



Home Mission Sunday

20th Sept 2009

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'He must make himself... servant of all.'

Mark 9: 35



CASE

Catholic Agency to Support Evangelisation
www.casesources.org.uk



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'They will know Him by the good works that you do.'

We all know someone who needs to hear the Good News that God loves and forgives them. Home Mission Sunday provides Catholic parishes, communities, families and individuals the opportunity to reflect, pray and be resourced to share that Good News with the many different people that they encounter every day.

This year's theme is **'They will know Him by the good works that you do'**, and has been chosen in prayerful response to the content of the Scripture readings for the day and the current economic climate. Parishes and individuals are being invited to consider how they can evangelise by showing their faith through loving support and service of those in need at this time. They are reminded to use the opportunities that present themselves to explain the reason for their actions as being found in Christ. (1 Peter 3:15)

As a follow up to Home Mission Sunday, CASE is also resourcing 'Little Way Week' which will run from the 18th – 24th October 2009. It is inspired by the spiritual teaching on the 'Little Way' of St Thérèse of Lisieux. The initiative aims to encourage and help Catholics to decide which seven small actions – one a day for a week – they will do to witness to their faith through service. Daily 'Little Way' ideas will be distributed by SMS text message. See from mid-August: www.littlewayweek.org.uk.

'It is the task of every parish and baptised person to break open for others the meaning of Jesus' story through witnessing to their faith through loving service. There is a powerful link between evangelisation and works of charity because, **"Love of neighbour is a path that leads to the encounter with God, and that closing our eyes to our neighbour also blinds us to God."** (*Deus Caritas Est* 16; 30b) This initiative challenges us to take a fresh look at how we can show the face of God by the good works, small and large, that we do in daily life. I encourage you to take part in this "little" week of evangelistic service and before that to celebrate Home Mission Sunday in your parish.'

Rt Rev Kieran Conry

Bishop of Arundel and Brighton

Chair of the Bishops' Conference Department of Evangelisation and Catechesis

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