

The Grace of Diversity

This was the theme chosen for this year's Diocesan Gathering, held in St Ninian's Cathedral on Saturday 27th May. We welcomed John Bell of the Iona Community as our guest speaker and leader of the day's events. All present enjoyed an engaging celebration of diversity which was at the same time thought-provoking, hugely enjoyable and above all great fun!



From our opening session when we reflected on God's favourite colour (John tells us it's tartan!) and attempted to name the twelve disciples, right up to the informal closing Eucharist, we celebrated our diversity together in a multitude of different ways. Even our lunch was celebrated as a giant 'bring and share' meal rather than sitting as individuals each with our own pack of sandwiches.

Smaller workshops led by John and his colleague, Jo Love, provided an opportunity to learn new music and join in creative activities. Various congregational and diocesan groups also organised workshops and display stands to introduce different prayer activities, recognising the many different forms prayer can take.



A team of youngsters from around the diocese worked together to provide a 'Taste of the Gathering' on video and took photographs which can be shared with those who were unable to join us on the day. It was great to see them taking on the responsibility of this role and interviewing a selection of participants.



Comments on the day included:



*Fabulous day!
grace-filled and
transforming,
plenty of food for
thought,
a demonstration
that spirituality
needn't lose its
depth when it's fun,
a wonderful
celebration of our
strength in
diversity.*