

# Proclaim'15

building missionary parishes



**11 July 2015**  
DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

## Building Missionary Parishes

**Proclaim '15 is the name of a new initiative being launched in 2015 by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales to support, enthuse and equip parish evangelisation.**

This **practical initiative** exists to support the good work already being done in your parish(es) and aims to provide resources and encourage local events to support parish mission. *Proclaim '15* has five parts to it including: the provision of free parish small group materials; the organisation of a National Catholic Evangelisation Conference in Birmingham on **11 July 2015** for 850 attendees representing every diocese; an invitation to join in prayer with parishes across England and Wales by hosting a parish Prayer Vigil on the night of 11 July 2015; the invitation for dioceses, deaneries and parishes to have their own *Proclaim '15* events in autumn 2015; the publication of



new evangelisation resources as a fruit of the National Conference to equip local evangelisation. Please do get involved in what is a significant new step in service of the proclamation of the Gospel.

The inspiration for the initiative is Pope Francis and the content of his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, in which he writes: "I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelisation marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come." Join us in confidently communicating this joy and discovering new paths for evangelisation!

### Small group materials

Three ready-made sessions are available for use in parish groups inspired by Pope Francis.

### Prayer Vigil Resources

Every parish is invited to gather in prayer on 11 July 2015. Free templates will be provided.

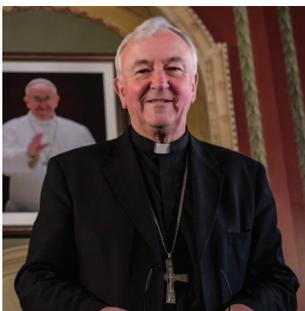
### National Conference

Representatives are attending from your diocese.

### Local Events

Resources are available to support the organisation of events in your area.

**FOR YOU AND YOUR PARISH**



**"This pioneering initiative, inspired by Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium*, is for all clergy, religious and lay people. Why? Because we all share the one mission – to PROCLAIM the joy of the Gospel. The wide range of practical ideas offered for planning and carrying out fruitful parish evangelisation will help us all to be better missionary disciples. Please put the 11 July in your diary and don't let this opportunity pass you by."** Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster



## Parish Small Group Materials

Three evangelisation themed sessions for use in parish small groups will be available from January 2015 for download on the Bishops' Conference website. The sessions are titled:

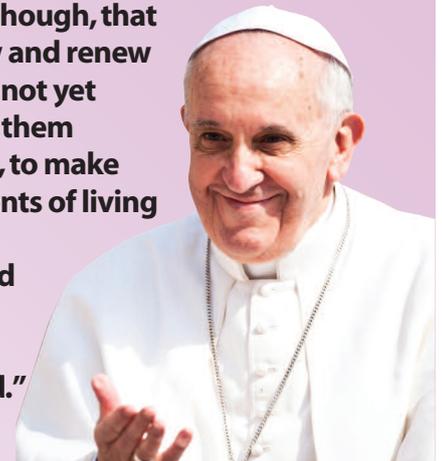
- 1 Meeting Jesus:**  
*The only one who can save me*
- 2 Learning to be a Missionary Disciple:**  
*Sitting at the feet of Jesus*
- 3 Jesus is Alive:**  
*Go and tell my brothers*

They are timeless so can be used any time during 2015 and beyond to initiate prayer and reflection about the foundation stones of Catholic evangelisation. Each session includes a story, questions to ponder, a Scripture reading, prayer and extract from *Evangelii Gaudium*. The materials aim to inspire a practical and local response to the call to share our faith.

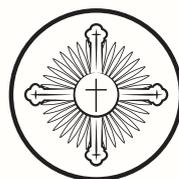
## FOR INSPIRATION:

*Evangelii Gaudium 28*

**"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 to bring them nearer to people, to make them environments of living communion and participation, and to make them completely mission-oriented."**



## five parts to Proclaim'15



### 1. PREPARATION:

Parish small groups - three evangelisation-themed sessions for use any time in 2015 and beyond.

### 2. PRAYER:

Network of prayer vigils - parishes are invited to host an evening of prayer on 11 July 2015. Resources will be provided.

### 3. EVENT:

National Catholic Evangelisation Conference - on 11 July 2015 in central Birmingham for 850 diocesan representatives. A quota of day passes has been assigned to each diocese.

### 4. LEGACY:

Local events in autumn 2015 - templates will be provided to enable dioceses, deaneries and parishes to have their own Proclaim '15 gatherings.

### 5. RESOURCES:

New Evangelisation resources - these will be made available as a fruit of the National Conference to equip parish evangelisation in autumn 2015.

**"Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations!" Matthew 28: 19**



## National Catholic Evangelisation Conference

**This is the first event of its kind in a generation and will bring together an extraordinary group of speakers, workshop leaders and representatives from every diocese in England and Wales to celebrate joyfully and confidently their Catholic Faith, and to explore how better to share it.**



850 evangelisation representatives will be in attendance, with a quota of day passes having been already equally assigned to each diocese. The event is primarily offered for members of diocesan evangelisation teams and commissions, as well as to a wider group of co-workers directly working in support of existing diocesan strategies and plans. If you'd like to be considered for a place please do ask your diocesan contact (see page 7).

Everyone will be able to benefit from what will be provided. All the materials offered on the day will be collated and published post the event to support the building of missionary parishes. The day programme includes more than 10 "how to" practical focused workshop sessions and these will be made available to every parish, irrespective of whether or not they are represented at the national event.

You will be able to follow the event through live coverage on the Bishops' Conference social media platforms - Twitter and Facebook.

We're delighted to share that the venue is The Birmingham Repertory Theatre in Birmingham city centre, within walking distance from Birmingham New Street Train Station. Only those who have a day pass will be admitted to the venue, but materials are being provided to encourage and support the organisation of prayer vigils in parishes across England and Wales on the same day.

### Among the speakers:

Cardinal Vincent Nichols (*Archbishop of Westminster*)

Archbishop Bernard Longley (*Archbishop of Birmingham and Pontifical Council for the New Evangelisation*)



Rev Nicky Gumbel (*Alpha Course*)



Mrs Michelle Moran (*Pontifical Council for the Laity*)



**Plus many more!**

## A SNAPSHOT OF SOME OF THE WORKSHOPS ON OFFER



- 'HOW TO...' Create a vision and strategy for parish evangelisation
- 'HOW TO...' Evangelise the young people of your parish
- 'HOW TO...' Reach out to those who have had no experience of Church
- 'HOW TO...' Share your testimony in one-to-one evangelisation
- 'HOW TO...' Form a parish evangelisation team

For you...



Proclaim'15

## PRAYER VIGILS



Prayer materials will be provided to invite and encourage a network of parishes across England and Wales to organise prayer vigils on the night of 11 July 2015. In this way we can join in prayer for the evangelisation of England and Wales.

## LOCAL EVENTS

**Templates will be made available to encourage the organisation of local events and gatherings to explore and support the building of missionary parishes. These events can be of any duration but will aim to bring people together to share ideas and receive inspiration in support of local evangelisation.**

*"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, for he has anointed me to bring the good news to the afflicted. He has sent me to proclaim liberty..." Luke 4:18*



## New Evangelisation Resources

A breadth of practical resources and testimonies will be created as a fruit of the National Conference. All these materials will be collated and made available to parishes in support of their ongoing evangelisation efforts.

These will most likely be available in the autumn following the national gathering.



## ...and your parish



## Proclaim'15

### Rt Rev Nicholas Hudson, Westminster

*Bishop with oversight of the National Catholic Evangelisation Conference*

"Inspired by Pope Francis, **Proclaim '15** invites the Catholic community confidently and simply to share the joy of its faith. The first Christians provoked questions in the hearts and minds of those who had not yet encountered Jesus through their love, generosity and joy. Pope Francis invites us to rekindle this 'Joy in the Gospel' in the hearts of believers and non-believers alike. Please do get involved in **Proclaim '15**, a parish-based initiative of Christ-centred joy, so as to make our communities signposts to Jesus Christ, the Lord of Life."



### Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Liverpool

"I'm passionate about my Catholic Faith and am already involved in my parish as a catechist, which I love. When I heard about **Proclaim '15**, as a lay person, I got really excited, because it's a way that I can **work with others in my area to learn more** about how to share my faith with greater confidence." **Shirley Green**, Parish Catechist

### The Holy Child and St Joseph Parish, Bedford

"Our parish is excited about the year ahead. There are already a lot of good things happening in our community, but this initiative provides **resources and a shared focus** to help us take a new step."

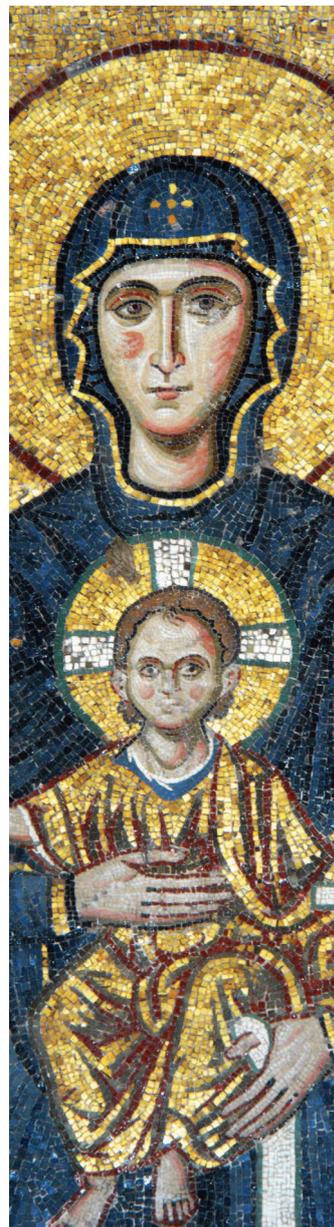
**Canon Seamus Keenan**, Parish Priest

### Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ilfracombe

"It's our duty and joy as Catholics to share our faith. I am very much looking forward to being part of **Proclaim '15** to explore with others how we can reach out to more people in our local community with the Good News of Jesus Christ. It will support my ministry as the RC chaplain to The Forces at R.M.B. Chivenor." **Deacon Philip Waites**

### St Peter's Church, Cardiff

"The call to the New Evangelisation is clear but sometimes it can be hard to know where to start and how to do it. What's so significant about **Proclaim '15** is its **practical focus** which promises to be of great benefit to our parish community." **Peter Clark**, Parishioner



**NOVEMBER '14 -  
END OF JANUARY '15**  
National Evangelisation  
Conference diocesan  
group formation  
and booking

**JANUARY 2015**  
Small group materials  
for parishes will be  
available for download

**MARCH 2015**  
Availability of Prayer Vigil  
resources for use on or  
around 11 July 2015

**MARCH 2015**  
E-publication of legacy  
event templates

**11 JULY 2015**  
National Conference  
& Prayer Vigils

**SEPTEMBER -  
DECEMBER 2015**  
Local legacy initiatives  
& availability of post  
Conference resources



## Message From The National Mission Bishop



**Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium* offers us a blueprint for Catholic evangelisation. We are invited to give our encounter with Jesus Christ simple, but radical and creative, expression in our local communities.**

Proclaim '15 aims to support and encourage as many parishes as possible to take new steps in service of this mission. It is being offered in partnership with generous

co-workers in Catholic Dioceses across England and Wales and has a wholly practical focus. A specific step that is being encouraged is the development of dedicated parish evangelisation teams.

Please do get involved in the variety of ways that are being proposed. There are many resources available including those from the Department's Home Mission Desk, under the banner of the 'Crossing the Threshold' project.

Thank you for all that you are already doing. Together, may we more confidently and joyfully proclaim our faith, so that many more can know the beauty of an encounter with Jesus Christ.

Bishop Mark O'Toole is Chair of the Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.



### Department For Evangelisation And Catechesis

The Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis assists the Bishops' Conference to help Catholics know and share their faith. A particular focus of the Department's work is to support the 'New Evangelisation'; a term that was used by both Blessed Pope John Paul II and subsequently Pope Benedict XVI to encourage a new missionary impetus in the life of the Church. Areas of departmental work include: home mission, Bible study and promotion and adult faith formation. For more information please see: [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)

## Proclaim '15: Prayer For Individuals And Parishes



Loving Father,  
You so loved the world that you sent us your only Son,  
that we might believe in him and have eternal life.  
May we encounter Jesus Christ anew this day  
and live the Good News with joy.  
Through the power of your Holy Spirit,  
help us to "go out to the whole world and proclaim"  
our faith with confidence.  
Give us the courage to witness to the Joy of the Gospel  
by our words and actions.  
Help our parish to become more welcoming and missionary,  
so that you may be known and loved by all people.  
We make this prayer through Our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever,  
Amen.

Our Lady, Star of the New Evangelisation, **Pray for us.**  
Blessed John Henry Newman, **Pray for us.**  
St Thérèse of Lisieux, **Pray for us.**

## Diocesan Contacts



## Proclaim'15

**Rt Rev Nicholas Hudson, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, has been given oversight of the National Catholic Evangelisation Conference, in service of the Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. He is working in collaboration with the diocesan contacts listed below. Please do get in touch with them if you have general enquiries about any aspect of this initiative. They will be delighted to be of assistance.**

DIocese	TITLE	FULL NAME	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
Arundel & Brighton	Mr	David Wills	01293 651157	David.Wills@dabnet.org
Birmingham	Fr	Edward Clare	0121 360 8118	director@maryvale.ac.uk
Brentwood	Ms	Sylia Lanz &	01277 265 289	CEF@dioceseofbrentwood.org
	Mrs	Lucy Studham		
Cardiff	Revd.	Gareth Leyshon	029 2073 1061	parishpriest@sphilpevans.co.uk
Clifton	Fr	Christopher Whitehead	0117 9025595	adult.education@cliftondiocese.com
East Anglia	Rev Prof	John Morrill	01223 811822	jsm1000@cam.ac.uk
Hallam	Deacon	Andrew Crowley	07780 564943	stpatslanetop@gmail.com
Hexham & Newcastle	Mrs	Maria Ashburner	01913 853681	maria.ashburner@btinternet.com
Lancaster	Sister	Mary Julian Ekman, RSM	07510 901042	sistermaryjulian@gmail.com
Leeds	Mr	Bernard Martin	01924 785091 or	leedsjoyofthegospel@gmail.com
			07858 257839	
Liverpool	Fr	Philip Inch	01514 879372	philipinch@btinternet.com
Menevia	Fr	Carlito Reyes	01792 202447	stbenedictsketty@hotmail.com
Middlesbrough	Deacon	Vincent Purcell	01642 850505 ext. 241	adultformation@dioceseofmiddlesbrough.co.uk
Northampton	Mr	Alex Heath	01582 723312	heath@nores.org.uk
Nottingham	Mrs	Julia Palmer &	0793 9043959	Julia.palmer@nrcdt.org.uk
	Mrs	Diane Williams	0115 953 9841	formation@nrcdt.org.uk
Plymouth	Mr	David Wells &	01364 645390	David.wells@prcdtr.org.uk
	Ms	Debbie Beech	01364 645390	Secretary@prcdtr.org.uk
Portsmouth	Fr	Mark Hogan	01256 323595	evangelisationadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Salford	Fr.	Paul Cannon &	0161 761 0536	paul.cannon@dioceseofsalford.org.uk
	Mrs	Sharon Beech		sharon.beech@dioceseofsalford.org.uk
Shrewsbury	Mrs	Pauline McCulloch	0151 652 9855	Pauline.mcculloch@dioceseofshrewsbury.org
Southwark	Dr	Mark Nash	020 8672 7684	mnash@ccftootingbec.org.uk
Westminster	Mrs	Ausra Karaliute	020 7931 6078	ausrakaraliute@rcdow.org.uk
Wrexham	Deacon	John Carter	0776 7496844	j.carter66@btinternet.com
Bishopric of The Forces	Fr	Paschal Hanrahan	0778 6020123	paschalhanrahn@btinternet.com
Ordinariate	Fr	Lee Bennett	01268 792082	frlee.bennett@gmail.com

**Project Coordination:**

Clare Ward, Home Mission Advisor and Secretary to the Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales - Secretariat.  
Email: **Clare.Ward@cbcew.org.uk**



## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

### 1) PRAY

Please circulate and use the **Proclaim'15** prayer provided in this booklet.

### 2) YOUR LOCAL CONTACT

Every diocese has a named **Proclaim'15** contact. Please do get in contact with them. They will have the latest information about the five parts to this initiative.

### 3) SPREAD THE WORD

Please do let people know about it through using the materials provided online and the parish newsletter text provided on this page.

### 4) PARISH DISCUSSION

Consult with parishioners (the whole parish or a small group) to discuss how you might best benefit from what is being provided. Do share the content of this booklet with key co-workers and catechists. You are very welcome to photocopy it.

## Suggested Parish Newsletter/Website Insert **Proclaim'15: New National Initiative In 2015 To Support Parish Evangelisation**

**'Proclaim '15: BUILDING MISSIONARY PARISHES'** is the name of a new national Bishops' initiative being launched in 2015 to support the development of parish evangelisation. It is inspired by Pope Francis' writings and has five parts which include: the provision of free parish small group materials; the organisation of a National Catholic Evangelisation Conference in Birmingham on 11 July 2015 for 850 evangelisation representatives from across England and Wales; an invitation to parishes to host a parish Prayer Vigil on the night of 11 July 2015 with free prayer materials provided; the invitation to dioceses, deaneries and parishes to have their own Proclaim '15 event in autumn 2015; the publication of new evangelisation resources as a fruit of the National Conference to equip local evangelisers. Please do get involved in what is a significant new step in service of the proclamation of the Gospel in our area. More information will be available in our newsletter over the coming months.

Website: [www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15)

Facebook: [facebook.com/cbcew](https://www.facebook.com/cbcew)

Twitter: [#catholicew](https://twitter.com/catholicew) [#proclaim15](https://twitter.com/proclaim15)

Email: [proclaim15@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:proclaim15@cbcew.org.uk)

Diocesan contact: **For you to insert**

## Catholic Organisations And Parishes

We have a limited amount of space to advertise Catholic organisations and parishes, at reasonable rates, in the National Catholic Evangelisation Conference day programme. Please contact Matt Feeley if you'd like to find out more: [matt.feeley@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:matt.feeley@cbcew.org.uk)

This booklet was produced by the Home Mission Desk, CCN, CBCEW - Secretariat.