

Everyday Evangelising for those Experiencing Stress

- » Give ongoing support by offering a listening presence
- » Send a Mass card or a card of care and concern
- » Offer to pray with and for the person
- » Seek out agencies that can support them in their needs

Everyday Evangelising in all Situations

- » Respond with 'Thank God' when someone shares good news with you
- » Wear a cross or other symbol of your faith
- » Be ready for opportunities to share a story of how God works in your life
- » Ask people to pray for your intentions
- » Invite to church those who have no faith community
- » Make the sign of the cross when dining out
- » Share a smile and personal greeting
- » Share with neighbours about your parish
- » Without being a nuisance or a litter bug, leave religious materials in unexpected places

Trust in the Holy Spirit

Just as the Holy Spirit empowered the early Church to share the Good News about Jesus, He remains the 'principal agent of evangelisation' (EN 75), and He will inspire us with the right words at the right time.

Be Courageous

Don't get discouraged when challenges come - sometimes we are simply sowing a seed that may not come to fruition until years later. Scatter the seed and leave the rest to God.

Remember Jesus is Faithful

Jesus said: 'If anyone declares himself for me in the presence of human beings, the Son of man will declare Himself for him in the presence of God's angels.' (Luke 12:8)

PROFILES: EVERYDAY EVANGELISTS

Cathy: Sharing Jesus through actions



'As a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society I try to proclaim the Good News through my actions, especially by helping out at the local soup kitchen.'

Ray: Prayerfully proclaiming the Word



'My Christian faith strengthens me in my work in hospice care. I will talk about my faith with colleagues and I am open to pray with them if they want me to.'

Vivien: Inviting others to church



'I'm so glad a friend of mine invited me to attend church. It really changed my life. I've been a Catholic for seven years now and have several times invited people to come with me to a local prayer group.'

Fr Gareth: Wearing visible signs



'Often I wear a medal of the Virgin Mary which is visible, and people sometimes ask what it is. It gives me an opportunity to talk about my trust in the saints who pray to God for us.'

There are numerous resources that can support you as you evangelise, including websites, printed resources, groups and communities. To find out more see: www.catholicchurch.org.uk or contact the Home Mission Desk.

For a jargon-free introduction to Catholicism see: www.life4seekers.co.uk

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EVERYDAY EVANGELISING FOR EVERYDAY CATHOLICS

A Practical Guide

“ Always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. ”
1 Peter 3:15



SUPPLIED BY THE HOME MISSION DESK

“**Evangelising is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelise.**”
Evangelii Nuntiandi 14

To evangelise is to share the Good News of Jesus, so the starting point for Evangelisation is our relationship with Him. It's about proclaiming our faith in Him, by living it out in service and witness.

We are called to share the story of Jesus in our lives, and then invite others to know Him too.

This leaflet is designed to give Catholic individuals and communities practical ideas about how they can share their faith in Jesus in everyday life.

What is Everyday Evangelising?

- » Everyday Evangelising is everyone's mission. By virtue of our Baptism, we are all called to share our faith.
- » Everyday Evangelising is a way of life. It takes place at any time, in any place, under any circumstance.
- » Everyday Evangelising reaches out to everyone. No one is excluded.
- » Everyday Evangelising also addresses the social structures and communities that we find ourselves in: '*...evangelising means bringing the Good News into all strata of humanity... transforming humanity from within and making it new*' (EN 18).

Being Prepared

If we are introducing people to Jesus, we need to stay close to Him, and make sure that our own faith is being nurtured.

- » Spend time in prayer daily
- » Read the Bible daily (for example the Gospel reading for the day)
- » Receive the Sacraments
- » Fast periodically
- » Participate in a small Christian community such as a parish prayer and/ or Bible study group.
- » Attend events, talks or courses to deepen your Christian faith
- » Read Catholic literature: magazines, books, or newspapers

Everyday Evangelising in the Home

- » Pray grace before and after meals
- » Proudly display symbols of our faith
- » Have a family calendar with the anniversary dates of reception of the Sacraments: Baptism, First Holy Communion, Marriage
- » Establish family rituals based on the Church year
- » Celebrate Church feast days, like the Feast of St Peter and St Paul, and your family feast days, like the days of the saints you're named after
- » Read together from the Bible
- » Discuss the morality of a TV show, or issues raised by news items

“**There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is nothing more beautiful than to know Him and to speak to others of our friendship with Him.**”

”
Pope Benedict XVI
April 2005

Everyday Evangelising in the Parish

- » Be gracious in the car park
- » Periodically sit in a different place in church and exchange names with those around you
- » Send a card to the newly baptised or confirmed
- » Pray for parish leaders and for each other
- » Get involved in events and activities, if only on a small scale
- » Invite friends who aren't Catholic to parish events
- » Explain in advance to those who are not familiar with the Catholic Faith, what they will hear and see during the liturgies

Everyday Evangelisation in the Workplace

- » Transact all business dealings honestly
- » Respect others' religious beliefs
- » Pray before making decisions
- » Offer to pray for a co-worker who has shared some personal concerns
- » Be ready to talk about the part Jesus plays in your life, and to be open about your Catholic faith (wear your Ash Wednesday ashes to work for example)
- » Spend time with co-workers who share your Christian beliefs. Look for opportunities to pray together

Everyday Evangelising through Social Justice

- » Stay informed about the causes of poverty and war: log on to www.justice-and-peace.org.uk for links to organisations working on these issues. Bring this into prayer
- » Get involved: Is there a Justice and Peace, CAFOD or Pax Christi group in your parish you could join?
- » Witness by the way you live: log on to www.livesimply.org.uk for simple steps you can take to live in a way that does justice to the poor and respects God's creation

