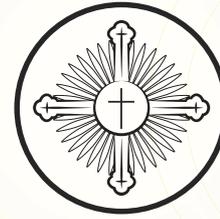


Proclaim'15

building missionary parishes



An invitation from Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster

My Dear Friends,

In 2015 a significant evangelisation initiative called **Proclaim '15** is being launched to support, inspire and encourage new expressions of parish evangelisation. A project of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, it is designed to affirm the good work that is already being done by the Catholic community, and to provide resources and events to profile and develop new expressions of Catholic joy and missionary outreach. A major highlight of what is being offered next year is the organisation of a **National Catholic Evangelisation Conference on 11 July 2015**.

Proclaim '15 has five parts:

1. **PREPARATION:** Parish small group sessions – three evangelisation-themed sessions will be provided for download from mid-January 2015.
2. **PRAYER:** Network of prayer vigils - parishes are invited to host an evening of prayer on 11 July 2015.
3. **EVENT:** National Catholic Evangelisation Conference - on 11 July 2015 in central Birmingham for 850 evangelisation representatives from across England and Wales. There is a quota of places allocated to each diocese, with live streaming also being explored to potentially enable every member of the Catholic community to participate.
4. **LEGACY:** Local events - templates will be provided online to enable dioceses, deaneries and parishes to have their own **Proclaim '15** gatherings in autumn 2015.
5. **RESOURCES:** New Evangelisation resources – these will also be made available as a fruit of the National Conference to equip parish evangelisation in autumn 2015.

Proclaim '15 has a practical and 'how to' focus because while there is enthusiasm within the Catholic community to share confidently and joyfully our Faith, it can at times be hard to discern where to begin. This initiative aims to address that difficulty and is inspired by Pope Francis' 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."

Accompanying this cover letter is a booklet summarising the content of **Proclaim '15**, including an invitation to get involved so that together we can discover, and perhaps rediscover, ways of joyfully sharing our faith as missionary disciples. Please do use and share it with those who may play a role in developing evangelisation locally.

Thank you in advance for your support and please do remember this initiative in your prayers,

+ Vincent Nichols

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster

"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."

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium 1

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15>