

KIT NEWSLETTER



Go out to the whole world; proclaim the good news to all creation. Mark 16: 15

WELCOME to our 2016 Newsletter.
We hope you enjoy reading it and feel encouraged to set up a KIT (Keeping In Touch) group in your parish.

*Have you visited our web site?
Your comments are eagerly awaited.*

The Jubilee Year of Mercy will end on the Solemnity of Christ the King on 20th November 2016. But of course we know that whilst the Jubilee Year may be drawing



to a close, God's mercy and love never leaves us, as we are made in the image of His Beloved Son. The Year of Mercy Logo

printed above shows us, we are never alone, because not only does Jesus carry us through all the joys, sorrows and difficulties of our lives, he shares them with us too.

In Evangelii Gaudium

Pope Francis says the first words on the lips of a Catechist should be:

"Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you".

The KIT Team are grateful to Father Daniel O'Leary, the well-known Author and Speaker, for allowing them to quote from his Writings:-

"The art is to enable people to become what they already are. The phrase 'receive who you are' accompanied the offering of holy bread at the Communion of the Mass in the early years of Christianity. 'You are the Body of Christ'. God's basic gift to people is the lives they live and the good earth from which they make their living.

Instead of superficially perceiving those 'outside the church' as somehow unfinished or incomplete, or even nameless or neutral, or worse still, as blind and lost, perhaps, following the sensitivity of Jesus to all that his father has created, our church will, one day, find its very meaning and mission in proclaiming the essential holiness of all people, the sacred heart of all creation.

Is God diminished when God's family is sanctified? Does the church lose when the world grows more truly healthy? Is not the very work of the spirit to reveal the innate worthiness and beauty of matter? Is it not only in the arena of the life of the world that sin and evil can be encountered and transcended?

I never cease to be amazed at such glimpses into the meaning of revelation. And whenever we share it with others, the reaction is similar. After talks, workshops and presentations about such an understanding of the mystery of incarnation, invariably there will be those who say something like, "What you have said is not new. We have always known it in our hearts. We have never doubted the sacredness of our lives, of our childbearing and our daily work, of our struggles to survive and grow, of our efforts to forgive and start again. Our hearts have always told us. All that's new is that now we have heard it said."

Daniel O'Leary Treasured and Transformed.

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

The KIT Prayer

Lord, We offer you our seeking; show us the way.
We offer you our doubts; lead us to trust in you.
We offer you our hurts; heal us.
We offer you our fears; give us hope.
We offer you our loneliness; welcome us.
We offer you our minds; grant us understanding.
We offer you our hearts; warm us with love.
We offer you our journey; lead us home, where we can live in your justice, peace and love.
AMEN

Please turn over

STORIES

At the KIT small group meetings, all including returning Catholics, are invited to share, if they wish, their 'Stories' with the group, in a loving and non-judgmental atmosphere. They share only as much as they wish and are assured that what is listened to, never goes beyond the room in which all are gathered. It is a moving and sacred experience, because when someone shares so deeply and honestly, we are without doubt, 'standing on Holy Ground'. A recent Returner shares her experience below:-

JANE's (not her real name) STORY

"I had felt for many years that the Catholic Church had unfairly rejected me. However, through the help of a friend and the kindness of an understanding Priest, I returned to the Church a year or so ago.

Many changes had taken place since I last attended Church and it felt very different to what I had known before and I felt a great need to know the reasoning behind the changes, so that I could participate more fully in the Mass.

Fortunately, my parish had a KIT Group and I was invited to attend a short series of small group meetings where I could ask questions and deal with difficulties and take a fresh look at my faith again in a welcoming and non-judgmental atmosphere. The first meeting was a daunting prospect, as I didn't know what reception I would receive, but everyone was very friendly and seemed to understand how I was feeling, as some of them had been through similar experiences themselves.

I was impressed with the way things were dealt with, in a relaxed, non-judgmental and sometimes, even humorous, way. The sharing of our Faith Stories could be very moving. One of my biggest worries was about going to Confession, but the group quashed my fears and when I did go, my experience of the Sacrament was so different to what I had been used to all those years ago.

At the KIT meetings, I was able to ask all the questions I needed about the changes that had occurred since Vatican 11 and this certainly helped me feel more 'at home' again.

I also realised that in a way many of us have similar Faith Stories, because surely we all experience difficulties in our journey through life and perhaps experience doubts that we are truly forgiven by God.

It is by the sharing of these 'Stories' and by praying together that the group grows together. There is no pressure to divulge personal details and everything that is shared is confidential and treated with sanctity.

These meetings were so helpful to me and I assure anyone thinking of returning that you will be welcomed back to the Church which will accept you with open arms and joy that you have come back.

Please contact KIT with your worries and if you happen to live near to me, I shall wait for a phone call from our KIT Group's Leader so I can hopefully help you as I was helped. I pray that God will bless you and bring you back"

TAKE YOUR TIME

Sometimes parishes can set up KIT groups and then find they are not contacted by any prospective Returners. It can take a while for things to 'get going' and there will probably never be a 'flood' of Returners, but more of a 'trickle'.

One parish in Surrey, who recently set up a KIT Group, keeps a full stock of leaflets in their narthex, which constantly needs topping up, so although people are not yet approaching the parish KIT Group, they are being taken.

It can take great courage to return to Church after many years away and, as Jane has mentioned, facing a roomful of people can be daunting and the thought of Confession fearful. So some people may well take a leaflet and just return quietly, sitting perhaps in the back row of the Church, until eventually plucking up the courage to speak either to the priest or contact the KIT Group.

The Surrey parish KIT group now offer a modified version of the KIT leaflet to parents presenting their child for Baptism and they have also decided to offer assistance /re-familiarisation to parents presenting their children for First Holy Communion next year, as apparently some parents in previous years, said they felt rather lost and unfamiliar with 'the whole church thing'.

It is hoped this accompaniment/re-familiarisation will help these young parents and children. Prayer is of course is very important during these occasion of re-connection to the Church, so Prayer Sponsors who pray the KIT Prayer regularly are an invaluable aid at these times.

Home visiting

One of the most effective ways of making contact and keeping in touch with all parishioners is through home visits. In the past, if parishioners failed to come to church they would be missed, the priest would visit and in many cases, problems and difficulties could be talked through and solved. Today, due to increased workloads and shortage of priests, many do not have time to visit people regularly in their homes, so many parishes have set up visiting teams of lay people. For home visits to be a good experience for both the 'visitors' and the 'visited', the visitors need to:-

Know why they are going, make adequate preparation beforehand, take information about the parish to give to the people they visit and know what to say.

We do not go to judge or condemn but to welcome fellow Catholics, to respect where they are and to listen, listen, listen. We quickly learn that the people we visit will often ask the same questions and face the same challenges of being Catholic in today's world as we do. What visitors find so humbling and inspiring is the depth of faith of so many of those Catholics they meet on the doorstep who longer have the support of the Sacraments and the faith community. More details about visiting are contained in the KIT Manual available from:-

enquiries@kit4catholics.org.uk either as a hardback or as an E manual.