



APPEAL TEXT FOR PARISH AMBASSADORS (Please adapt as necessary.)

Introduction

Dear Friends,

My name is (*say your name*) and thank you to Father (*say his name*) for giving me a brief moment to talk to you about today's Home Mission Sunday.

What is Home Mission Sunday?

Home Mission Sunday is a day in the Church's annual calendar when the Bishops of England and Wales ask that we pray for, celebrate and support financially the work of evangelisation in England and Wales - the task of joyfully and confidently sharing our Catholic Faith.

Theme

This year's theme is 'Crossing the Threshold': Ministry and Outreach to Non-Churchgoing Catholics. Nearly every Catholic family has members who never or rarely connect with their local parish community. **There are approximately five million baptised Catholics in England and Wales, four million of which are non-churchgoing.** There is therefore significant need for this area of mission to be prayed for, supported and resourced.

Close to home

Perhaps we can pause for a moment to bring to mind all those that we know who are non-churchgoing (lapsed) Catholics.

Pause for reflection

Resources and support

Many of us, especially parents and grandparents, experience a lot of worry and anxiety about those closest to us who are non-churchgoing. That's why today, on Home Mission Sunday, we're being invited to receive a message of hope. A number of non-churchgoing Catholics, when the time is right and if given local support, do return to the practice of their faith. So please do consider today how you might respectfully and lovingly reach out to someone perhaps in your family or friendship circle. Resources to support your efforts are being made available by the Bishops through their national 'Crossing the Threshold' project. Here's one resource – *show the 'Catholic and Lost Touch' leaflet* – a leaflet that can be given to a non-churchgoing Catholic. Please see me afterwards if you'd like to take a closer look at that. You might also be interested in joining a parish team to help coordinate our efforts.

In our parish and diocese... *(insert here information about any initiatives or projects that have been developed in your parish)*

Please do come and see me at the end of Mass if you're interested in finding out more.

Why am I stood here today?

I am stood here today because...

You are invited to speak for a moment about why you are so passionate about home mission – the work of evangelisation; e.g. you might be a convert or a 'returned' Catholic, you might feel enthusiasm for the Church's teaching on mission and / or are inspired by the call to mission in the Gospels.

This parish and the Universal Church exists for mission – to celebrate, share and witness to the Good News that God is offering everyone his unconditional love and mercy, if they choose it.

Second Collection

So I ask you to pray for the Church's mission today, to respond to the invitation that is being given by Our Lord and also our Bishops on Home Mission Sunday, and to support today's second collection as generously you can. The money raised is essential to continuing the work of Home Mission, so that together we can confidently and joyfully witness to our faith, and reach out to the four million Catholics in this country who are non-churchgoing, especially those in our own families.

Thank you and God bless you.

Supplied by the Home Mission Desk, CBCEW.

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