

The Good Shepherd Church

Building a missionary parish

Proclaim'15

building missionary parishes



For Catholics who attend Church regularly:

1) To help develop a group of "evangelisers" and to help people feel confident about talking and sharing their faith:

Adult Faith Formation (weekly, Thursday evenings.)

Start a bible Study Group

Prayer groups (have you considered joining the Wednesday Prayer group /Sword Of The Spirit Charismatic Prayer Group?)

2) To deepen a sense of belonging and community:

Introduce yourselves to fellow parishioners when attending Mass.

Join in Tuesday Coffee mornings following Mass

Join in the Friday Lunches in parish centre: bring along a friend

Join the Cleaning ministry: help keep the Lord's House clean.

Get involved in the many ministries already on offer at the church: readers/altar servers/sacristans/verggers/friendship club/social events etc

3) To deepen our personal response to the Gospel and our gratitude for our salvation:

Invite people to share their testimonies of their faith

Share the reasons why you love being Catholic

4) To support parents & grandparents to communicate their faith with their families.

Bring and welcome children to Holy Mass

Partake in children Liturgy

Working closely with the schools

Working closely with the school Chaplains?

Getting involved in the RCIA programmes (takes place Tuesday evenings)

Offering time and expertise as Catechists for Sacramental formation: Baptisms/First Holy Communion/Confirmation and Sacrament of Marriage.

For Catholics who don't attend church regularly:

To work with parents through our schools

Invest in the "Wednesday Word" : praying for school parishes. Copies available in Narthex weekly

Distribute invitations to church events: St Valentines Day Service for married or engaged couples/ St Gerard Majella blessing for those expecting babies or new parents/offering healing Masses/an event for those baptised in the past year

Maintaining links with families after funerals, baptisms, weddings etc

Create an email distribution list (with permission)

Send Christmas e-cards & invitations to social events

Host a teaching Mass: explain and instruct when to stand, sit and kneel.

Welcoming team to wear name tags

Familiar hymns could be sung.

Invest in Bereavement team, train verggers, resourcing marriage preparation: share good practice about evangelisation.

Ministry for separated and divorced Catholics could be developed.

Reconciliation Ministry: is the fear of Reconciliation an obstacle to some returning to regular church attendance.

Invite people to join in with a task in the church. Try not to be territorial about your own job in the church. Encourage, share and help each other.

Is there a way to reach out to those who use our parish centre but do not attend our Church? Do we advertise all our church events on a visible notice board?

Issue special invitations for Christmas, Easter etc, parish social events to anyone who has taken part in a religious service in the past year or two.

What would it be like to return to church after a long absence? What would you need help with? Listen to feedback.

What is in your repository shop? On your leaflet stand?

Are the notice boards up to date and well displayed?

Is the GSC website current and informative. Is all the necessary information passed along for uploading? Are you part of the social media: facebook and twitter?

For the Non-Baptised:

Engage with the social issues that are of real concern in your community:

Seek to work with existing agencies/charities

Help those experiencing poverty/in debt

Struggling with family life/ the lonely/the unemployed & carers

Give a clear witness to the compassion of Christ. It is our call and duty to love all our brothers and sisters in need.

Work ecumenically in the service of evangelisation: issue joint invitations for Christmas and Easter and organise inter-church carol singing.

Hold some non-religious events: jumble/car-boot sales, social events.

Meet and promote friendships with new people in your local community. Let the way we live, speak & just provoke questions.

The above information has been adopted and adapted for the Good Shepherd Church

from the Catholic Church in England and Wales website

www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15

A NATIONAL EVANGELISATION INITIATIVE

If you have any other suggestions relating to the above please inform the parish office or Fr Philipp Ziomek