

Basic Evangelisation for **every** Catholic

* **Catholic Basics**

Participating in the Mass and receiving the sacraments, being kind to our neighbour, caring for the poor and respecting the dignity of the human person in all our thoughts and actions. It also includes evangelising.

* **Evangelisation – why?**

Our Church requires us to evangelise – why?

Firstly to carry out Jesus's instructions:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations....”.

Secondly because when we evangelise we will be asked questions for which we do not know the answer. We will then research the answer and hence strengthen our own faith. When we evangelise others, we evangelise ourselves.

Thirdly you need a good understanding of a subject in order to be able to teach it. Hence you will need to distil arguments down to the essential facts. In the process of explaining the faith, you learn about the faith.



* **Prayer**

Pray to the Holy Spirit to help you evangelise.

Pray to the Holy Spirit to bring everyone into His Catholic Church.



* **Going to Mass**

Let people know that you go to Mass every Sunday – a very powerful witness – that your faith\love of God is so strong that it is incorporated into your weekly schedule.

* **Active Participation at Mass**

Sing the hymns, say the responses, do the actions, sit nearer the front – help to give those more shy than you, the confidence to actively participate. Look happy going to Mass and afterwards.

* **Have Catholic sacramentals on display at home (eg Crucifixes, Bible, statues, pictures, Holy Water, rosary and calendars)**

An opportunity for visitors to ask questions.

* **No Meat on Fridays**

Is a good way to let others know that you are a Catholic.



* **Look for opportunities to talk about Catholicism**

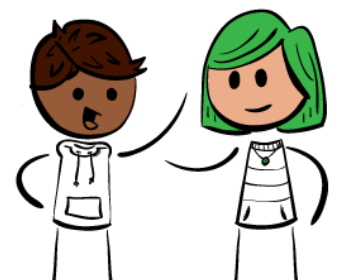
Either raise it yourself – “yesterday I went to a it was a brilliant day” etc
Mention that you are going to confession....

Or say something, if someone mentions faith\God to you. A few days later, casually give them a relevant leaflet – this may be of interest.....

* **Defending our Church, if attacked**

St Peter: “Always be prepared to make a defence to any who calls you to account for the hope that is in you”. (1 Pet 3:15)

Be prepared to defend our Church when she is attacked in conversation. Choose not to let the fear of standing out silence us.



* **Church newsletter\missal**

After all the Sunday Masses are over, take a few away with you and casually leave them behind where ever you go where people might pick them up – on the train\doctors and dentists surgery\ library\hospital etc (A week later, if not given away, they will only go in the bin).

* **Good Works**

Brilliant - but can anyone honestly say that they lead such a perfect Catholic life that their witness does not need words of explanation about God, Jesus, salvation, the church etc. These things cannot be fully explained without words\conversations.



* **Your Witness**

Always be willing to explain what being a Catholic means to you. (Your own personal witness)

* **Sign of the Cross with Grace**

Make the sign of the cross when you say grace at meal times.



* **Sign of the Cross when passing Catholic Churches**

Make the sign of the cross when you pass a Catholic Church in much the same way as you genuflect every time you pass the tabernacle in Church. It helps you to refocus on God during the day.

* **Sign of the Cross when a funeral hearse passes you by**

Also a quick prayer for the deceased and for their family and friends.

* **Sing\whistle hymns when not at Church**

Catholics will find this inspiring, Non-Catholics might ask you questions.



* **Daily Mass**

If you don't go to Mass during the week, try to do so occasionally. What about making it your intention to do something more holy for Advent or Lent by going to a weekday Mass? Once you start, you probably won't want to stop. If you can manage daily Mass, that then becomes a very powerful witness to your family and friends.

* **Evangelisation**

- 1) God loves you;
- 2) we have sinned;
- 3) Christ has died for our sins and risen from the dead; and
- 4) we have to respond to those gifts with faith.

Keep it simple. Trying to understand the Holy Trinity on day one is almost impossible, let alone trying to understand the Holy Eucharist.

* **Helping you to Evangelise**

If you would like any advice on evangelising or if you have sown a seed, but are nervous of going further, just ask your Parish Evangelisation team for help. Kevin on 01582 738764.

