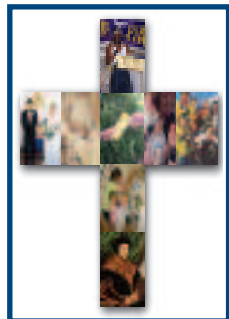




Home Mission Sunday 2006: 'Dying to Live!'



When I was rector of Allen Hall, Fr Michael Hollings sent me a copy of his new book of prayers for the dying and bereaved. The title, *Dying to Live*, beautifully captured the paradox both of the book, a joyful treatment of a sad subject, and of the author.

Fr Michael was one of the most alive men I have met, sleeping only four hours a night and so busy that people sometimes had to see him at six in the morning. Yet his was a sacrificial and often painful life, and not long after the book was published, he himself fell ill and died.

When we came to choose a theme for this year's **Home Mission Sunday (17th September)**, with its Gospel reading announcing the suffering and death of the Son of Man, there seemed no fitter one than **'Dying to Live!'** The Gospel we are privileged to proclaim in all our evangelisation is no empty promise of superficial happiness, but good news for the poor, a word of life and hope for those who know all too well their frailty and mortality.

St Peter's reaction, looking for a way out of the Way to the Cross, speaks to us all. We know that to be evangelisers, we need to hear this message again ourselves and believe in our deepest hearts that the way to life truly is through the Cross of our Master.

Mgr Keith Barltrop, CASE Director

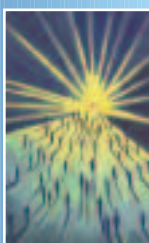


New Resources!

Don't miss our HMS Resources Packs which have been sent to every parish and religious house in England and Wales. Additional packs and A3 posters are available on request.

Recent CASE Highlights...

- Fr Keith was among the speakers at a central London evangelistic exhibition of new and rarely-seen paintings by Elizabeth Wang. See www.radiantlight.org.uk
- Clare Ford spoke about the work of CASE to over 600 pilgrims at the Sacred Heart Pilgrimage during the Silver Jubilee of Maryvale Institute.
- Fr Philip and Fr Keith were both involved in a Colloquium on Evangelisation and Renewal Initiatives as part of a major national research project.
- Clare Ward helped to lead two 'Seeker Weekends' for non-Catholic enquirers in Pantasaph and at the OMI Retreat Centre in Crewe.



And there's much more...

...Please check out www.caseresources.org.uk

BBC 2's *The Convent*

Imagine the scene... you are a member of an enclosed community, have rarely ventured outside the cloister in decades and four complete strangers and a camera crew arrive for a six week stay!

For the twenty-one strong Poor Clare Community in Arundel, that is precisely what happened recently. Over the summer, four BBC TV programmes were broadcast documenting the experiences of a group of women who gave up their everyday lifestyles to embark upon a spiritual journey with the Community. Each broadcast presented itself as a wonderful national evangelisation opportunity.



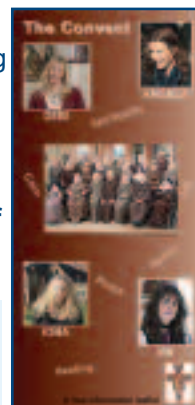
The four volunteers and some of the Community. © Tiger Aspect 2006

As part of our *Catholic Enquiry Office* remit, CASE was delighted to work in partnership with the Sisters and the BBC to provide free follow-up materials and offer a special phone line for viewers. We were also pleased to play a part in helping to train an Arundel-based team.

The series had more than seven million viewers and led to over 21,000 people visiting our CEO website. One caller said, **'I'm loving it! The programmes have really spoken to me with regard to my own spiritual journey.'**

An email enquirer said, **'After many years of wandering and not committing myself to anything, I feel that is about to change.'**

Please see our free *The Convent* resources available at: www.life4seekers.co.uk/TheConvent.htm



Are you looking for free resources? Want to find out more about local evangelisation opportunities? Please visit: www.caseresources.org.uk

What is CASE?

CASE is an Agency of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Through a wide variety of resources and training, its remit is to enthuse, engage and equip all tiers of the Church in the urgent task of evangelisation.



New Beginnings

This summer we said farewell to one of the founding members of CASE, Fr Philip Knights, as he returns to parish and diocesan work in Westminster. It would be impossible to overstate Fr Philip's contribution to our first three years, especially in the areas of research and faith-culture dialogue.



As well as editing our *Evangelisation Directory*, he was principal author of the report *Evangelisation in England and Wales* which was a key part of the process leading up to CASE's foundation. He has particularly helped CASE establish strong links with other agencies, both Catholic and ecumenical, and his erudition and teaching experience will be sorely missed.



In his place we are delighted to welcome two part-time team members, Fr Martin Ganeri OP and Emily Davis. Fr Martin has most recently been chaplain to Edinburgh University, and will combine his work for us with lecturing on inter-religious dialogue at Heythrop College. He will especially be developing Fr Philip's work in faith and culture which is an important part of our remit.

Emily was a member of the Sion Community for five years where she led the secondary school mission team, *Cross Purposes*, and she has also worked for Catholic Evangelisation Services, CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration). She will be helping to set up our new website for children aged nine to thirteen... **watch this space!**



We have been really encouraged to see how well the Directory has been received up and down the UK (Scotland and Northern Ireland have shown interest too!) If you would like to order a copy or explore the possibility of a CASE training event near you, please contact us (details on the back page).

Evangelisation Directory

'Every Catholic should have a copy'

... have you got yours yet?!

This is the challenging endorsement given by Bishop Malcolm McMahon of Nottingham in support of CASE's *Evangelisation Directory*. Since publication, it has been enthusiastically responded to across England and Wales.

As the Catholic Agency to **Support** Evangelisation, CASE's very purpose is to work collaboratively. A key recent way we have put this theory into practice has been by holding a series of regional launches for our *Evangelisation Directory*. Rather than hold a single high profile national launch, we decided to work alongside events that Dioceses already had planned.

As we went to press, CASE Team Members had presented the *Directory* at over twenty events in the dioceses of Wrexham, Westminster, Southwark, Shrewsbury, Salford, Portsmouth, Nottingham, Middlesbrough, Liverpool, Hexham & Newcastle, East Anglia, Clifton, Brentwood and Birmingham. More opportunities are planned for the coming months.



Archbishop Emeritus Maurice Couve de Murville at the Birmingham Regional Launch

Although these events have been as diverse as the areas of England and Wales they serve, each has had an element of evangelisation formation. CASE has been delighted and privileged to work alongside and learn from local people seeking to fulfil the mission of the Church that 'exists to evangelise' (*Evangelii Nuntiandi* 14) in their local contexts.



Faith and Culture Comment: God's Cosmic Work

Please allow self-indulgence in my final contribution here. As I pass on the CASE Faith and Culture desk it seems right to summarise my own recent thinking.

Christian mission is itself a culture which shapes itself according to the thought forms available to it. Often that framework has been military, expressed in the language of campaigns and battles. Recent Christian thinking has tended to express itself in a relational framework and used language of family and community and inter-personal growth. I am more and more minded that this needs expanding to include our connectedness not just with other humans, but also to include the whole web of existence. Jesus used the things of the earth as pointers towards the things in heaven. Without ever worshipping nature, He honours it and uses it to illustrate and communicate God's supernature. His earthly person bears divinity and becomes the sign and instrument of redemption -He is the sacramental paradigm.

This autumn I am speaking at a Day conference of the *British and Irish Association of Mission Studies* (please see www.biams.org.uk). I will explore sympathetically but critically the sacramental vision of Teilhard de Chardin.

This has important insights affirmed by both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI. Our mission is to participate in God's great cosmic work in which we see all this world, as well as the people within it, as an arena of grace.

Fr Philip Knights



To the Lord belong Earth and all it holds, the world and all who live in it; He Himself founded it on the ocean, based it firmly on the nether sea.

Psalms 24:1-2

Interested in finding out more? For a range of articles on faith and culture from the perspective of evangelisation, please see: www.casesources.org.uk/culturetalk

Media Watch: Miracles Do Happen

A three part TV series entitled *The Miracles of Jesus* arguably heralds a new style of religious programming which asks questions of meaning rather than science.

Presented by Rageh Omaar, the programmes examine the historicity and meaning of the miracles of Christ. Initially broadcast over the summer, they are likely to have a longer shelf life. CASE has been working in partnership with the BBC producers to provide materials for viewers.



© BBC/Religion & Ethics

For evangelistic resources please see:

www.life4seekers.co.uk/aplaceforgodinourworld/Miracles.html

CYBERSPACE NEWS: 12 months on and our website for enquirers has experienced a 400% growth in visitors! Why not ask a friend to look at www.life4seekers.co.uk

Good News about those who give Good News

Evangelisation takes many forms and *Mothers' Prayers* reminds us that prayer is our most powerful tool. Started in 1995 by two Catholic grandmothers, Veronica and Sandra Williams, there are now more than four thousand ecumenical members in England and Wales.



The groups usually meet weekly and are for all women who have a heart to pray for children. Members do not necessarily have to be mothers and there is no age restriction.

Since its foundation, this prayer network has witnessed many answers to prayer. Children who have lost contact with their parents have been known to ring out of the blue following a prayer meeting. Some children have been freed from addictions, while for others, family relationships have been healed and restored. Above all, the groups have a ministry for healing and hope.

Resources are available to anyone who is interested. For more information, please call: 01959 532505

Finding Sanctuary

'It shows that the best evangelism is the fruit of contemplation.'

This is among the tributes paid to the Abbot of Worth's recent book, *Finding Sanctuary*, which follows up *The Monastery* TV series by encouraging busy people to find a quiet place in everyday life. CASE is working with Abbot Christopher to help churches 'offer sanctuary' to such people.

For more details, contact CASE or visit:

www.findingsanctuary.org



Momentous Meeting At The Vatican

Almost half a million members of Ecclesial Movements and New Communities converged on Rome at Pentecost at the invitation of Pope Benedict. **'The beauty of being a Christian and the joy of communicating this'** was the very evangelistic theme the Holy Father chose for this Gathering, echoing a key idea from his Inauguration Homily. An important part of CASE's remit is to be a point of reference for new movements in England and Wales, so we were delighted to represent our Bishops' Conference at this momentous meeting.

Over a hundred Movements and Communities were represented and delegates from the UK included members of the Ascent Movement, Community of the Risen Christ, Focolare, NeoCatechumenal Way, Sion Catholic Community for Evangelism, Sword of the Spirit and Youth 2000. Although not strictly a Movement, many people involved with Catholic Charismatic Renewal were also present.

Pilgrims agreed that the Meeting was a dynamic experience of the universal nature of the Church.

The Holy Father listening intently to presentations made by leaders of various New Movements.



NOV News

CASE works closely with the **National Office for Vocation**. As the World Cup kicked off in Germany earlier in the year, NOV launched a football themed extravaganza of their own...

A tailor-made football themed poster promoting vocations to the priesthood was sent out to schools and parishes across England and Wales. It was, and continues to be, well-received in schools especially, where young people have been invited to discuss where the parallels between football and priesthood lie, and, more importantly, where the two diverge. A football player, no matter how good he or she might be, always has to remember that he or she is part of a team that draws on the strengths of all its members, not a 'one-man-show'. In the Church today, teamwork is not just an option, but a necessity.



© www.ukvocation.org

Pause for Thought:

"My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity."

Words of Our Lord,
St Faustina's Diary (699)



Dates for your diary Autumn 2006, please see:

www.caseresources.org.uk/diary

Future Church Conference



High Leigh Conference Centre

One of the features of the ecumenical landscape in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland has been the annual *Future Church Conference*. This has given people engaged in mission in these nations the chance to reflect on what each other is doing and to accompany each other on a shared journey of proclaiming and enacting the Good News of Jesus.

This autumn the conference takes place at the High Leigh Conference Centre in Hertfordshire from 19th to 20th October. The theme is *Becoming Learning Communities*. The various speakers and workshops being offered are designed to allow participants to deepen their understanding of the significance of being a community of learning as an essential part of their mission. Janice Price of the *Global Mission Network* has the task of introducing the theme and enabling participants to know more of how the ecumenical instruments of our four nations are supporting mission. John and Olive Drane are to explore, in a variety of creative ways, biblical stories of learning, change and growth. Helen Cameron will bring insights on churches becoming learning communities from her recent book *Studying Local Churches*.

This Conference has not only always been an opportunity to meet Christians from across the spread of Christian denominations, but has also enabled Catholics in England and Wales to share notes with their Catholic brothers and sisters in Ireland and Scotland.

Oct '06: "Find it, Own it, Live it"

Oct '06 is set to be one of the biggest ever gatherings of Catholic 18 - 30s held in England and Wales. Organised by the Catholic Youth Services, more than 4000 young adults are to gather at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham on 14th - 15th October 2006. **BOOK NOW!**

Hosted by inspirational speakers, Catholic leaders and celebrities, the event will focus on real people, lives and issues. It will demonstrate how the Word of God is alive and active in the 21st Century.



Check out CASE's workshop: *Find it, Own it, Live it... SHARE IT!* For more information and tickets, please see: www.oct06.org.uk
Email: info@oct06.org.uk

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www.caseresources.org.uk



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Leaving Safe Harbours

'Unless we look outwards to others in our plans for the future, we will die,' were the challenging words of Archbishop Patrick Kelly as he invited the people of the Archdiocese of Liverpool to respond to the programme of reflection and consultation *Leaving Safe Harbours* (LSH).



Archbishop Kelly and Team
(picture courtesy of The Catholic Pic)

Four working groups have been exploring the way forward from different perspectives: theological, strategic, resource-based and demographic. They presented their findings on July 1st at a Diocesan Assembly. Fr Philip Inch, Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation, is co-ordinating the process; he described how LSH will go beyond

simply restructuring because of its sound theological background: **'the vision from theology powers the process.'**

Described as **'a very hopeful initiative'**, the process is being accompanied and facilitated by Mark Davis of *The Shoreline Consultancy*. Mark also works nationally as a member of the Bishops' Conference Committee on Spirituality.

The Archbishop has asked individuals and parishes to pray for an openness to the Holy Spirit as the Archdiocese moves into the next phase of fleshing out the proposals made, confident in the assurance that **'the Spirit of the Living God is writing on our living hearts.'**

A Seeker's Prayer

Jesus, although I do not know Who You really are,
I invite You to be the one Who fills my inner emptiness,
Who lightens my darkness.

The one I can entrust myself to without reserve
As I go forward on this journey of exploration.

Help me as I open my heart to You,
Let me know Your love for me.

AMEN

Extract from a prayer for enquirers distributed
by the Catholic Enquiry Office which is run by CASE



An Invitation to 'Come and See...'

Join Bishop Ambrose Griffiths OSB and CASE Team Members at the:

International Congress on the New Evangelisation, Brussels, 29th Oct - 5th Nov

Come for all or part of this exciting event!

Please contact us now if you are interested in attending. Costs will be kept to a minimum. Following very successful Congresses in Vienna (2003), Paris (2004) and Lisbon (2005), we are hoping to take a strong English and Welsh delegation, who are sure to return home buzzing with ideas and inspiration... don't miss this great opportunity to hear more about the New Evangelisation and to put into practice what you learn.

