

## What's the idea?

There are many events taking place at local level which could provide an opportunity for your parish to do some evangelisation. Similarly, some parishes are in areas which receive a lot of tourists, either in the summer or all year round. This leaflet gives ideas and inspiration for using such opportunities for reaching out with the Good News of God's love and mercy.



## What is a 'local event'?

Some examples of local events that could provide a good opportunity for evangelisation:



St Cecilia's Parish, Liverpool during their 100th birthday celebrations

- Festivals (eg music or art) Glastonbury Rock Festival is an excellent example
- Exhibitions
- Sporting events
- Carnivals or similar 'fun' activities
- Occasions of local or national crisis, such as a serious crime or natural disaster
- A seasonal influx of tourists

Alternatively, you could organise your own event, such as a flower festival to celebrate a special anniversary for your parish.



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## What next?

CASE is here to help you put some of the ideas in this leaflet into practice. We would be delighted to help with consultation or training in any way your parish or deanery requests, drawing in diocesan and other local advisors wherever possible. Related resources can also be found on our website: [www.caseresources.org.uk](http://www.caseresources.org.uk)

Maybe you could direct a non-Catholic enquirer to: [www.life4seekers.co.uk](http://www.life4seekers.co.uk)

For additional resources and enquiries, please fill in and return the reply slip below.

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**Catholic  
Agency to  
Support  
Evangelisation**

## Evangelising Through Local Events



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*'Jesus had compassion on the crowd because they were like sheep without a shepherd.'*

**Mark 6:34**

## How to begin

The two key factors in mounting such an outreach are **planning** and **people**.

A well-thought out plan needs to be drawn up several months before the event in

question, and that requires a small planning group of people who are not only enthusiastic but also clear thinkers. It could also be a great



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## Where can we find out about possible events?

Information about local events can be obtained from a variety of sources, and could be a good project for children to work on:

- The local library
- The local council's information service or website
- Internet searching
- Periodic lists published in local or national newspapers
- Specialist publications such as 'The Year Ahead'



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help to invite a few people from outside the parish to help: diocesan advisors, members of religious communities or new ecclesial movements, and, of course... CASE!

## What exactly is involved?

There are two main elements that the planning group is likely to come up with:

1. Taking the Good News out on the streets;
2. Inviting people into your Church.



These activities are a perfect illustration of what Pope John Paul II meant by 'an evangelisation that is new in its ardour and its methods.' They involve the

Church being more than a silent presence in the community, and actually making its presence felt more dynamically, although always with respect for the freedom of those addressed.

## Taking the word onto the streets

The Planning Group will come up with various ways of doing this. These might include:

- A procession
- Handing out rosary beads or prayer cards
- Leafleting in the high street (with permission!) and starting conversations with people
- Putting up posters which invite people to the Church
- Using the Internet
- Short articles in the local newspaper or interviews on local radio
- Parishioners inviting their friends and neighbours to visit the Church



## Using the building

During the period of the outreach, a special effort can be made to keep the Church open and make it look especially welcoming (see two of CASE's other leaflets for suggestions on how to do this). A special non-Eucharistic service can also be put on to which everyone is invited, of the kind familiar from many contemporary parish missions.



*This picture is from one such event which CASE helped parishioners and others organise for the Glastonbury Rock Festival.*

## The need for training

From all of this it is clear that a local event provides a wonderful opportunity not only to reach out, but also to form the parish into an evangelising community. Formation and training should be offered both to those immediately involved and to the wider parish, on what evangelisation means for Catholics, and on the practicalities of whatever is planned, such as speaking to people on the streets or in their homes, and welcoming people into the Church.

