



“FRESH WIND IN OUR SAILS”

How to respond practically?



The journey so far:

- “Fresh Wind In Our Sails” – unpacking what it means
- Discussion

Now:

- How to respond practically?





Time of Opportunity



Doing God: a Future for Faith in the Public Square

[http://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/Files/MediaFiles/
TheosBookletfinal.pdf](http://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/Files/MediaFiles/TheosBookletfinal.pdf)

- The majority of people believe that religion is a force for the good in society
- That Christianity has a role to play
- Traditional atheism seems to be waning
- Interest in faith is increasing across Western culture
- Religion is on the agenda of government and the media



Religion = on the public antenna



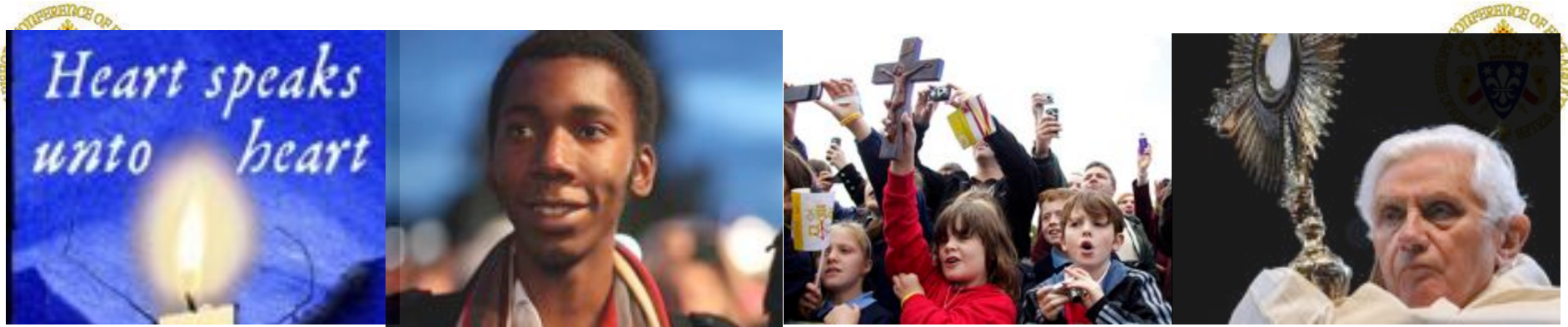
Time of Opportunity



- Creation of the new Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation
- Synod of Bishops in Rome to focus on New Evangelisation

Lineamenta for 2012 Synod on the New Evangelisation is available online





“The Holy Father has given us new heart for our mission. In our Cathedral he spelt out that task. He said we are to be witnesses to the beauty of holiness, to the splendour of the truth and to the joy and freedom born of a living relationship with Christ.”

(Archbishop Nichols, Pastoral Letter to the Archdiocese of Westminster, 24 September 2010)

Papal Visit Legacy: Some Definite Purpose



Mission Priorities



To Know Our Purpose

To Grow In Confidence

To Witness To Our Faith

To Serve Others

To Seek And Engage In Dialogue

To Point To The Transcendent

To Know Our Purpose



Proclaim the Gospel

“In the course of my visit it has become clear to me how deep a thirst there is among the British people for the Good News of Jesus Christ. You have been chosen by God to offer them the living water of the Gospel.”

Pope Benedict XVI, Address at Oscott, 19th Sept. 2010

To Know Our Purpose

Essential role of the laity

“The Second Vatican Council spoke eloquently of the indispensable role of the laity in carrying forward the Church’s mission through their efforts to serve as a leaven of the Gospel in society.”

Pope Benedict XVI, Homily at Westminster Cathedral, 18th Sept. 2010

Call to holiness

“What God wants most of all for each one of you is that you should become holy. He loves you much more than you could ever begin to imagine, and he wants the very best for you. And by far the best thing for you is to grow in holiness.”

Pope Benedict XVI, Address at the Big Assembly, 17th Sept. 2010





For Reflection



What is the 'service,' the 'work' that you have been called to do as an individual, as a baptised Catholic?

In your parish, in what ways are you sharing responsibility for the Church's mission, to share your faith?



To Grow In Confidence

“I want a laity, not arrogant, not rash in speech, not disputatious, but men [and women] who know their religion, who enter into it, who know just where they stand, who know what they hold and what they do not, who know their creed so well that they can give an account of it, who know so much of history that they can defend it.”

(Blessed John Henry Newman, *The Present Position of Catholics in England*, 1851)

Pope Benedict XVI, Homily at Cofton Park, 19th Sept. 2010

To Grow In Confidence

The Holy Father specifically invited us to focus on:

- The Word of God
- Spending time in prayer
- Celebrating the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist
- Studying the lives of the UK saints
- Studying Catholic history
- Knowing our Creed
- Listening to our Conscience

Study the Holy Father's speeches:

www.thepapalvisit.co.uk





For Reflection



How much time do I dedicate to prayerfully learning about different aspects of my faith?

In our parish, in what ways are we supporting one another to become confident disciples?



To Witness To Our Faith



“In speaking of our faith he was always so gentle and courteous, so sensitive to the achievements and anxieties of his listeners, so clear and reasoned in presenting difficult points, so humble and open-hearted. We must strive for these same qualities when speaking about our faith, in witnessing to its truth.”

Archbishop Nichols, Pastoral Letter, 24 Sept. 2010

To Witness To Our Faith

- Through the use of visible signs (beauty)
- Through the witness of how we live our lives – our actions
- Through the sharing of our own testimony and journey of faith





For Reflection



When was the last time that you shared with someone who was not a member of your parish something about your faith?

In what ways is your parish witnessing to people who are not churchgoers?





“The Church is at the service of another: she serves, not for herself, not to be a strong body, rather she serves to make the proclamation of Jesus Christ accessible...”

Pope Benedict XVI, In flight interview, 16th Sept. 2010



- The Church exists to serve the poor
- Solidarity with the poor





For Reflection



What is your personal experience of seeking to serve others out of love for Christ?

In your parish, how do you share responsibility for serving others out of love for Christ?



To Seek And Engage In Dialogue

“...the world of reason and the world of faith – the world of secular rationality and the world of religious belief – need one another and should not be afraid to enter into a profound and ongoing dialogue, for the good of our civilization.”

“Religion, in other words, is not a problem for legislators to solve, but a vital contributor to the national conversation... I would invite all of you, therefore, within your respective spheres of influence, to seek ways of promoting and encouraging dialogue between faith and reason at every level of national life.”

Pope Benedict XVI, Address at Westminster Hall, 17th Sept. 2010

To Seek And Engage In Dialogue

- Appeal to faith and reason
- Contribute to national conversation / debate
- Engage in conversation with secularists and those of faith





For Reflection

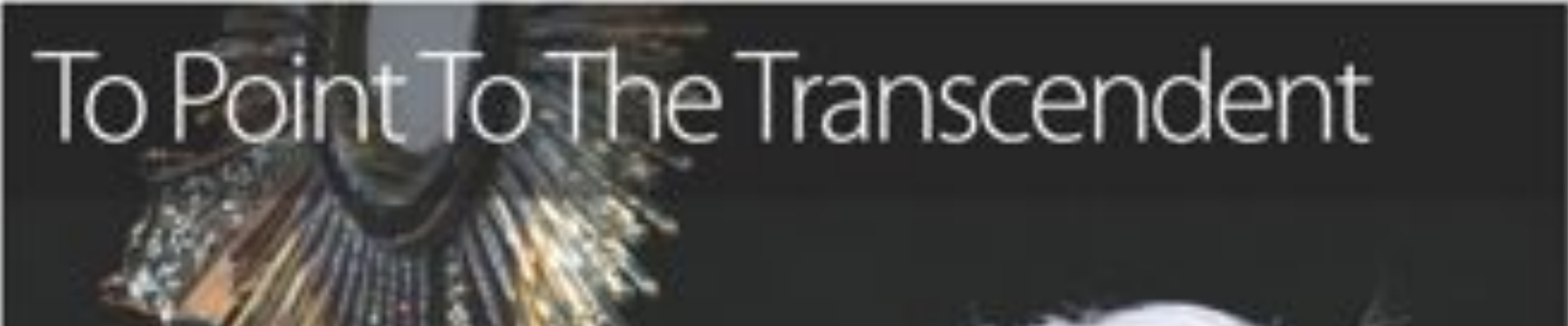


What is your personal experience of seeking to enter into dialogue with others (whoever the 'other' may be, in the widest sense)?

In your parish, how do you share responsibility for dialogue with others (whoever the 'other' may be, in the widest sense)?



To Point To The Transcendent



“By letting the light of faith shine in our hearts, and by abiding in that light through our daily union with the Lord in prayer and participation in the life-giving sacraments of the Church, we ourselves become light to those around us; we exercise our 'prophetic office'; often, without even knowing it, we draw people one step closer to the Lord and his truth. Without the life of prayer, without the interior transformation which takes place through the grace of the sacraments, we cannot, in Newman's words, 'radiate Christ'; we become just another 'clashing cymbal' (1 Cor 13:1).”

Pope Benedict XVI, Reflection at Hyde Park, 18 September 2010

To Point To The Transcendent

- Exploring ways of bearing witness to the transcendent
- Focusing on the Eucharist (Sacraments), Word, Prayer
- The universal call to holiness





For Reflection



You are invited to now pray silently:

“Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.”

When have you experienced God’s presence in your life?

How does your parish, signpost people to a heart-to-heart meeting with the Lord?

(Both within and outside the parish community)



SOME DEFINITE PURPOSE



- To know our purpose
- To grow in confidence
- To witness to our faith
- To serve others
- To seek and engage in dialogue
- To point to the transcendent

Service – individual work

Purpose – shared goal