

PROCLAIM!

Introduction for the Sacred Heart Parish

“Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation.”

Mark 16:15

“Proclaim!” is our Diocese title for a New Evangelisation movement started by Pope John Paul II and re-launched by Pope Francis. Bishop Alan is following it through in our Diocese and challenging us to become an “Evangelising Parish”.

Why New Evangelisation? This is a continuation of the Church’s ongoing mission to spread the good news of the Gospels, but in the context of a world that has already heard it, rejected it, ignored it, forgotten it, or is slipping away from it. So there is a new focus, which starts with:

- renewal amongst current congregations;
- reaching out to lapsed Catholics;
- engaging with other Christians

In our parish this is not entirely “new”, as we already have a strong religious education programme and participate in Churches Together in St Ives. Proclaim! will build on these foundations.

Who’s job is it? Ours - All of us!

By re-invigorating our own faith; reaching out to lapsed members in our families, communities and workplaces; demonstrating the joy in our lives and affirming its origins in our faith.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours;
No hands but yours; no feet but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which
the compassion of Christ must look out on the world.
Yours are the feet with which
He is to go about doing good.
Yours are the hands with which
He is to bless His people.

Theresa of Avila

How do we do it?

By building on what we already do well and adding activities that have proved successful in drawing others into the fold.

How do you do it?

By playing your role in the parish activities that are already in place or being planned. For example, a few of us who attended the Diocese presentation to our Deanery, held in our Hall, have already considered:

- Presenting the Proclaim message to all our parishioners at Sunday Masses (starting with this notice);
- Forming a small steering group that can develop these ideas and build on this start;
- A programme of prayer which focuses on each area of our parish once per month (28 days, 28 “patches”); following this up with local events and contacts;
- Continuing and expanding our religious education programme with personal renewal through programmes like “The Gift” (run last Advent) and “The Big Picture” – a book and DVD programme which can be followed at home or in small groups (currently running on Tuesday evenings through Lent);
- Issuing the weekly “Wednesday Word” sheets for Sunday Mass preparation for adults and the children’s version at all weekend Masses;
- Regular contact with all parishioners on our database, particularly those that we have not seen lately;
- Designing parish and home social events (such as carols, barbecues, Posada statue journey) so that personal invitations can be issued to family, friends and colleagues, to spread participation and involvement;
- More involvement with Churches Together in St Ives and village religious groups to publicly proclaim the Christian message.

If you have any ideas or comments for us to consider, or want to participate in any of the above, please let us know. Contact us by:

- Speaking to any of the Mass representatives, Parish Steering Group members, or me (I will be attending each weekend Mass from time to time);
- Sending an e-mail to office@sacredheart-stives.org.uk ;
- Dropping a note into the parish office.