



## Home Mission Desk September 2013 – May 2014

Please find below some recent highlights of the work of Home Mission.

### **E-Pilgrimage Map of England and Wales (May 2014)**

An electronic map is being created of England and Wales. It will aim to include at least one Catholic pilgrimage location, or shrine, in every diocese, and will support home mission, by encouraging people to rediscover and visit these important locations.



### **National Evangelisation Conference Preparatory Work (Feb. '13 – present)**

The Home Mission Desk completed a year-long consultation and feasibility study, which included a large number of diocesan staff and evangelisation partners. The theme of the conference is 'The Joy of the Gospel: Building a Missionary Parish' and the aim will be to inspire, encourage and equip parishes to evangelise. Date: 11 July 2015 [www.catholicnews.org.uk/gospeljoy](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/gospeljoy)



### **Promotion of the Rite of Election, stats collation + testimonies (March '14)**

"From Newcastle to Plymouth, Cardiff to Norwich and Liverpool to Brighton, the first weekend of Lent saw groups coming together to celebrate their decision to become Catholics." In partnership with the national RCIA Network.

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Rite-of-Election-2014>

### **Media outreach on Pancake Day: 'Convent Kitchen' (March '14)**

"You've probably heard of Delia, Gordon, Jamie and others... but there is also a longstanding tradition of fine cooking emanating from the UK's convent kitchens, and this pancake day an exclusive insight is being offered into some 'nun inspired' recipes."

Religious sisters were interviewed on Radio 4, Radio 2 and on BBC local radio stations.

In partnership with the National Office of Vocation.

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Convent-Kitchens>



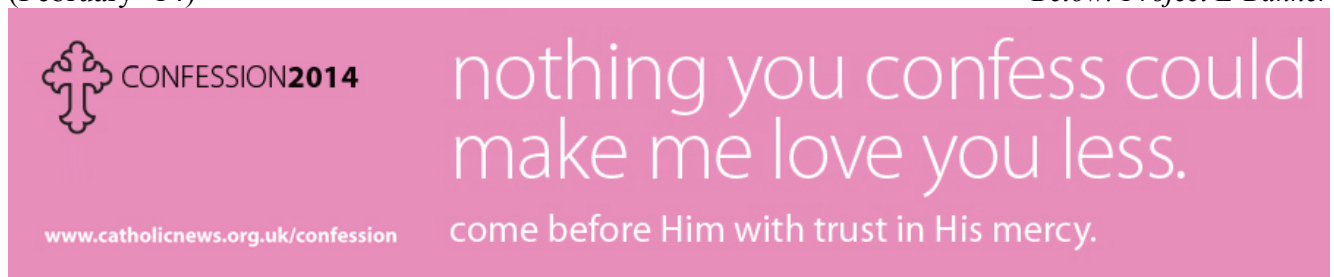
### **Consistory explanatory text & prayer (February '14)**

"Pope Francis' first ordinary public Consistory that saw the creation of 19 new cardinals - including Cardinal Vincent Nichols - offered us the opportunity to come together as a Catholic community in England and Wales to celebrate and pray as one."

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Featured/Consistory-Cardinal-Vincent-Nichols/Prayer>

## National Confession Promotion: Digital Drive to Get Catholics Back to Confession (February '14)

Below: Project E-Banner



“Catholic Bishop, Kieran Conry, is leading a drive to invite Catholics back to Confession this Lent, and he is keen to highlight how your mobile phone can help you to prepare to make a good Confession – whether it is your first Confession in thirty years, or you go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly in your local parish.”

Bishop Conry was interviewed on BBC Radio 4 Sunday Programme and on over 10 BBC local radio stations.

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Confession>

## Need help finding your soulmate? (February '14)



This social media initiative was offered to feed into St Valetine’s day. Five tweets and five facebook posts were offered to signpost people to prayer in creative ways.

## January Blues: Mental Health Bishop highlights power of social media to support Mental Health (January '14)

“Bishop Richard Moth, who has responsibility for the Bishops' work in support of mental health, is inviting people to use social media to reach out to the many people who often suffer with seasonal mental stress during the latter end of January.”

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/January-Blues>



**theguardian**

**The Guardian Newspaper, 26 December '13**

*The year Pope Francis allowed Britain's Catholics to break cover*

Home Mission Desk featured:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/26/pope-francis-britain-catholics>

There was also a piece in The Times newspaper during the same period.

## Faith – Freely give what you've freely been given (December '13)

‘The Bishop of Nottingham has hosted a diocesan evangelisation event urging people not to deny others knowledge of the greatest gift there is, by keeping the gift of the Catholic faith to themselves.’



‘Speaking to over 160 people gathered from across the diocese, Bishop Malcolm McMahon, said at Holy Trinity School in Nottingham on 7 December: "Our Catholic faith has been freely given to us by God. It’s unthinkable that anyone should hold back in freely giving what they have been freely given...”’

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/2013/Gift-of-Faith>

(Part of the Department’s Crossing The Threshold pilot project, in partnership with Nottingham Diocese.)

## Catholic Bible Sunday 2013 (December '13)

‘Speaking ahead of Bible Sunday which falls in the Catholic calendar on 8 December 2013, Bishop Kieran Conry, Chair of the Bishops’ Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis, said: “Advent and Christmas can be times of great stress for many people, especially people on low income and with difficult personal relationships. Reading the bible offers an opportunity, first of all, to find a bit of calm space and a way of reflecting on what Christmas is supposed to be.”’



<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/2013/Catholic-Bible-Sunday>

The Home Mission Desk is represented on the Scripture Working Group & helped to create the e-materials.

## Evangelii Gaudium Inspires National Gathering of Adult Formators (December '13)



“Catholic leaders in adult formation and catechesis from across England and Wales have met for a national gathering to explore how to respond practically to Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation concerning the proclamation of the Gospel in today’s world. Representatives from a breadth of dioceses met in Hothorpe Hall in Leicestershire 27 – 28 November, just hours after *Evangelii Gaudium* had been released. They spent 24 hours, led by their keynote speaker, Sr Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ, unpacking its content, reflecting too how they might apply what it teaches to their work with parishes.”

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/2013/National-Gathering-of-Formators>

## Christmas resource page updates (December '13)

In this section you will find a variety of posters and invitation cards that are designed to appeal to different audiences.

[http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Featured/Features-2013/Christmas-and-New-Year/Christmas-Outreach/Resources/\(language\)/eng-GB](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Featured/Features-2013/Christmas-and-New-Year/Christmas-Outreach/Resources/(language)/eng-GB)

**Podcast:** Christmas advent reflection written and recorded on evangelisation Theme: Hearing Christ's Words of Love and Truth

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Podcasts/Advent-Podcasts/13-December>

Updates on [www.comehomeforchristmas.co.uk](http://www.comehomeforchristmas.co.uk) & extensive ‘Catholic and Lost Touch?’ leaflet distribution.



## Plenary Press Conference input (November '13)



“In this article, you can listen to audio from the press conference after the Bishops' November 2013 plenary meeting. Archbishop Nichols speaks about the main issues with Mgr Marcus Stock, General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference, Elizabeth Davies, Marriage and Family Life Project Officer and Clare Ward from the Home Mission Desk.”

“The press conference was held in London at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales on Friday, 15 November 2013.”

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/2013/Audio>

## The Sunday Times Newspaper (November '13)

There was significant pre-Christmas interest in the Pope Francis ‘effect’ and lapsed Catholics returning to the practice of their faith. The Home Mission Desk supported several journalists with their article research, which resulted in a positive page one lead article.

[http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk\\_news/Society/article1341650.ece](http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Society/article1341650.ece)



## Catholic Church in England and Wales finds new and dynamic ways to spread the Gospel message (November '13)



“A breadth of innovative evangelisation initiatives being offered in Catholic dioceses in England and Wales has been showcased at a national gathering. Representatives from dioceses covering every region, as well as the Ordinariate and the Bishopric of the Forces, gathered 4-5 November for 24 hours at Hothorpe Hall in Leicestershire. The first time an event of this kind has been offered in living memory, the programme included times of prayer, fellowship and sharing news and information about work being done in support of Home Mission.”

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/2013/New-Evangelisation>

## All Souls – 2 November 2013

On 2 November the Catholic community remembers and prays for, in a special way, all those who have died. Every prayer to God is heard and can help those in need.

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/2013/All-Souls>

Page updates too for:

## All Saints – 1 November '13

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/2013/All-Saints>

## Support the 'Night of Light' (31 October '13)

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/2013/Night-of-Light>



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



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

‘Rt Rev Malcolm McMahon, the bishop who has national responsibility for Catholic Education, has affirmed how witnessing to faith through love and service makes the Gospel message real and relevant within school communities.’

“It can be hard for people to understand what the Catholic Faith is all about when spoken about as an abstract...” <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Faith-in-School>

## New rosary materials in support of the Year of Faith (October '13)



The Rosary is a pattern of prayer popular among Christians. At heart it is a series of meditations on some aspects, or mysteries, of the life of Jesus Christ and Mary his mother.

[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)

## Catechists from England and Wales join 100 000 pilgrims for Mass in St Peter's with Pope Francis (End of Sept / early Oct. '13)

“A delegation of catechists from England and Wales joined 100,000 pilgrims for Mass in St Peter's Square with Pope Francis on Sunday. The gathering marked the International Day for Catechists which had been organised by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation.”

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



## 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>

### Also during this time period:

- **Diocesan evangelisation representatives' conference calls.** (Nov. '13, Jan. & April '14)
- **Talks** – Westminster Diocese (Oct. '13), Brentwood Diocese (Oct. '13 & March '14), National Board of Catholic Women (Oct. '13), National Lay Association (Oct. '13), East Anglia Diocese (March '14)
- **Ecumenical liaison** – representing the Bishops' Conference at the Group for Evangelisation, Churches Together in England (Nov. '13).
- **The Universe newspaper** – Christmas feature article on evangelisation. (Dec. '13), Lent six-part feature series on Confession (March / April '14)
- **The Bible** – Channel 5 TV – liaison with the promoters. (Dec. '13)
- **Home Mission Consultation meeting.** (Oct. '13 & March '14)
- **Diocesan liaison** – contact with a number of diocesan staff seeking input and / or resource ideas concerning their evangelisation plans and activities.
- **National Marriage Preparation Guidelines** - Working Group – overnight (March '14)
- **Catholic Enquiry Centre** – email, phone and letter answering to enquirers  
[www.catholicfaith.org.uk](http://www.catholicfaith.org.uk)
- **Department Secretary**
- **CCN team member** – supporting the daily news roundup, media enquirers (as requested) and team projects.

### Coming Soon 2014...

- Crossing the Threshold Parish Evangelisation Teams Pilot – Nottingham Diocese – completion and write-up (April – July '14). Two new dioceses have asked to run the project and the first will begin in September 2014 and the second in the Spring of 2015.
- Home Mission Sunday planning and resource creation (March – September '14)
- National Evangelisation Conference planning (ongoing)
- Symposium Day – presentation of the findings of case study research focusing on non churchgoing Catholics who send their children to Catholic primary schools, conducted for the Department by Dr Ann Casson (Autumn 2014 / early 2015)
- Bible Sunday Working Group – material preparation for the second Sunday in Advent. This year's focus is supporting Mass readers.

*Clare Ward, Home Mission Desk, April 2014 (Photos: Marcin Mazur, CBCEW)*

“I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelisation marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come.”

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 1