

www.comehomeforchristmas.co.uk

Internet Resources



We've collected a wide range of materials from initiatives such as KIT, CaFE, Everyone's Welcome and Landings, amongst others. See 'Home Mission Desk': www.catholicnews.org.uk/christmas-outreach

A **website** for non churchgoing Catholics has been created to support this initiative. Please help promote: www.comehomeforchristmas.co.uk

Media



Please do consider making contact with your local radio station and newspaper to let them know that you are preparing to welcome people to Church. If you're not sure how to locate your local radio station, for example, please see: www.bbc.co.uk/news/england

Publicising Your Event



Please send us information about your welcome event. Fill in and return the reply slip below.

Event(s) Registration

Date: Time:

Venue:

Contact: Tel:

Return to: CHFC, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX.

E-mail: Mission.Volunteer@cbcew.org.uk

Come Home
For Christmas



Come Home For Christmas is an initiative of the Catholic Church which aims to offer a seasonal welcome to Catholics who for different reasons no longer or rarely attend Mass. Whatever their story or journey, members of Catholic parishes are invited to listen and offer a warm welcome.

How to get involved?

If you would like more information please contact the Home Mission Desk. Tel. **0207 901 4818**. Email: Mission.Volunteer@cbcew.org.uk. Also see: www.comehomeforchristmas.co.uk





Come Home For Christmas



When?
**Advent and
Christmas**

Where?
**Your parish /
community**

**Supported by the Home
Mission Desk, Catholic
Bishops' Conference
of England and Wales**

Tel: 0207 901 4818

*Equipping the
Catholic Community
for Home Mission*



Home Mission Desk
39 Eccleston Square
London
SW1V 1BX

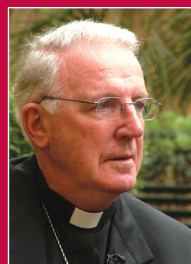
E-mail:
Mission.Volunteer@cbcew.org.uk

Website:
[www.catholicchurch.org.uk/
homemission](http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/homemission)

Reach Out To Welcome Home

Most Catholic families have members who, for different reasons, no longer go to Mass: some lost contact during their teenage years, others drifted away after a broken marriage, whilst some have had painful experiences with the Catholic community. Our initiative aims to encourage Catholics to listen respectfully and lovingly to people's stories and invite them back. A simple invitation could make all the difference in the world.

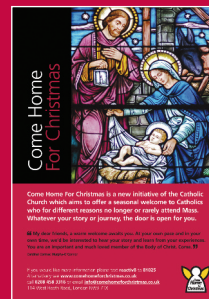
A recent report highlighted that three million people in England and Wales would come to Church if invited. It is estimated that at least two-thirds of the Catholic community are non churchgoing (lapsed). You and other members of your parish are therefore invited to go out in search of the lost sheep like Jesus himself. Advent, Christmas and the New Year are good times to invite people back.



'My dear friends, I urge you to take part in this initiative. All of us know someone who no longer attends Mass. This is a great sorrow for so many of us. In a non-judgemental way, as the Body of Christ, let's go out to the lost sheep this Advent, Christmas and New Year, with a message of love, acceptance, welcome and reconciliation.'

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor

How To Get Involved?

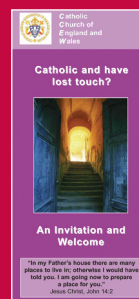


A variety of posters have been designed to support your outreach in recognition of the fact that 'no one size fits all'. All the posters are available online. Please do consider putting one on display on an exterior notice board, visible to those outside the church building. Perhaps also, with permission, display another in a non church venue such as a local shop, library, pub, community centre or school.



Research suggests that if you **invite** seven people to a parish event, it is probable that one person will attend. Ask everyone who comes to Sunday Mass to issue an invitation to a non churchgoing Catholic during Advent, Christmas and the New Year, to attend a service. Ready-made invitation cards are available online.

Consider organising a 'Come and See' or appropriately named **welcome evening** for people who want to explore returning to the practice of their faith. A format for such an evening can be downloaded from www.catholicchurch.org.uk/homemission



Leaflets for non churchgoing Catholics have been created to resource parishes to reach out. They include a welcome message and some short testimonies. This resource also suggests reasons why people lapse and come back. Why not deliver a leaflet to each of the Catholic homes in your parish, along with service times? The leaflet can be downloaded from www.catholicchurch.org.uk/homemission.

