



What's CASE?

Last Christmas several newspapers carried the story of a class whose teacher told them the Christmas story. Afterwards a boy put his hand up and asked, 'Miss, why did Mary and Joseph name their child after a swear word?' A shocking story, or one that symbolises the widespread ignorance about even the most basic elements of Christianity in our society?

More and more Catholics are becoming aware that we face a completely new situation today, which Cardinal Danneels of Belgium (the keynote speaker at our launch - see below) calls the 'deforestation of Christian memory.' In this situation the silent witness of Christians, and the 'permanent evangelisation' of the Church through the sacraments and works of charity and justice are no longer enough. Pope John Paul II understands this better than anyone, and has frequently called for a 'new evangelisation.'

But what does this mean? Many priests and people feel they should be 'doing something more,' but don't know what. That is why CASE, THE CATHOLIC AGENCY TO SUPPORT EVANGELISATION, has been set up this summer by the Bishops' Conference. Our role is to advise and help at all levels, from bishops, priests and catechists to members of religious orders and new communities, as well as individual Catholics. We can provide theological and practical advice about evangelisation and in understanding the culture of today's world. We will also be responsible for renewing, running and resourcing of the Catholic Enquiry Office, which will continue to reach out and respond to those expressing an interest in the faith.

Our aim is to assist the Catholic Church in England and Wales to play our part in what the Pope calls 'an evangelisation that is new in its ardour, new in its methods and new in its means of expression.' Why not give us a call if you would like to play a part in this or to talk something over: 020 8458 3316; kb@cms.org.uk

Mgr Keith Barltrop, Director of CASE

The Bishops have asked us to:

- To promote and evaluate methods and means of evangelisation.
- To be a point of reference for new movements and organisations in the Catholic Church in England and Wales.
- To be a resource for parishes, dioceses and local communities in understanding and responding to the current cultural situation.
- To develop the Catholic Enquiry Office, especially using new technology, including the internet.
- To promote intellectual dialogue between the Church and contemporary culture.
- To relate to other Churches on issues of Mission and evangelisation, including representation on the relevant ecumenical bodies.

Who's CASE?



Mgr Keith Barltrop

Fr Keith has been a priest for 27 years. He's worked as a parish priest, seminary rector, and school chaplain, as well as being Episcopal Vicar in the East End of London. He has a degree in Chinese and loves cooking and playing the piano.



Clare Ward

Prior to joining CASE, Clare worked in broadcasting. She spent several years in Yorkshire working as a BBC Journalist, lived in a lay community in Northern France for two years and, most recently, has been involved in full-time voluntary service as a Catholic Youth Mission Leader. In her spare time she is something of a chocoholic...but that's a secret!



Fr Philip Knights

Philip is married to Jane. He is a priest of the Diocese of Westminster and long-suffering supporter of Norwich City. He has worked in Zambia, the North East of England, in London, South Africa and in Oxford. He recently co-authored a report for the Bishops' Conference titled *Evangelisation in England and Wales*.



Clare Ford

Clare's background is in education. Although originally from Liverpool, she has worked as a primary teacher in Hartlepool, in Higher Education training new RE teachers at Maryvale Institute, and was most recently Head of RE at a secondary school in Birmingham. Apart from evangelisation, her other passions are playing football and the bass guitar 'though not necessarily at the same time!

Launch of CASE

"I sense that the moment has come to commit all of the Church's energies to a new evangelisation".

Pope John Paul II Redemptoris Missio 3

Our main priority over the next few months is to make sure that everything is in place for when we are officially launched at Easter.

21st April 2004

Westminster Cathedral Hall,
Keynote Speaker: Cardinal Danneels,
Archbishop of Malines-Brussels

Admission is by invitation, so please contact us if you would like to come.

On the road

WYD Cross,
Palm Sunday, Rome 2003



Between now and our launch, we will be spending much of our time visiting dioceses, meeting communities and individuals, as well as other Church agencies, to discuss with them how best we can serve them as they spread the Good News of God's love in their own unique situations.

We are particularly looking forward to visiting Hexham and Newcastle at the end of January, where, as well as meeting the Bishop, we will take part in a celebration which will see the World Youth Day Cross, now on tour prior to Cologne 2005, being handed over to representatives to begin the Scottish leg of its pilgrimage.

Gearing up for superhighway interface

Until recently, the intricacies of the "superhighway interface" would probably have been gobblede-gook to most of the team. However, since we started in September, we've invested a lot of time and effort into researching and liaising with experts about CASE's and the Catholic Enquiry Office's future internet profile.

In today's electronics led society, having a dedicated website is of paramount importance. It's a crucial way through which we hope to be able to provide you with accessible resources and also engage with enquirers.

Professional web designers are, as we speak, busy creating page templates which we hope will inspire. Please keep this project in your prayers and if you yourself are interested in launching a website of your own, we would be happy to advise.



We will offer ...

A portfolio of possibilities

Stories

Gospel people
Sharing Ideas
I could do that

Training

Workshops
Courses
Trainers

Contacts

Network
Prayer partners
Support

Catholic Enquiry Office

Publications
Internet
Exploration

Resources

Directory
Information
Website

Accompaniment

Sounding Board
Mentoring
Coaching



Our values:

- We are passionate about the gospel and the need for a continually renewed evangelisation in our country.
- We believe in the effectiveness of ordinary people sharing their faith with others. We rely on the 'mustard seed' principle, believing that growth will come in its own time.
- We see evangelisation potential in every aspect of the Church's mission.
- We adapt our approach to the needs of each diocese, parish, school and situation believing that there are many valid ways of evangelising.
- We respect the beliefs and freedom of others, and intend to work ecumenically and in dialogue with other faiths where appropriate.
- We seek to discern and affirm what is open to the gospel in culture, and to challenge what is resistant to it.

Faith and Culture Comment: *Comedy... or a Real Tragedy?*



Thank the Lord that the fashion is changing, but we have been fed of late a whole series of programmes which set up artificial unreal situations and then call them 'reality TV.' At one level this makes me laugh, but then again it makes me want to cry. Modern life is comedy in which reality is stretched and then made to look absurd. Yet this is also a tragedy because such absurdity makes us less than our wonderful potential.

Catholics rejoice in God's creativity and celebrate how wonderfully well made we are as people, and how glorious are our possibilities, our purpose and destiny. It is right to give thanks for human imagination and creativity, for our family relationships and for the good ordering of social life. The grist and the mill of human culture is a location in which God's way of living is made concrete in human lives. The reality of humanity, the truth of our being, is revealed to us in Christ. This good news graces all that is human, including human culture and cultures. Yet we also know to our cost that all that is human may also be corrupted. The fullness of life can only be lived with the fullness of God.

Pope Paul VI raised this issue and his insights have been often quoted by Pope John Paul II, 'The split between the Gospel and culture is without a doubt the drama of our time, just as it was of other times. Therefore every effort must be made to ensure a full evangelization of culture, or more correctly of cultures. They have to be regenerated by an encounter with the Gospel,' (*Evangelii Nuntiandi* 20).

We, in CASE, take this most seriously. We do see the creative grace of God active in his people. We shall affirm the seeds of the Gospel to be found in the cultures of England and Wales. We shall see where and how the Gospel of Christ can be proclaimed in and to our cultures. But we shall also recognize that much in our nations reflects more the 'Civilisation of death' rather than the 'Civilisation of life.' We shall work with partners to trace the footsteps of God in our land, and we shall present a Gospel vision of human living. We want all people to discover the reality of God's love, because only in so discovering will they uncover the reality of who they are.

Ecumenical News

An important part of our remit will be to work alongside similar agencies in other churches. Each newsletter we hope to give you examples of the form this ecumenical dimension might take. We start with a report from the *Building Bridges of Hope* (BBH).

BBH Future Church Conference

One of the stimulating things we do is meet partners from other Christian communities. The Churches Commission on Mission have promoted a process of learning and formation for mission amongst Churches of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland called 'Building Bridges of Hope.' In November, Fr Philip participated in their 'Future Church Conference.' (http://www.geocities.com/ccom_ctbi/bbh8_Future_Church_Conference2003.htm).

The food was good, the input was thought provoking and the company was enjoyable. A lot of good connections were made with both the Catholic and non-Catholic participants.

The theme concerned developing shared leadership. Many takes on the theme were offered and a lot of good experiences and ideas were shared. Fr Philip provided some response drawn from the Catholic ecclesiology of *Communio* and the insights of the report *The Sign We Give*. All of which (thankfully) were warmly received.

Contemporary Spirituality Tour

Share Jesus International is an ecumenical initiative that seeks to spread the good news of Jesus through developing creative new methods of evangelisation. They have a Spirituality Tour planned for the new year which will include a range of seminars at venues across England looking at the practicalities of how Christians can engage with contemporary spirituality. At CASE we're firm believers in the importance of personal testimony, so we're keen to support them as a big part of their approach is sharing local stories of hope~ please contact us or them if you have good news to share about how Good News is being shared in your situation. Dates and further details from www.sharejesusinternational.com

Good news about those who give Good News

Each issue we will feature an evangelisation initiative. To kick things off, here are details about an exciting new initiative for young people..... *Youth CaFE*.

Catholic Evangelisation Services, have been producing Catholic Teaching videos for adults for the past five years, and their CaFE programme Catholic Faith Exploration is very popular in this country and around the world. They are regularly being asked to produce something for teenagers, and after much prayer are planning to develop a series designed for 13 - 15 year olds roughly based on the adult "Knowing God Better" series of talks. It will help young people come to a deeper understanding of their faith and how it can help them in their everyday lives. They are launching a fund-raising campaign in January to enable the project to go ahead.

For more information about their resources please contact: Catholic Evangelisation Services, PO Box 333, St Albans, Herts. AL2 1EL, Tel: 01727 822837.



Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.



During the night of October 31st, 2003, CASE was formally consecrated to Our Lady at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk. Organised by *Reconciliation through Reparation*, around 70 pilgrims spent the night in adoration and prayer. For the CASE Team, this climaxed in the dedication of the new agency to Our Lady at 5.30 in the morning! Please excuse the tired smile in the photo featuring Fr.Keith with Fr Michael Rear, from the Shrine.



Called into God's wonderful light

Just a word to introduce the National Office for Vocation who are working alongside CASE. This is an office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales which was established in September 2002. They have a twofold remit: to promote a culture of vocation and to promote calls to specific vocational states. This is a huge challenge, but one they say they relish! Check them out at: www.ukvocation.org

Email: enquiries@ukvocation.org

Diploma in Evangelisation

Maryvale Institute in Birmingham will be launching a one year fully validated Certificate and Diploma in Evangelisation and Ministry next autumn. There will be a core module (written by Fr Keith) based on *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, and four specialist modules from which students can choose: youth, family, parish and health visiting. For further details, contact Maryvale Institute at: Old Oscott Hill, B'ham B44 9AG; 0121 360 8118; maryvale.institute@dial.pipex.com.

Pause for thought:

Evangelising is the grace and vocation, proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelise."

Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* 14.

Dates for your diary Dec. - March 2004.

Dec 5th -7th Sion Youth Advent Retreat: for young people aged 15-30. Held at S.E.N.T., Brentwood, 01277215011 (cost £37:50 including food and accommodation).

Dec 8th The Community of Sant' Egidio "A Church that is and wants to be for everyone, and especially the Church of the poor" Pope John XXIII Oct 1962 by Austen Ivereigh and Mario Marazitti at St Mary's College, Twickenham, 020 8240 4000 [This talk forms part of the Strawberry Hill Lectures on "Mission and Evangelisation" given by key figures from various Lay Movements]

Dec 13th Francis Clark Lecture: "Newman: Hierarchy and Charism" by Cardinal Avery Dulles, S.J. and Rev. Dr Ian Ker, 10:30am to 4:00pm at Maryvale Institute, Birmingham, 0121 3608118 (Cost £20 including lunch)

Dec 29th-Jan 1st Youth 2000 New Year Prayer Festival. Held at St. Ambrose RC College, Wicker Lane, Hale Barns, WA15 0HE. Contact Youth 2000 National Office: 01937 579 700.

Jan 9th World Youth Day Cross arrives to begin its pilgrimage around England and Wales. More details from www.catholicyouthservices.org.uk

Jan 24th CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration) Training Day in Birmingham. More details from 01727 823803 or info@catholicevangel.org

Jan 27th WYD Cross is handed over from Hexham and Newcastle Diocese to Scotland.

Jan 30th-Feb 1st Men's Weekend, Sion Community. Begins on the Friday evening with supper at 7.00pm and ends after lunch on the Sunday. Held at S.E.N.T., Brentwood, 01277215011 (cost £70 including food and accommodation).

Feb 3rd Fr. François-Xavier Wallays (France) ~ Communauté des Béatitudes

"The New Communities: A Place of Consecration of Marital Love and of the Family" St.Mary's, Twickenham, 020 8240 4000

Feb 7th CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration) Training Day in Middlesbrough. More details from 01727 823803 or info@catholicevangel.org

Feb 9th Professor Javier Prades (Spain) ~ Comuni3n y liberaci3n "The Life of the Church: the Sacramental Method of Evangelisation" St.Mary's Twickenham

Feb 28th CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration) Training Day in Woking. More details from 01727 823803 or info@catholicevangel.org

Mar 3rd Kiko Arguello (Italy) ~ Neocatechumenate "Christian Initiation and the Transmission of Faith from Parents to Children". St.Mary's, Twickenham, 020 8240 4000

Mar 13th CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration) Training Day in Brentwood. More details from 01727 823803 or info@catholicevangel.org

Mar 10th Dr Michael John Marmann (Germany) ~ Schonstatt Movement

"The Meaning of the Organism of Attachments for the Church's Evangelisation" St.Mary's Twickenham, 020 8240 4000

If you would like to have your event included in this section please do contact us.

The deadline for the next issue is 28th February 2004.

Hopefully you have already seen the material we produced for Home Mission Sunday in September. Knowing we are nothing without God, we invite you to join us in praying for evangelisation:

**As the seed grows silently in the earth,
As the yeast rises in the dough,
May Your power, Spirit of God, be at work in us.
Like a city set on a hill,
Like a lamp shining in the darkness.
May we witness together,
Calling our brothers and sisters
To the glory of Your light
And the peace and justice of Your Kingdom.
AMEN.**

Until next time, may the Lord bless you and keep you.

All the Team at CASE.



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