



SUNDAY, 17 MAY 2015, FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

LETTER TO PRIESTS

Dear Father,

'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation' (Lk.16:15).

The words of Jesus to his disciples at his Ascension resonate in a particular way at this time when the 'whole world' searches for meaning, identity, truth and justice sometimes in the most conflict ridden situations. The inspiration of Pope Francis over the past year has continued to preoccupy the media, not least through his initiatives on tackling human trafficking, peace in the Middle East, rapprochement between Cuba and the United States of America. All these, and many more, Good News stories have been explained and made accessible to the media in this country through the work of the Catholic Communications Network of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

The coming months will see increased focus on the forthcoming 'Synod on Marriage and Family Life', the Holy Year of Mercy and the anticipated encyclical on the environment.

One reason why the World Communications Day is kept on the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord is that it expresses a commitment to the mandate to '...proclaim the Good News to the whole world'. That is why I ask you today to share with your people the extraordinary opportunities we have to communicate the Gospel at this complex time in world history. Please encourage them to support the crucial work of the CCN by their generosity to the collection which is taken today, enabling the Church to continue this work of communication. The CCN website contains updated news and information on this mission. Please visit and encourage others to visit www.catholicnews.org.uk

Parish Resources and Information

You will shortly be receiving through the post some prayer cards to mark World Communications Day. Please make them available to your parishioners and encourage them to pray for the work of the media and the CCN.

Resources for parish newsletter inserts, homily notes and suggested bidding prayers are available for download at www.catholicnews.org.uk/wcd15

Parish Collection for World Communications Day

Parish collection monies should be sent to your Diocesan Finance Office, according to the procedures applicable in your diocese. Each Diocesan Finance Office will then forward the cumulative sum to CaTEW.

If parishioners wish to make a donation by cheque, please kindly ask them to make them payable to your parish. These can then be paid-in and accounted for on your parish weekly income record as a donation to a second collection and incorporated within the total sum. There is also the possibility of donating online at www.catholicnews.org.uk/donations

For legacies left to benefit the work of CCN, please contact the Bishops' Conference fundraiser:
matt.feeley@cbcew.org.uk



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LETTER TO PRIESTS - II

Writing of the 50th anniversary of the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council in the Bull of Indiction of the forthcoming Jubilee of Mercy Pope Francis says:

“The Church sensed a responsibility to be a living sign of the Father’s love to the world”.

This Feast of the Lord’s Ascension and the Good News he brings is at the very heart of World Communications Day.

With every blessing,

+ George Stack

Archbishop of Cardiff