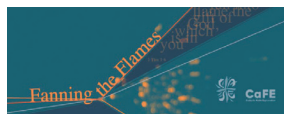


## Fanning The Flames – The Tour Continues

Following the enthusiastic reception of our spring and autumn evangelisation training days, we have already started taking bookings for 'Fanning the Flames: Part Two'. If your area missed out the first time around, do contact us to arrange a training date. Please see [www.caseresources.org.uk/whatcanido/1Fanning\\_the\\_Flames.htm](http://www.caseresources.org.uk/whatcanido/1Fanning_the_Flames.htm) for more details.

Sr Michael Lee from the Hexham and Newcastle Diocesan Evangelisation Team said: **'The turnout was marvellous and everyone who came... was equipped to implement the setting up of a dedicated team... If you're still thinking about attending a forthcoming day, do go. You won't be disappointed.'**



**Most Holy Trinity, help me to spread Your fragrance everywhere I go.**

**Flood my soul with Your Spirit and Life.**

**Shine through me, so that every soul I come in contact with may feel Your presence in my soul.**

**AMEN**

*A prayer adapted from the writings of the Venerable John Henry Newman and recited daily by The Missionaries of Charity.*

**Prayer**

**The Churches' Olympics Launch**

**'More Than Gold', the churches' 2012 Olympics and Paralympics charity, hosted its Games Engagement Conference at Wembley Stadium recently.**

Around 300 Christian leaders from every denomination, Christian agency and missionary organisation gathered to start the task of working together to mobilise volunteers, hospitality, community festivals, prayer, performing arts, chaplaincy and sports mission in the lead up to and during the 2012 Games.

The day was opened by Lord Brian Mawhinney, Chairman of both the Football League and 'More Than Gold'. He invited the Christian community to 'reach out and serve'. A number of Catholic representatives were also present at the event including CASE.

For further information, please visit [morethangold.org.uk](http://morethangold.org.uk) or contact the 2012 Catholic Coordinator, James Parker, on **07930 119831** or at [james.parker@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:james.parker@cbcew.org.uk).

**The focus of a recent CASE-led evangelisation day was how to reach out to people living in the seaside towns of Cleethorpes and Grimsby.**

In the run up to the May event, a core team of five – six people modelled what it means to be a parish evangelisation team through prayer, discussion, planning, setting priorities and inviting others in the deanery to join them in mission. Around 40 people came to the day and several positive outcomes have already evolved, including the development of the following groups:

- Spirituality** – to support all groups in the parish such as Liturgy, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers.
- Evangelisation** – to encourage people to be aware and develop mission in everything that they do.
- A Way Back** - to invite and help 'resting' Catholics to return to parish life.

**Seaside Mission**

## 'Alpha' Welcomes Catholic Bishops From Around The World

**Our regular ecumenical feature takes as its focus the International Alpha Conference held in London in June 2009.**

This year's Alpha International Conference was attended by over 1,500 delegates from 100 countries; amongst these were over twenty Catholic Bishops. For the first time in the history of the event, such was the size of the Episcopal presence that a special Bishops' Stream was hosted by the Anglican Bishop of London.

Alpha is one of the most well-known evangelisation programmes in England and Wales. The course aims to provide an introduction to the Christian faith and, so far 13 million people have attended the course in over 160 countries.

The English and Welsh Catholic delegation was led by Rt Rev Thomas McMahon, Bishop of Brentwood, who said: 'Alpha is the most marvellous tool for evangelisation. Alpha serves to bring faith alive, and to me, that is the most important thing in the world, because if a person's faith and belief in Jesus becomes "real" as opposed to "notional" then you see the whole of life differently.'

CASE works closely with the Alpha for Catholics (AfC) team and supported a reception for the attending Bishops at Archbishop's House, Westminster. AfC provides support and information to parishes to enable the course to be run successfully in a Catholic context. For more information about Alpha for Catholics see: [www.alpha.org/catholics](http://www.alpha.org/catholics)

**To find out more about the Catholic evangelisation resources available in England and Wales please see CASE's Evangelisation Directory at: [www.caseresources.org/case/Main.aspx](http://www.caseresources.org/case/Main.aspx).**



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# CASE Notes

Issue 16: Case Notes: Sept 2009 - 2010



Catholic Agency to Support Evangelisation

## Home Mission Sunday 2009

**'They will know Him by the good works that you do.'**

We all know someone who needs to hear the Good News that God loves and forgives them. Home Mission Sunday (20 September 2009) provides Catholic parishes, communities, families and individuals the opportunity to reflect, pray and be resourced to share their faith.

This year's theme is 'They will know Him by the good works that you do', and has been chosen in prayerful response to the content of the Scripture readings for the day and the current economic climate. Parishes and individuals are being invited to consider how they can evangelise by showing their faith through loving support and service to those in need at this time. They are reminded to use the opportunities that present themselves to explain the reason for their actions as being found in Christ (1 Peter 3:15).

It is the task of every parish and baptised person to open up the meaning of Jesus' story for others by witnessing to their faith through loving service. There is a strong link between evangelisation and charitable works. Home Mission Sunday challenges us to take a fresh look at how we can show the face of God through our good works, whether small or large, that we carry out day-to-day. I encourage you to celebrate it and to take part in the planned 'little' week of evangelistic service.

For more information see: [www.homemissionsunday.co.uk](http://www.homemissionsunday.co.uk) and please do support the optional collection that will be taken in parishes for CASE's vital work.

**Rt Rev Kieran Conry**  
Bishop of Arundel and Brighton  
Chairman of the Bishops' Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis

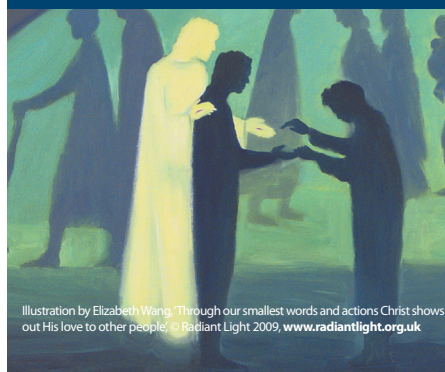
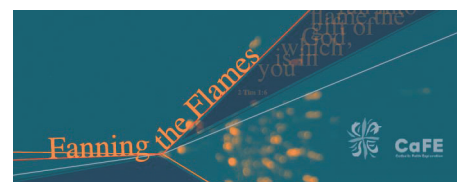


Illustration by Elizabeth Wang. 'Through our smallest words and actions Christ shows out His love to other people.' © Radiant Light 2009. [www.radiantlight.org.uk](http://www.radiantlight.org.uk)



## 'Flame-Filled' Training

**More than 700 people from all parts of England and Wales have taken part in the first ever national evangelisation training tour. So far, 10 'Fanning the Flames' events have taken place, jointly led by members of the CASE team and a representative of the Catholic Evangelisation Services (the producers of the CaFE DVD resources).**

Each day has been designed to help people unpack a Catholic understanding of evangelisation, and to ensure that they are equipped and resourced to do it, specifically by setting up parish evangelisation teams. People from local evangelisation initiatives have provided snapshots of how they reach out to people. A resources table was set up so that individuals and teams had easy access to the support outreach materials.

One participant enthused: **'It was brilliant to hear the ideas that other people have already found successful; we're definitely going to set up an evangelisation team in our parish and try the same!'** Another spoke of how: **'It was reassuring to find that we had similar concerns, most of which lessened over the day.'**

Upcoming dates include Newmarket on 17 October, Birkenhead on 24 October and additional events have been requested for 2010 in the Archdiocese of Liverpool and in the Diocese of Northampton. Please see the back page if you are interested in having an evangelisation training day in your area, or contact CASE (ring **020 7901 4863**; e-mail [info@caseresources.org.uk](mailto:info@caseresources.org.uk)) to book places on an existing event.

Rt Rev John Rawsthorne (Bishop of Hallam) contributing to a discussion group at the 'Fanning the Flames' event in Mackworth, near Derby.



## CASE Highlights

**Mgr Keith Barltrop finished his time at CASE in March 2009 to begin working as the National Coordinator of the visit of the Relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux.**

Emily Davis will be speaking at God's Plan for You in Weybridge, looking at vocation and mission.

Clare Ford has contributed sessions on evangelisation to an Ecclesiology and Ministry Course at Ushaw Seminary.

Clare Ward addressed Catholic prison chaplains at their annual training meeting at the Prison Service Training College near Rugby.

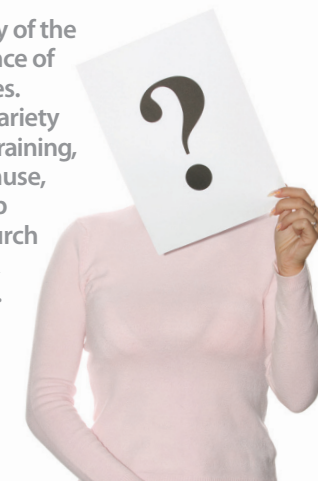
## Seasonal Outreach

CASE resources an initiative called 'Come Home for Christmas'. Working in partnership with others, the team helps to resource parishes and individuals to reach out to resting (lapsed) Catholics during the Christmas and New Year period.

If you feel like taking the plunge and forming a small group to invite people back to church, we can supply you with posters, invitations and leaflets. You might also be interested in setting up a 'home visiting' team. Please visit the downloads page on the CASE website and [www.comehomeforchristmas.co.uk](http://www.comehomeforchristmas.co.uk) for more information on our resources.

## What is CASE?

CASE is an Agency of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Through a wide variety of resources and training, its remit is to enthuse, engage and equip all tiers of the Church in the urgent task of evangelisation.





## No Shortage of Spiritual Seekers

CASE runs the Catholic Enquiry Office which offers a question and answer service about the Faith, free information packs and an introductory website: [www.life4seekers.co.uk](http://www.life4seekers.co.uk)

Michelle\* recently wrote in asking: **'I am in my twenties and at the age of 16 had an abortion. My partner and I would now like to get married... Do you know if it is allowed? ... I am too embarrassed to make contact with my local parish.'**

Meanwhile Matthew\* emailed: **'I am at the enquiry stage about the Catholic Church... and don't know where to start... Your thoughts and advice would be so welcome.'**

Each year, the Office is contacted by thousands of individuals who are looking for advice, information and guidance. This is a strong indication that there is no shortage of spiritual seekers and of resting (lapsed) Catholics wanting to be reconciled.

Most recently, we have tried to respond to the spiritual needs of those affected by the recession by launching a dedicated web page: [www.life4seekers.co.uk/uncertainty](http://www.life4seekers.co.uk/uncertainty) Some of the other projects being developed include: an in-depth Catechism layer to the website called the 'Wisdom Well'; a PowerPoint entitled 'What is a Catholic?'; and an expanded

'Frequently Asked Questions' online area.



\*Names have been changed to protect identity

## Faith and Culture: Sacramental Church

**It's good to remind ourselves that reflection is absolutely essential: on a human level, we have a need to take stock of where we've been and what we've done in life in order to effectively move forward.**

On a spiritual level, 'taking stock' is also about discerning the voice of God, and, as St John reminds us in the Book of Revelation, it is also about lending an ear to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

As a means of facilitating the reflective and listening processes, CASE has co-ordinated a Symposium – a dialogue between representatives of the New Expressions of Mission in the Church, including the New Movements, and those engaged in academic

reflection on faith and culture.

The dialogue is beginning with a reflection on the implications for culturally relevant mission, of being a sacramental Church. How does a culture steeped in relativism, for example, respond to the Sacraments? What does it mean to be a sacramental presence in a world in which many people would never have cause to enter our church buildings? How and when do we help people who are alienated from organised religion to move from hearing an initial proclamation of the Gospel to the Lord's table at the Eucharist?

We hope that by offering space for these questions to be aired and examined, CASE will support the Church in England and Wales to



more effectively engage with Home Mission. The fruits of the dialogues on these themes will be widely available from mid October 2009 at: [www.caseresources.org.uk/culturetalk](http://www.caseresources.org.uk/culturetalk)

## Huge Press Interest in the Relics' Visit

**The visit of the Relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux to England and Wales presents an evangelisation opportunity and there has been a lot of press interest already.**

The Guardian, The Independent and Radio 4's PM programme all featured the story of her visit to Wormwood Scrubs. The Guardian reported: 'For inmates at London's Wormwood Scrubs prison

praying for redemption, help may soon be at hand from "The greatest saint of modern times." Meanwhile, The Independent reported that the public veneration could be reminiscent of that witnessed when Princess Diana died.

For more see: [www.catholicrelics.co.uk](http://www.catholicrelics.co.uk). CASE has contributed video files and PowerPoint presentations to support this mission work.



© Office Central de Lisieux.



## Year for Priests

The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI declared a 'Year for Priests' beginning on 19 June, 2009. The year will conclude in Rome with an international gathering of priests in June 2010. The National Office for Vocation will be following events around the dioceses of England and Wales, as well as using this opportunity to pray for our priests and to affirm their vocation. Resources are available on the national website for diocesan priesthood [www.ukpriest.org/yearforpriests.html](http://www.ukpriest.org/yearforpriests.html)

If you are priest or are involved in priest formation, do also contact the CASE office for more information about the evangelisation-themed reflection and training days that we offer.

## Good News About Those Who Give Good News

**The National Board of Catholic Women (NBCW) recently celebrated its 70th anniversary at Liverpool Cathedral. The Board is engaged in a wide variety of works in service of mission and provides a forum for Catholic women in England and Wales to come together to share their views and concerns at diocesan and national level. It is a consultative body to the Bishops' Conference and also has consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC).**

Members work nationally and internationally to challenge discrimination and to promote justice. Amongst other activities, the Board also actively promotes the presence, participation and responsibilities of Catholic women in the Church and in society.

CASE was recently invited to affirm and support its members by writing a reflection on the contribution that women make to contemporary evangelisation. Please visit: [www.nbcw.org](http://www.nbcw.org).



## Pause For Thought

**'You know well enough that Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love with which we do them.'**

St Thérèse of Lisieux

## New Resources Catalogue



The new CASE catalogue is a guide to the available resources to support dioceses, parishes, families and individuals in the task of evangelisation. It features printed and online materials, training opportunities and outreach resources which are easy-to-use and are distributed at cost price. Do request a copy to see how CASE might be able to support mission in your area.



## Little Way Week 18 – 24 October 2009



CASE has launched an initiative called 'Little Way Week' which coincides with the end of the tour of the Relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux in England and Wales (18 - 24 October 2009). As a follow up to Home Mission Sunday and, as a way of reaching out to others with the love of Jesus Christ, every baptised person is invited to get involved for a week by doing at least one 'little' daily service activity.

St Thérèse is the universal Patroness of the Missions and received a teaching which has been called the 'Little Way'; the saint lived by this pathway which is a commitment to do small tasks everyday with love. It is not about seeking greatness or gratitude; it is about selflessness and service and is a way of witnessing to the love of God and neighbour.



**Parishes, communities, families and individuals are invited to:**

- Decide on seven small daily actions for a week – to witness to their faith through service.
- Come together at the end of the week as a community to celebrate and share their experiences.
- Consider volunteering to work with a Catholic charitable organisation.

You can receive daily 'Little Way' ideas by text message. These cost 25p per SMS, plus your standard network charge. For more information, please visit: [www.littlewayweek.org.uk](http://www.littlewayweek.org.uk)

## Rome Hosts 'Proclamation' Gathering

**Recently, delegates from across Europe gathered in Rome for the European Symposium on the 'First Announcement'.**

Over four days, a series of papers were presented, beginning with a definition of 'First Proclamation'; this proved to be a complex task given the breadth of cultures and countries represented. Amongst others, Fr Michael Paul Gallagher SJ, from the Pontifical Gregorian University, delivered a challenging and thought-provoking paper on contemporary culture titled: 'Crossroads... a New Approach in First Announcement'.

The English and Welsh Bishops' Conference was represented at the event by a CASE team member and a delegate from the Leeds Diocese. It was very encouraging to note that no other country had a resource agency like CASE, making it most rewarding to be able to celebrate and to share what is happening in the UK.

