

# Papal Visit Legacy Resources



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## Be Joyful

“Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things.” It is the little things that reveal our love for the one who loved us first (cf. I Jn 4:19) and that bind people into a community of faith, love and service.’

Pope Benedict XVI, Message to the Faithful of Wales, 18 September 2010

## Faith and Reason



‘Where is the ethical foundation for political choices to be found? The Catholic tradition maintains that the objective norms governing right action are accessible to

reason, prescinding from the content of revelation.

‘According to this understanding, the role of religion in political debate is not so much to supply these norms, as if they could not be known by non-believers – still less to propose concrete political solutions, which would lie altogether outside the competence of religion – but rather to help purify and shed light upon the application of reason to the discovery of objective moral principles. This “corrective” role of religion vis-à-vis reason is not always welcomed, though, partly because distorted forms of religion, such as sectarianism and fundamentalism, can be seen to create serious social problems themselves. And in their turn, these distortions of religion arise when insufficient attention is given to the purifying and structuring role of reason within religion. It is a two-way process.

‘Without the corrective supplied by religion, though, reason too can fall prey to distortions, as when it is manipulated by ideology, or applied in a partial way that fails to take full account of the dignity of the human person. Such misuse of reason, after all, was what gave rise to the slave trade in the first

place and to many other social evils, not least the totalitarian ideologies of the twentieth century. This is why I would suggest that the world of reason and the world of faith – the world of secular rationality and the world of religious belief – need one another and should not be afraid to enter into a profound and ongoing dialogue, for the good of our civilization.’

‘Religion, in other words, is not a problem for legislators to solve, but a vital contributor to the national conversation.’

For the Pope’s full text: <http://www.thepapalvisit.org.uk/Replay-the-Visit/Speeches/Speeches-17-September/Pope-Benedict-s-address-to-Politicians-Diplomats-Academics-and-Business-Leaders>



## Prayer by St Thomas More

*Give me the grace, Good Lord  
To set the world at naught. To set  
the mind firmly on You and not to hang upon the  
words of men's mouths.*

*To be content to be solitary. Not to long for  
worldly pleasures. Little by little utterly to cast off  
the world and rid my mind of all its business.  
Not to long to hear of earthly things, but that the  
hearing of worldly fancies may be displeasing to  
me.*

*Gladly to be thinking of God, piteously to call for  
His help. To lean into the comfort of God. Busily  
to labor to love Him..*

Source: <http://www.apostles.com/moreprayer.html>; <http://www.catholic-chaplaincy.org.uk/the-st-thomas-more-group>

## Saint of the Month: St Margaret Clitherow

Margaret Clitherow (aged 15) married a butcher in 1571 and had three children. She converted to Catholicism at the age of 18 and began supporting Catholic priests, hiding them in her attic.

Eventually a Flemish boy, after intense questioning, let the authorities know what Margaret was doing and she was arrested.



Margaret refused to plead, because if she did her children would have been questioned too. If you didn't plead the standard punishment at that time was to be crushed to death and this is what happened to her on Good Friday in 1585. After Margaret's death her hand was removed – it was probably one of the parts of her body that was not crushed under the weight of the door – and it was retained as a relic and later housed in the chapel in the Bar Convent. It has not received any preservative treatment for 400 years and yet it is intact as a perfectly formed hand. The relic of St Margaret Mary can be venerated on request and is treated with the greatest reverence.

Text source: From an article written for The Universe newspaper by James Foster, General Manager, Bar Convent, York.

Image: [http://www.ourladyandstpatricks.org.uk/Mothers\\_Union\\_Patron\\_ST.htm](http://www.ourladyandstpatricks.org.uk/Mothers_Union_Patron_ST.htm)



## 'Fresh Wind In Our Sails'

The Bishop responsible for Mission in England and Wales is inviting Catholic parishes, families, groups and individuals to celebrate and share their experiences of the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the UK.

Bishop Kieran Conry (Arundel and Brighton) is Chair of the Bishops' Conference Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis and said in a video message recorded in advance of the anniversary, which coincides with Home Mission Sunday on 18 September 2011: "What's it done for you? Has it made you feel different about being a Catholic? Has it inspired you to do anything? Tell stories if you can of what you've seen round the parish as a result of it."

The anniversary of the Papal Visit will be celebrated 16 – 18 September. More: <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Media-Centre/Press-Releases/Press-Releases-2011/Fresh-Wind-In-Our-Sails-Call-to-celebrate-and-share-testimonies-of-grace-to-mark-the-Papal-Visit-anniversary>

## Let's Celebrate!

A leaflet has been created to support families, individuals and parishes to celebrate the anniversary of the Papal Visit in September.

The anniversary will cover three days beginning on 16 September with the re-establishment of the practice of Friday penance. On 17 September parishes and families are invited to gather together to have a meal together, pray and share reminiscences from last year's visit. The 18 September is Home Mission Sunday which is a national day of prayer for evangelisation in England and Wales. The Bishops will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for the Holy Father's visit.

Some time over the weekend please do consider getting together. Perhaps watch again the official Papal Visit DVD, share your photographs and some refreshments. It's also an opportunity to invite those who are not churchgoers to join you. The leaflet about the weekend is available from the home mission web page.

## God in the stars

Rt Rev Edwin Regan, Bishop of Wrexham, shares an experience that shaped the rest of his life.

'I was 15 years of age working as a paperboy... I was at a period in my life when I wondering, well, "Is there a God or not? Is what the grown-ups told me absolutely true?" Those kind of questions were bothering me.

'On this particular morning, it was in the Winter, I was on the paper round and it was just so so beautiful a morning. I just stood there at the end of the street and looked there at the sky. It was just full of stars - they were sparkling and gleaming... The whole town was asleep, except for myself and the stars, and I just said to myself, "That is so beautiful, somebody must have made it like that."

'Now in the recounting that may sound very trivial, but to me, it was a beautiful moment because it really was God - heart to heart - speaking to me.'

Full story: <http://vimeo.com/14398171>