



Invitation from Bishop Kieran Conry

Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales
39 Eccleston Square
London
SW1V 1BX

Date as postmark

Dear *Friend*,

It is estimated that at least two-thirds of the baptised Catholic community in England and Wales is non churchgoing which equates to approximately four to five million people. This makes for a significant constituency of people who, in most cases, self-identify as Catholic but never or rarely attend Mass.

Recently the Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis initiated a national project to support ministry to this group of people. Following the creation of a national core group and the putting on of a leaders' day in London in March 2011, five resource days for parishioners are now being offered across England and Wales. I'm delighted that Arundel and Brighton Diocese is hosting the day for the Province and that **Archbishop Peter Smith** (Southwark) is able to attend and will preside and preach at the celebration of the Mass. I very much hope that you're able to attend. The event will take place at the Christian Education Centre, 4 Southgate Drive, Crawley, West Sussex on 3rd March 2012, 10am – 4.30pm, with coffee served from 9.30am. Everyone is welcome.

Repeatedly when parishioners are asked about what their key concerns are, they name non churchgoing Catholics (sometimes called 'lapsed Catholics'). The resource day in Crawley - which is being run in partnership with the Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Team and the Bishops' Conference Home Mission Desk - aims to offer information about resources and initiatives to help us reach out to non churchgoing Catholics. The programme (below) will allow attendees to explore the issues, share experiences and receive information about resources.

Please fill in the reply slip indicating which workshops you would like to attend. Whilst there is no charge for the event, space is limited and **places will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis**. I would like to encourage every parish within easy travelling distance to send at least one representative to the day and / or consider attending one of the other days being offered in other parts of the country in 2012.

RSVP to the Home Mission Desk of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales by emailing mission.volunteer@cbcew.org.uk or tel. 020 7901 4818. Please bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided. Whilst the day is sponsored by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales you will need to cover your own transport costs please.

Yours sincerely and God bless you,

A Kieran Conry

Rt Rev Kieran Conry
Bishop of Arundel and Brighton
Chair of the Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis

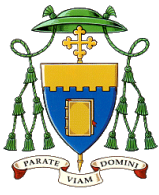


‘CROSSING THE THRESHOLD’
Resource day for ministry and outreach to non churchgoing Catholics
Saturday 3rd March 2012,
Christian Education Centre, 4 Southgate Drive, Crawley,
West Sussex, RH10 6RP



- 09:30 Coffee and registration (pre-booking your place is preferred)
- 10:00 Welcome
- 10:05 Opening liturgy
- 10:15 Introductory Talk: ‘Crossing the Threshold’ – Bishop Kieran Conry with Clare Ward (Home Mission Advisor)
- 11:00 Informal groups - to allow time for discussion in response to the talk
- 11:30 Where to go next?
- 11:40 Workshop Session One:
1. *What is the basic Gospel message?*
 2. *Making the most of our encounters with non churchgoing Catholics*
 3. *How to welcome people and provide the appropriate space in a small group meeting?*
 4. *How to signpost people to the Sacrament of Reconciliation?*
 5. *Building bridges with non churchgoers through a shared involved in social action*
 6. *Using RCIA as a tool to support non churchgoers to return to parish life.*
- More information about the content of the workshops is available from: <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Home-Mission/Non-Churchgoing-Catholics>*
- 12:40 Lunch (Please bring a packed lunch. Refreshments will be provided.)
Market place – featuring resources and initiatives
Opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- 13:30 Workshops Session Two (repeat of the above)
- 14:30 Gather back as a large group
- 14:40 Stories
- 14:55 Evaluation
- 15:25 Silent time
- 15:30 Mass and commissioning – Archbishop Peter Smith to preside and preach
- 16:30 Departures

“...it has become clear to me how deep a thirst there is among the British people for the Good News of Jesus Christ. You have been chosen by God to offer them the living water of the Gospel.”
(Pope Benedict XVI, Address at Oscott College, 19 September 2010)



**Venue and Directions – ‘CROSSING THE THRESHOLD’ - Non churchgoing Catholics Resource Day
Saturday 3rd March 2012**

Christian Education Centre,
4 Southgate Drive, Crawley,
West Sussex
RH10 6RP

Directions are available from: <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Home-Mission/Non-Churchgoing-Catholics>

On-site parking (Christian Education Centre) for 80 cars. If the Centre car park is full there is nearby residential parking.

Crawley Train Station is ten mins walk away.

**Reply Slip – Non churchgoing Catholics Resource Day,
Saturday 3rd March 2012**

Please fill in the below and send it by email to: mission.volunteer@cbcew.org.uk, alternatively by post to: ‘CROSSING THE THRESHOLD - CRAWLEY’, Home Mission Desk, Catholic Bishops’ of England and Wales, 39 Eccleston Square, London. SW1V 1BX.

Preferred title.....Full name.....

Postal address.....

Landline tel. no.....Mobile tel. no.....

Email address..... (Please insert clearly)

Parish / Diocese / Network / Organisation you represent.....

Workshop Session One

First choice.....

Second choice.....

Workshop Session Two

First choice.....

Second choice.....

The workshops will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. You may not be guaranteed your choices in both sessions. The diocesan team and the national core group look forward to welcoming you on 3rd March 2012.