



THE **F**lower

in the Year of Faith 2012-2013

Season One - October to Christmas 2012

- Homilies and lesson plans on 'What is Faith?' and 'The Person of Christ' and information from diocesan departments
- Ideas for parishes and schools for the Year of Faith
- Plus much more including event listings and articles

Acknowledgments

THE Follower

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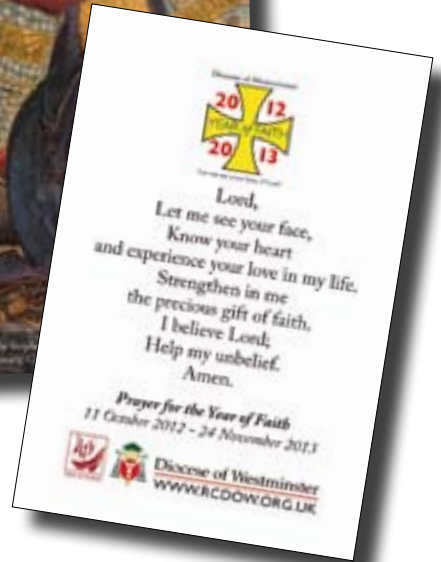
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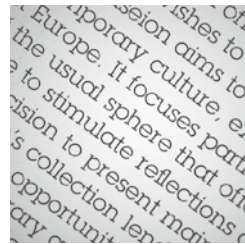
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The image on the cover of this edition of the Follower is Stephen Foster's Christ the Sower and is on display in the foyer of the Allen Hall seminary, Chelsea. At the start of the Year of Faith schools and parishes will receive prayercards, again with this image and a prayer specially written for the Year of Faith in the Diocese of Westminster.



To supplement the homilies throughout the Year of Faith downloadable handouts will be placed on the diocesan intranet:

<http://goo.gl/doBsR>

Also on these pages are various versions of the diocesan logo for the Year of Faith and, when they become available, other resources will be placed here too.



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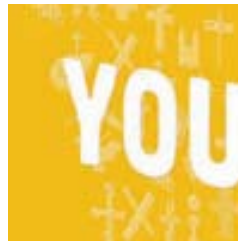
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You Believe: Youth Catechesis

A generous response

| by Bishop John Arnold

Archbishop Vincent has asked that we respond generously to the Pope's invitation to celebrate a 'Year of Faith', beginning in October 2012. Of course, you may say, we are celebrating Faith in our parishes, schools and communities all the time. However, there is always a danger that the way we celebrate loses its freshness and enthusiasm and what we communicate comes across as uninspiring or even bland. This invitation from the Holy Father

is asking us to break out of our routine and to consider what else we might do to grow in and refresh our understanding of the Faith. We are also asked to reflect on the ways in which our Faith impacts on our daily living, the decisions that we make and the choices we have.

In this first season of the Year of Faith, which takes us from 11 October to Christmas, we will celebrate two Sundays together (the 28th Sunday of the Year and 1st Sunday of Advent)

using the homilies on pp.6-9, and select, according to our own particular circumstances, a project for our own community by which we will deepen our understanding of our faith. This booklet contains news of events and ideas to help us in our celebration of the year ahead.

When Pope Benedict was here among us, in September 2010, he was constantly emphasising how Faith must have a practical expression and how the living out of our Faith



Main image: Stained Glass in Somers Town

day by day must have a positive impact on the wider society in which we live. The invitation to deepen our Faith is made to every individual and to the communities and groups to which each of us belongs.

We have a great diversity of parishes and schools in our diocese, each facing challenges and opportunities within their local communities. Given such diversity, it is thought better not to promote a single programme of events for everyone for the

Year of Faith but to invite each parish, school and community to make their own plan for the Year, suitable to their own needs.

As important as the big programmes, events and initiatives, is the personal challenge to determine where we might learn a little more about our Faith, through exploring Scripture, engaging with theology or taking up further spiritual reading and how what we believe impacts

on our behaviour and our witness to Jesus Christ.

As mentioned, you will find in this booklet, the first of four for the Year of Faith, a calendar of events, the suggested homilies and further resources and ideas that may help you to make your own plan. You are also welcome to provide examples of what you are doing for publication in future editions. I hope that we will all recognise this Year as a great opportunity which can benefit us all.

Preaching in the Year of Faith: Homily I

28th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year B)

YOU NEED FAITH TO LIVE. Just to get out of the bed in the morning you have to believe the ground is there to receive you. You can't be checking every morning. You take it on faith.

There are two sorts of faith. The first says; I believe **THAT** - for example, that people live in China. The second is I believe **IN** - for example in Margaret my best friend. The first is a belief that something is the case but it has little bearing on my day to life personally. It is a fact. Sometimes it can be proven to be the case e.g. Go to China and you will find there are people there.

The second is a belief in someone. There is a personal relationship of some sort. And this relationship very much effects my day to day life depending on how close I am to that person. Faith in God is, or should be, this second sort of Faith – a relationship - if it is to make any difference to our lives. And so, in this Year of Faith that begins this week, we are going to start looking at this relationship in some depth over the next year.

Earlier this year there was a one day conference here in London. People came from all over the country. It was about how to reach out to those Catholics who no longer join us in Church and have lapsed from their faith. There were some very interesting discussions and points raised. But one speaker asked: If we are inviting them back, what are we inviting them back to? He went on to say that if you go into many a Pentecostal Church now in our country you will find a sizeable proportion of that congregation are lapsed Catholics. Why?

They often say things like: 'I went to Mass for years but it was not till I came here that I discovered Jesus to be real as a person. I was only going through the motions there. Here I have developed a personal relationship with Christ. Here there is such joy. They will sometimes say too, I went for years to my Catholic parish and no one ever even greeted me. It was so cold. Here I have friendship, fellowship in faith with others.'

What is Faith?

Homily I | by Canon Pat Browne

There are many people who have the first sort of faith...that God exists. Well, so what? It does not impinge on their day to day life. They will say yes I believe in a higher power but it has nothing to do with how I live my day to day life.

Even in our church we have people who come to Mass and pray and receive the sacraments – they have been ‘sacramentalised’ as someone once put it but they have never been evangelised. What I mean by that is, that they have been baptised, ‘made’ their first communion, ‘got’ confirmed. They have done all the right things but they do not know Jesus as their Friend or as their Saviour. They have no relationship with Jesus, with God. They may believe THAT God exists but they live their life as if he doesn’t. They are what are called practical atheists. God does not get a look in when it comes to most of the choices they make. They don’t believe IN him.

In this Year of Faith we are all invited to look again at our relationship with God. Do we have one? How can we set about having one? Jesus has told us, ‘I no longer call you servants, I call you friends.’ What sort of friend am I to Jesus? Someone he can rely on and trust? What sort of friend do I allow him to be to me? My relationship to God is unique and personal to me. This is one reason why, in the new

translation of the creed at Mass, we are now saying “I believe in One God...rather than we believe” No one can have this relationship for me. I must enter into it myself.

We find the Apostles in today’s Gospel have left everything for this relationship. They remind Jesus of this, asking what’s in it for me? He promises to reward them a hundredfold.

It says in the Old Testament that no one can see God and live. (Exodus 33:20) God is distant and aloof. But in the New Testament we discover that God can be seen. He has become one of us. He has a human face. Jesus is the human face of God. As St John writes in his gospel (1:18) No one has ever seen God. The only Son, who is truly God and is closest to the Father, has shown us what God is like.

Are you looking for God? You will find Him in Jesus. That is why we can now pray – and let’s make it our prayer for this Year of Faith: Lord, let me see your face.

We can talk to him. We can reflect on him and listen to him. We can discover his interest in us and his desire to have us as part of his life. I no longer call you servants Jesus has told us. I call you friends. (John 15:15) We are called to Friendship with God. This is what this Year of Faith is all about.

Readings

Wisdom 7:7-11
Hebrews 4:12-13
Mark 10:17-30

Going further?

Handouts for the two homilies in this booklet and the following six homilies in the Year of Faith will be available for download and printing from the diocesan website. These will include references to Scripture and the Catechism as well as talking points for individuals and groups.

These homilies are suggested as starting-points, feel free to adapt while maintaining the intended theme.

Suggested Hymn for this Mass

I will seek your face O Lord (4)

Lord how awesome is your presence.
Who can stand in your light?
Those who by your grace and mercy
Are made holy in your sight.

I will dwell in your presence
All the days of my life;
There to gaze upon your glory
And to worship only you

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Schools

A version of this homily adapted for use in school assemblies can be found on page 38 along with additional materials for educational purposes.

Preaching in the Year of Faith: Homily II

1st Sunday of Advent (Year C)

THE GOSPEL TODAY (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36) COULD BE SCARY. People are fainting with fear and foreboding. We all know one verse of the rousing hymn 'When the Saints go marching in.' The other verses are not so popular: 'Oh when the moon turns into blood ... Oh when the fires begin to blaze ...' Any depiction of the end time tends to bring imagery which stops us in our tracks. Perhaps that is its purpose. To make us sit up and think about ourselves, our world, and our relationship with our Saviour.

If we feel afraid when we think of the Coming of the Lord at the end of time, we need to remember: this is the one who has already come among us. He embodied the love of God. And he speaks not to frighten us but to encourage us. To use our time well, and wisely, and to build all our relationships on that relationship of love that we have with him. As St Paul tells us today, we are called to make progress in the life that God wants us to live (1 Thessalonians 4:1).

How do we come to know Christ more, so that we may love him more, and pattern our life on him? I want to suggest:

Follow his eyes; Follow his hands; Follow his feet

Follow his eyes

Watch his eyes. See how he sees. Outside the Temple he notices the poor widow drop her mite into the treasury box. His eyes light up at the faith of this humble woman, and he tells his followers about her.

His eyes notice farmers sowing seed, a woman mixing bread dough. Jesus uses scenes from everyday life to teach us. Our Father, he wants us to know, is as close to us in the kitchen or the field, as in the Temple.

Sometimes there are tears in the Lord's eyes. Jesus was always welcome at Bethany. At the house of Mary, Martha and Lazarus, there would be a roof over his head, a meal, the slow unhurried conversation of friends. When he hears that this



The Person of Christ

Homily II | by Fr Terry Tastard

happy household has been torn apart by the death of Lazarus, he weeps.

Certainly there is pain in those eyes. Think of them dulling with pain and rolling in agony as the nails are driven in.

Always there is love in those eyes: 'Come to me all of you who are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest.'

Follow his hands

What did the hands of Jesus look like? 'Surely this is the carpenter, the son of Mary?' they said, doubting him. Jesus would probably have been apprenticed to his guardian, Joseph. Any carpenter has hands marked by his tools. Hands grown strong by gripping saw and hammer. They would have been strong, capable hands, but roughened and perhaps even scarred by work.

These hands touch the sick to bring healing. He takes Jairus's 12-year-old daughter by the hand and speaks to her, and she rises from near-death. At sunset in Capernaum they bring the physically ill and the spiritually troubled to him: he lays hands on them and they recover. Our Lord longs for his people to be healed, and he does not scruple at taboo. When lepers ask for healing, he lays hands on them too, restoring them not only to health but to the community. Once, in the synagogue on the Sabbath, he sees an old lady bent double with osteoporosis. He lays hands on

her, and she stands up straight, praising God.

These were the hands that broke bread and lifted up the cup of wine. 'My body, my blood' he said, passing on his life and love to his dearest friends, and through them, giving his life and love to us.

And yes, these hands were broken too, as they bore the weight of his body on the cross.

Follow his feet

These feet walked the long, dusty roads from Galilee to Jerusalem.

Mary of Bethany sat at the feet of Jesus and drank in his teaching. We do the same. A woman in a gesture of love and penitence anointed and kissed his feet. Sometimes we need to do the same ourselves in our love and penitence.

Jesus knelt and washed his disciples' feet. The Son of God knelt before sinners in love and humility. Looking on this scene we ponder our own pride, we remember our petty snobberies and our aloofness. By example, he teaches us.

Finally, follow these lifeless feet to the tomb. Wrapped in cloth, his whole body dragged into a tomb to be sealed away. But you cannot lock up God. It was not the end, but a new beginning in the power of the Resurrection.

'In him was life' sings St John, 'and the life was light for all people.' By faith and baptism

we are taken into that life, and it lights up our life.

May the light in his eyes be the light in our eyes.

May the love in his hands be the love in our hands.

May the willing spirit of service that directed his feet be the spirit that directs our feet.

Amen, come, Lord Jesus.

Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16
1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Other Scripture References

The widow's mite - Mark 12:40-42
Parables of seed and yeast - e.g. Mark 4:2-20, 30-32; Matt 13:33
Raising of Lazarus - John 11
'Come to me all you who are heavy laden' - Matt 11:28
'Surely this is the carpenter, the son of Mary?' - Mark 6:3; compare Matt 13:55
Healing of Jairus's daughter - Mark 5:22-24, 35-43
Healing at sunset in Capernaum - Mark 1:32-34
Healing of a leper - e.g. Mark 1:40-43
Healing of the woman bent double - Luke 13:10-13
Mary of Bethany sits at the feet of Jesus - Luke 10:38-40
His feet are anointed - Luke 7:37-50; compare John 12:3

Schools

A version of this homily adapted for use in school assemblies can be found on page 40 along with additional materials for educational purposes.

Porta Fidei: a summary

by Fr Sergius Wroblewski, OFM

Paragraphs as numbered in original document

1. The 'door of faith' (Acts 14:27) is always open for us, offering us the life of communion with God and offering entry into His Church when the Word of God is proclaimed and the heart allows itself to be transformed by grace. It begins with Baptism (cf. Romans 6:4); it is then that we can address God as Father. The end comes with the passage to eternal life.

2. Ever since the start of my ministry as the Successor of Peter, I have spoken of the need to rediscover the journey of faith. At the Mass inaugurating my pontificate, I said: 'The Church as a whole and all her Pastors, like Christ, must lead people out of the desert towards the place of life'. However, because so many think that faith is self-evident and its meaning and values have little appeal, a profound crisis of faith has affected many people.

3. We cannot accept that salt should become tasteless and the light be kept hidden (cf. Matthew 5:13-16). We must rediscover a taste for feeding ourselves on the word of God and on the Bread of Life.

4. In light of all this, I have decided to announce a Year of Faith. It will begin on 11 October and it will end on the Solemnity of Christ our King on 24 November 2013. The starting date of 11 October 2012 also marks the 20th anniversary of the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. This document was requested by the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops in 1985 to serve the catechists. Moreover,

Fr Sergius is a priest for the Assumption Province of the Friars Minor. Article reproduced with permission. The original can be found at www.wearemissionary.org

it was produced in collaboration with all the bishops of the Catholic Church. Moreover, I have convoked for 12 October, 2012 the General Assembly of Bishops to consider the theme, 'THE NEW EVANGELIZATION FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH'. This will be a good opportunity to usher the whole Church into a time for the rediscovery of the Faith.

6. The renewal of the Church is also achieved through the witness offered by the lives of believers. Christians are called to radiate the word of truth. That requires conversion. Hence, the Year of Faith is a summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, to conversion of life through the forgiveness of sins (cf. Acts 5:31). To the extent that he/she freely cooperates, one's thoughts and affections, mentality and conduct are slowly purified and transformed.

7. It is the love of Christ that fills our hearts and impels us to evangelise. Through His love, Jesus attracts to himself the people of every generation. Today, there is need for stronger ecclesial commitment to new evangelisation in order to rediscover the joy of believing and the enthusiasm for communicating the faith. Faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love received and when it is communicated as an experience of grace and joy. It makes us fruitful and enables us to give life-bearing witness. Only through believing, then, does faith grow and become stronger.

8. On this happy occasion, I wish to invite my brother bishops from all over the world to join the Successor of Peter in recalling the precious gift of faith. We will have the opportunity to profess our faith in our cathedrals and in

the churches of the whole world; in our homes and among our families. Religious communities as well as parish communities are to find a way to make public profession of the Credo.

'May this Year of Faith make our relationship with Christ increasingly firm, because only he guarantees an authentic and lasting love.'

10. At this point I would like to sketch a path intended to help us understand more profoundly not only the content of the faith but also the act of entrusting ourselves fully to God. Knowing the content to be believed is not sufficient unless the heart which is the authentic sacred space within the person is opened by grace so as to see below the surface and understand the word of God. Moreover, a Christian may never think of belief as a private act. Faith is choosing to stand with the Lord so as to live with him. Precisely because it is a free act, faith also demands social responsibility for what one believes. Finally, profession of faith is both personal and communitarian. As we read in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: "I believe" is the faith of the Church professed personally by each believer, principally during baptism. "We believe" is the faith of the Church confessed by the bishops assembled in council or more generally by the liturgical assembly of believers.' That said, we must not forget that very many people are sincerely searching for the definitive truth of their lives and of the world.

11. To arrive at a systematic knowledge of the content of the faith, all can find in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* an indispensable tool. Blessed John Paul II called it a 'valid and legitimate instrument for ecclesial communion and a sure norm for teaching the faith.'

14. The Year of Faith will also be a good time to intensify the witness of charity. Faith without charity bears no fruit. Without faith charity would be a sentiment constantly at the mercy of doubt. Did not James write: 'But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith' (James 2:14-18). Therefore faith and charity require each other.

15. May this Year of Faith make our relationship with Christ increasingly firm, because only He guarantees an authentic and lasting love. We believe with firm certitude that the Lord Jesus has conquered evil and death. With confidence we entrust ourselves to him: he, present in our midst overcomes the power of the evil one (cf. Luke 11:20); and the Church, the visible community of his mercy, abides in him as a sign of definitive reconciliation with the Father. Let us entrust this time of grace to the Mother of God, proclaimed 'blessed because she believed' (Luke 1:45).

Given in Rome at Saint Peter's on 11 October in the year 2011, the seventh of the pontificate of Benedict XVI.

We are all encouraged to read *Porta Fidei* as part of our preparations for the Year of Faith. The letter and the pastoral recommendations can be found on the Vatican's Year of Faith website: www.annusfidei.va

Faith Matters

by Fr Dominic Robinson SJ &
Ausra Karaliute

What is Faith and how do we believe?

TO ANSWER THE QUESTION 'what is faith and how do we come to believe?' requires some effort on our part. But the answer is not very obvious and straightforward. When it comes to our faith, there is a temptation to focus on the more immediate or trivial instead of focusing on what is at faith's very core, what is mystery and beyond immediate understanding. The Year of Faith invites us to step out of our comfort zone in order to appreciate 'a more adequate and mature life of faith' (*Gaudium et Spes*, 62) which is above all a gift bestowed on us by God. This deposit of belief is presented in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC). And we are asked by the Pope to place all this in the context of a dialogue which will lead us to undertake a 'new evangelisation'.

Our efforts to understand our own faith and so to become effective evangelisers should be informed by the findings of the secular sciences, especially philosophy, psychology and anthropology. Although many developments in culture and science might seem at first 'difficult to harmonise with Christian teaching, these difficulties do not necessarily harm the life of faith, rather they can stimulate the mind to a deeper and more accurate understanding of the faith' (GS, 62). Therefore, it is important to be aware of these areas of enquiry and to learn from them.

The *Catechism* reminds us that 'throughout history down to the present day, men have given expression to their quest for God in their religious beliefs and behaviours: in their prayers,

sacrifices, rituals, meditations' (28). Cultural anthropology is an interesting area to explore. How can research into different cultures across time and space inform our understanding of our own faith and of religion? What are the symbols of faith so familiar in cultures across the globe? How can the Bible stories make us feel a part of the whole of humanity travelling through history and across the globe? What makes Christianity distinct? How might the celebration of different cultural histories and experiences bring us all closer to God?

A good start is to look at our faith from the philosophical perspective and to consider the strengths and weaknesses of logical arguments for and against God's existence as this is one of the 'ways of coming to know God' (CCC, 31). So we can go back to Plato and Aristotle and ask Thomas Aquinas to help us to understand these arguments. When we look at Friedrich Nietzsche, we might ask what led him to think that God was dead. Or we can turn our attention to some scientific theories on parallel universes and wonder how or if religion and science can be reconciled. There is a whole universe of different philosophical thought systems and we must explore some of them.

'God communicates himself to man gradually' through history (CCC, 53) and by 'his Revelation, "the invisible God, from the fullness of his love, addresses men as his friends, and moves among them, in order to invite and receive them into his own company' (CCC, 142, *Dei*

Verbum, 2). When it comes to our personal faith, psychology is another fascinating area of enquiry. It can present to us a number of insights into the way we believe and how our human development might be linked to our growth in faith. How did we get our image of God and how can we trust and relate to God? What is the difference between a guilty feeling and a sin? How and why do we pray? How is it all informed by psychological and educational theories on the process of faith development? This journey of exploration requires us to move out of our 'comfort zone' to explore and know our faith better.

Without a right perspective and guidance these challenging developments in contemporary culture and science might appear threatening to the religious understanding of the world around us and to the manner and content of our belief. The Church's Magisterium and Tradition, however, provides us with a rightful anchor on how to navigate our way through the constantly changing waters of new findings in science. We are encouraged to search and to grow in a mature faith and to understand how others might be better facilitated in their journey of discovery in faith.

The autumn season of Faith Matters talks will explore similar questions and will provide a space for discussion and group interaction. For those unable to attend, the lectures will be available to watch on line. For a list of dates see page 45. Registration for lectures is required at:

www.rcdow.org.uk/faithmatters

Marriage & Family Life

| by Edmund Adamus

Throughout this Year of Faith, the Department for Marriage and Family Life, are offering a wide variety of programmes seeking to meet the needs of married couples whether happy, tired or troubled. In amongst the events being offered (for a list see p.46) there are three programmes that deserve highlighting.



Married couples are invited to rediscover the joy of being a man and woman in love by taking part in the *SmartLoving* marriage enrichment weekends held periodically through the year (the next is 24/25 November 2012). *SmartLoving*, the new name for *Celebrate Love*, helps married couples to discover anew the joy of being open to receiving special graces and divine help. Drawing on the insights of the theology of the body, helpful relationship skills are explored. Couples learn how men and women can approach relationships differently yet constructively. Sessions take place on a Saturday and Sunday.

The content and exercises are designed for couples in stable, loving marriages. As it is non-residential, a parish can host the seminar encouraging couples from the parish and the deanery to attend. *SmartLoving* helps a couple understand the differences in the way that their husband or wife experiences love so that they avoid burning energy trying to be loving but missing the mark. Here are some comments from a weekend earlier this year:

'It has done a great job of taking the deep theological

concepts of Theology of the Body and making them personal & practical. We have some real examples and practices to follow. It was very helpful to go through the inventories in a non-confrontational, neutral environment.'

'It has benefitted us because we are at the stage where our children have nearly all left home and we need to rediscover our delight in each other.'



The Diocese of Westminster is also pleased to support *Retrouvaille* which offers a programme bringing many couples in troubled marriages to a new understanding and a fresh start, with God's help. The next programme, backed by much prayer, begins with a weekend away on 28-30 September. Clive and Kathy from *Retrouvaille* urge anyone in a troubled marriage to contact them on 07973 380443 without delay. All enquiries are completely confidential. Almost 50 marriages have been restored since 2009!

As I Have Loved You is a collaborative programme for Christian education in human sexuality between parents and children for Years of Innocence and Puberty and is based on *The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality* (published by the Pontifical Council for the Family). Authored by Dr Gerard O'Shea of the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family in Melbourne, it has been refined in its content by parents themselves and is an excellent example of how to translate the principles laid out

in the document *The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality* into simple, practical activities. The four key principles are:

- Each child is unique and should be formed individually.
- The moral dimension should be included in explanations.
- Formation should be provided in the broadest possible context of education for love.
- Information should be provided clearly & delicately at a time appropriate to the child.

With simple language and graphics, the book offers advice and materials for the formation of children in a well-integrated sexuality. Parents can readily draw on their own insights to talk sensitively and lovingly about sexual development and the responsibilities that come with this great gift from God.



The society in which we live is so saturated with harmful and wrong interpretations of the marriage union; but there are a variety of opportunities available which are aimed at strengthening marriages. In this Year of Faith and beyond, please consider having a *SmartLoving* seminar in your parish or deanery, attending the *As I Have Loved You* day on 10 November and seek to find ways of celebrating marriage and supporting married couples in your parish. For more please contact Edmund Adamus on edmundadamus@rcdow.org.uk



Art and Faith

Podcast series from the Bishops' Conference | by Clare Ward

PAUL VI addressed to artists at the conclusion of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council on 8 December 1965: 'To all of you,' he proclaimed solemnly, 'the Church of the Council declares through our lips: if you are friends of true art, you are our friends!' Later, Pope Benedict XVI addressed a gathering of artists (2009) saying that authentic beauty, 'unlocks the yearning of the human heart, the profound desire to know, to love, to go towards the Other, to reach for the Beyond.' He shared too with a group of pilgrims to his summer residence in 2011, that when he attended a performance of the works of J.S. Bach, conducted by Leonard Bernstein, in Munich: 'After the last piece of music, one of the Cantate, I felt, not by reasoning, but in my heart, that what I heard had conveyed to me truth, something of the truth of the great composer's faith and this pressed me to praise and thank the Lord.'

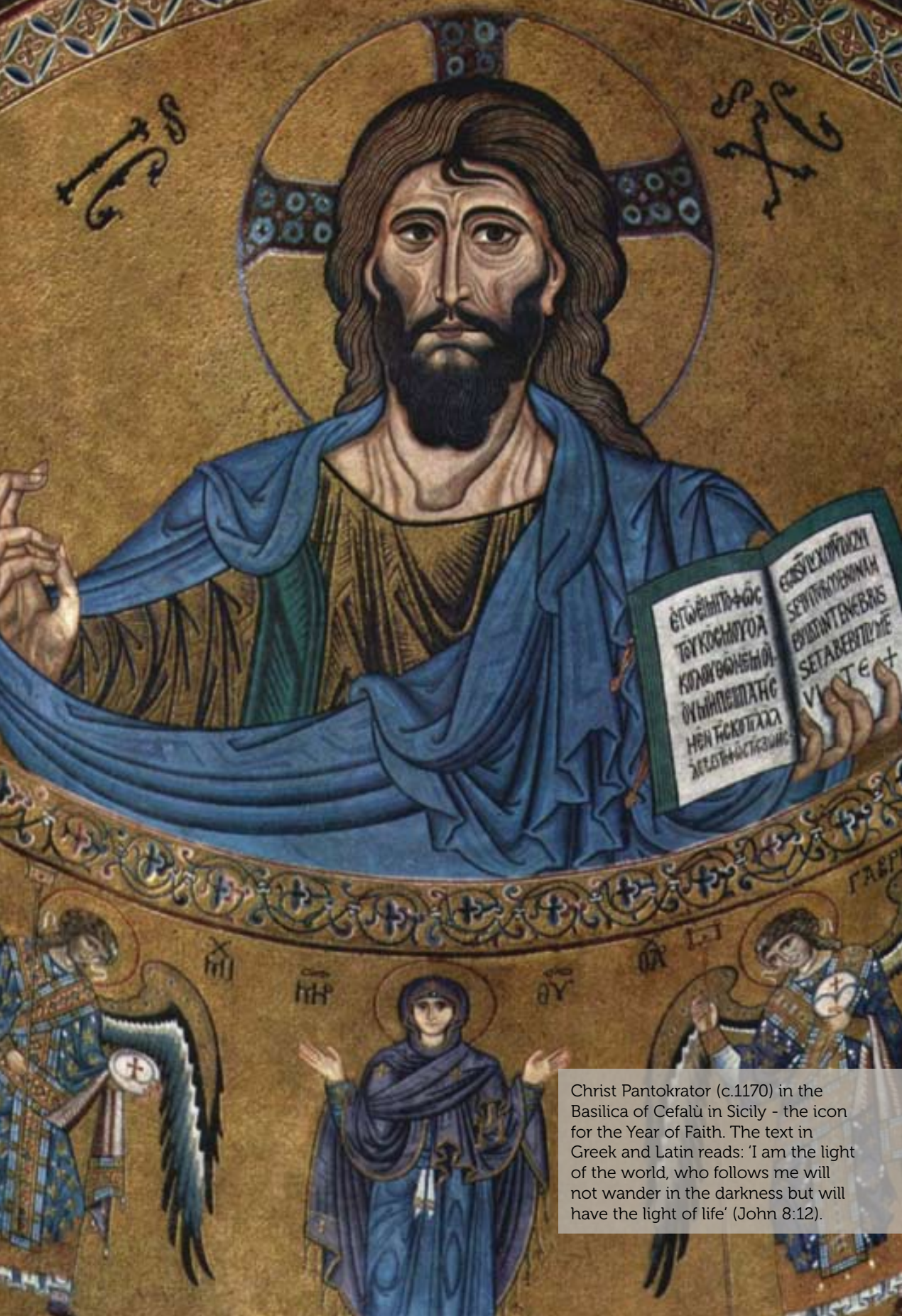
The Catholic Church has for centuries supported artists and encouraged use of art – be that a painting, sculpture, statue, building or monument, piece of music, dance, landscaped garden, among other expressions – as a tool of evangelisation.

The series is being coordinated by the Home Mission Desk, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and will be downloadable from www.yearoffaith.org.uk

Also see: www.catholicnews.org.uk The first recording will be made available after the launch of the Year – 11 October 2012.

In the Middle Ages the Church was patron to many artists who shared their talents with those who visited churches and cathedrals across Europe and beyond. The Last Supper of Leonardo di Vinci is probably the most reproduced religious painting of all time, for example, followed only by Michelangelo's The Creation of Adam. Today that patronage continues through the commissioning of new pieces of work such as stained glass windows, tapestries and murals. The Church has long recognised that, whilst not all art is beautiful and it is important that it is not, the appeal to the senses is a fundamental way through which we learn about and encounter the Divine. Art can help us to come to know more deeply the truth about God's loving plan for everyone.

During the Year of Faith, to affirm the role of art and to support people to explore their faith, a series of downloadable podcasts will be made available. The series will feature a variety of commentators focusing on the experiences of human life. Each work of art will serve as a stimulus for reflection to help the speaker and listener explore their beliefs in relation to a life experience of some kind. To that end, the intended audience for the series is not exclusively those who are already Christian, but people who are seeking to make sense of their existence. You may choose to support this process of evangelisation and formation through posting links to the podcasts on your Facebook page or website. Use of Twitter can also be helpful as well as inclusion in your parish/school newsletter.



Christ Pantokrator (c.1170) in the Basilica of Cefalù in Sicily - the icon for the Year of Faith. The text in Greek and Latin reads: 'I am the light of the world, who follows me will not wander in the darkness but will have the light of life' (John 8:12).



The Art of Living

the Year of Faith

SPEC IS THE DIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER'S RESIDENTIAL RETREAT CENTRE for children and young people in parishes and schools of the diocese. The foundation of the ministry at SPEC is based on our life as a Christian community. The community consists of families, singles and young adults who are intentionally living out the Christian faith. Rooted in the sacramental life of the Church and a daily rhythm of prayer, we are given the unique opportunity to offer daily witness to all who come here of the joy and hope that flows from a life in communion with God.

The most obvious apostolate at SPEC is seen through the day and residential retreats we offer for the children and young people of our diocese. However, there is another quite essential ministry at SPEC, which is the ministry to the young adults who join the SPEC community. Each year, up to sixteen young adults join our core community for a year of formation and life in Christian community. They enter into a year 'set apart' with the intention of growing in holiness and confidence in their Catholic faith. It has been through

the investment in the lives of these young adults and the life of the SPEC community that we have seen tremendous fruit.

Today, there is a great need to learn to integrate what we believe in our Christian faith directly into every part of our lives. This means relating all the varied aspects of our life to God including our relationships, how we choose to spend our leisure time and how we engage in the tasks we don't particularly enjoy. As we begin to make space for prayer and intimacy with God, all these parts of life can be re-focused with God at the centre. Suddenly our day to day duties and interactions become truly life-giving and we can begin to experience God's personal love and intentional movement of grace in all parts of our lives. This daily experience with God transforms the heart. Thus, as the young adults learn what it truly means to live their Christian faith, we see them become compelled with enthusiasm to share what they have received. This fruitfulness in their lives then

naturally flows into the retreat ministry, as the community is able to give authentic witness to Christ and the power of His truth both in its shared life and in individual circumstances.

In the Apostolic Letter introducing the Year of Faith, Pope Benedict XVI writes, 'The renewal of the Church is also achieved through the witness offered by the lives of believers: by their very existence in the world, Christians are called to radiate the word of truth that the Lord Jesus has left us.' As a community, this is our hope as we set sail into this Year of Faith, that through our living an authentic life of faith, the witness of this truth will be beacon for all who come to us.

Often it is the evidence of authentic joy that stirs questions in the young people who come to us. We regularly hear young people at SPEC make similar comments which sound something like, 'Everyone here looks so happy. Are you really always like this?' These comments often open up conversations which reveal the real difficulties

that many of our young people are experiencing: the difficulty finding true happiness in their lives and the difficulty of finding true meaning and purpose. They all have so many questions and rarely hear the fullness of truth despite searching in many places for answers. They intuitively recognise something different here: what they are seeing and what they are experiencing is the Lord Jesus in the life of the community. In the life of a believer this radiance of joy comes from a genuine experience of life in Christ which cannot be counterfeited. We hold firm to the hope that, as our community grows in holiness, the presence of God will become more and more evident in our own lives and that of the sacramental life of the Church.

In 2000 Joseph Razinger (now Pope Benedict XVI) addressed teachers and catechists on the New Evangelization. In this address, he spoke about the

antithesis of this genuine joy in the lives of believers. He said, 'The deepest poverty is the inability of joy, the tediousness of a life considered absurd and contradictory. This poverty is widespread today, in very different forms in the materially rich as well as the poor countries. The inability of joy presupposes and produces the inability to love, produces jealousy, avarice - all defects that devastate the life of individuals and of the world.

This is why we are in need of a new evangelisation - if the art of living remains an unknown, nothing else works. But this art is not the object of a science - this art can only be communicated by [one] who has life - he who is the Gospel personified.' [Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, Address to Catechists and Religion Teachers, Jubilee of Catechists, 12 December 2000].

This 'art of living' that Blessed John Paul II and Pope Benedict have so often spoken of is what

we have asked the Holy Spirit to shape and nurture in our community. It is our hope that the way of life we embrace is able to make visible the reality and relevance of the Gospel in a unique way; that our daily life together will reveal clearly that there is another way to live than the way that is often offered by our current culture. This way that Jesus teaches us is the pathway for authentic joy and fullness of life for Jesus is Himself the very way.

May we all enter into this Year of Faith with great enthusiasm, truly recognising that if we believe what we proclaim to believe then everything should be different. May we all strengthen the 'art of living' the gospel in our world today, making this visible wherever we are: in our homes, our places of work, our schools, in the marketplaces and meeting places of our everyday.

| by Kristin Niedbala





A Capacity to Love

| by John Coleby



TOWARDS THE END of his pontificate, Blessed John Paul II met with an international group from Faith and Light – an organisation which supports people with learning disabilities. He had Parkinson's disease which affected his mobility and speech. He spoke to them about the speculation and concern being expressed about his ability to continue as Pope. He said to them that he would not be resigning and that they and he had something to offer the world which the world did not have: the capacity to love.

Since its inception thirty five years ago, St Joseph's has provided pastoral support to many individuals groups and parishes. The journey has been one characterised by LOVE. The love expressed in warmth and friendship by people with learning disabilities, the love expressed in the support and dedication of family members and carers, the love expressed in the commitment and energy of volunteers and staff who strive to ensure that all people feel welcome and that they feel they belong.

Our work, which has developed over many years, includes helping parish teams to prepare people for the sacraments, providing training for clergy, catechists and other volunteers. We provide workshops for *confirmandi*, emphasising Christian witness as well as disability awareness, and for school groups who are interested in working with difference.

“Ensuring all feel welcome and all belong.”

The aim of this work is always focused on how best to include people with learning disabilities and their families in the life of the parish and the wider community.

In Hendon, St Joseph's Activities Centre provides much needed day support for people in the locality. The Centre delivers over thirty different activities in the area of life and learning skills. The hope is that

during the Year of Faith some of the programmes provided at Hendon can be made available across the Diocese of Westminster. In particular we hope to pilot a new programme called “Everybody has a Story”. The programme is designed to enable parish communities to meet people with learning disabilities and respond to their expressed spiritual and religious needs. The programme represents the first stage in our plan to ensure that our services can reach more of the people who need them and strengthen Catholic social engagement in our parishes and local communities.

For St Joseph's the Year of Faith represents a special opportunity to ensure that people with learning disabilities take their rightful place in our communities and wider society. Through St Joseph's Pastoral Centre, the Diocese will continue to work in partnership with other organisations and groups, be they faith based or not, in order to build a just and fair society.

St Joseph's Pastoral Centre

St Joseph's Grove
The Burroughs
Hendon
NW4 4TY
020 8202 3999

www.stjoseph.org.uk



Parishes in the Year of Faith

In addition to the events and courses being offered at a national or diocesan level there is a real opportunity for parishes to make the Year of Faith a time of growth and change. Here are some ideas that you may wish to explore in your own parish.

Profession of Faith

- Encourage a healthy exploration of the faith by children and adults. Invite questions about faith from the parish, for example through a questions box left at the back of the church or in the school, and find ways to give considered answers. The newsletter is a good medium to print answers. Consider organising one or more meetings for parishioners to come and listen to answers. This could be done through a dinner, or simply offering tea and coffee, or through an assembly at the school. Ask all the parish's catechists to come together to reflect on the questions using the Catechism and Scripture and ask them to prepare a Catechism presentation based on the questions. Ask catechists to reflect on Pope Benedict XVI's apostolic letter, *Porta Fidei* and in answering question ask catechists to give concrete examples from their own life experience.
- The Year of Faith is a good opportunity to focus on the formation of catechists in the parish. Invite catechists who normally help out with Sacramental Programs to meet together on a regular basis during the year of faith, to read the Catechism together in a prayerful and reflective way. Rather than trying to get through the whole Catechism in one go, take a chapter or a few paragraphs at a time to reflect and meditate on prayerfully at each meeting. The index at the back of the Catechism can be a useful guide in choosing chapters and paragraphs to study and to pray with.
- Ask catechists to choose and share relevant extracts from the Catechism each week with the whole parish by publishing quotes in the weekly newsletter or on the notice board.

Celebration

- The Year of Faith can be an opportunity for the parish and the school to reflect on the way the Mass is celebrated. Consider putting together a liturgy group both in the parish and the school to focus on ways to help everyone participate fully and actively in the liturgy.
- Parish Catechists are a valuable resource in the parish. Many have considerable experience from teaching children about First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Challenge the parish catechists to organise a parish mission for the whole parish, both for children and adults, based on the themes for the Year of Faith. Think about new ways of presenting the faith through an evening of music, drama, films about the lives of saints. Invite priests from neighbouring parishes to give a talk on some aspect of the faith. Invite the parish to a celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation with individual Confessions.
- Parish festivals and events can be used as a way of inviting back parishioners who have fallen away. A few weeks before the event get volunteers and catechists to visit the parish in pairs, giving out prayer cards with an invitation to the festival by the parish priest. Consider organising a 'Parish Festival of Faith' day with an international Mass followed by music, food and fun activities. Ask parishioners to come dressed in their national costume and bring a favourite dish to share after the Mass. Encourage people to bring 'fruit baskets' at the offertory to be distributed to local nursing homes.

More ideas will follow in the next booklet. Don't forget you can contribute too. Send an email: yearoffaith@rcdow.org.uk or tweet us: [@yofwestminster](https://twitter.com/yofwestminster)

If you have any suggestions that you think would help others, please let us know and we can include them in future editions. Contact details at the foot of the page

Life in Christ

- Produce a special parish Magazine for the Year of Faith and invite parishes to contribute a written piece about their own faith journey. Young people may like to interview elderly parishioners about their faith. Get confirmation candidates to choose a saint to write about for the magazine.
- Have a part of the parish noticeboard dedicated to the Year of Faith, and encourage parishioners to offer contributions of writings and images produced using ideas suggested on this page.
- Organise a day pilgrimage for young people, to a convent or a monastery with an emphasis on vocations. Ask members of the religious community to share something of their journey. Invite an elderly married couple from the church to come and speak at a school assembly about their experience of married life.
- Get in touch with a prison chaplain and arrange for parish volunteers to write letters of encouragement to young offenders and to pray for them.
- Get a volunteer to organise a car pool scheme for attending Mass: invite parishioners to register as parish volunteers so that they can offer a lift to other parishioners who would appreciate a ride to Mass.
- Help Confirmation candidates to be more involved in the social side of the parish. Get them to help with a fair-trade tea, coffee and cake-bake sale after Mass. Get them to bake cakes which can be sold by the slice with a drink. Get them to research how fair-trade works and to make a display.

Prayer

- On any given day the parish office or priest's house will receive a number of visitors at the door. Why not have prayer cards available to give away to callers as a gift. The parish photocopier can be a great ally in this. To keep costs down, consider producing your own prayer cards with some common prayers. Leave them somewhere in the hallway for people to pick up as they leave.
- Ask catechists and parishioners to design a simple prayer card or leaflet with words of faith and encouragement which can be discreetly left on a train or bus seat for someone else to pick up.
- Organise a simple 'Family Prayer Beginners Workshop' for mums and dads, introducing them to popular family devotions including the Rosary, the Divine Mercy prayer, Litany to the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart etc. Encourage families to make a prayer corner in their homes, with a holy picture of Jesus and Mary, a crucifix a candle and a bible.
- Consider giving a Rosary as a gift to new visitors to the door. Start a Rosary Club in the school that meets to pray and make rosaries to be given away. The web site: www.rosaryarmy.newevangelizers.com explains how to make Rosaries.
- Ask parishioners to pray for those preparing for the sacraments. Consider organising a Rosary prayer group to pray for candidates. Invite parishioners to pledge prayers for children who are preparing for their confirmation. This can be done through a simple card with just one or all of the Christian names of each candidate written on it. Gives these out to willing volunteers and ask them to pray every day for the candidates during the sacramental program.

Discerning Vocation

| by Fr Richard Nesbitt

FAITH in its essence is a relationship with God, a desire to grow in understanding and trust of our Creator. It is both an intensely personal journey and also one which we are invited to make together as a pilgrim people. What a great gift for all of us, therefore, is Pope Benedict's invitation to deepen this relationship with God, as individuals and as his people, in the Year of Faith.

During his visit to Britain, Pope Benedict spoke about how this journey into God is also a journey by which we will discover our true self: 'And in discovering our true self we discover the particular vocation which God has given us for the building up of his Church and the redemption of the world.' As Vocations Director for our diocese, my hope is that the Year of Faith will help many men and women to discover God's particular calling for their lives. This can sometimes be a lonely journey so our aim is to provide

opportunities throughout the year to bring fellow seekers together.

This will take two forms:

Days of Recollection with time for inspiration, prayer and fellowship. These will begin with the Called to a Deeper Discipleship? Day on 6 October for all men and women as we look forward to the Year of Faith. Then there will be days for specific vocations: Priesthood (24 November); Marriage (1 December); Women and Consecrated life (2 February); Diaconate (16 February); Men and the Priesthood/Religious Life (27 April). For all dates see p.46

Secondly, our monthly Vocations Discernment Group for men and women in their 20's and 30's (4th Friday of each month, 7-9pm in the Hinsley Room next to Westminster Cathedral) will offer a series of talks focusing on figures of faith from the Bible and how we can learn from their examples on our own journey.

The speakers/figures will be:

- 28 September: Fr John Hemer – Abraham, our Father in Faith
- 26 October: Sarah de Nordwall – Sarah in the Book of Tobit
- 23 November: Andrew and Angie Bull – Mary and Joseph
- 25 January: Mgr Christopher Brooks – Jonah
- 22 February: Fr Matthew Blake – Elijah
- 22 March: Dr Anna Abraham – The Woman at the Well
- 26 April: Deacons Anthony Curran and Oscar Ardila – St Stephen
- 25 May: Sr Gabriela Gasz – Mary
- 28 June: Sr Elaine Penrice – St Paul

For more information see the Westminster Vocations website: www.rcdow.org.uk/vocations or www.free2become.org.uk You can also contact Sr Gabi info@free2become.org.uk or Fr Richard richardnesbitt@rcdow.org.uk.

Catholicism: a DVD resource

FOUR YEARS IN THE MAKING, *Catholicism* is an evangelical DVD series put together by Fr Robert Barron, Rector at St Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois. In addition to the scholarship and theology contained within, the *Catholicism* series is filled with rich cinematography which illustrates its theological points. I spoke with representatives of Holy Ghost parish in Balham, the first parish to offer the series in the UK, to see what they had to say about *Catholicism* in the context of formation and catechesis.

'Adult faith formation is integral in the Church and yet is difficult to get off the ground in many parishes,' says Hannah Vaughn-Spruce, Coordinator of Catechesis at Holy Ghost in Balham.

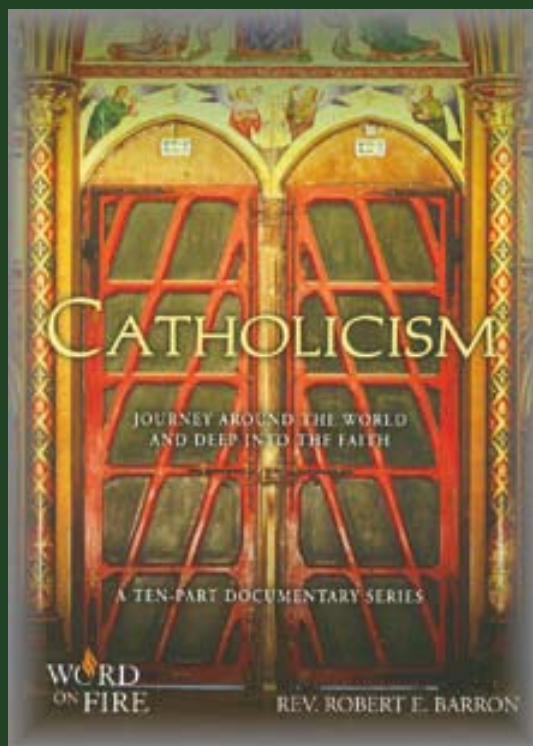
During a recent discovery session for Fr Robert Barron's *Catholicism* DVD series parish team member, Fr James Bradley, called attendees to re-evangelise by combating the dangerous lethargy towards catechesis. 'Be confident in your faith. Promote the series to members of the community who may not darken the church door. Be practical about this. Post flyers in local libraries, send texts to young adults, use social media and even invite non-Catholic churches,' he suggested.

Holy Ghost Parish began the eleven-week course in January and the results were life changing for many of the nearly 100 participants, especially the two participants now preparing to be received into the Church. While this is not a recommended RCIA or enquiry stage course as Fr Barron speaks on a deeply intellectual level, there is still something for everyone to gain, says Hannah. *Catholicism* aims to engage the mind through deep discussion, much like our religion does. 'But a DVD cannot replace a person so we delivered a short catechesis after each episode to help unpack Fr Barron's words,' continues Hannah.

Many participants of the *Catholicism* series at Balham described the experience as a chance to get simple, straightforward answers to complicated questions though Fr Barron's genuine love and humour. 'It was a chance to grow in my faith and meet like minded people,' says one attendee.

Catholicism provides 'unprecedented adventure around the world and deep into the faith' says Fr Barron. By visiting striking locations in 15 countries viewers are given time to fully contemplate the topic at hand during the eleven episodes. An accompanying *Catholicism Study Guide & Workbook* provides readings and questions on understanding and application to enable participants to prepare for each session. Discussion groups lead by trained catechists are recommended after each episode to discuss the workbook questions and to share a growing involvement in the Faith.

| by Carolyn Wickware



During the Year of Faith your parish may consider screening the *Catholicism* series. For more information on *Catholicism* visit Fr Robert Barron's website, www.wordonfire.org. The series is available through various retailers (simply search for Catholicism DVD) and you may also wish to look at the *Word on Fire* videos which can be found on YouTube or through the website mentioned above.



Parish Catechists & the Year of Faith

A TIME TO RENEW AND RE-DEDICATE OURSELVES TO OUR MISSION!

Each year, in our diocese, hundreds of lay volunteers and members of religious congregations offer their time and knowledge to assist the clergy in preparing thousands of people to receive the sacraments of the Church. These people, given the special title of 'catechist', are essential to the life of the Church. They are at the forefront of the New Evangelisation. It is through their dedication, faith and cooperation with the clergy that the faith is passed from one generation to the next. Catechists strive to echo the precious and saving Word of Jesus Christ, our Saviour; teach the Church's tradition; help people to embrace the life-changing encounter we have in Christ and to live out their faith in daily life.

The Year of Faith provides an opportunity to refocus and retune the catechist's work and mission; an opportunity to join with the Holy Father in helping 'all Catholics and people of goodwill to hear God's symphony

of faith' (*Porta Fidei*, 11). As the chief catechist in our diocese the Archbishop has the duty to assign and confirm the role of those who collaborate with him in his ministry as teacher and shepherd. In order to take full advantage of the Holy Father's invitation, Archbishop Vincent is asking all the catechists of the diocese to rededicate themselves to their humbling mission of bringing people to a deeper and more personal experience of Christ as they prepare for and participate in the sacraments which Jesus entrusted to his Church.

The Greek word translated as disciple comes from a verb that means 'to learn.' Like all the baptised, the catechist is called to be a disciple – a word used of apprentices learning a trade as well as students learning a teacher's philosophy. Our catechists don't just 'help with the First Holy Communion group' but, as Archbishop Vincent reminds us, have a unique and privileged role as a disciple of Jesus. As Moses, the Pharisees and John the Baptist before him, Jesus had disciples.

These followers, who became his servants, acknowledged his total authority and were inspired by the Spirit, faithfully carried on his work of building the kingdom of God. Given their privileged role in building the Kingdom; in order to help deepen their relationship with Christ and to formally recognise and appreciate their work, Archbishop Vincent is introducing a one year certificate for parish catechists during the Year of Faith.

The Vision for the Archbishop's Certificate for Catechists

Volunteer catechists play an extremely important part in passing on the faith, alongside clergy and parents. They offer their time and talents in the service of the local and wider Christian community. Given the importance of the great, joyful and rewarding work of preparing people for the sacraments, the Archbishop is keen that those who are formally engaged in catechesis have the confidence and skills to enthusiastically and accurately communicate the

gospel message and the faith of the Church.

The Archbishop's Certificate will take one academic year to complete and aims to provide a solid basis on which our catechists can build over the coming months and years. Since it would not be possible to cover every aspect of the faith, scripture, doctrine and liturgy in a single academic year on-going learning will be essential. The certificate is awarded in recognition that a person has successfully engaged with the task of a systematic study of the faith, in line with the mind of the Church, with the purpose of passing on the faith with skill and confidence in cooperation with the clergy of the diocese and in response to their baptismal vocation. The certificate will remain valid for three years after completion at which time it should be updated and renewed by attending renewal sessions. Participants will be encouraged to attend relevant courses, training and diocesan catechists' meetings when they are offered each year.

How will the process work?

Each term is divided into two halves. The first half of the term is focused on establishing a basic foundation on which later learning and practice can be built. The modules for the first half of the term will be completed via distance learning using the internet meaning participants can complete the modules in the comfort of their own homes with no late evening meetings to attend. Local tutorial support will be provided by diocesan staff if

participants require additional assistance. The second half of the term offers practical workshops and seminars on how to put the knowledge, gained during the first term, into practice and how to share it with others in a catechetical context. These workshops will be offered at Vaughan House and St Thomas' in Eastcote. Each course or topic carries a one credit value and so to successfully achieve the certificate participants need to have a minimum of six credits by the end of the summer term.

Each term begins with a day of prayer and catechesis led by one of our diocesan bishops, to which all catechists and teachers are welcome to attend.

Enrolment for the certificate will begin from 1 to 30 September 2012 and the course of studies will begin in October. Information events will take place during September so that those interested in joining the course can come and see if this course would be suitable for them. All participants on the course will need to have the approval and support of their parish priest to study for the certificate.

It is hoped that the certificate course will prove to be an extremely important resource not just for the Year of Faith but in years to come. If all Catholics are to have a fruitful and vibrant faith life it is essential that we have catechists in the parish community who are inspiring and confident guides who are able to share the faith and wisdom of the Church with others and to help deepen our knowledge of the riches of our Catholic faith.



For full details about the Archbishop's Certificate for Catechists for the Year of Faith please contact: Anthony Curran
 E: anthonycurran@rcdow.org.uk
 T: 020 7798 9026



Caritas Westminster

| by Patricia Chale

'Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est' - 'Where charity and love are, God is there', that is the guiding standard for CARITAS, a new agency established by the Diocese of Westminster to identify and address poverty and social exclusion in whatever way it may manifest itself in our parishes and schools. CARITAS Westminster will bring together the great variety of initiatives that already exist in our Diocese where good is being done for the benefit of the vulnerable and marginalised, the needy and the rejected members of our community. CARITAS Westminster will help smaller organisations benefit from the expertise of larger, well-established charities and develop other initiatives where resources and intervention are needed. www.rcdow.org.uk/caritas

Do you want to grow in the knowledge, spiritual resources and skills which will help you to be of greater service to your parish and her mission?

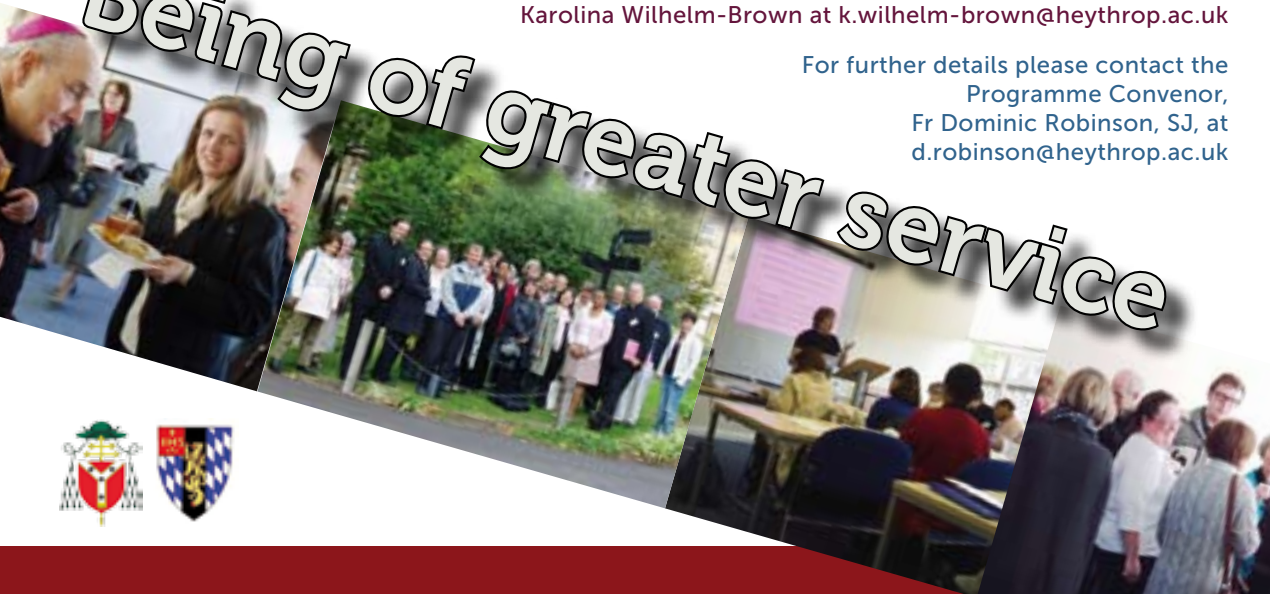
The Pastoral Mission Programme, jointly directed by the Agency for Evangelisation and Heythrop College, University of London, is designed to serve the formation needs of lay people for roles of closer service in the Church.

The programme comprises a thorough background in Catholic Theology, spiritual direction and work-based mentoring, in preparation for a Foundation Degree (2 years) and BA (3 years).

To register or to order a programme brochure please contact Karolina Wilhelm-Brown at k.wilhelm-brown@heythrop.ac.uk

For further details please contact the Programme Convenor, Fr Dominic Robinson, SJ, at d.robinson@heythrop.ac.uk

Being of greater service



Towards A Formation Of The Human Heart

Developing and sustaining adult faith | article by Ausra Karaliute

The process for developing and sustaining adult faith formation 'Towards a Formation of the Human Heart' is aimed to assist parishes in developing a systematic and sustainable approach to pastoral planning with a special focus on adult faith formation. This process came into being after recent seminars with parish leaders, listening to their needs and suggestions and researching various examples of effective and similar processes in the USA.

This process takes at least 12 months and requires both dedication and the determination from the parish priest and his team to step back and reflect on the current parish situation, needs and priorities. This is about enabling parishes to create a new culture of adult faith formation and planning for the sustainable future.

The process is adaptable and can be used in a number of pastoral settings as it offers an effective framework for

parish leadership teams and parish councils to consolidate resources and come up with an effective and long term approach to planning, team formation and effective practical results.

The parish teams will be provided with mentoring and training seminars and a Leaders Guide with 5 Parish Workbooks. These resources offer step by step suggestions and a number of practical examples to make it effective and engaging.

'Towards a Formation of the Human Heart' consists of five phases:

Phase 1 - Get organised

Phase 2 - Team formation and learning

Phase 3 - Assessment of current practices and insights for the future

Phase 4 - Discernment and writing of parish AFF plan

Phase 5 - Implementation and evaluation

This process is aimed at parishes that are willing to develop an effective pastoral team, evaluate current pastoral practices, define priorities and a long term pastoral plan. The process is:

- to provide parishes with a framework for effective pastoral planning
- form effective parish teams
- enable parishes to step back and evaluate their current pastoral practices and plan for the future.
- provide parishes with simple guides and practical resources to facilitate the process.
- offer mentoring opportunities and training seminars to the parish teams.

Some parishes started the 12 month process in spring 2012 but the wider introduction to parishes will be on-going throughout 2012-2013. If your parish is interested and would like further information, please contact ausrakaraliute@rcdow.org.uk or call 020 7931 6078.

Deanery Talks for the Year of Faith 2012-2013

One of the effective ways to respond to the Year of Faith might be to combine parish resources on a deanery or area basis in organising and delivering a series of talks on the themes suggested by the Year of Faith advisory board. The themes might also provide a more systematic framework for adult faith formation in the parish:

- What is faith and how we believe?

- Celebration of Faith: Sacraments
- Life in Christ: Morality and social outreach
- Prayer: Our Father

The Agency for Evangelisation is happy to help parishes with the planning of the talks and have prepared a prospectus containing a simple guide on how to organise the talks, suggested topics and prospective speakers. The Agency can also liaise with the speakers, prepare publicity materials (posters, postage and electronic advertisements) and will contribute towards the

speakers' expenses on a need basis. The aim of the project is to encourage at least one series of talks per deanery in the Year of Faith.

The talks in the parish can range from a one off to a few series depending on parish priorities and ability to provide hospitality for people from the neighbouring parishes. If your parish is interested in hosting a series of talks for the area and deanery, we look forward to hearing from you. Please contact us on 020 7931 6078 or e-mail ausrakaraliute@rcdow.org.uk for further information.

Talking hands

by Shell Roca

'AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.' What does that mean? Why are we using these new signs? How do we learn more about the New Missal? All questions that were raised by members of the Deaf Community back in September 2011.

For the Deaf Community any opportunity to learn more about their faith is received with a keen interest, not least because so many times the Deaf are overlooked. The opportunity to learn is not as straightforward for a Deaf person as it is for those of us who can hear. Following a homily, a reading, the bidding prayers or a pastoral letter from the Bishop is often not possible for a Deaf person if they rely on sign language for communicating. The Year of Faith will be a welcome and exciting opportunity for the Deaf to learn more but also to share their skills and talents with the wider church community.

In Westminster Diocese, the Deaf Service runs a wide range of activities. There are regular signed and interpreted Masses throughout the Diocese. We support families with children preparing for their First Holy Communion or Confirmation as

well as providing communication support at Baptisms, weddings and funerals.

We offer Deaf Awareness sessions and liturgical signing courses at parishes and schools. Our liturgy group, retired group and support group for those who are hard of hearing in religious life, all meet on a regular basis.

A lot of work has recently been focussed on answering some of those questions about the New Missal and working out how best to communicate, in sign language, the new prayers and the responses that we are all getting used to.

Pilgrimages and retreats also form an important part of our work as we make sure the same opportunities are available to the Deaf as other people in our parishes. Last year we joined with Holyrood Parish in Watford on a trip to Lourdes and organised a retreat to Loyola Hall. This year we have recently joined with St Monica's parish and enjoyed a trip to Belgium to see the Procession of the Holy Blood in Bruges, quickly followed by a day trip to Walsingham for the Catholic Deaf Association's annual pilgrimage.

As with parish life there are members of the Deaf Community who are in hospital or housebound, so we have trained Deaf people as pastoral visitors to provide some support for those who are unable to attend our events.

As part of our work we run a counselling service 'Signs of Hope' which is unique in offering counselling to Deaf people in sign language within a pastoral context. In addition to the counselling service we have also run Life Skills courses, financially supported by the Plater Trust, in Anger Management, Confidence Building and Relationships Skills which we believe is the first time that courses like this have been taught in British Sign Language to Deaf people.

With the support of the priests in our Diocese who can sign, and communities such as the Sisters of the Assumption who kindly invite us to use their chapel for the Easter Triduum, the Deaf Community have a great deal to offer the wider church community. The Year of Faith will be an exciting opportunity for all of us, the Deaf Community included.

Photos (top to bottom):

Attending the Procession of the Holy Blood in Bruges
Deaf Signing Choir - Holy Saturday at the Maria Assumpta Chapel
Fr Cyril Axelrod C.Ss.R. and Shell Roca

Main image: Thumbsup by baikahl



FOR MORE ON the work of the Westminster Diocesan Deaf Service (WDDS) in the Year of Faith or more generally contact Shell Roca Tel/SMS 07779 341136 or email: michelleroca@rcdow.org.uk

Can we deepen the faith of parents while teaching their children?

| by Ausra Karaliute STL and Edmund Adamus



BECOMING A PARENT for the first time and the birth of every child is a profoundly life-changing experience. Regardless of how many books they may have read before or how they imagined parenthood to be, parents instinctively recognise how the child brings an enormous new reality into their adult world. This might change their whole understanding about who they are as adults [their self-identity] and what the priorities are in their lives. Hopefully this new reality can encourage a desire to grow in understanding and maturity as responsible adults and Christians. Society at large is focusing a lot of attention now on parenting and

this is an opportunity for parish communities to provide good quality learning experiences and programmes for parents, affirming and supporting them on their journey of new challenges and discovery. These programmes can run alongside and be part of the child's sacramental preparation.

When they bring their children for First Reconciliation and First Communion preparation in the parish, we know how parents can be distracted by some of the external expressions of the various celebrations to come; what to wear, having a party or family celebration etc. Though these things can and should be a joyful element to the

life of faith in the individual families, nevertheless, it is more about seizing the opportunity to extend a fresh and genuine welcome to adults into the parish community. One way of doing this is to provide high quality opportunities for growing in an appreciation of the need for a mature Catholic faith for the sake of their children and assisting them in acquiring new skills, competences and above all confidence in being the key persons in the passing on the faith and Gospel values to their sons and daughters.

Understandably, but all too often, the focus of attention for parents in respect of the parish is the local Catholic school and that desire to get their child

enrolled brings new families to the parish. Sometimes for the regular worshipping community, this can feel disproportionate but perhaps what is key in terms of the new evangelisation is to recognise that this desire on the part of parents is genuine and heartfelt because all parents naturally want the best for their child. As a consequence we have an opportunity to tap in to this generous love by encouraging them to have confidence that the whole parish community is a 'school' – an environment of new experiences and learning – where getting involved in other parish activities, helping to build community contributes enormously to their child's overall growth and development because of the natural increase in their support networks. By making new friends beyond the life of the school, sharing significant experiences, helping each other, being inspired to become involved in something interesting, meaningful and enriching, they might become part of the community over time as an on-going process and not only one off event. It is a part of growing into maturity and responsibility. During the inauguration of a new parish in Rome in 2011, Pope Benedict said; 'give life to family pastoral ministry characterized by an open and cordial welcome to new families, and favour reciprocal knowledge so that the parish community increasingly becomes a "family of families," able to share with each other, not only the joys but the inevitable difficulties of initiating family life.' He had a particular request for families in difficulty: 'Do not leave them alone, but be close to them with love, helping them to understand God's authentic plan

for marriage and the family.'

Appreciation of and growing in one's faith is a part of becoming a good parent and ought to demand the same amount of effort and attention that one gives to other things which sustain the family. Many children's catechetical guides, resources and textbooks for parents are excellent but are they enough to encourage real growth in faith? Formation in an adult faith requires other approaches too. We have to look for more effective ways to enable parents to live their faith so fully that they are more conscious of transmitting that faith, that personal relationship with God to their child. This is an opportunity and a challenge. Perhaps, alongside the usual children's sacramental catechetical programmes, there is a place to have sessions for parents on the 'basics', such as being made in the image and likeness of God, how to pray, about healing and reconciliation through grace and the sacraments that captures their imagination in an adult way, the true purpose and meaning of the Mass, Christian morality, as well as giving them an opportunity to have their own personal questions relating to faith and Catholicism be addressed.

Alongside all the other daily demands to excel especially in their daily work and professional life; becoming a good and conscientious parent in all things is a number one priority for the majority of our young families. We all know that this is not automatically given. It is a process, often painful, certainly tiring but always rewarding. And all parents can learn by the good example of others too and developing the life of faith in the home is no exception

this. Children's catechetical programmes can provide space for the parents to reflect with them and even 'teach' them some important skills and more effective knowledge by group sharing with other parents with carefully targeted topics ranging from things such as bedtime and mealtime prayer tips to practical reconciliation between siblings and friends to highly sensitive but urgently important topics like the rights of children to their innocence, the place and influence of the media, peer pressure, etc in the home and how the parents might take better charge of such influences.

There is no perfect programme on offer to address all diverse needs of parents during the children's sacramental programme. The Agency for Evangelisation in collaboration with the Office for Marriage and Family Life is exploring ways of how a parish might address the faith formation of the parents in a more systematic way and to use this unique time with parents to capture their attention wisely and creatively. In the context of the Year of Faith we are offering to parishes a course of 7 sessions to be run in conjunction with the children's sacramental preparation. The course materials are under preparation and will cover the main areas of adult faith formation with an emphasis on parental skills. This initiative is a genuine attempt to respond to the request from a number of parishes to help with parents' faith formation. The course materials will be available to download from the diocesan website by the end of October 2012.

Radiating Christ

| by Mark Nash

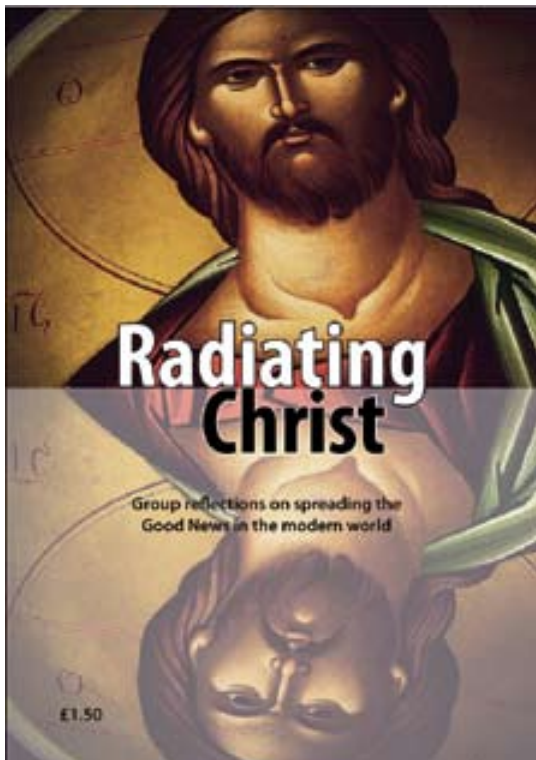


IN MAY 2010, four months before his historic visit to the UK, Pope Benedict XVI announced the creation of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization. This council's task is to work in places where the Church has long existed but where there has been an 'eclipse of the sense of God'. We, of course, remain convinced that God is present in these places waiting for his faithful to make him known and so, in the Year of Faith, we have a task to know God more deeply ourselves and to respond to a yearning for meaning in others.

The council has announced a synod of bishops for 7-28 October 2012 entitled 'The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith.' The purpose of this synod is to provide the tools for the faithful to fulfil their duty 'everywhere and always' to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ (the guidelines for the synod can be found here: <http://tiny.cc/h0sbb>).

In terms of mission, the Church is clear: if we consider ourselves as the Church and if the Church has a responsibility to proclaim the Good News (cf. *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 14) then each of us has a responsibility to show others what God means to us and offer them the love and life of Christ.

Recent letters by the Holy Father and our own bishop encourage us to witness by example, showing confidence in faith and growing in understanding. Take for example Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini*: 'The mission of proclaiming the word of God is the task of all of the disciples of Jesus Christ

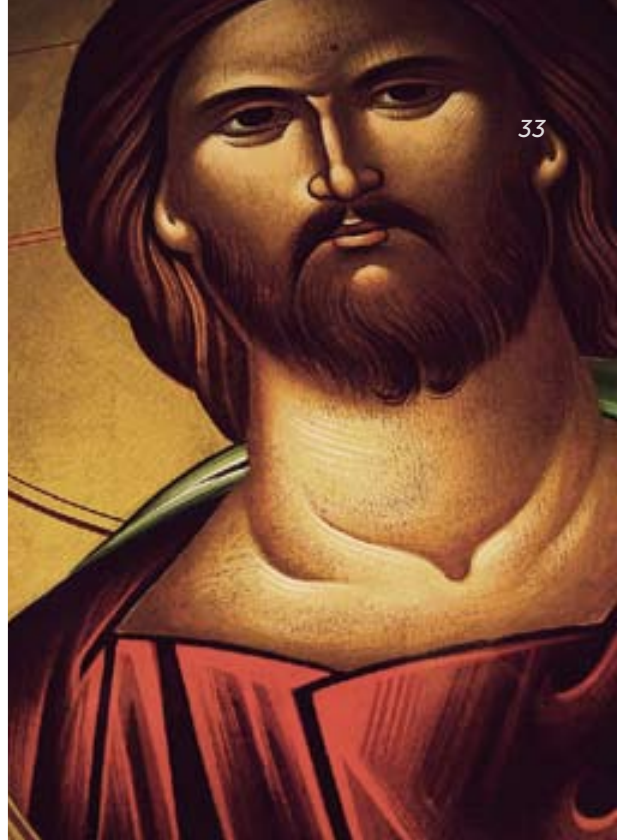


based on their Baptism' (VD, 94). However in order that there may be a commitment to evangelisation, it is necessary that individual Christians and communities truly believe that 'the word of God is the saving truth which men and women in every age need' (VD, 95). If this conviction of faith is not profoundly rooted in our own lives, we shall not feel the urgency and beauty of proclaiming it.

The faith-sharing resource for autumn 2012 seeks to explore these themes. Entitled *Radiating Christ* after Blessed John Henry Newman's poetic prayer, the booklet encourages people to make an emphatic response to Christ's question 'who do you say I am?' and to discern ways in which our personal relationship with the Son of God can be strengthened. The booklet can be ordered through the online bookshop see the address and QR code to the right or you can call Mark Nash on 020 7931 6043 / email: exploringfaith@rcdow.org.uk.

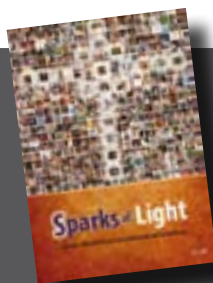
Jesus Christ changed the face of history; he is the way, the truth and the life. Nowadays the urgent task is not so much offering the Good News to those who have never heard of Jesus, but to offer him anew to all, as faith in him can change everything.

www.rcdow.org.uk/smallcommunities



www.rcdow.org.uk/bookstore
<http://issuu.com/exploringfaith/docs>

use a QR reader to scan the code to the left and be taken to our bookstore (it'll save you typing the address out!)



exploringfaith is the title given to a series of resources produced by the Diocese of Westminster to help groups of Christians share faith, explore ideas and grow together.

Our resources blend the sharing of experience and the richness of the Church's teaching. Each booklet contains references and prayers from both ancient and contemporary sources, Scripture passages and questions designed to help people grow in their understanding of the Christian faith.

What's going on elsewhere?

The Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelisation has created a wonderful website with video catechesis, resources and info on the council itself: www.annusfidei.va/content/novaevangelizatio/en.html

The Bishops' Conference E&W has also developed a website with focuses on parish renewal and the Synod of bishops due to take place in Rome on the New Evangelisation at the start of the Year of Faith: www.yearoffaith.org.uk

The US Bishops' Conference has aggregated a lot of content on a new webpage: www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/year-of-faith/ including a Catholic basics section Rediscovering The Faith

The Catholic Truth Society are marking the Year of Faith with booklets including Credo and Apologia by Frs Pinsent and Holden and the official English translation of Porta Fidei the document declaring the Year of Faith: www.cts-online.org.uk

The Archdiocese of Southwark will be holding various events through the year, and the theme of reconciliation will be prominent. Of particular interest will be the lecture by Cardinal Daneels of Belgium (18 October 2012) who was at Vatican II

The Diocese of Brentwood are hosting five ecumenical study days on the Second Vatican Council (one has been and gone - June 2012), speakers include Fr Adrian Graffy and John Battle. Dates can be found on: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net

Redemptoris Publications have published a number of resources for the Year of Faith, notable among them is The Year of Faith Bible Study Guide by Fr Mitch Pacwa SJ. For more on their publications: www.rpbooks.co.uk/

The Maryvale Institute have set up an official blog for the Year of Faith which serves to relay the latest news, events and resources for the Year of Faith from across the globe: catholic-year-of-faith.com/

Recommendations in the Year of Faith

tenten
theatre

Ten Ten Theatre

An award-winning theatre company with a Catholic ethos working in schools, parishes, prisons and theatres. Through productions and educational programmes Ten Ten provides dynamic and engaging material to help children, young people and adults deepen their faith, develop healthy relationships and understand the beauty of the Church's vision for love, marriage and family life. More on Ten Ten will feature in a future edition of *The Follower*, in particular their new production *Kolbe's Gift* in October 2013. Feel free to check out their website in the meantime: www.tententheatre.co.uk/



Catholic Faith Exploration

Tim Stevens from CaFE writes, 'whilst we have an ever-growing range of DVD-based courses for diverse needs, three in particular lend themselves to the Year of Faith initiative: **BELIEVE** (reflections on the Nicene Creed) filmed on location and explores the treasures of our faith; **SAINTS** showing how age-old wisdom can help us today through the lives of six famous saints; and **YEAR OF FAITH**, a compilation of six sessions on The Creed, The Saints, the Poor, The Bible, The Church and the New Evangelisation.'

For more look at their website: www.faithcafe.org/



Why Catholic?

RENEW International's new programme offers a rich scriptural and catechetical approach that provides a solid foundation for every Catholic to express their faith and be able to reach out to others. Using the small group model, *Why Catholic?* explores Catholic teaching through Scripture, reflections and quotes in 48 sessions and is based on the four pillars of the Catechism: beliefs, sacraments, morality, and prayer. This structure makes it an ideal programme to feed the small groups present in your parishes and schools together with our diocesan-produced resources. For more see: www.whycatholic.org/



Celebrate

Celebrate is a family conference for Christians of all ages, organised by a team from Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Their vision is to offer 'a faith-filled and fun event which combines good Christian teaching, inspirational speakers and celebration of the liturgy, where young and old alike join together in a vibrant atmosphere to celebrate the love of God.' Coming up on 3/4 November is a regional weekend in St Albans.

For more contact: info@celebrateconference.org
The website can be found at: www.celebrateconference.org/

Schools in the Year of Faith

In addition to the events and courses being offered at a national or diocesan level there is a real opportunity for schools to make the Year of Faith a time of growth and change. Here are some ideas that you may wish to explore in your own school.

Revelation

- Encourage an exploration of Faith by the children by inviting questions for discussion. Consider the twelve articles of faith in the Apostles' Creed exploring what each means for Catholics in the 21st Century. Children could create displays which illustrate their findings.
- Set up a Catechism class in school organised and run by children for children – older ones working with younger ones and choose various relevant texts from the Catechism exploring their meaning for the children. Such texts could be displayed around the school or be part of a rolling image on an interactive board.
- Explore the school library, websites which are related to faith and its development and see how these can play a greater role in the literate life of the school.
- Arrange a staff day where colleagues can explore and reflect upon Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Letter: *Porta Fidei* and its meaning for the life of the school in which they are working, and in the relationships with the wider community.
- Explore passages from Scripture and show how they have meaning for us today. Various media could be used in this exploration for example Drama, Art, Music.
- Explore the place of Mary within our Catholic belief. How God chose Mary to be the Mother of our Saviour and the impact Mary's 'yes' has had upon our world.

The Church

- Explore the meaning of life as part of the Church, encouraging an understanding of the Mass and enabling children to organise their own Mass by taking the different elements and being creative in its presentation.
- Explore and look for opportunities to bring back events which may no longer be used, such as processions, crowning of Mary, as ways of demonstrating our life in the Church.
- Make a big celebration of your school's patron inviting members of the wider community to join with you in this celebration.
- Explore the idea of sainthood, what it means to be 'saintly'. Research the life/lives of saints and enable the children to produce a project using various media on the life of that saint showing how that saint's life is an inspiration for the Church today.
- Discover or re-discover the documents of Vatican II focusing on the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of Vatican II – 11 October 2012 – as a starting point. Perhaps choose one document and explore its impact upon the Church and your school.
- Organise a debating society to explore some of the questions of life which our children often express but, due to curriculum time limitations, cannot be fully explored. For example: How can people say that God is good if suffering and evil are present in the world? Why did God the Father allow his Son, Jesus, to suffer and die the way he did? Did God create evil if he created all things?

If you have any suggestions that you think would help others, please let us know and we can include them in future editions. Contact details at the foot of the page

Life in Christ

- Produce a school magazine for the Year of Faith inviting contributions from children, parent, parents, governors about their own faith journey. This could also celebrate the richness and inclusivity of our Catholic Faith.
- Ensure notice boards/interactive screens constantly display writings and images which reflect the Year of Faith.
- Organise a pilgrimage to a local shrine, a convent or monastery to emphasise the idea of vocation.
- Explore the sacramental life of the children enabling them to deepen their understanding of what it means to be baptised/confirmed Catholic in our society today.
- Visit another place of worship to show that the Church rejects nothing that is holy and true in genuine religions.
- Explore the work of various agencies which through Faith in action spread the Kingdom of God. For example: Caritas Westminster, CAFOD, Apostleship of the Sea, CARJ, Pax Christi, HCPT-The Pilgrimage Trust and many others.

**More ideas will follow in the next booklet.
Don't forget you can contribute too.
Send an email to: yearoffaith@rcdow.org.uk
or to: stephenhorsman@rcdow.org.uk**

Celebration

- Review the way Mass is celebrated in school. Encourage the participation of the children in the different parts of the liturgy. Use this as an opportunity for the children to gain a deeper understanding of the Mass and to include parents in the celebration.
- Increase the number of occasions all stakeholders gather for Mass. Include all staff and governors in the preparation and celebration of the Mass.
- Develop the use of acts of worship at assemblies so that there is full pupil participation in the assemblies. The themes could echo the themes for the Year of Faith.
- Organise a school mission to explore the themes of the Year of Faith.
- Enable the children to compose their own school hymn to mark the Year of Faith and use it as part of the acts of worship throughout the year.
- Create a prayer-corner in classrooms which reflects the changing seasons of the liturgical year.
- Set up a prayer book in an appropriate space such as a Chapel whereby anyone can write their own prayers which can then be shared whenever the whole community gather for prayer. A similar idea can be used to create a 'Book of Life' whereby anyone can write the names of those who have died so that they can be prayed for whenever the community gathers. This book could be divided into twelve or each month of the year.

Act of Worship/Assembly

Set the scene: 'Let us remember that, in all we do, say and think, we are in the Holy presence of God.'

Introduction: Consider two ideas of 'faith': the first is we believe THAT. Use an something from the children's experience. For example: we believe that Burnley will win the Championship. This we can show by watching the matches, tracking the results and ultimately, seeing Burnley at the top of the championship. But this belief can be changed depending on how the results go and this belief may change to we do not believe that Burnley will win the championship. This idea of belief is based on something temporal. The second, and much more important, is belief IN. Believing IN someone involves having a personal relationship with that someone. Consider friends in school. Ask the question: Why are they our friends? What difference do they make to our lives? How is that friendship built and maintained? What part does communication play in friendship? Talk/Listen/Being.

Reading: Luke 10:1-4

'Lord teach us how to pray.'

Jesus had a close relationship with his Father. Many times he went off to a lonely place to pray. Prayer is a conversation – it involves speaking and listening. His disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray and he gave us these words. Jesus had a relationship with his Father as a real person and this is the example for us today.

Suggestions for hymns:

- Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
- The love I have for you my Lord
- Sing it in the valleys
- Lord, Jesus Christ
- Father, we love you
- Be still for the presence of the Lord
- Father, we come in prayer

Class Reflection 1

Reading: Mark 10:17-30

Activity: Ask a pupil to pick up as many bags as they can. Ask them to try to open the classroom door without putting any of the bags down. Note the obvious difficulty in so doing.

Points to note from the text:

- The young man believes that there is eternal life and wants to be certain of attaining such.
- The young man is a good man- he has followed the commandments ever since his earliest days.
- Jesus recognises the goodness in the young man - Jesus loves him
- Jesus' response is simple and in three parts: sell all; give to the poor; follow me.
- We are told he went away sad, but we are not told what he did subsequently - the young man's face fell and was greatly saddened.
- Jesus' subsequent teaching is a shock to the disciples because Jewish belief at the time was that wealth was a sign of being blessed by God, being in poverty was a sign of being rejected by God.
- Jesus gives hope – nothing is impossible for God.

What is Faith?

| by Stephen Horsman

Ideas for using the Homily Notes in Schools

In the passage Jesus does not condemn the possession of wealth. He shows how it can be a distraction from following him. Jesus focuses on how we should use our wealth for the good of others and by doing so the door to the Kingdom of God will be open. Referring back to the activity. The bags represent the wealth, the door represent the door to the Kingdom of God – if we try to hang on to our wealth, then how much greater will be the difficulty in opening that door. One could then ask the pupils to consider how they would use their wealth for the good of others- relate to their own family, their school environment, parish and local community, global community.

Ways of praying



Class Reflection 2

‘Lord, teach us how to pray.’

Prayer is lifting of mind and heart to God – it is a ‘the living relationship of the children of God with their Father who is good beyond all measure, with his Son Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit’ (CCC, 2565). Our relationships need communication to grow and develop. Our relationship with God needs prayer to grow and develop.

Take one or more of the Psalms and ask the pupils to read and choose a sentence or sentences which appeals to them. They could copy, decorate them and write why that is their choice.

Introduce the idea of invoking the prayers of Our Blessed Lady and the saints to pray for us.
Use forms of devotion such as the Rosary or Novenas as part of prayer

In the time of prayer we need to be still and silent to allow the inner voice of God to speak in the quiet of our hearts. This could be before the Blessed Sacrament during exposition; quiet music in the classroom; opportunities for individual reading of the Scripture; guided meditation.

Act of Worship/Assembly

'Let us remember we are in the Holy presence of God' with these words St. John Baptist de la Salle, Patron of Educators, began every time of prayer. The focus of this act of worship is the person of Jesus Christ and, being the first week of Advent, consider: how do we prepare for Christ's coming.

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1
'Live the life that God wants.'

How do we live the life that God wants?

Role play: An action in the playground where someone is being rejected by others; a homeless person in the street; someone who is normally very open and friendly arrives in school and is quiet and withdrawn; someone you don't particularly like asks you for help; you are rushing to catch a bus to get to school on time and someone asks you to help them which will mean you will miss the bus.

Reading: St. Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)
Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion
on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the
world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion
on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Suggestions for hymns:

- Come, Lord Jesus, come
- Blest are the pure in heart
- Christ be beside me
- Follow Christ and love the world as he did
- God is love, his the care
- God's Spirit is in my heart
- I give my hands to do your work
- Make me a channel of your peace
- Take my hands and make them as your own
- Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee

Class Reflection

These could be used as a whole or as three short individual reflections as part of a lesson. You could, perhaps, ask a pupil to read; they may write their reflections on the passage, place them at the foot of a cross; compose their own prayers to share with the class. Background music could also be used.

To see as Jesus sees

Reading: Luke 9:36-38, 44-48
Jesus sees the woman's sorrow and desire for forgiveness; Simon sees the woman as a sinner. How often do we see the person outwardly but not take time to see the inner person and judge them accordingly? *We pray:* Lord, open our eyes to see as you see; to see others with love and accept them for who they are.

To use our hands as Jesus used his hands

Reading: Mark 10:13-16
Signs of the Kingdom of God - Jesus embraces the children and blesses them. How often do we prevent others from knowing the love of God through our words and actions?

The Person of Christ

| by Stephen Horsman

Ideas for using the Homily Notes in Schools

Reading: Luke 23: 33-34 – The hands nailed to the cross and yet Jesus reaches out to forgive. How often do we when hurt by others retaliate in anger, rather than forgiving in love? *We pray:* Lord, open our hands to receive others in love. Give us strength to follow your example of forgiveness.

To walk as Jesus walked

Reading: John 13:1-16

Jesus' example of service – he washes the disciples' feet. This task was usually performed by the lowest servant in the household. How often do we shy away from performing the smallest and perhaps, lowest of tasks, and expect others to do these for us?

Reading: Luke 23:33-34

Jesus' feet are nailed to the cross to support his broken body. Reflect upon the way we walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Sometimes the road is long and difficult; at times we want to give up. *We pray:* Lord, guide us in your footsteps to follow the way you walk and to recognise that when we are in the darkest times of our lives, you are there with us, carrying us.



You Believe

| by Fr David Reilly

EVERY YOUNG PILGRIM who participated in the most recent World Youth Day in Madrid received, as a personal gift from the Holy Father, a copy of the brand new youth catechism, *Youcat*. In his introduction to this catechism, the Pope encouraged young Christians to use and read their amazing new resource. He said that young people need to know the depths of their faith in the same way that an IT specialist knows the inner workings of a computer, or as a musician knows their instrument. The Pope knows that we are called to know our faith better than the generation of our parents, to become authentic and convincing messengers of the Gospel in a new and radical way. So the *Youcat* will be an essential part of the way that many young people will be formed by the word of God and so able to cross the threshold of the door of faith.

The Year of Faith coincides with the Synod of Bishops, which represents a concrete way in which the New Evangelisation is beginning. Young Christians will need to be the central agents of this New Evangelisation, cooperating with the Holy Spirit in an adventure which belongs to the young precisely because

they are the living sign of the future. In the young faithful and their celebrations we are able to witness and discern a way forward for faith, God's call to the future for the Church and the world.

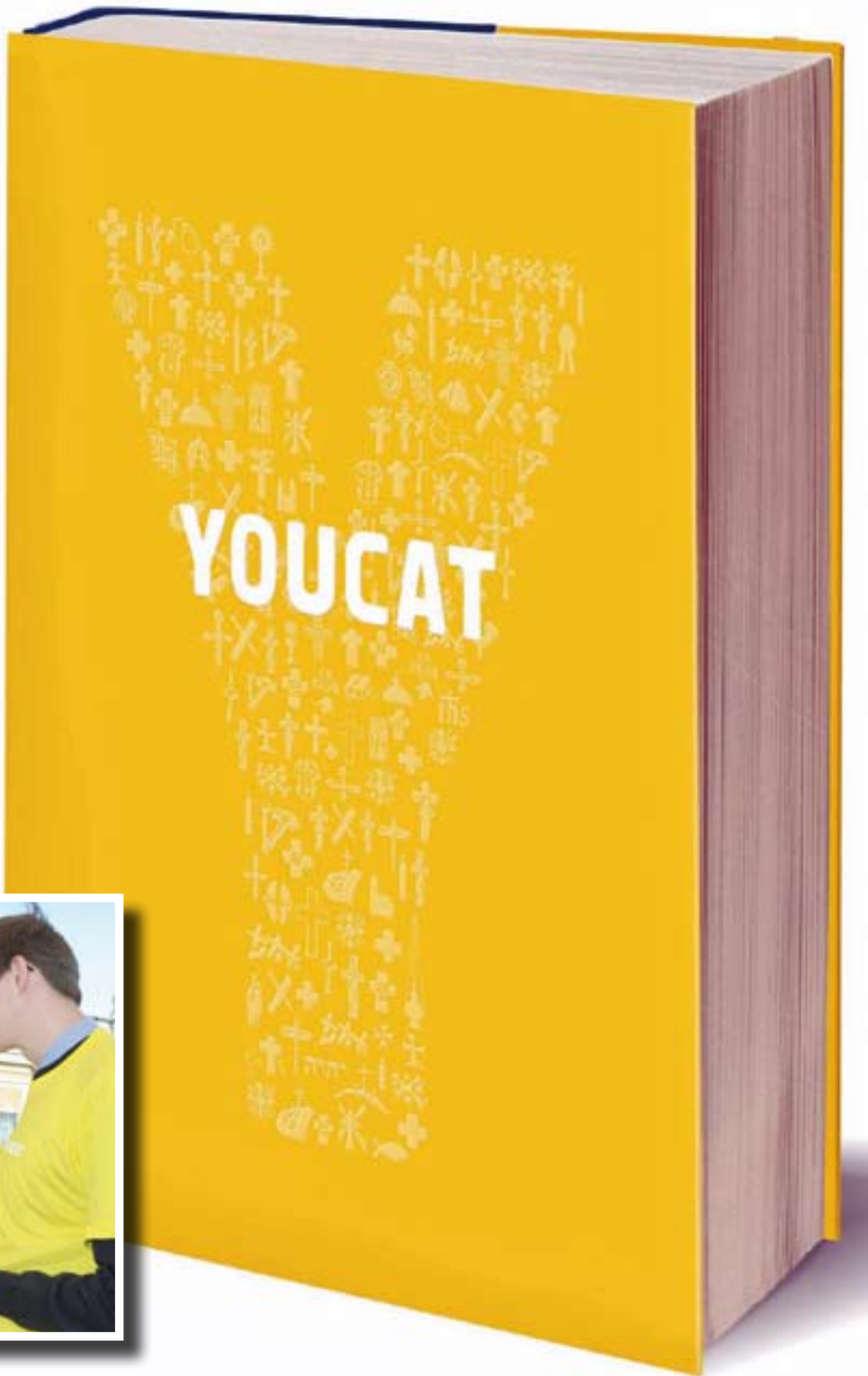
Pope John Paul II once described the Second Vatican Council as the definitive work of the Spirit in preparing the Church for the third millennium. Young Catholics today belong to a generation which has lived the journey of renewal in the Church in a remarkable way. The experience of World Youth Days, and the emergence of new movements, witness to this on a vast and impressive scale. Yet, in the sanctuary of hearts too, young Christians are coming to faith in a new and vibrant way, a way which understands and exhibits all the hallmarks of ecclesial and personal renewal which must be essential for the future.

In the Diocese of Westminster, we will be presenting a year-long celebration of catechesis for young people, called 'You Believe' in order to help them feel equipped for the vital mission of the New Evangelisation. These celebrations, events with catechesis at their heart, will be led by the youth mission team

SPEC and the bishops, taking place once a month in Somers Town, at the brand new diocesan 'Centre for Youth Ministry' attached to St Aloysius Church. They will help us to explore the content and meaning of the new *Youcat*, as well as ways in which that faith can be lived out with integrity, courage and authenticity. The first session will be led by Archbishop Nichols and will take place on Tuesday 6 November. For a full listing of these catechises see page 47. More details will be available on www.rcdow.org.uk/youth.

Copies of *Youcat* can be purchased from CTS.





Events Calendar for the Year of Faith

When?	What?	Where?
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Vatican Official Calendar of Events

Thu 11 Oct 12	Opening of the Year of Faith	Across the Universal Church
Sun 2 Jun 13	Adoration on the Feast of Corpus Christi	Every cathedral and church
Sun 24 Nov 13	Close of the Year of Faith	Across the Universal Church

Further events can be found on the Vatican website: www.annusfidei.va

Selected National Events

Sat 6 - Fri 12 Oct 12	Little Way Week - in the footsteps of St Thérèse	Schools
Sun 9 Dec 12	Bible Sunday	Parishes (resources for download)
Sun 15 Sep 13	Home Mission Sunday	Parishes (resources for download)

Further events can be found on the CBCEW website: www.yearoffaith.org.uk

Diocesan Events

Thu 11 Oct 12 (5.30pm)	Mass to open the Year of Faith in Westminster	Westminster Cathedral, SW1P
7-15 Nov 12	Diocesan Pilgrimage	Holy Land
Thu 22 Dec 12 (5.30pm)	Mass for Deceased Clergy	Westminster Cathedral, SW1P
Sat 18 May 13 (3pm)	Annual Thanksgiving Mass for Matrimony	Westminster Cathedral, SW1P
21-27 Jul 13	Diocesan Pilgrimage	Lourdes
Thu 27 Jun 13	Feast of St John Southworth	Cathedral and diocese
6-14 Nov 13	Diocesan Pilgrimage	Holy Land

'Named Sundays' for preaching in the Westminster diocese (see also pages 6-9)

Date	Theme and Readings
14 Oct 12 (28th of OT)	I: What is faith? – Wisdom 7:7-11; Hebrews 4:12-13; Mark 10:17-30
2 Dec 12 (1st of Advent)	II: The Person of Jesus Christ – Jeremiah 33:14-16; I Thess 3:12-4:2; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36
20 Jan 13 (2nd of OT)	III: The Sacraments in General – Isaiah 62:1-5; I Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11
3 Mar 13 (3rd of Lent)	IV: Reconciliation – Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15; I Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9
28 Apr 13 (5th of OT)	V: Caritas – Isaiah 6:1-8; I Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
23 June 13 (12th of OT)	VI: Moral Life – Zechariah 12:10-11, 13:1; Galatians 3:26-29; Luke 9:18-24
8 Sep 13 (23rd of OT)	VII: Prayer – Wisdom 9:13-18; Philemon 9-10, 12-17; Luke 14:25-33
20 Oct 13 (29th of OT)	VIII: Prayer – Exodus 17:8-13; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2; Luke 18:1-8

For the most up-to-date information and additional events see www.rcdow.org.uk

When?	What?	Where?
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Faith Matters: *What is Faith and how we believe?* (Autumn 2012)

Tue 30 Oct 12 (7pm)	First in a series of four lectures on our Faith	Westminster Cathedral Hall, SW1P
Tue 6 Nov 12 (7pm)	Second lecture on the Catholic Faith	Westminster Cathedral Hall, SW1P
Tue 13 Nov 12 (7pm)	Third lecture on the Catholic Faith	Westminster Cathedral Hall, SW1P
Tue 20 Nov 12 (7pm)	Fourth lecture on the Catholic Faith	Westminster Cathedral Hall, SW1P

Faith Matters: *Celebration of Faith - Sacraments* (Lent 2013)

Thu 28 Feb 13 (7pm)	First in a series of four lectures on the Sacraments	Westminster Cathedral Hall, SW1P
Thu 7 Mar 13 (7pm)	Second lecture on the Sacraments	Westminster Cathedral Hall, SW1P
Thu 14 Mar 13 (7pm)	Third lecture on the Sacraments	Westminster Cathedral Hall, SW1P
Thu 21 Mar 13 (7pm)	Fourth lecture on the Sacraments	Westminster Cathedral Hall, SW1P

Faith Matters: *Life in Christ - Morality and social outreach* (Post-Easter 2013)

Thu 2 May 13 (7pm)	First in a series of four lectures on morality	Vaughan House, Victoria, SW1P 1QN
Thu 9 May 13 (7pm)	Second lecture on living a moral and faithful life	Vaughan House, Victoria, SW1P 1QN
Thu 16 May 13 (7pm)	Third lecture on living a moral and faithful life	Vaughan House, Victoria, SW1P 1QN
Thu 23 May 13 (7pm)	Fourth lecture on living a moral and faithful life	Vaughan House, Victoria, SW1P 1QN

Faith Matters: *Prayer - Our Father* (Autumn 2013)

Wed 23 Oct 13 (7pm)	First in a series of four lectures on prayer	Westminster Cathedral Hall, SW1P
Wed 30 Oct 13 (7pm)	Second lecture on the Lord's Prayer	Westminster Cathedral Hall, SW1P
Wed 6 Nov 13 (7pm)	Third lecture on the Lord's Prayer	Westminster Cathedral Hall, SW1P
Wed 13 Nov 13 (7pm)	Fourth lecture on the Lord's Prayer	Westminster Cathedral Hall, SW1P

Adult Formation (see also page 27)

Sat 24 Nov 12 (Time TBC)	Adult Faith Formation Retreat	Nazareth House, Hammersmith,
Sat 1 June 13	Foundation Degree & parish AFF leaders' retreat	TBC

Education (see also page 36)

Thu 22 Nov (9.30am-3.30pm)	Opening the Door of Faith	Niland Centre, Bushey
Sat 22 Jun (9.30am-3.30pm)	Day of Reflection – 'Finding God in All Things'	Niland Centre, Bushey

For full listings of Education events see the in-service booklet: <http://beta.rcdow.org.uk/att/files/education/courses/cpd2012.pdf>

When?	What?	Where?
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Marriage and Family Life (see also page 13)

Fri 28 - Sun 30 Sep 2012	Retrouvaille residential wknd for troubled marriages	Hatfield
Mon 5 - Tue 6 Nov 2012	Icon of Czestochowa visits UK (ocean to ocean)	Westminster Cathedral, SW1P
Sat 10 Nov 12 (1.30-3.30pm)	As I have loved you - supporting parents	St Patrick's, Soho Square, W1D 4NR
Sat 24 - Sun 25 Nov 2012	SmartLoving marriage enrichment seminar	St Joseph's Pastoral Centre, Hendon
Sat 1 Dec 12 (10am-4pm)	Called to Marriage? Day for couples	Carmelite Priory, Kensington, W8 4BB
Tue 8 Jan 13	Annual Theology of the Body lecture (Dawn Eden)	Vaughan House, Victoria, SW1P 1QN
9 Mar 2013	Marriage: The next generation - day conference	St Mary's University College, Twickenham
Sat 18 May (3pm)	Annual Thanksgiving Mass for Matrimony	Westminster Cathedral, SW1P
June 2013	SmartLoving marriage enrichment seminar	Hendon (TBC)
July 2013	Inter-Diocesan Annual Grandparents' Pilgrimage	Aylesford Priory, Kent

Clergy Days of Formation

Tue 16 Oct 12 (4-6.30pm)	The origins of the Second Vatican Council	St Mary Moorfields, EC2M 7LS
Wed 28 Nov 12 (4-6.30pm)	The reception of the Second Vatican Council	St Mary Moorfields, EC2M 7LS
Jan 2013	Unitatis Redintegratio	TBC
Thu 14 Feb 13 (4-6.30pm)	Nostrae Aetate	St Mary Moorfields, EC2M 7LS
March 2013	Dei Verbum	St Mary Moorfields, EC2M 7LS
March 2013	Holy Week Day of Recollection	TBC
Mon 15 Apr 13 (3-6.30pm)	Gaudium et Spes	St Mary Moorfields, EC2M 7LS
Wed 22 May 13 (3-6.30pm)	Sacrosanctum Concilium	St Mary Moorfields, EC2M 7LS
June 2013	Lumen Gentium (Annual Day for Clergy)	TBC
July 2013	Guided visit to Canterbury Cathedral	TBC

To book call Fr Peter Newby 020 7247 8390

Vocations (see also page 22)

Sat 6 Oct 12 (10am-4pm)	Called to a Deeper Discipleship? Taster Day	St Mary of the Angels, Bayswater, W2 5DJ
Sat 24 Nov 12 (10am-5pm)	Called to the Priesthood? Day for men 18+	Allen Hall seminary, Chelsea, SW3 5AA
Sat 1 Dec 12 (10am-4pm)	Called to Marriage? Day for couples	Carmelite Priory, Kensington, W8 4BB
Sat 2 Feb 13 (10am-5pm)	Called to Consecrated Life? Day for women 20-40	St Aloysius, Somers Town, NW1 1TA
Sat 16 Feb 13 (10am-4pm)	Called to the Diaconate? Day for men 35+	Allen Hall seminary, Chelsea, SW3 5AA
Sat 27 Apr 13 (10am-5pm)	Called to the Priesthood/Religious Life? Men 18+	Mount Street Jesuit Centre, W1K 3AH

For further events and information on the Vocations Discernment Group visit: www.free2become.org.uk

For the most up-to-date information and additional events see www.rcdow.org.uk

When?	What?	Where?
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Catechesis (see also pages 24-25)

Thu 20 Sep 12 (7.30pm)	Archbishop's Certificate in Catechesis Info session	St Thomas More, Eastcote, HA5 1QT
Tue 25 Sep 12 (7.30pm)	Archbishop's Certificate in Catechesis Info session	OL & St Christopher, Cranford, TW5 9RG
Thu 27 Sep 12 (7.30pm)	What do I really need to know to be a Catechist?	Our Lady of Walsingham, London Colney
Thu 18 Oct 12 (7.30pm)	Introduction to the Catechism of the Catholic Church	Christ the King, Cockfosters, N14 4HE

Further catechetical events can be found on the diocesan website: www.rcdow.org.uk/catechesis

Youth Ministry (see also pages 42-43)

Tue 6 Nov 12 (7-9pm)	You Believe (+VN): First monthly youth catechesis	St Aloysius, Somers Town, NW1 1TA
Tue 4 Dec 12 (7-9pm)	The New Evangelisation (+John Arnold)	St Aloysius, Somers Town, NW1 1TA
Tue 15 Jan 13 (7-9pm)	Faith in Jesus Christ (+Alan Hopes)	St Aloysius, Somers Town, NW1 1TA
Tue 5 Feb 13 (7-9pm)	The Spirit and the Bride (Life in the Church)	St Aloysius, Somers Town, NW1 1TA
Tue 12 Mar 13 (7-9pm)	Celebrating Faith (+AH)	St Aloysius, Somers Town, NW1 1TA
Tue 30 Apr 13 (7-9pm)	Finding Happiness (+John Sherrington)	St Aloysius, Somers Town, NW1 1TA
Tue 14 May 13 (7-9pm)	Living Life to the Full	St Aloysius, Somers Town, NW1 1TA
Tue 25 Jun 13 (7-9pm)	John Southworth: Communion of Saints (+JS)	St Aloysius, Somers Town, NW1 1TA
23 Jul - 28 Jul 2013	World Youth Day	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Tue 17 Sep 13 (7-9pm)	The Gift of Prayer (+AH)	St Aloysius, Somers Town, NW1 1TA
Tue 22 Oct 13 (7-9pm)	The Journey of Renewal, Path to the Future (+JA)	St Aloysius, Somers Town, NW1 1TA
Sun 24 Nov 13	Christ the King (Close of YOF & Nat Youth Sunday)	Westminster Cathedral, SW1P

Small Groups (see also pages 32-33)

Tue 18 Sep 12 (7.30-9pm)	Season Preparation for Small Groups (autumn)	St Luke, Pinner, HA5 3EX
Thu 20 Sep 12 (7.30-9pm)	Season Preparation for Small Groups (autumn)	Our Lady Help of Christians, Kentish Town
Tue 25 Sep 12 (7.30-9pm)	Season Preparation for Small Groups (autumn)	St Edmund of Canterbury, Whitton, TW2
Thu 27 Sep 12 (7.30-9pm)	Season Preparation for Small Groups (autumn)	Mother of God, Ponders End, EN3 7AR
Thu 4 Oct 12 (7.30-9pm)	Season Preparation for Small Groups (autumn)	Vaughan House, Victoria, SW1P 1QN
Sat 6 Oct 12 (10am-2pm)	Small Group Information Day	Our Lady of Walsingham, London Colney
Sun 14 Oct 12	Start of the Autumn Faith-sharing season	Across the diocese

The Lent 2013 Faith-sharing resource will be on reconciliation. Preparation dates will follow in the next edition

'Let me see your face, O Lord,' says the psalmist, 'hope in the Lord' he continues. The Year of Faith, proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI (October 2012 to November 2013) is a time of great grace, hope and opportunity. There will be resources produced and events held which will all serve to remind us and encourage us in our pursuit of holiness and in our witness to God's love.

This resource booklet is but a small part of the Diocese of Westminster's response to the Holy Father's invitation - providing parishes and schools with information on some of the many aids on offer from diocesan departments and other organisations. Intended to be a quarterly companion guide to the year you are welcome to contribute ideas and suggestions to future editions which may prove useful to other parishes and schools. Tell us what you are up to by email: yearoffaith@rcdow.org.uk

Lord,
Let me see your face,
Know your heart
and experience your love in my life.
Strengthen in me the precious Gift
of faith.
I believe Lord;
Help my unbelief.
Amen.

Prayer for the Year of Faith

For the latest information
go to our website:
www.rcdow.org.uk/yearoffaith

Diocese of Westminster



'Let me see your face, O Lord'



THE **Follower**

