



Home Mission Briefing

A monthly mission news roundup for the Catholic community in England and Wales

May 2011

DIocese:

Leeds has a dedicated website for Evangelisation and Catechesis offering information, guidance and resources: <http://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/evangelisation/>



INITIATIVE:

New Missal resource, *Become One Body One Spirit In Christ*, is an interactive DVD, exploring the depth, richness, and layers of meaning of the liturgical texts of the Roman Missal: <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Missal-Translation-DVD-Resource>

ENQUIRERS:

Martin recently emailed the Catholic Enquiry Office to share: 'I contacted you about four years ago and began my road to Catholicism. I am now an RE teacher... Many thanks.'



EXHIBITION

The National Gallery's collection, 'Devotion by Design' explores the function, the original location, and the development of altarpieces: <http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/whats-on/exhibitions/devotion-by-design>

ECUMENISM

Culturewatch exists to help churches 'explore the message behind the media'. This charity offers hundreds of articles, study guides and video podcasts reflecting on films, books, music, television and more: <http://www.damaris.org/cw/>

Call to renewed commitment

The Holy Father recently addressed participants in the General Assembly of the Pontifical Missionary Works, which reports to the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples (14 May 2011) and said:

'Dear friends, with your precious work of animation and missionary cooperation you remind the People of God of "the need in our day too for decisive commitment to the *missio ad gentes*" (Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini*, n. 95), to proclaim the "the great hope", "the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end, each one of us and humanity in its entirety" (Encyclical *Spe Salvi*, n. 31)...

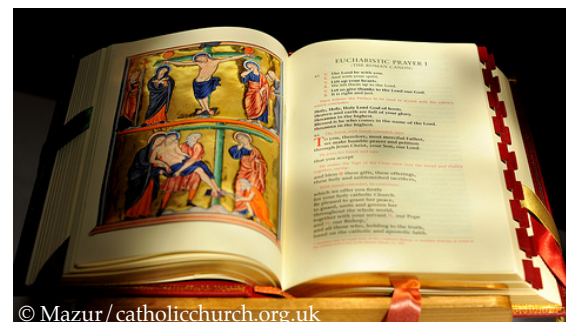
'The Church must constantly renew her commitment to bring Christ, to prolong his messianic mission to bring about the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of justice, peace, freedom and love. It is the duty of the entire People of God to transform the world according to God's plan with

the renewing force of the Gospel, so "that God may be everything to every one" (1 Cor 15:28). Thus it is necessary to continue with renewed enthusiasm the work of evangelisation, the joyful proclamation of the Kingdom of God, who came in Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, to lead all men and women to the true freedom of children of God against every form of slavery. It is necessary to cast the nets of the Gospel into the sea of history to bring human beings towards the land of God...

"The mission of proclaiming the word of God is the task of all of the disciples of Jesus Christ based on their Baptism" (Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini*, n. 94). However in order that there may be a decisive commitment to evangelisation, it is necessary that individual Christians and communities truly believe that "the word of God is the saving truth which men and women in every age need" (ibid., n. 95). If this conviction of faith is not profoundly rooted in our own lives, we shall not be able to feel the urgency and beauty of proclaiming it. In fact, every Christian must make his or her

own the pressing need to work for the edification of the Kingdom of God. Everything in the Church is at the service of evangelisation: every sector of her activity and also each and every one, in the various duties that they are called to carry out. All must be involved in the *missio ad gentes*: bishops, priests, men and women religious and lay people. "No believer in Christ can feel dispensed from this responsibility which comes from the fact of our sacramentally belonging to the Body of Christ" (ibid., n. 94). It is therefore necessary to ensure that all the sectors of pastoral work, catechesis and charity are characterised by the missionary dimension: the Church is mission.'

Full text: <http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/>



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Evangelisation: A priority

9 - 12 May the Bishops of England and Wales published resolutions concerning evangelisation which came about as a fruit of their Plenary meeting in Leeds. Three to highlight particularly from a home mission perspective are:

- 1) The Bishops' Conference reviewed their aims and objectives for the next three to five years. In their strategic thinking, the Bishops are taking account of the opportunities and challenges which arise from the contemporary cultural and social context within England and Wales and the need for the 'New Evangelisation for the Transmission of the Christian Faith' which will be the theme of the 2012 Synod of Bishops in Rome.
- 2) The Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis was asked to co-ordinate the process of consultation on the Synod of Bishops' 2012 Lineamenta and to supervise the production of a response on behalf of the Conference. The theme of the Consultation is 'The New Evangelisation for the Transmission of the Christian Faith'. The lineamenta is available online.
- 3) The Bishops' Conference wishes to remind all Catholics in England and Wales of the obligation of Friday Penance. The Bishops have decided to re-establish the practice that this should be fulfilled by abstaining from meat. Those who cannot or choose not to eat meat as part of their normal diet should abstain from some other food of which they regularly partake. This is to come into effect from Friday 16 September 2011 when we will mark the anniversary of the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the United Kingdom.

For a full transcript of the resolutions please see: <http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Events/Bishops-Conference-May-2011>

Over the summer resources are being prepared to support people to re-establish Friday penance and to contribute to the first anniversary of the Holy Father's visit to the UK. Do check the Home Mission page on the Bishops' Conference website for developments and thank you for your ongoing support and prayers.

Clare Ward, Home Mission Advisor

New Pentecost Resource



Pentecost reminds us that the Church exists and was born for a missionary purpose. In Acts of Apostles (2:1-11) we read that the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples to give them the gifts that they would need to proclaim the Gospel. The gifts given were for the whole Church and for the common good, made manifest in the lives of individuals and in the life of the Christian community. We know that this experience renewed them in their baptismal calling and was powerful and transforming.

On June 12 so it can be for us too if we're willing. Perhaps therefore consider in these days leading up to Pentecost what is your response to this Solemnity. You're invited to consider one way in which you can make your faith seen and heard everyday, remembering as we read in John's Gospel that, as the Father sent Him, so too are we sent, that we have nothing to fear because the Holy Spirit is with us. (John 20: 19 – 23). A format for an annual Parish Mission Commissioning is available from: <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Home-Mission>

New Community: COLW

The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham (COLW) is a new religious community that is dedicated to mission. Members do not observe enclosure but their rhythm of life is rooted in the Carmelite tradition. They strive to help to promote a culture of vocation in the Church and in society by enabling people to respond fully to the call of love in their lives.

Community members seek to radiate Gospel values and are committed to the New Evangelisation, in catechetical, pro-life, ecumenical and interfaith work promoting unity in diversity. For more information: <http://www.walsinghamcommunity.org/index.html>

Nuncio's Address

The Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, Archbishop Antonio Mennini, addressed the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales at the start of their Plenary Meeting in Leeds, Monday 9 May 2011 and said: 'I am indeed pleased also to meet all of you at your plenary session... The Blessed Pope John Paul II had earlier called on the Church to become deeply committed to the urgent demanding task of evangelisation... As he wrote in *Redemptoris Missio*: "After preaching in a number of places, Saint Paul arrived in Athens, where he went to the Areopagus and proclaimed the Gospel in a language appropriate to and understandable in those surroundings (cf Acts 17:22-31). At that time the Areopagus represented the cultural centre of the learned people of Athens, and today it can be taken as a symbol of the new sectors in which the Gospel must be proclaimed." (*Redemptoris Missio*, n. 37c).' Full text: http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Media-Centre/press_releases/Press-Releases-2011/Apostolic-Nuncio-Addresses-Bishops-of-England-and-Wales

Twice as many friends online



'Users of social networks have been found to have an average of 121 friends online, as opposed to 55 in real life. The average person has in fact double the amount of online friends than physical ones... users of such sites have

121 online friends

compared with 55 physical friends.'

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2011/may/09/social-network-users-friends-online>

Facebook Outreach

Pope Benedict XVI has invited people to proclaim the Gospel message through the internet, and young Catholics are responding during Facefaith week (30 May - 5 June), the week leading up to World Communications Day. Everyone is invited to bless their Facebook friends this week with inspiring status updates, pictures and videos. See: http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Media-Centre/press_releases/Press-Releases-2011/Facefaith-Week