



'The man went off and proceeded to proclaim in the Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him. And everyone was amazed.'
Feast of St John Bosco, Mark 5:1-20

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

January 2011

DIOCESE:

Westminster

Diocese is offering a booklet called *Faithful Pilgrim*, to encourage parishioners to revisit the texts from the Papal Visit. Contact: marknash@rcdow.org.uk
 Deadline for parish orders: 11 February.



INITIATIVE:

A national Catholic Roadshow is being organised by **Heart Gives Unto Heart Radio** during Summer 2011. Volunteers are welcome. Contact: gerrycoates@blueyonder.co.uk and www.heartgivesuntoheart.co.uk

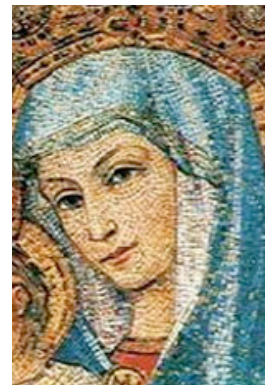
ENQUIRIES:

Philip contacted the Catholic Enquiry Office to ask: 'I am a Catholic but do not support exclusion of women and gay people from the priesthood and I do not agree that priests have to be celibate. Does this mean I cannot have communion at Mass?'

(Name changed to protect privacy)

MEDIA:

Totus2us is a multimedia resource which aims to give voice to John Paul II's and Benedict XVI's 'dear young people'. So far the website has voices from nearly 70 countries and offers a range of mp3 and video files. See: <http://www.totus2us.com/>



ECUMENISM:

The **Hope Together** website offers various news items, including details of a new Easter resource: <http://www.hopetogether.org.uk/>



Pope John Paul II's Beatification

The Congregation for Saints' Causes in Rome has announced that Pope John Paul II will be beatified on 1 May 2011. An important part of his contribution to the mission of the Church was his teaching and call for a 'new evangelisation'.

'John Paul first used the expression "the new evangelisation" in a trip to Latin America in 1983. Ever since he has "unstintingly recalled the pressing need for a new evangelisation" (*Faith and Reason* 103). This urgency stems not only from the fact that entire nations still haven't received the Gospel, but also because "entire groups of the baptised have lost a living sense of the faith, or even no longer consider themselves members of the Church, and live a life far removed from Christ and His Gospel" (*Mission of the Redeemer* 86).

'Therefore, one thing "new" about this evangelisation is that it's directed in large part towards "baptised non-believers." Men and women in large numbers are "culturally Christian," but haven't experienced a conversion of



Image source: www.thepapalvisit.org.uk

heart to Christ and His teachings. The call to interior conversion, in fact, was one of the main themes of Vatican II. As the Council understood well, this can only happen through an authentic, compelling, evangelical witness to salvation through Jesus Christ.

'As John Paul clarified in his Apostolic Letter *At the Beginning of the New Millennium*, the new evangelisation isn't "a matter of inventing a 'new program.'" The program already exists: it is the plan found in the Gospel and in the living Tradition, it is the same as ever" (29). What's essential in order to bring the Gospel to the modern world is a proclamation that's "new in ardor, methods, and expression" (9 March, 1983).

'Speaking to the American Bishops in 1998, the Pope observed that "the new evangelisation [involves] a vital effort to come to a deeper understanding of the mysteries of faith and to find meaningful language with which to convince our contemporaries that they are called to newness of life through God's love." It's the task of sharing with your neighbors, friends and co-workers, "the 'unsearchable riches of Christ' and of making known 'the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things' (Eph 3:8-9)."

The Decree for his beatification reads: 'The life of John Paul II was totally devoted to the service of the Lord.' Full text: <http://www.zenit.org/article-31459?l=english>

Pope Benedict XVI has repeatedly spoken of the importance of engaging in the new evangelisation. This is our shared task as missionaries in England and Wales, supported by the prayers and teaching of the soon-to-be beatified Pope John Paul II.

Text source: http://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/library_article/385/Theology_of_the_Body__The_New_Evangelization__Christopher_West.html

New Ordinariate

Earlier this month a Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham was established in England and Wales (referred to as 'the Ordinariate') for groups of Anglican faithful and their clergy who wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. It has been described as a 'unique moment' and 'a historic development in the life of the Universal Church.'

Reverend Keith Newton, the new Ordinary, said at a press conference on 17 January: '...there are plenty of people out there who have no practice of the Faith at the moment. I hope this is going to be an evangelistic tool. I think it's part of the Pope's vision for the evangelisation of Europe; it's just a very small part. I hope the Ordinariate is not going to live for itself, and look beyond its borders to be evangelistic. Not simply saying to people who are present in the Anglican Church, "come and be Catholics in the Ordinariate". All that will happen I'm sure. But we will be looking to people who have no faith; we have to be warm and opening and missionary.'

At the Ordination of three priests who are to serve in the Ordinariate, Archbishop Nichols said in this homily: 'In today's Gospel passage from St. John, we have heard again of the appearance of the Risen Christ to his disciples... He shows them his wounds. The mission they receive, the mission of reconciliation, comes from the wounds of Christ... Our mission is characterised by woundedness: a mission to a wounded world; a mission entrusted to a wounded Church, carried out by wounded disciples... The first to witness these wounds, the first, perhaps, to grasp their true significance, was Mary, Mother of Jesus... As this Ordinariate, her Ordinariate, comes into being so may we entrust to her the work of bringing it to fulfilment.'

Fr Marcus Stock, the General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, has written an FAQ resource to assist people in their understanding of this historic initiative. It covers key questions and is available from: <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Ordinariate/Background-Information>



Clare Ward,
Home Mission Advisor

Archbishop's Appointment



Image source: © Mazur catholicchurch.org.uk

'The new Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelisation has its first members, including Archbishop Bernard Longley of Birmingham.'

'The council, formally established in October, is charged with renewing and strengthening the faith in traditionally Christian countries where religious belief and practice are threatened by secularism and indifference.'

'Pope Benedict XVI named 19 cardinals and bishops to be members of the council.'

Text source: <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2011/01/05/archbishop-longley-among-members-of-new-evangelisation-council/>

Sacred Space Conference



A Conference is being held in Oxford to explore how to recognise the sacred in secular spaces.

The ecumenical event is for anyone engaged in mission (including youth work, schools work, community arts and fresh expressions of church).

Over two days (22 - 23 March) a key question that will be posed is, 'Where are God's fingerprints in the world around us?' For more information: <http://sacredspaces.eventbrite.com/>

February Outreach Idea:

Display a religious image prominently in your home.

Digital Media

Truth, Proclamation and Authenticity of Life in the Digital Age has been announced as the theme of this year's World Communications Day, 5 June 2011. Pope Benedict writes:

'The task of witnessing to the Gospel in the digital era calls for everyone to be particularly attentive to the aspects of that message which can challenge some of the ways of thinking typical of the web... I would like then to invite Christians, confidently and with an informed and responsible creativity, to join the network of relationships which the digital era has made possible. This is not simply to satisfy the desire to be present, but because this network is an integral part of human life.'

More: http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Media-Centre/press_releases/Press-Releases-2011/Pope-reflects-on-social-media

Key To Happiness

'Having a job is more important to people than how much they are paid, according to the first official inquiry into what makes Britons happy.'

'The Office for National Statistics (ONS) analysed responses from more than 2,000 people. The emerging results showed that job security, personal health and relationships with family members were at the top of most people's concerns,

'Other key ingredients of a happy life were parents' sense of the security of their children's future; the freedom of society; and spiritual and religious beliefs.' More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/science-news/8249538/Happiness-is-having-a-job-and-the-salary-doesnt-matter.html>

Pope's Legacy

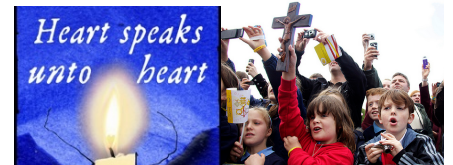


Image source: www.thepapalvisit.org.uk

A new programme has been launched to support the Catholic Community to contribute to the legacy of the Pope's Visit to the UK.

Called *Some Definite Purpose* the programme reflects the content of Pope Benedict XVI's speeches, homilies and addresses during his September 2010 visit to the UK. See: www.thepapalvisit.org.uk/legacy