

# HOPE IN THE FUTURE



## EVANGELISATION SUGGESTIONS

**We are called by Jesus to ‘make disciples of all nations’. This can be a challenge and sometimes we don’t know where to start but here are a few suggestions which you can try in your parish to share the Good News of Jesus in your community. The Parish needs ongoing formation and evangelisation too to grow deeper in their faith.**

### NIGHTFEVER

Nightfever is a very gentle way of Evangelisation. The concept is very simple, the church remains open from around 7pm - 10pm, bathed in just candlelight. On the altar is the exposed Blessed Sacrament. Live music is softly played in the background. The atmosphere is one of beauty and of peace. Volunteers are outside with lanterns, in pairs, simply just inviting passers by to come in and light a candle. The response to the invitation varies, but a surprising amount of people come in. Many are struck by the beauty and ask to stay. Some wish to talk, some just remain in silence. Confessions could be offered. See the guide sheet for more information.

**For more information email:**

**[Lorraine.Leonard@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:Lorraine.Leonard@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)**



### PARISH MISSION

A Parish Mission is a wonderful way to allow people from the community to learn about the faith and for Mass goes to grow into a deeper relationship with God.

**For suggestions and contacts for speakers and workshop leader’s email:**

**[John.Griffin@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:John.Griffin@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)**

### COMMUNICATIONS

There is a wealth of resources available online to share the Good News from videos to articles. Why not share these on your parish website, newsletter and social media. The parishes section of the Diocesan website will be regularly updated with some useful resources.

**More information at [www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/parishes](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/parishes)**



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### EVENTS

There are a range of events and conferences to help your parish grow in faith. Keep an eye for these online and advertise them on your parish notices.

**More information at [www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/whats-on/](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/whats-on/)**

## ALPHA

Alpha is a parish tool for evangelisation based on hospitality, sharing and open conversation. The videos and resources are available online for free. It gives a complete overview of the Christian faith and is ideal for someone who knows nothing about the faith and wants answers to the 'big questions'. Why not try Alpha in your parish, inviting people from the community who never go to Church to a meal and a talk.



**More information at [www.alpha.org/catholic](http://www.alpha.org/catholic)**

## PRAYER & STUDY GROUP

There are a number of small groups where people can encounter God and grow in their faith. Examples include – Rosary group, bible study, men's/women's fellowship, praise and worship groups, catechism study, taize group and prayer groups.

## LEAFLET YOUR PARISH

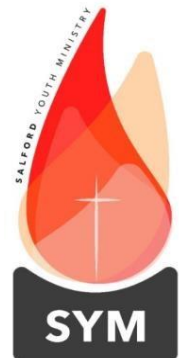
A Parish isn't just made up of the people who attend your Church it is all the people who live in a particular area/boundary. The potential and audience is huge and we should be concerned about the salvation of every soul in the area. One way to let them know about Jesus is an invitation to your Church through an information flyer detailing Mass, confession and adoration times along with any weekday groups which they can join. Maybe include a short introduction and invitation from the Parish Priest. Online printing is very reasonable and different teams over a period of time could post these to every house in the parish, in particular new housing estates.

## YOUTH GROUP

Organise a group for the young people in your parish or direct them to an established group or event in your area. Youth groups can meet for some games, food and times of prayers.

**For more information email:**

**[Lorraine.Leonard@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:Lorraine.Leonard@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)**



## FAITH IN ACTION

Jesus said 'Whatever you did for the least of my people you did it for me' (Matthew 25:40). Put your faith into action by starting a parish food bank, soup kitchen, SVP group or fundraise for Charity. Many people grow in faith through service and those who we serve see the face in Jesus in those serving them.

**For ideas and resources visit: [www.caritassalford.org.uk](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk)**

## 'BRING A FRIEND' SUNDAY

Challenge everyone in your parish to bring at least one new person to one Sunday Mass from their family or friends. Make sure the Welcome, Engagement and Outreach is the best it can be in particular on this day so they will want to return.

## CARESHARE

Offer to take a neighbour/elderly person who may not have a car to Church each week. Maybe have a sign up sheet at the back of Church for people to ask for lifts and offer lifts from certain areas of the Parish.

## SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

Pass on the Sunday Mass sheet, the newsletter, a bible, a prayer card, a CTS information book or a pair of rosary beads to someone in your family who has fallen away from the faith.

## PRAY BEFORE YOU DO

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) we read: “The Gospel according to St Luke emphasises the action of the Holy Spirit and the meaning of prayer in Christ’s ministry. Jesus prays before the decisive moments of his mission: before his Father’s witness to him during his Baptism and Transfiguration, and before his own fulfilment of the Father’s plan of love by his Passion. He also prays before the decisive moments involving the mission of his apostles: at his election and call of the Twelve, before Peter’s confession of him as ‘the Christ of God,’ and again that the faith of the chief of the Apostles may not fail when tempted. Jesus’ prayer before the events of salvation that the Father has asked him to fulfill is a humble and trusting commitment of his human will to the loving will of the Father.” (CCC 2600) Pray for your loved ones that they would open their hearts to the Good News.



## BE A PEOPLE OF JOY

Communicate the joy of being Christian. Try not to ‘look like someone who’s just returned from a funeral’ (Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium). Seek to encourage parishioners to be the first to celebrate, to congratulate, to thank, to smile, in so doing provoke questions, in those who have no church experience, through their own witness of a Christian life.

## CREATE SPACES FOR ENCOUNTER

Work out to whom you would like to reach out and create spaces for encounter. Who are the people in your neighbourhood who have no experience of Church? Seek to create environments outside the safety-net of church buildings where you can foster an experience of Christ. Consider places and events that are stepping stones on the path of conversion.

## BE PROACTIVE AND REACH OUT

This doesn’t mean going out preaching or forcing views on others it is about walking along side others. The first steps are to PRAY, CONNECT and to LISTEN. Start a conversation with someone you don’t know in the line at the supermarket for example. Find out about them, their understanding of the faith, encourage them to ask questions and then try to respond by telling them about the love and mercy of God. If they want to know more maybe stay in touch or try to link them to their local Church and continue to pray for them.

## PILGRIMAGES

Going on pilgrimage is a great way to grow in faith. There are a number of Diocesan pilgrimages which take place each year. For more information please contact:

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