

# Home Mission Desk Report

## September 2012 – September 2013



Please find below some highlights of the work of Home Mission during the past year. Partnerships with a breadth of organisations and groups are essential to this work which has covered resource writing and creation, event organisation, supporting new diocesan evangelisation initiatives, giving talks, working with faith enquirers and media engagement.



### Home Mission Sunday 2013: 'Crossing the Threshold' (September '13)

The theme this year is 'Crossing the Threshold: Ministry and Outreach to Non-Churchgoing (lapsed) Catholics'. It has been chosen in response to requests from all tiers of the Catholic community in England and Wales for this to be a significant focus of the work of evangelisation.

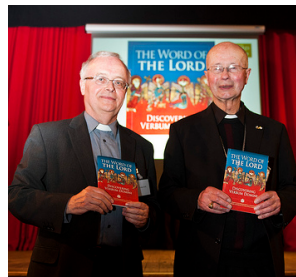
[www.catholicnews.org.uk/hms13](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/hms13) For new video resources:

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Featured/Home-Mission-Sunday-2013/Video-Testimonies>

### Archbishop of Cardiff's New Evangelisation Initiative (May '13)

The Most Rev George Stack, Archbishop of Cardiff, has begun a new evangelisation initiative to support the sharing of the Catholic Faith in Cardiff and to the whole of the Archdiocese.

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Cardiff-Evangelisation>



### Year of Faith: Study Guide For Parishes To Promote Scripture (May '13)

A new resource has been launched by the Bishops' Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis to promote a deeper appreciation of the place of the Bible in the Catholic community in England and Wales, and to support the new evangelisation.

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Scripture-Study-Guide>

### Year of Faith: National conference marks potential 'sea change' in the reading of the Bible (April '13)

A national Bible conference held at the historic venue of Ushaw College, near Durham, has been affirmed as beginning a potential 'sea change' in Catholic Bible ministry and outreach in England and Wales.

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Bible-Conference>



### Be #BibleInspired and Tweet your favourite Passage from Scripture (April '13)

Twitter users across England and Wales are being invited to share their faith by tweeting their favourite bible passages.

For seven days, beginning on the Feast of St Mark, 25 April, we're posting a selection of the Bishops' favourite passages and Catholic twitter users are invited to do the same. <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Bible-Tweets>

20 April – First formation day for team members in the parishes taking part in the **Nottingham Diocesan Crossing the Threshold Pilot Project**. Second formation day offered on 14 September.





**New Evangelisation: Invitation to Share Easter ‘Wonder’ Digitally** (March ‘13)  
The Catholic bishop who oversees the work of evangelisation in England and Wales is inviting the use of new media to share the Easter message.

Rt Rev Kieran Conry (Arundel and Brighton), Chair of the Bishops’ Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis, said: "The celebration of Easter, especially the Easter Vigil, is the most wonderful and amazing event in the Christian calendar, bringing hope and joy to everyone. But if the Easter message is to be received, then it must be proclaimed. Where best to start doing that proclaiming than on the digital continent - online, using social media, email and mobile devices. This is where nearly everyone is spending an increasing amount of their work and leisure time."

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Invitation-to-Share-Easter-Wonder-Digitally>

**St Francis of Assisi** (March ‘13)

The new Pope is named after the much-loved Italian saint, St Francis of Assisi, who was born in 1181. St Francis’ childhood and youth was privileged; his father, Pietro Bernardone, was a very rich businessman. Pietro’s hope was that his son would follow in his footsteps as a cloth merchant, but despite early promise, it became clear that God has prepared a very different path for Francis.



<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/St-Francis-of-Assisi>

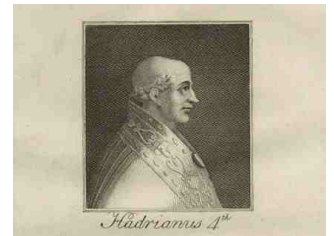


**Tuesday 19 March - a day to share the joy of our faith, says national mission bishop**

The bishop who oversees the work of evangelisation in England and Wales is inviting Catholics to share joy on 19 March, the day that Pope Francis celebrates his inauguration. <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Sharing-our-joy>

**Adrian IV - The only English Pope** (March ‘13)

Nearly 1,000 years ago, in 1154, a man named Nicholas Breakspear was elected the first - and thus far only - English pope. Pope Adrian IV was born Nicholas Breakspear around 1100 AD, close to St Albans in Hertfordshire, England.



<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/English-Pope>



**Faith testimonies of ‘Catholics-to-be’ provide unique insight into why people join the Church** (February ‘13)

As several thousand people across England and Wales take a step towards joining the Catholic Church, a collation of some of their faith stories have been published here on catholicnews.org.uk.

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Rite-of-Election-2013>

**Second Newman Lecture: Newman offers 'an itinerary for thinking about the complexities of life and faith,' says former Attorney General** (February ‘13)

Baroness Scotland of Asthal, former Attorney General and the first black and youngest woman to ever be appointed to Queen’s Counsel, has delivered the second Newman Lecture highlighting how the 19th Century Cardinal is a role model for everyone.



<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/2nd-Newman-Lecture>



**Crossing the Threshold North West: Bishop of Lancaster highlights need to close gap between faith and culture** (February '13)

Rt Rev Michael Campbell OSA, Bishop of Lancaster, has affirmed the need to seek ways of closing the gap between faith and culture at an evangelisation day for over 250 people from the North West dioceses on Saturday 2 February.

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Evangelisation-Day>

**Home Mission Forums bring together Catholic Evangelists from across England and Wales**

(January '13)

Around 60 Catholic evangelists from the length and breadth of England and Wales have gathered to learn more about, and share examples, of the 'New Evangelisation' in our home countries.



An initiative of the Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis which is chaired by Bishop Kieran Conry (Arundel and Brighton), the Forum initiative aimed to provide unique spaces for Catholic evangelists to connect with one another, pray together and be supported to take new steps.

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Home-Mission-Forums>



**Year of Faith: Cardinal speaks of encountering God through others** (January '13)

In the latest of our 'Year of Faith' video series, His Eminence Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor shares two moments when he has encountered God through other people.

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Encountering-God>

**Christianity: In Their Own Words** (January '13):

*In Their Own Words* is a podcast series where followers of the world's nine major religions talk about their faith. Each person talks about their own religious beliefs - in their own words - and from their own perspective. Today... Christianity.



<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Podcasts/In-Their-Own-Words-Podcasts-about-the-world-s-nine-major-religions/Christianity>



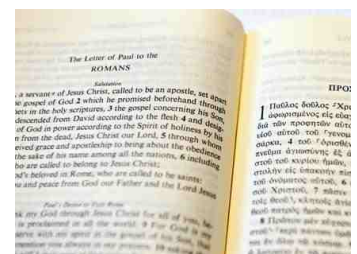
**Year of Faith: Bishop speaks of the 'greatest gift given to him in life'** (December '12)

Rt Rev Mark Davies, Bishop of Shrewsbury, has spoken of the moment when he joyfully realised that God was truly present in the Eucharist.

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/2012/Bishop-s-Faith-Testimony>

**Catholic Bible Engagement Survey Suggests Need to Support Scripture Use and Literacy** (December '12)

The results of a survey commissioned by the Bible Society, in partnership with the Home Mission Desk of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and



Wales, suggest that Catholics may need greater help in deepening their knowledge and use of, and prayer with, the Bible each day.

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/2012/Catholic-Bible-Engagement>



**Pioneering use of Twitter during the 'Year of Faith'**  
(November '12)

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/2012/Year-of-Tweets>

**Archbishop Welcomes Welsh/Bi-lingual Versions of Year of Faith Logo** (November '12) <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/2012/Welsh-Logo>



**Bishop of Middlesbrough Shares Personal Account of Faith**  
(November '12)

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/2012/Video-Testimonies2>

**Evangelisation Synod Website Section** (Oct. /Nov. '12)

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Featured/Year-of-Faith/Evangelisation-Synod>



**Art and Faith Podcasts for the Year of Faith** (October '12)

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Podcasts/Year-of-Faith>

**Message of hope for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one** (October '12)

A message of hope has been released to coincide with the start of the month when Catholics especially remember and pray for those who have died and for those who are grieving. <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/2012/All-Souls>



**Archbishop Launches Year of Faith Video Testimonies** (October '12)

The Most Rev Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, is the first to feature in a new series of bishops' video testimonies to celebrate the Year of Faith which begins on 11 October. <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/2012/Video-Testimonies>

**Schools invited to celebrate 'Little Way Week' to start the Year of Faith**  
(September '12)

Every Catholic school in England and Wales has been invited to begin the forthcoming Year of Faith by having a week of prayer and service inspired by a young saint.



<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/2012/July-Sept/Week-of-Prayer>



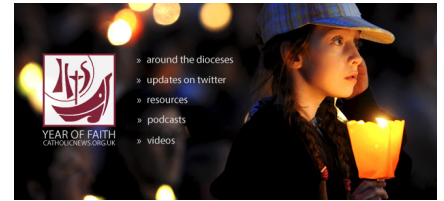
**Mission Bishop's Call To Public Prayer** (September '12)  
Catholics in England and Wales are being invited to pause for a moment of prayer every first Friday of the month as an act of faith and public witness.

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/2012/July-Sept/Public-Prayer>

### **Year of Faith Resources** (September '12)

The Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI announced that the Catholic Church will celebrate a *Year of Faith* from 11 October 2012 - 24 November 2013.

[www.yearoffaith.org.uk](http://www.yearoffaith.org.uk)



Additional areas of work include:

- Facilitating conference calls and bi-annual meetings for diocesan evangelisation representatives.
- Offering advice and information about Catholic evangelisation
- Giving evangelisation talks at events and conferences
- Representing the Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis at ecumenical forums as requested.
- Overseeing evangelisation research projects
- Responding to faith enquirers who get in contact through: [www.catholicfaith.org.uk](http://www.catholicfaith.org.uk)
- Working in service of the media in support of Home Mission as a member of the CCN team; e.g. writing newspaper articles about the Catholic Faith and evangelisation.

Photos: © Mazur/catholicnews.org.uk

*Clare Ward, Home Mission Desk, August 2013*

**Bishop for mission leads drive to attract four million baptised Catholics back to Church in England and Wales** (Press conference)

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Back-to-Church>

**Attendance at: ‘Historic pilgrimage to Durham Cathedral as the visit of the Lindisfarne Gospels to the city comes to an end’** <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Pilgrimage-Durham-Cathedral>

**Catechists from England and Wales join 100 000 pilgrims for Mass in St Peter’s with Pope Francis**

The delegation to Rome was coordinated by the Desk and tweets from the conference can be found at [@catholicEW](#) or by using #catechist. <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Catechism-Mass>

**Little Way Week for schools, 5 – 11 October**

Offered in partnership with the Catholic Education Service and a resource team.

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Faith-in-School>

**Rosary materials in support of the Year of Faith**

[http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Featured/Features-2013/Year-of-Faith/The-Rosary/\(language\)/eng-GB](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Featured/Features-2013/Year-of-Faith/The-Rosary/(language)/eng-GB)

**FORTHCOMING**

4 – 5 November diocesan evangelisation representatives’ overnight led by Bishop Kieran Conry

Talks – National Lay Association, Nottingham and Westminster Dioceses (October - December)

Group for Evangelisation meeting, Churches Together in England and Wales (November)

Bible Sunday resource creation, 8 December 2013

Non churchgoing Catholics online resource manual work

Confession resource preparation for Lent 2014