

# KIT NEWSLETTER



## Ideas about welcoming:

*How many times do we hear that Catholics who come back to church after a long absence find no welcome?*

*Here are some ideas to make your parish more welcoming to all comers:*

- a) The most important duties of a welcomer occur, not before Mass, but as people come out of church. Talk to anyone you don't know and invite them to coffee. If they say Yes, go with them and stay with them or introduce them to a friendly parishioner
- b) Ideas to start a conversation:  
I don't know your name - 'I am .... Are you racing off or would you like to stay for coffee?'  
Children, the weather are always good icebreakers!  
For a single person, just 'How are you?' is often a good starter.
- c) Organise 'get-togethers' and give a written invitation to people as they come out of church- but also invite them personally.
- d) Sit next to someone you don't know at Mass and introduce yourself to them; be open to their needs.

**WELCOME** to our 2013 Newsletter.

We hope you enjoy it.

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.

The Road to Emmaus  
Bruegel



## Parish welcomes KIT Baby!

A young woman who returned to the Church through her local KIT Group a few years ago recently gave birth to her first child.

She brought him to Church when he was one week old and he has been a regular attender ever since and was baptised (rather aptly) on Home Mission Sunday, wearing a Christening Gown lent by a member of the parish KIT Group.

His mother has spoken of her joy in introducing him to the parish community, where he has been warmly welcomed and 'cooed' over every week!

Is this the first KIT baby or do you know differently?

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Theme of this year's Home Mission Sunday (15<sup>th</sup> September 2013) was 'Crossing the Threshold: Ministry and Outreach to Non-churchgoing (lapsed) Catholics'.

The Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis, Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales (CBCEW) sent out leaflets to every parish in both countries, explaining that whilst 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.

The leaflet invited every parish to make ministry and outreach to non-churchgoing Catholics a priority in the year ahead, beginning on Home Mission Sunday. It spoke also of the deep and heartfelt worry and anxiety experienced by the parents, siblings and grandparents of non-churchgoing Catholics and asked all of us to remember non-churchgoing Catholics in a very special way in our prayers and also to bring before the Lord the wider work of evangelisation in our countries.

The leaflet also contains many other items of interest and details of various resources, perhaps you picked one up from your local parish? If not please visit [www.catholicnews.org.uk/hms13](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/hms13)

Also at the Bishops' request many parishes held a second collection on 15<sup>th</sup> September to support the development of this area of ministry and outreach. Please contact: [fundraising@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@cbcew.org.uk) if you require further information.

Sheila Keefe, a founding member of KIT is also a member of the National Core Group which set up and sponsored gatherings of a national team to further this area of mission. So things are really happening in this important area of work, please do all you can to support these initiatives, thank you.

### Keeping the parish awake to KIT

When one has established a KIT Group it is important to keep KIT in the mind-set of the parish, by regular prayers for non Church-going Catholics in the Bidding Prayers and by taking opportunities to remind parishioners of KIT's existence.

This short article, which was seen in a parish's newsletter recently, is an example of doing that:

"Last Sunday in his Homily, Father spoke about the courage it takes for someone who has not attended Church for many years, to make that first step back. Our parish KIT (Keeping in Touch) Group invites Returning/Non Church-going Catholics to a series of small group meetings to help them re-connect with the Church they left. Our meetings offer them the opportunity to ask questions, raise issues, listen to the experience of others, learn about the changes that have taken place since they left and explore their faith again in a relaxed and non-judgmental atmosphere."

### 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](mailto:enquiries@kit4catholics.org.uk)  
Cheques made payable to PRCDTR-KIT

- for your nearest KIT group
- if you are considering starting a KIT group
- for any questions or comments