

Proclaim'15

building missionary parishes



Supplementary Materials

A PowerPoint presentation of the material on the leaflets is available at www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15

Prayers for use at a meeting using the material on the leaflets or in a Holy Hour.

Light a candle if not already done.

Quiet Music.

Invite people to share what has touched them most deeply.

Then pray together.

You may like to add prayers for the particular needs of your community.

Leaflet One

Loving Lord Jesus

May our hearts be open to that moment of meeting with you.
May our encounters transform our lives
as they lead us more deeply into the mystery of your presence
May our struggle with life and with faith be enriched
as we open ourselves to your life giving Holy Spirit
Amen.

Father of mercies and faithful God,
you have given us Jesus Christ, your Son, as our Lord and Redeemer.
He always showed compassion for children and for the poor,
for the sick and for sinners,
and he became a neighbour to the oppressed and the afflicted.
By word and deed, he announced to the world that you are our Father
and that you care for all your sons and daughters.
Open our eyes to the needs of our brothers and sisters;
inspire in us words and actions
to comfort those who labour and are burdened.
Make us serve them truly,
after the example of Christ and at his command.
And may your Church stand as a living witness
to truth and freedom,
to peace and justice,
that all people may be raised up to a new hope.
We make all our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Words taken from Eucharistic Prayer "Jesus, who went about doing good.")

Proclaim'15

building missionary parishes



Supplementary Materials

Leaflet Two

Loving Lord Jesus

You call us to follow you into life

As we listen to your Word may your life bubble up
within us bringing us peace and deep joy

May what we discover in you cause us to reach out in love to others
Amen.

Father, in this busy world, help us to be still.

Make us always ready to listen and to learn.

Help us to place at the centre of all that we do
the words and example of Jesus, your Son.

He alone is the Way we are to walk,

the Truth that sets us free,

the Life that fills us with your joy and your peace.

We make all our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Leaflet Three

Loving Lord Jesus

Your baptism gave you the power

to reach out to those who were broken and hurting

May our encounters with you

and our listening to your word

impel us to reach out with compassion

to those around us who are in need

Amen.

Grant that all the faithful of the Church,

looking into the signs of the times by the light of faith,

may constantly devote themselves to the service of the Gospel.

Keep us attentive to the needs of all

that, sharing their grief and pain, their joy and hope,

we may faithfully bring them the good news of salvation

and go forward with them along the way of your Kingdom.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(from Eucharistic Prayer "Jesus, the Way to the Father.")

Proclaim'15

building missionary parishes



Supplementary Materials

Some supplementary paragraphs from *Evangelii Gaudium* with suggested questions for group discussion.

Leaflet One

For Pope Francis, evangelisation begins by sharing the basic message of the Gospel.

“In catechesis too, we have rediscovered the fundamental role of the first announcement or kerygma, which needs to be the centre of all evangelizing activity and all efforts at Church renewal... On the lips of the catechist the first proclamation must ring out over and over: “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”. (164)

Thanks solely to this encounter – or renewed encounter – with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption.

We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being.

Here we find the source and inspiration of all our efforts at evangelization. For if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others. (8)

Questions

Do we ever feel reluctant to talk about our personal experience of prayer?

Do we feel we’re not very good at it?

As I reflect on my own life have I witnessed God’s “footprints”?

Has prayer “liberated me from my narrowness and self-absorption.”? (8)

What are the settings where you encounter people’s questions and doubts in their search for the truth and the meaning of their human existence?

How can we be better equipped to respond?

Leaflet Two

The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community. While certainly not the only institution which evangelizes, if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be “the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters. The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God’s word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelisers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach. We must admit, though, that the call to review and renew our parishes has not yet sufficed make them completely mission-oriented. (28)

Proclaim'15

building missionary parishes



Supplementary Materials

I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security. I do not want a Church concerned with being at the centre and which then ends by being caught up in a web of obsessions and procedures. If something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength, light and consolation born of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith to support them, without meaning and a goal in life. More than by fear of going astray, my hope is that we will be moved by the fear of remaining shut up within structures which give us a false sense of security, within rules which make us harsh judges, within habits which make us feel safe, while at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: "Give them something to eat" (*Mk 6:37*). (49)

Questions

Pope Francis uses an image of St John XXIII calling the parish 'the village fountain where everyone could come and be quenched'.

How is our parish community a place of rest and nourishment?

We are called to be "God's leaven in the midst of humanity". (114)

What does this mean for me in my daily living?

And what does it mean for my parish?

Leaflet Three

We should not think that the Gospel message must always be communicated by fixed formulations learned by heart or by specific words which express an absolutely invariable content. This communication takes place in so many different ways that it would be impossible to describe or catalogue them all. (129)

If we want to advance in the spiritual life, then, we must constantly be missionaries. (272)

All around us we begin to see nurses with soul, teachers with soul, politicians with soul, people who have chosen deep down to be with others and for others. (273)

To believe in a Father who loves all men and women with an infinite love means realizing that "he thereby confers upon them an infinite dignity". To believe that the Son of God assumed our human flesh means that each human person has been taken up into the very heart of God. To believe that Jesus shed his blood for us removes any doubt about the boundless love which ennobles each human being. (178)

Questions

Pope Francis clearly outlines that sharing the Gospel is not to be left to specialists or professionals – he sees the first step as personal dialogue/encounter.

What do I need to do to have this dialogue/encounter and what are its qualities?

As a parish community how are we fostering and nurturing "joyful messengers" and people whose "goodness and beauty" shines "forth in a life of fidelity to the Gospel"? (168)

How are we promoting "infinite dignity"? (178)

Proclaim'15

building missionary parishes



Supplementary Materials

Some suggested hymns to use for a Holy Hour or group meeting based on the content of the leaflets.

Celebration for Everyone (CFE) Laudate (L); Hymns old and New (HoN)

Leaflet One: Meeting Jesus – the only one who can save me.

Be thou my vision	CFE 74	L 969	HoN 61
Christ be beside me	CFE 106	L 910	HoN 79
As the deer pants for the water	CFE 64	L 965	

Leaflet Two: Learning to be a missionary disciple – sitting at the feet of Jesus.

The Kingdom – Mike Anderson	CFE 702	L 816	
Stay with me remain here with me		L 249	HoN 760
Love is his word	CFE 399	L 803	HoN 338
At the name of Jesus	CFE 59	L 762	HoN 50
There is a longing in our hearts	CFE 915	L 941	
Lord you have come to the seashore	CFE 395	L 871	
Be still for the presence of the lord	CFE 72	L 720	
Seek ye first	CFE 633	L 820	HoN 473
Love divine	CFE 398	L 801	HoN 337

Leaflet Three: Jesus is alive – go and tell my brothers.

A touching place	CFE 115	L 882	
The Lords my Shepherd	CFE 706	L 806	HoN 533
Here am I Lord	CFE 285	L 865	HoN 712
God is love	CFE 215	L 794	HoN 178
Will you come and follow me	CFE 812	L 877	

Some suggested next steps for you or for your parish to take in response to what we have read.

For the Catholics who attend church regularly.

- Helping to develop a community of “evangelizers”. Helping people to feel confident when talking with others about their faith. Bible Group. Prayer groups, CAFÉ, ALPHA, etc.
- Deepening our sense of belonging and community. There are people who sit near each other for years don’t even know each other’s names.
- Deepening our personal response to the Gospel and our gratitude for our own salvation.
- Supporting parents and grand-parents in communicating their faith with their families.

Proclaim'15

building missionary parishes



Supplementary Materials

For Catholics who don't attend church regularly.

- Working with parents and through our schools.
- Invitations to events in church. Prayer times that may not be Mass. Valentine's Day service for married or engaged couples. Blessing for those expecting babies or for new parents. (St. Gerard Majella). Miraculous medal service for those baptised in the past year. Healing services.
- Maintaining links with families after funerals, baptisms, weddings etc. E-mail list. Christmas cards. Invitations to social events.
- "Bring a Friend to Mass Sunday". (Invitation cards printed. Mass would be briefly explained. Instructions would be clear – stand, sit, kneel etc. Congregation might wear name badges. Familiar hymns.)
- We can work more with our bereavement teams, catechists, baptism catechists, welcomers, marriage preparation teams to share good practice around evangelization. Get catechists and people who attend funerals to be welcomers so they will know who to say hello to on Sunday.
- Ministry to separated and divorced Catholics might be developed. It is common to hear people say that they didn't feel they could go to church any more after divorce.
- Reconciliation ministry – both sacramental and non-sacramental. Is fear of the sacrament of reconciliation an obstacle to some returning to regular church attendance? Build stepping stones to a sacramental confession and Holy Communion.
- Invite someone to help. Let them know they are needed. Try to not be protective about your own job in church.
- Is there a way to reach out to those who use our clubs or parish centres but don't attend our churches? Invitations to church events on the notice board etc.
- Special invitations for Christmas, Easter, 2nd November, parish social events, to anyone who has taken part in a religious service in the past year or two.
- Have a bit of imagination! What might it be like to come back to church after a long absence? What would you need help with? Ask people who attend Mass after an absence or for the first time how they got on and what it was like for them. Listen to what they tell you.
- What is in your Church shop? On your leaflet stand? What will be helpful for people to take away from Church with them if they visit us for a baptism or a school event in Church?
- Do your notice boards do their job of announcing or do they look a bit tired and a bit chaotic?
- Study the recent research from the Bishop's Conference on non-church going catholic parents.

Proclaim'15

building missionary parishes



Supplementary Materials

For the non-baptized.

- Engage with the social issues that are of real concern in our communities e.g. Addiction, gambling, poverty, family life, safe streets, debt, loneliness, unemployment, support for carers. These will differ from one parish to another. Give a clear witness to the compassion of Christ in our communities. It is our job to love all our brothers and sisters.
- Work ecumenically for evangelization: e.g. Shared invitations for Christmas and Easter. Carol singing. Shared engagement with social issues.
- Hold more non-religious events. Jumble sales, car boot sales, fund raising, social events. Build up relationships and ask new people for help or their husbands or wives! People may want to know us better and be brought to faith through the witness of our welcome and friendship.