



# Home Mission Sunday + Celebrating the First Anniversary of the Pope's Visit to the UK

Parish Resources, 18 September 2011

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## Request from Bishop Kieran Conry

Dear Father,

June 2011

Home Mission Sunday, which also coincides with the anniversary of the Papal Visit to the UK, is on 18 September. **Please encourage your parishioners to pray for the work of Home Mission on this day and to give generously to the collection** to support the work of the Home Mission Desk of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

The Home Mission Desk exists to provide a national point of reference for evangelisation in dioceses; assist in the running and development of the Catholic Enquiry Office; develop and produce catechetical resources for the formation of adult faith following the Papal Visit; resource Home Mission Sunday; support evangelistic engagement with a wide variety of ecumenical mission partners. Most recently the Desk has provided substantial resources to support parish involvement in the Papal Visit legacy; every parish was sent a document called 'Some Definite Purpose' in January with an accompanying timetable. A major focus in this past year has been resourcing parishes to reach out to non churchgoing Catholics. Each month the Desk sends out an electronic Home Mission Briefing resource and a Papal Visit Legacy resources sheet. This is an overview of what is offered annually to nurture confidence in Catholic identity and to support faith witness. To see more of what the Desk offers please go to: <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/home-mission>

The theme of this year's Home Mission Sunday is 'Fresh Wind In Our Sails' which is what the Holy Father is reported to have said that his visit to the UK gave him. As Home Mission Sunday falls on the anniversary weekend a leaflet has been created to share ideas and resources about how your parish can support three days of prayer and thanksgiving; you will find more information on the home mission web page.

We would be grateful if the proceeds of the collection could be sent to the Catholic Trust for England & Wales. Details are on the collection form below. Please note that the Catholic Trust for England & Wales will *not* be collecting Gift Aid on the collection this year. Resources such as a newsletter insert, liturgical materials and collection form are also detailed below. On behalf of the Bishops may I thank you in advance for your much needed support and prayers.

With every good wish  
Yours in Christ

Bishop Kieran Conry  
Bishop of Arundel and Brighton Diocese, Home Mission Bishop



## Parish Newsletter Insert

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### Home Mission Sunday, 18 September 2011

On Home Mission Sunday we pray for the work of evangelisation in our countries and reflect on our response to the Lord's invitation to share our faith. The theme this year is 'Fresh Wind In Our Sails' which is what the Holy Father is reported to have said that his visit to the UK gave him. Today we give thanks for the Pope's visit last year but also focus on the future, reflecting on where we are being called to set sail to, reinvigorated for our ongoing missionary journey in England and Wales. Today there will be a second collection for the work of the Home Mission Desk of the Catholic Bishops' Conference which exists to support evangelisation nationally. The staff advise dioceses, parishes, movements and Catholic organisations and also offer a range of resources. **Please support the Home Mission Desk to help members of the Catholic community to witness more confidently to God's love and mercy.** <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/home-mission>

## Images for Parish Newsletters

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The Flickr website has photos of Catholic life and events which you can download free for use in your parish newsletter (and on your website) to go with the text above. You are welcome to use these images more

widely in your parish resources: [www.flickr.com/photos/catholicism/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/catholicism/)

Please credit: © Mazur/catholicchurch.org.uk

## Parish Website Text

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### Home Mission Sunday, 18 September 2011

On Home Mission Sunday we pray for the work of evangelisation in our countries and reflect on our response to the Lord's invitation to share our faith. The theme this year is 'Fresh Wind In Our Sails' which is what the Holy Father is reported to have said that his visit to the UK gave him. Today there will be a second collection for the work of the Home Mission Desk of the Catholic Bishops' Conference which exists to support evangelisation nationally. **Please do support the collection as you are able.**

<http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/home-mission>

### 'Prayer and Thanksgiving for His Holiness' on Facebook, 18 September 2011

Post a pledge of prayer and message of thanksgiving for the life and ministry of His Holiness on the Papal Visit Facebook wall in the ten days leading up to the anniversary of the Pope's Visit to the UK (18 Sept.): <http://www.facebook.com/papalvisit> Hundreds of thousands of people came to a Papal event last year and many more watched it on television and on the internet. One year on let's publicly express our prayer and thanksgiving. Do also consider sharing a 'testimony of grace' – one thing that you've done or changed in response to the Holy Father's visit. Consider also adding a link to the Papal Visit Facebook page on your own page.

## Homily Notes – Home Mission Sunday, 18 September 2011

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One year ago we celebrated the historic visit of Pope Benedict XVI to our shores. We can all probably bring to mind at least one favourite moment, whether we attended an event, watched it on the television or on the internet. We know that the visit blessed us as a Catholic community, and we know that it blessed the Holy Father too; when he returned to Rome he is reported to have said that it had given him fresh wind in his sails. The phrase, 'fresh wind in our sails', is the chosen theme for Home Mission Sunday which the Bishops of England and Wales invite the Catholic community to celebrate today.

To say that we have 'fresh wind in our sails' means that we, led by the example of the Holy Father, are trying to respond to the call to holiness, that we are seeking to grow in openness to the Holy Spirit who wants to sustain us throughout our lives, in all their struggles and joys. It means that we are praying for and seeking new ways of sharing the joy of our faith every day.

In the Holy Father's *Address to Pupils* on 17 September last year, he said: 'I hope that among those of you listening to me today there are some of the future saints of the twenty-first century. What God wants most of all for each one of you is that you should become holy. He loves you much more than you could ever begin to imagine, and he wants the very best for you. And by far the best thing for you is to grow in holiness.' Pope Benedict XVI went on to say: '...true happiness is to be found in God. We need to have the courage to place our deepest hopes in God alone, not in money, in a career, in worldly success, or in our relationships with others, but in God. Only he can satisfy the deepest needs of our hearts.'

Today's readings encourage us to choose God afresh in our lives, to seek to follow His

ways. This ongoing choice for God over ourselves is our response to the call to holiness that the Pope placed before us last year, that the Church has placed before us for the last two thousand years, that Jesus placed before us during his earthly ministry, and that He continues to place before us, as His Spirit speaks to our hearts and through the Church today.

As we grow in holiness we are allowing the Holy Spirit to teach us how to fulfil the Great Commandment of Jesus, to love the Lord our God, and our neighbour as ourselves. We love God and our neighbour in many ways, central to which is committing to spend time in prayer each day and to meeting with others in their needs. These needs present themselves in different ways - physical, emotional and spiritual, among others. In giving witness to the love of God, we are invited to support those in need practically, to pray for them and to share our faith with them so that fresh wind might be brought to their sails too.

On Home Mission Sunday, let's remember in prayer our Bishops as they prepare to gather today to give thanks for the Papal Visit. Secondly, let's also reflect on what Jesus is calling us to do in our time in service of mission and pray for all those involved in evangelisation in England and Wales. May we be people of holiness. May we be faithful witnesses to Jesus, in our families, in our workplaces and with our friends.

Please contribute to the second collection today which is vital to the ongoing work of mission nationally. May the Lord, in his great love, place 'fresh wind in all our sails', enabling us to grow in holiness to become the 'saints of the twenty first century'.

*Written by Fr Simon Penhalagan,  
President of the Sion Catholic Community for  
Evangelism*

## Bidding Prayers – Home Mission Sunday, 18 September 2011

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### **Priest**

The Lord invites us to witness confidently and with joy to the reality of His love and mercy.

Seeking to be renewed in that task let us bring before him now our needs and concerns.

### *Reader*

We pray for Pope Benedict XVI; as we mark the first anniversary of his visit to the UK we give thanks for his life and ask that, as the successor of St Peter, he may be strengthened to proclaim God's love.

### *Reader*

We pray for our Bishops; as they gather to give thanks for the Papal Visit may they be filled afresh with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to assist them in their roles as our pastors and teachers in the Faith.

### *Reader*

We pray for ourselves as people called to share our faith where we live and work; grant us the gift of courage so that we may use the opportunities that present themselves.

### *Reader*

We pray for our parish and school communities; in the midst of many concerns and demands made on them, may they always remember that they are called to bear witness with joy and conviction.

### *Reader*

We pray for all those involved in evangelisation in England and Wales; may they be given fresh wind in their sails to continue to seek new ways of making the message of Jesus seen and heard.

### *Reader*

We pray for those in need; may we be attentive to the suffering around us and be mindful of the ways in which we can offer our time and practical help.

### *Reader*

We pray to respond ever more generously to the call to holiness; Lord, may we never hesitate to say 'yes' to your invitation to become the 'saints of the twenty first century'.

### *Reader*

Our Lady, as the first to receive Jesus at the Annunciation, is the Star of Evangelisation. We bring before her our intercessions. Hail Mary...

### **Priest**

Loving Father, we give thanks for hearing our prayers. May we, as Blessed John Henry Newman prayed, radiate Christ to everyone that we meet today, so that they too may receive fresh wind in their sails to face life's joys and sorrows. We make these prayers through Christ our Lord.



# Collection Form – Home Mission Sunday, 18 September 2011

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**Parish Name**

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**Diocese**

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**Total Amount of Collection**                      **£**

Please make cheque(s) payable to **Catholic Trust for England & Wales (CaTEW)**

Forward this summary along with cheque(s) to:

**Catholic Trust for England & Wales**

**39 Eccleston Square**

**London**

**SW1V 1BX**

*Please note, the Catholic Trust for England & Wales is reviewing its Gift Aid procedures and will not be collecting Gift Aid on the Home Mission Sunday collection this year.*

Catholic Trust for England and Wales  
39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX  
Company no. 4734592 Registered charity number 1097482

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## **FREE MONTHLY HOME MISSION E-BRIEFING REGISTRATION FORM**

The Home Mission Desk offers a monthly Home Mission E-Briefing that is sent out by email. If you wish to receive it please insert your name and email address below and send it too 'Home Mission Desk, 39 Eccleston Square, London. SW1V 1BX', or email [clare.ward@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:clare.ward@cbcew.org.uk).

If you also wish to receive occasional mailings about the work of Home Mission and related initiatives of the Bishops' Conference, please insert your postal address.

Name:..... Email:.....

Address:.....

.....Postcode:.....

Name of Parish:..... Date:.....