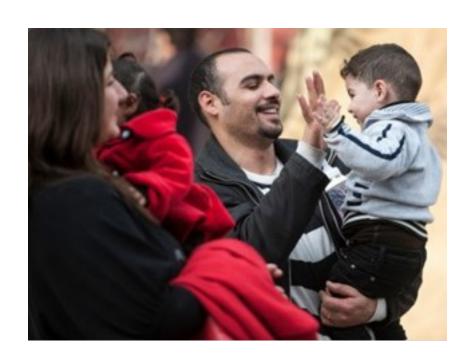


Session One

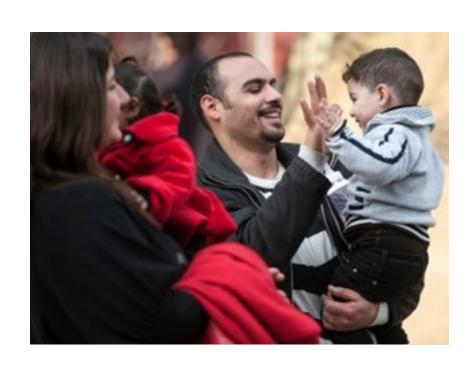
Meeting Jesus – the only one who can save me.





Danny's Story





"Something Father said about how blessed we are really hit home.

He told us to look at the cross and to know how much God loves each one of us."



Scripture:

Mark 2:1-12

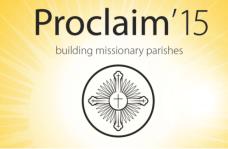
When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."





"This is the joy of the gospel – to discover the gentle and healing mercy of Jesus for me today."



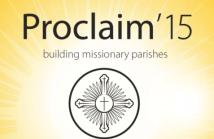


Questions to ponder

What can we learn from Danny's story and from the scripture reflection?

What are the things in life you struggle with that might need the healing and forgiveness of Jesus today?

How might you, in the coming week, help to bring people to a place where they might meet Jesus for themselves?



"The Joy of the Gospel"
by Pope Francis

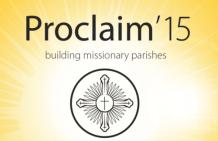




"The Joy of the Gospel"

On the lips of the catechist the first proclamation must ring out over and over: "Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you". (164)





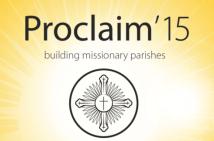
"The Joy of the Gospel"

I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them;

I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day.

No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since "no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord". (3)





"The Joy of the Gospel"

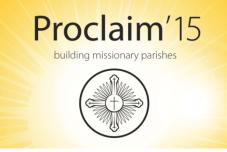
For if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others? (8)





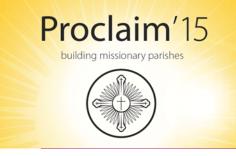
Some questions to talk about

- 1. How did you feel when reflecting on Pope Francis' invitation to have a personal encounter with Jesus every day? What is your response?
- 2. What opportunities are there already in your community for learning to pray and for growing in prayer?
 What else would you like to see offered in your parish?



Take a moment to pray

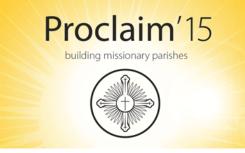
Be still and know that you are in the presence of God.





We ask God to bless the work of everyone who offers welcome and encouragement to those who come to our churches: those who come for a funeral, a wedding or a baptism, families involved in preparing for a First Holy Communion or Confirmation of a child, people who come back to Church after a long time away.

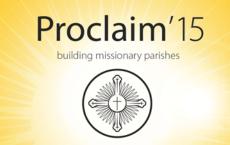
We pray for everyone who is broken and hurting and needs the love and mercy of Jesus.





Loving Lord Jesus,
may we be open
to meeting with you heart-to-heart each day.
May these encounters transform us
and lead us more deeply
into the mystery of your presence.

Through the power of your life-giving Holy Spirit, may we radiate your presence so that others may be drawn to the life of faith. Amen.



Acknowledgements

Session prepared by the Vicariate for Evangelisation, Archdiocese of Liverpool.

www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15

Artwork: Mille images d'Eglise by Jean-Francois Kieffer

Pope photo.: © Mazur/catholicnews.org.uk