



September 2022

Dear Father,

*Evangelii Gaudium – Celebrating the Beauty of our Faith*

In the past, the third Sunday in September has been known as 'Home Mission Sunday'. This has now changed to *Evangelii Gaudium* Sunday to better reflect the Holy Father's inspiration, and the work of the Mission Department at the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Thank you for all that you do to encourage a living encounter with the Lord for the parishioners, and enabling them to be *missionary disciples* 'going out' to those who do not yet know the beauty of this encounter. We are all aware of how challenging it has been for parishes over the last couple of years due to the Covid 19 pandemic and that it is only now that people are slowly returning to Holy Mass. We are all encouraged to know that the Synodal Synthesis has shown us that people have a love for their priests and their parishes, and that they want to know Jesus and to make Him known to others.

You will appreciate that the second collection on this Sunday is important in financing the work of the Mission Department, and in enabling the local Church to make the Joy of the Gospel a reality in England and Wales. Over the past two years our emphasis has moved towards supporting diocesan co-ordinators in their work, as well as carrying out the work directed by the Holy See.

Thus, *Evangelii Gaudium* Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate the beauty of our faith, our liturgy and Church buildings, our dialogue with others in faith, and our proclamation of Christ's saving good news. The work of the Mission Directorate concentrates on:

- Firstly, evangelisation and catechesis. Guided by the Bishops, this work supports the dioceses in bringing the beauty of the Catholic Faith to the people in their parishes, and to those who do not yet know the Lord.
- Secondly, the beauty of the Liturgy and our church buildings. The Mission directorate ensures that liturgical directives from Rome are acted upon and liturgical texts are translated into English. Historical building experts work in the Directorate and support dioceses to fund and maintain beautiful places for prayer.
- Thirdly, sharing the beauty of the Catholic faith with Christian and non-Christians through outreach and dialogue. This work supports the bishops at the national level and helps create greater understanding. The directorate also reaches out to those with no faith, but who seek the Lord "with a sincere heart".

You might like to watch the interview with Fr Jan Nowotnik, Director of Mission, in which he gives more detail about the work that is carried out in the Directorate <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/what-is-evangelii-gaudium-sunday/>

Please find attached an insert for your newsletter which explains *Evangelii Gaudium* Sunday and the work that is supported by the second collection. There are also bidding prayers for you to use during the Eucharist on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Thank you again for your cooperation in this vital part of the Church's life.

Yours in Christ

+ Mark O'Toole .

Archbishop Mark O'Toole  
Chair of Department of Evangelisation and Discipleship