the familiar and take bits and pieces
  from the material to help people to reflect on
  the Journey we are on together.
- You might ask parish "Anchors" to pray part of the material at the same time as your meeting or Day of Reflection.

