



Home Mission Sunday

18th Sept 2011

“Fresh Wind In Our Sails”

Celebrating the anniversary of Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the UK

www.catholicchurch.org.uk/homemission



Resourced by the Home Mission Desk

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

HOME MISSION SUNDAY, 18th September 2011: “Fresh Wind In Our Sails”

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 2010 visit to the UK gave him. As Home Mission Sunday falls on the first anniversary of Pope Benedict’s visit, a leaflet has been created to share ideas and resources about how your parish can support the celebrations and also contribute to the legacy of this historic event. You will find more information on the home mission web page (www.catholicchurch.org.uk/homemission); also see www.thepapalvisit.org.uk/Visit-Legacy).

On 18th September we are invited to give thanks for the Pope’s visit last year and also to 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. Parishes are invited to have 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.

One of the forthcoming initiatives being offered in support of the legacy of the Pope’s visit is **Little Way Week** which will run from **1st – 7th October 2011**. 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. More information is available online.

“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

Home Mission Desk, 39 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1BX.
Tel: **0207 901 4818** Email: mission.volunteer@cbcew.org.uk

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