

## Home Mission Sunday 2015 - 20 September

On 20 September 2015 the Bishops of England and Wales invite parishes to celebrate Home Mission Sunday in support of the work of evangelisation in England and Wales. This year's theme is **Proclaim '15: Building Missionary Parishes**. Materials presented at the National Catholic Evangelisation Conference in Birmingham will be made available to coincide with this date. Please do use them and celebrate the national Sunday in your parish. On this day too a second collection is invited to enable this work to continue. Thank you.

From July 2015, for information about the free resources that are available in support of the celebration of this year's Home Mission Sunday, please see :  
[www.catholicnews.org.uk/hms15](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/hms15)



Some of the Proclaim materials currently available online are:

- Videos
- Small group materials for parish groups
- Information about the National Conference
- A message from the national Mission Bishop
  - Spread the Word page
  - Meet the team
  - Prayers... and much more!

This booklet was prepared by an inter-diocesan team coordinated by Salford Diocese, in support of Proclaim '15.  
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## IDEAS FOR ORGANISING AN EVENT IN YOUR AREA

### Proclaim'15

building missionary parishes



#### An invitation to attendees of the National Catholic Evangelisation Conference, July 2015

The National Catholic Evangelisation Conference on 11 July 2015 is inspired by Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*. It aims to bring together representatives from around the country to receive practical ideas about furthering the work of evangelisation locally. The hope is that new ideas will be shared, as well as information about useful resources.

It is important that the Conference has a practical legacy. Attendees are therefore invited and encouraged to seek ways of sharing what they've learnt with others in their local area. Please do consider, with your diocesan group, how you might organise a local Proclaim event this autumn.

**This booklet provides some suggestions concerning possible next steps.**

#### An invitation to every Catholic parish, deanery and religious house

Everyone can benefit from the Proclaim '15 initiative, supported by the materials provided on the website. One specific activity that a local Catholic community might consider is the organisation of a local Proclaim '15 day this autumn.

Working in liaison with members of the diocesan group that attended the National Conference, please do explore forming a group to discuss how best the vision and the content of the National Conference can be shared.

The precise shape and duration of a follow up event is flexible and, most importantly, should reflect the needs of evangelisation in your area. You may choose to have a full day, half day or evening event.

## What the local Proclaim event might include?

### 1. Promote local speakers and resources

There are a number of experienced speakers and evangelisation resources in each diocese. These should be used and harnessed to support evangelisation in your area. Please contact your diocesan evangelisation team or Commission to find out more.

### 2. Create a local parish evangelisation plan

An evangelisation plan can be used to provide clarity and direction. The local Proclaim event could encourage evangelisation plans to be created in service of parish outreach. As a starting point, perhaps identify five evangelisation activities that your parish(es) might pursue in the year ahead.

### 3. Offer practical workshops

It is suggested that these should include some teaching, but also provide a space for people to talk with each other about opportunities for local outreach. Allow participants the chance to share ideas and 'dream dreams' about what could be achieved in their local area.

### 4. Use materials from the National Conference

These will be published online in time for Home Mission Sunday on 20 September 2015. Please feel free to adapt them to meet the needs of your local situation.

### 5. Invite National Conference attendees to help

The group of people who attended the national event from your diocese should be invited to help plan and present the local event.

***Pope Francis describes the parish as "a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach."***

*Pope Francis, Evangelii 28*



## Prayer



### Song of Sending

*A Song for Missionary Disciples*

Alex Heath

**A**

Go in-to the world, pro-claim the Good News: Je - sus Christ is ri - sen!\_\_\_

His sa - ving love fills us with joy. His Gos - pel we will pro - claim. \_\_\_

**B**

We will shine as light in dark - ness,

as we wit - ness to the love of Christ. \_\_\_

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The Song of Sending can be freely used for events connected to the Proclaim'15 initiative.

## Simple opening prayer

+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen+

### Opening Prayer

You may choose to use the Proclaim Prayer which is found on the previous page.

### Leader:

As missionary disciples we pause for a moment of silence to welcome the Word of God. *Allow for a short moment of silence.*

**Scripture Reading:** You are the Light of the World  
(Matthew 5:14-16)

### Silent Reflection

We are all called to go out and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.  
How will I/we respond to this call?  
*We pause for a time of silent reflection and prayer.*

**Leader:** Christ sends us to bring Good News to the poor.

**All:** We will go to share the Light of Christ.

**Leader:** Christ sends us to proclaim freedom to captives.

**All:** We will go to share the Light of Christ.

**Leader:** Christ sends us to bind up broken hearts.

**All:** We will go to share the Light of Christ.

**Leader:** Christ himself is our strength.

**All:** We will go in the strength of Christ our Light. Thanks be to God.

**Leader:** We pray together...

**All:** Our Father

If a priest or deacon is present a final blessing can be given.

Recessional Hymn: See the Song of Sending. A music recording of this song is available on the website. Alternatively please use a hymn of your choice.

## Suggested outline – day event

**Key considerations:** Welcome and hospitality are very important—greet people individually and have tea and coffee available all day! Remember too that your event should be tailored to the needs of your area.

- 10.00 am **Opening Prayer, Welcome and Introduction**  
(Led perhaps by the Diocesan Coordinator for Evangelisation)
- 10.10 am **Hopes**  
(A local speaker, such as your Bishop or Parish Priest, may choose to share briefly some hopes for the event and its legacy.)
- 10.15 am **Talk 1**  
(Play a video recording of a keynote of your choice from the National Catholic Evangelisation Conference.)
- 10.45 am **Groups**  
(For those present to share in small groups what most struck them about what they have heard so far.)
- 11am **Brief feedback to the full group**
- 11.15am **Workshops** x 3 simultaneous choices—1hr each  
(25 mins talk in each and then discussion and feedback time)
- 12.15pm Re-gather as a single group
- 12.20am **Testimonies / Stories**  
(Use the video recording or pre-prepare two or three parish testimonies that witness to activities in service of evangelisation locally that have worked.)
- 12.35pm **Groups**—sharing among attendees about initiatives / resources / gestures that they have found work
- 1pm **Brief feedback** to the Plenary
- 1.15 pm **Lunch** (Shared lunch as brought by the participants)
- 2.00 pm **Talk 2**  
(Could be a local speaker or use one of the video recordings of a keynote)
- 2.30 pm **Workshops** x 3 simultaneous choices—1hr each  
(25 mins talk in each and then discussion and feedback time)
- 3.30pm Re-gather as a single group
- 3-35pm **Next steps & thanks**  
(Proposal to create a parish evangelisation plan. Propose a timeline and communicate follow up meeting dates.)
- 3.50pm **Mass** preparation followed by Mass or a Closing Liturgy



## A list of possible 'how to' workshops

### PRAYER

1. How to make prayer the foundation of your missionary parish  
Led by Bishop Alan Williams (Brentwood)
2. How to offer prayer experiences as effective outreach  
Sr Michael Lee (Hexham and Newcastle) & Sr Brenda Matterson (Middlesbrough)

### VISION AND RESOURCES

3. How to develop a vision and strategy for parish evangelisation  
Anne Marie Salgo (Westminster)
4. How to reach out to non-churchgoing Catholics  
Fr Joe Wheat & Julia Palmer (Nottingham)
5. How to evangelise the young people of your parish  
Hannah Hayward (Leeds) & Will Desmond (Sion Community)
6. How to fulfil Pope Francis' vision, to be "a Church which is poor and for the poor"  
Andy Quinn & Fr David Oakley (Birmingham)
7. How to reach out to those who have had no experience of Church  
Br Loarne Ferguson (Wrexham) & Fr Mark Hogan (Portsmouth)

### PRACTICAL SKILLS

8. How to share your testimony in one-to-one evangelisation  
Fiona Mansford (Northampton)
9. How to share the Gospel message  
Fr Gareth Leyshon (Cardiff)
10. How to build a welcoming and family-friendly parish  
Marriage and Family Life Office Team, CBCEW Secretariat
11. How to form a parish evangelisation team  
Fr Paul Cannon & Sharon Beech (Salford)

Audio recordings of the workshops presented at the National Conference (list above) will be available for purchase in time for Home Mission Sunday on 20 Sunday 2015. For more information please see in early September: [www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15) Video recordings of the keynotes will similarly be available.

## Prayer

Additional suggested workshop themes to consider:

- Evangelisation and Schools
- Use of Social Media as a Tool of Evangelisation
- Ecumenical Faith Witness

### PROCLAIM '15 PRAYER

Please do consider using the initiative prayer at your events. You are welcome to reproduce this prayer in print and use it on electronic platforms.

Loving Father,  
You so loved the world that you sent us your only Son,  
that we might believe in him and have eternal life.  
May we encounter Jesus Christ anew this day  
and live the Good News with joy.  
Through the power of your Holy Spirit,  
help us to "go out to the whole world and proclaim"  
our faith with confidence.  
Give us the courage to witness to the Joy of the Gospel  
by our words and actions.  
Help our parish to become more welcoming and  
missionary,  
so that you may be known and loved by all people.  
We make this prayer through Our Lord Jesus  
Christ Your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever,  
Amen.

Our Lady, Star of the New Evangelisation, Pray for us.

Blessed John Henry Newman, Pray for us.

St Thérèse of Lisieux, Pray for us.

