

2014 Issue no. 11 The Catholic Church in England and Wales

KIT NEWSLETTER



WELCOME to our yearly Newsletter. We hope it will be of interest to you. Have you visited our Facebook? Or our web site? Your comments on these and anything here are eagerly awaited. If you have any photos of interest to KIT we would love to put them in the next issue and on the internet.

Home Mission Sunday

This year Home Mission Sunday is on 21st September and, as we are in the run-up to the Synod on the Family, its theme is Evangelisation 'in the heart of the family'.

Please pray for this initiative and give it your support.

Parishes have received literature from the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales for distribution on Home Mission Sunday.

Each one of us knows someone who no longer attends Church, but do we take the opportunity to let them know they are missed and that the parish community is the poorer for their absence?

Sadly, many children and young people will never see their Catholic parents/parent receive the Sacraments and yet many non-churchgoing parents want their children to be baptised, to receive First Holy Communion and attend a Catholic School. They wish their Children to receive something 'special', something that they know is of inestimable value.

Encouraging them to come to a few small group KIT Meetings can often help these parents re-connect with their own faith and thereby help their children to discover theirs.

The Bishops have asked that a mandatory Second Collection be taken on 21st September in support of the vital work being undertaken in this area of ministry and outreach. More information, free resources and to donate on line: www.catholicnews.org.uk

From Pope Francis: "An evangelising community gets involved by word and deed in people's daily



lives, it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others. Evangelisers take on the smell of the sheep and the sheep are willing to hear their voice". *Evangelii Gaudium* 24

Home Visits

One KIT team at St Edward the Confessor church Chandlers Ford visited all the homes in their parish as far as accuracy of addresses and phone numbers would allow. It was found that most visits were to homes where people were home during the day and more senior in age.

The KIT Group decided that future home visits should try and reach out to younger members of the congregation. To begin with, this would be families who had children baptised in the Church over the previous three years. Letters were sent to this group by the parish priest offering them supportive visits, however the need for better local contact groupings was evident*.

The letter was generally welcomed by the families and, even where they did not opt for a visit, they made a point of making it clear that they appreciated being remembered in this way.

At least one specific need of this group has already been identified and will be followed up. These parents rarely know of other families in this baptismal grouping and would welcome an informal occasion to meet one another to share their experiences and make new friends. Some would also welcome greater use of parish facilities for a range of activities for young children for which venues are in short supply.

*See "parish links" on the KIT Website to address this issue.

A Warm Welcome

to

The Reverend Deacon Bob Hughes
Who has recently joined our team.

IDEAS FOR OUTREACH

One parish who are currently in the process of setting up a KIT Ministry, has some excellent ideas for outreach, some of which are listed below.

- Posters in Porch, External Banner on Church railings, small information cards for parishioners to hand on - hand out.
- The use of Facebook, social media and parish website to bring all parish activity to wider audience.
- Hand out KIT information leaflets to those leaving Sunday and Weekday Masses, Baptisms, Weddings etc.
- Visits to newly bereaved to offer comfort and support. Yearly Remembrance Service with refreshments to which the bereaved are invited.
- KIT Leaflet display container in Parish Hall which is often let out to people in local vicinity.
- KIT Display in local Catholic Schools and KIT leaflets given to those requesting a place in Catholic Schools.
- Additional literature distribution during Lent/Advent/Easter/Christmas, including invitation to informal 'get-together' to those who have 'been away for a while'.

"Someone you know is waiting for YOU to share God's love with them today".

Some Quotes from recent Returners.

"I have really appreciated the time and effort put in by all the parish KIT Group. I now feel I am in a much better place to take my journey forward".

"Thank you to KIT for helping me to come back. I feel very strongly that every Catholic Church needs a banner outside saying something like 'Why not come and join us like you used to, we have missed you' "

"Why had I left it so long, why had I not known how much I was and am loved?"

A Red Letter Day!

Saturday, 11th July 2015 at Birmingham
National Evangelisation Conference
The Joy of the Gospel:
Building a Missionary Parish

Please make a note of this date in your diary as it promises to offer practical ideas and resources to inspire, encourage and equip your parish to grow. Come and hear from leading Workshop Providers from across England and Wales about reaching out to the people on our doorsteps.

A final note

It is with sadness that we bid farewell to Sheila Keefe the founder of KIT who has recently retired. We pray that God will bless her for all her hard work over many years and we hope that she and her husband Denis will enjoy a happy retirement. Her place on the National Core Group for Ministry and Outreach to Non Churchgoing Catholics has been taken by Valerie Lock, also a member of the National KIT Team.

Please do CONTACT US

- to order KIT manual, CD or Welcome Pack, including postage and packing:

Manual £6.50

CD £8.00

Welcome pack £15.00

Order from enquiries@kit4catholics.org.uk

Cheques made payable to PRC DTR-KIT

- if you are considering starting a KIT group

- for any questions or comments