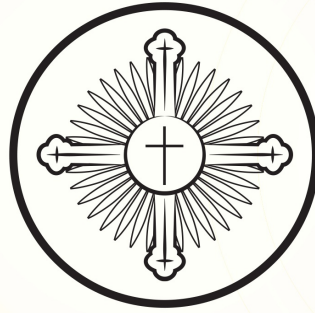


# Proclaim'15

building missionary parishes



## A GUIDE TO USING THE SMALL GROUP SESSIONS

The three small group sessions provided aim to help local communities explore some of the themes and issues that will be raised through the Proclaim '15 initiative.

They are written in such a way that they are faithful to themes found within Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*. The sessions are offered in an easy-to-follow (and printable) format, with key content emphasizes the building of missionary parishes and formation of confident local evangelisers.

The sessions are themed:

- Session One: Meeting Jesus – the only one who can save me
- Session Two: Learning to be a missionary disciple - sitting at the feet of Jesus
- Session Three: Jesus is alive - go and tell my brothers

Each resource begins with a story that is mirrored in a passage of Scripture. A reflection and some questions are offered, followed by the words of Pope Francis and some time for further discussion. The sessions conclude with prayer and suggestions for action.

These materials can be used in four possible ways:

1. **GIVEN TO EVERY PARISHIONER:** To be handed out with the weekly newsletter (over a three week period) so that people can take them home and read them at their leisure. They are written in such a way that a person could use them for personal reflection and prayer. If they are used this way they will reach the largest number of people.
2. **PARISH SMALL GROUPS:** They can be used as a resource to gather people for three meetings. These groups can meet during Lent, after Easter or at any other time of the year. On the website - [www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15) - you will find a PowerPoint version of the sessions designed to be used with groups, as well as supplementary materials (extra questions and more papal quotes) including suggestions about how you could follow up any ideas that come from the small group meetings.
3. **THREE HOLY HOURS:** The content of the sessions could be adapted and potentially used as the basis for three holy hours. Please see the supplementary materials on the website for some suggested hymns to use for each theme.
4. **FOR OUTREACH:** They could be given to those who come for Baptism preparation; for those who are seeking to learn something about the Catholic Church; to families preparing for First Holy Communion and / or Confirmation.

## **Informing Local Evangelisation Planning**

You may choose to invite people to share the fruits of their prayer, reflection and / or discussion at a parish gathering, or by having a Proclaim '15 inspiration / ideas box at the back of church, so as to inform future local evangelisation planning.

## **Format Suggestions**

- Start each session with a prayer of your choice – 2 mins or longer as preferred
- Story and Scripture text – suggested time for reading 4 mins
- Reflection text - suggested time for reading 2 mins
- Questions to ponder – suggested time 15 – 20 mins (if meeting in a group).  
The questions can be spread across the session, as preferred; for example one of the questions provided could be posed at the end of the Story or Scripture reading, to allow for additional moments of reflection and sharing.
- 'Joy of the Gospel' text – suggested reading time 1 – 2 mins
- Some questions to talk about – suggested time 15 – 20 mins (if meeting in a group)
- Final prayer - 2 mins or longer as preferred
- The session should last 45 mins – 1hr approximately if used in a group setting.
- Please feel free to insert additional moments of silence and sharing as needed.

*You are welcome to adapt or omit material as best suits your group. Timings can vary according to need.*

For additional information and resources please see: [www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15)

The Proclaim '15 small group sessions have been prepared by the Vicariate for Evangelisation, Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Proclaim '15 is an initiative of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, coordinated by the Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis. [www.catholicnews.org.uk](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk)  
It is being coordinated by the Department's Home Mission Desk.

Catholic Trust for England and Wales  
39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX  
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