

AMEN.

We ask that you bless them abundantly this day and ignite in their hearts, and in ours, a desire to seek your love. Through Christ your Son, show us how we might lovingly reach out to non-churchgoing Catholics, especially those closest to us. May the Spirit guide them on your path and help us to see how we might support them on their faith journey. Remove anything from our paths that prevents us from drawing close to one another and to your loving embrace. May we all experience this day the joy of knowing that we are your beloved sons and daughters, churchgoing or not. And give us the confidence to witness to your Son, who is the source of our life and our hope.

SILENTLY BRING TO MIND THE PEOPLE THAT YOU KNOW

Loving Father,
Whose arms are always open to welcome us home, we bring before you all those that we know who are non-churchgoing Catholics...



Invitation to Prayer

Theme: 'Crossing the Threshold'
Ministry and Outreach to Non-Churchgoing (lapsed) Catholics

2013: Home Mission Sunday

15 September:
Please kindly pray for and give generously to support the mission of the Church in England and Wales.

Catholic Church in England and Wales



www.catholicnews.org.uk/hms13

Outreach to Non-Churchgoing (lapsed) Catholics

2013: Home Mission Sunday

On Home Mission Sunday, let's remember non-churchgoing Catholics in a very special way in our prayers, and also bring before the Lord the wider work of evangelisation in our countries.

The Bishops of England and Wales ask that parishes kindly have a second collection on 15 September to support the development of this area of ministry and outreach. The collection enables the Bishops to pursue a breadth of projects in service of Home Mission; please see overleaf.

“My prayer had always been that my husband would feel the love of God that I felt. Now that he has returned to the practice of his faith, my prayers for the family have been answered. We are complete.”
Shirley

Please Donate...

- To today's second collection
- By remembering this work in your will
- By making a one-off tax free gift

Contact: fundraising@cbcew.org.uk



Theme: 'Crossing the Threshold'

Close to Home

The theme of this year's Home Mission Sunday is 'Crossing the Threshold: Ministry and Outreach to Non-Churchgoing (lapsed) Catholics'. It has been chosen in response to requests from all tiers of the Catholic community in England and Wales for this to be a significant focus of the work of evangelisation.

It is estimated that while there are around one million churchgoing Catholics in England and Wales, there are at least four million who rarely or never visit their local parish. In response to this reality the Bishops' Conference Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis is inviting every parish to make ministry and outreach to non-churchgoing Catholics a priority in the year ahead, beginning on 15 September 2013, Home Mission Sunday.

While the lapsation of the baptised is not new within the Catholic community, the worry and anxiety experienced by parents, siblings and grandparents of non-churchgoing baptised, is deep and heartfelt. We all hold in our hearts at least one person in our family who seems disconnected from the life of the Church.



15 September 2013 – Home Mission Sunday

'Crossing the Threshold': Ministry and Outreach to Non-Churchgoing (lapsed) Catholics

For more resource information please see: www.catholicnews.org.uk/hms13

Ministry and Outreach to Non-Churchgoing (lapsed) Catholics

Resources

The Bishops' Conference Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis has initiated, thanks to your generous support and that of a breadth of partners, the following projects in support of reaching out to those baptised who never or rarely attend Mass:

National Core Group - set up and sponsored gatherings of a national team to further this area of mission

National Tour - funded a national tour comprising of six free regional resource days across England and Wales. For an overview please see the Home Mission Sunday web page (address above).

New Resources - materials generated from the national tour are gradually being published online for free download.

Research - a year-long project has begun to explore how the Church can connect with and serve non-churchgoing Catholics who send their children to Catholic schools.

Pilot Project - based in the Nottingham Diocese to train and support parish evangelisation teams for this area of ministry.

RETURNER



RETURNER:
Matt 72,
Brentwood



RETURNER:
Ponny 24,
Cardiff



RETURNER:
Dave 45,
Liverpool

To find out more about the faith stories of the three people featured above, please see our website. Many former non-churchgoing Catholics share how important the ongoing example and encouragement of someone close to them was – a family member or friend – in their re-connecting with the life of the Church.

We Need You!

Please do pray for and support this work. How might you, your family and parish, respond to the call to 'cross the threshold' in the year ahead?



Maybe someone among us here is thinking: my sin is so great, I am as far from God as the younger son in the parable [of the merciful Father], my unbelief is like that of Thomas; I don't have the courage to go back, to believe that God can welcome me and that he is waiting for me, of all people. But God is indeed waiting for you; he asks of you only the courage to go to him... Don't be afraid, go to him, he is waiting for you, he will take care of everything.

Come Home For Christmas

is an initiative which aims to offer a seasonal welcome to Catholics who for different reasons no longer or rarely attend Mass. Accompanying seasonal posters and invitation cards for parishes are also available.



'Catholic and Lost Touch'

leaflets are available for parishes to assist their ministry and outreach to non-churchgoing Catholics. They can be left in church porches, school reception areas, be given to church visitors and used during moments of encounter. They can be ordered from the Bishops' Conference Home Mission Desk.

Email: homemission@cbcew.org.uk

For prices see the web page:

www.catholicnews.org.uk/hms13

Five Video Testimonies featuring former non-churchgoing Catholics, who have now returned to the practice of their faith, are available online to encourage and support parish evangelisation.



Pope Francis, Homily,
Basilica of Saint John Lateran, 7 April 2013

