



Papal Tribute: An Evangelising Legacy

As delighted as we at CASE are with the election of our new Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, it is only



right and proper that we pay tribute to Pope John Paul II. He was undeniably the greatest evangelist of modern times. He leaves us an evangelising legacy that will mark the Church for many future generations. It is no coincidence that his own death was so firmly linked to the Feast of the Divine Mercy. In a world so threatened by evil in all its many forms, he boldly proclaimed the message of God's infinite mercy for all peoples, as an apostle of hope. It is a message that so many of our contemporaries need to hear and it is our duty to share it with them.

His example gave Catholics worldwide a sense of confidence combined with humility, that we do have something wonderful to offer the world - the message of the Gospel. He should be remembered as John Paul The Great not merely because of the longevity of his reign, but because his Papacy covered so many different aspects of life in such depth. He showed that the Gospel affected every aspect of life and he applied the Gospel to questions about human dignity, defence of the poor, the protection of life and this application extended to his work with those from other faiths. In all this, he showed to perfection, that Christ is the answer to all human questions and he boldly proclaimed this reality.



Even through his suffering and death, John Paul II witnessed to the message of the Gospel. His Holiness lived what he proclaimed until his last breath, always pointing others to the person of Jesus

Christ. His lasting legacy is that he challenges us all, in all circumstances, to do the same. We will miss him, but will continue to be inspired by his fearless evangelising example in the years ahead. **Mgr Keith Barltrop, CASE Director**

CASE Highlights...

Recent highlights include:

- Mgr Keith Barltrop has met with Cathedral deans to discuss the evangelising potential of Cathedral buildings.
- Clare Ward spent a week visiting the Leeds diocese in February to look into supporting diocesan evangelisation.
- Fr Philip Knights is currently collaborating in a ground breaking Research Project on Evangelisation and Renewal Initiatives.
- Clare Ford has been piloting assembly materials for schools and resources to explore the links between evangelisation and preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.



This is just the tip of the iceberg...

...Please check out www.casesources.org.uk for more!

CASE Celebrates First Birthday

"Wow, I can't believe how busy you've been!" was one guest's reaction, another commented on the energetic atmosphere: "there's a real buzz here." They were among the forty five people from across the Church who gathered on April 6th to celebrate CASE's first birthday. Presentations and displays illustrated the strides the new Agency has taken during its first twelve months, and they highlighted the existence of an abundance of evangelisation activities in England and Wales.

Mgr Barltrop described how, "Many 'ordinary Catholics' have a not so ordinary desire to share their faith and it is wonderful to see. However, they often feel crippled in their zeal because they don't feel they know enough about their faith to enable them to share it. This is one of the principal factors currently obstructing Church growth. One of CASE's most urgent tasks is to work with other agencies, groups and individuals to help address this situation at a national level. To this end, we are deeply committed to working with a wide range of partners in Christian formation in England and Wales."

Amongst the many year one achievements of the agency is the co-writing of a new course on Evangelisation and Ministry, which is offered by the Maryvale Institute, Birmingham. Team members have been involved in helping to



run a mission in Glastonbury which targeted festival go-ers to the world famous annual Rock Festival. A CASE Forum was run in November which brought together Catholics and non-Catholic evangelists to share resources and to pray.

Bishop Malcolm McMahon of Nottingham is the bishop responsible for the work of CASE. He said, "The first birthday of CASE is a tremendously exciting development. The task of effectively sharing and celebrating our faith is the most pressing task for the Catholic Church in this country. CASE is an invaluable resource for the Catholic community."

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

NOV, the National Office for Vocation, and CASE have just produced a brand new prayer resource. A complimentary copy of the booklet, **Called to Pray ... Called to Proclaim** was sent to every parish in the UK and Ireland in time for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The booklet has suggestions for each month of the year as to ways of praying with the Saints of our Isles for vocations and evangelisation.



Already, participants at conferences both at home and abroad have been keen to get hold of their own copies for the bargain price of just £1. You'd be mad to miss it, so why not ring NOV on 020 8458 6017, or see www.ukvocation.org

CEO Pilots “Seeker Centre”

The Catholic Enquiry Office is piloting an innovative project in North Wales which provides a resource for people in England and Wales wishing to explore spirituality.



The project centres around the opening of a new facility called a “Seeker Centre” which is based at the National Shrine to St Pio in Pantasaph, Flintshire. Over the next year it will be offering four main events to provide people with a welcoming and informal space where they can ask questions about Christianity. The first event took place on April 17th and with the full backing of the Rt Rev Edwin Regan, Bishop of Wrexham.

Visitors to the Centre are invited to attend afternoon or weekend events which include meditation, group prayer time, a historical tour, tea in the friars’ cloister, a nature walk, story telling and social activities. All the centre’s events are donation only and are staffed by a team of local people, with parishioners doing door to door leafleting.

Hopes run high that lessons learnt during this pilot year will enable the project to be run in centres in other parts of England and Wales. If you are interested in finding out more please see: www.life4seekers.co.uk



The local team during a CASE led training day

Faith and Culture Comment: *Cultivation Christianity*

Spring and a middle-aged man’s thoughts turn to ... gardening. Gardeners experience many religious feelings: creativity, rest, grace, beauty, joy, delight, peace and even transcendence. Within our culture, the spirituality of gardening may yet be a vehicle to discern the Divine.

Our Lord used horticultural parables, and I for one am happy to follow His example. One contested theological concept today is that of sacrifice. This Easter season of death and new life can seem so difficult for a post-modern culture to grasp. Yet the gardener understands pruning. The gardener understands how seeds buried in the dark earth will lead to new life. The gardener will know the paradoxical growth that comes from uprooting weeds and cutting back what has overgrown.

Gardens and spirituality certainly belong together. A gentle but powerful ecumenical initiative has been the quiet garden movement (www.quietgarden.co.uk). Last summer I enjoyed immensely talking with Vigen Guroian. His delightful book

Young People Lead the Way

“What about our young people?” is a question we have heard repeated time and again on our travels around England and Wales.



CASE is keen to share the good news that across the country our young people are actually showing us the way by pioneering new forms of evangelisation. All the leaders who are developing these new initiatives agree that there is a vital need for training, and CASE is delighted to help.

In conjunction with Charles Whitehead and the Ezekiel Project in Northampton, CASE organised what has been described as an inspirational youth evangelisation training programme. The three day event took place from 5th - 7th January at the House of the Open Door Community in Broadway, Worcestershire. The gathering aimed to explore what is distinctive about a Catholic understanding of evangelisation and how that might be practically applied in a youth context.

More than twenty people from diverse projects were in attendance, including representatives from diocesan youth mission teams, and students from university and seminary. A series of nine sessions covered themes such as “Into the future with the Basic Gospel Message”, “What is the New Evangelisation?” and “Resources: what’s available?” The programme also included time for prayer: Mass, Rosary, praise and worship, and opportunities for sharing experiences.

It is now envisioned that the training will be made available at a future date to help support those working, often in isolation, in youth ministry. Anna Cowell, Diocesan Youth Officer for Leeds said, “I believe what we have done here should be at the very heart of what Catholic youth training is about.”

Inheriting Paradise is a short but profound series of seasonal mediations from a Christian gardener.

Christian culture is something we as Church have a duty to cultivate. Yet the soil and the climate may not always be conducive today. Nonetheless we have solid hope that the Gospel seeds will set and grow here. And yes, the experience of gardening, the images and the spiritual experiences it provides, may yet prove to be significant opportunities for us.



Interested in finding out more? For the full text of this comment see: www.caseresources.org.uk/latestnews/latestnews_culturetalk

New National Resource

The CASE team are in the process of creating a pioneering on-line resource to help equip all tiers of the Church to become more active evangelisers. The **CASE Directory** will be published in July and will include information about a plethora of evangelisation initiatives, communities and resources.



The directory is designed to serve as a 'one stop shop' for Catholic evangelisation and will help you decide where to go for help in the task of evangelisation. It will include: diocesan contact people and resources, providers of parish missions, resources for welcoming back returning Catholics and much more.

Good News about those who give Good News

Each issue we feature a particular evangelisation initiative. This time, we report on the founding of **Artists Anointed**.

Artists Anointed has grown out of a lay community of young Catholics, who live and pray together in London, with the intention of evangelising through the use of creative gifts. Aged between the ages of 21 - 36, the six strong community began in October 2004. During the last six months they have already run a number of events including a retreat for performance artists which brought together young people from across England and Wales.

Their largest project to date is the putting on a musical which was written by community members called *Rock of the Anointed*. The musical portrays the life of King David and aims to share the message of God's faithfulness, mercy and love towards his people. The cast is totally made up of young people with the vision of using their creative gifts for the task of evangelisation. For more information please see: www.rockoftheanointed.com



Artists Anointed

Pause for Thought:

"Fervour demands that we should know how to put aside the excuses which would impede evangelisation."

Evangelii Nuntiandi 80



Media Watch

CASE has entered public debate at a national level surrounding the truth of controversial claims made by Dan Brown's bestseller, the *Da Vinci Code*. The book claims that Jesus married St Mary Magdalene, that they had children together and that the Church has, through the centuries, used every means necessary to keep this reality a secret.

The CEO has received a number of enquiries from confused readers of the book. When news broke that a Cardinal had been appointed at The Vatican to publicly refute the claims made by this so called "fact based" novel, the CASE office was called for comment. This led to CASE appearing on a live news programme on BBC 3 about the book, and thirteen live interviews for local radio covering audiences from Newcastle to the Channel Islands, with a total audience of around 1.5 million.

The team now plan to issue a press release about St Mary Magdalene to coincide with her Feast Day. Watch this space!

Team members have also appeared on Sky News and ITV news programmes paying tribute to Pope John Paul II.



Spot the CASE Team Member...

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.



Time to Celebrate!

The chalets of a holiday camp and the classrooms of a secondary school are transformed each Easter into what has become one of the most keenly awaited events of the UK Catholic calendar. The Celebrate Conference in Devon is regularly sold out soon after the booking process opens. In a society where religious apathy is supposed to reign supreme, what is the secret of its success?

Many of the 1500+ participants would agree it is the way the Conference really caters for the whole family. There are 8 streams catering for young people from the ages of 0 to 22. Confident their children are enjoying stimulating programmes exploring faith through media such as music, drama, art and testimony, parents are free to enjoy challenging talks at their own level.

"Love one another as I have loved you," was this year's theme, and it was explored by morning Scripture studies, evening inspirational talks and over 60 afternoon seminars and workshops, 2 of which were jointly run by CASE and NOV.



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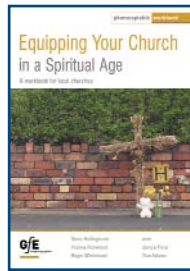
Brochures are available at the beginning of September, so if you are interested in attending next year's Conference, please write to Sue Whitehead, The Open House, 4 Bulstrode Way, Gerrards Cross, SL9 7QU.

Dates for your diary Spring 2005, please see:

www.caseresources.org.uk/latestnews/latestnews_diary.htm

Workbook for Spiritual Outreach

The Group for Evangelisation which is a co-ordinating group of Churches Together in England are to publish a workbook which has been described as an "essential resource" for Churches across England and Wales.



The workbook is the fruit of a national Spirituality Tour which took place in 2004. This resulted in the collation and cataloguing of the creative ways in which Christians were engaging with contemporary culture and spiritualities. Two priorities underpin the resource: to help churches understand what was meant by "the spiritual age in which we live," and to give them some ideas on how they might engage evangelistically with contemporary spiritualities.

Just as Jesus constantly reached out to those on the edges, the workbook equips Christian communities to do the same in a very practical and accessible way in contemporary Britain. Many of the suggestions made in the book encourage Churches to offer some kind of spiritual "experience" because we live in times when people are less open to a presentation of organised religions or to denominational commitment.

Christian groups can use the resource as a weekly study / reflection guide; permission is given for photocopying the book for group work. The three axes upon which the book hangs are for Christians to listen to the emerging spiritual age in which they find themselves, to discern what to specifically offer those people in their given locality and then to act by the actual organisation of events.

For a copy of the workbook please contact any Christian bookshop or send a cheque made payable to "Group for Evangelisation" for £9.99 (inc p & p) to Revd Roger Whitehead, 116 High Street, Harrold, Bedford, MK43 7BJ.

Evangelii Nuntiandi

This December, his Eminence Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, will be the guest of honour at a special event to commemorate the 30th anniversary of one of the key evangelisation documents in Church history. To celebrate the inspiration and continuing power of Pope Paul's Apostolic Exhortation "On Evangelisation in the Modern World" (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*), there will be several prayer, study and outreach events. The document itself is widely acclaimed to have shaped modern Catholic understanding and practice of evangelisation. CASE is pleased to be collaborating with the Sion Community in organising a reception at Archbishop's House, Westminster. Please contact us for further details.



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Evangelisation Team - Southampton

Around fifty people gathered in Southampton in March to take part in an evangelisation evening led by Mgr Keith Barltrop. Over the past few years a core team of around fifteen people have been initiating evangelisation events in the deanery, and working in partnership with their evangelical brothers and sisters. The shared vision is to do city wide mission activities, each event being respectful of denominational sensibilities. In collaboration with several priests of the deanery, events put on so far include the running of Alpha Courses, art exhibitions and street evangelising.

Whilst core group members met during the afternoon, the purpose of the evening gathering was to take stock and discuss where the group and the deanery as a whole go from here. Fr Keith very much affirmed the group in the activities they had already done and challenged them to do more strategic planning. A particular emphasis was laid on exploring ways in which the deanery group could now engage individual parishes. Sr Hyacinthe Defos du Rau O.P. was one of the people present at the event and said, "He fired us up with a new enthusiasm for the task of evangelisation in Southampton, without laying down any rules and without providing a magic recipe. He pointed out to everyone present their personal evangelising vocation and responsibility. It really encouraged us."



Portsmouth Diocesan logo

An Eastertide Prayer



The Resurrection
by Elizabeth Wang
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Christians,
To the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice
and praise.
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
And Christ, the undefiled,
Has sinners to His Father reconciled.
Death with life contended:
Combat strangely ended!
Life's own champion slain,
Yet lives to reign. **AMEN**

This prayer is part of the Easter Sequence from the liturgy of Easter Sunday.

An invitation...

Join CASE team members at the:

International Congress for the New Evangelisation, Lisbon, 6th - 13th November 2005



Come for all or part of this exciting event!

Following a highly successful trip to Paris last November, we have already begun to put together a group for this year's Congress in Lisbon. Please contact us now if you are interested in attending. Costs will be kept to a minimum. We are hoping to take a strong English and Welsh delegation who we feel sure will return home buzzing with ideas and inspiration!