

Portsmouth Diocese

Keeping in Touch with You

KIT

Newsletter

Issue 2 – Spring 2007

“Come Home for Christmas” As we go to press there is growing excitement for

A lay ministry When parishes are asked to name their greatest concern, non church-going Catholics usually top the list, together with youth, according to a CASE worker. Two out of every three Catholics no longer go to church, often leaving lay people as their only link. *‘Lay people, whose particular vocation places them in the midst of the world, must for this very reason exercise a very special form of evangelisation’* [‘*Evangelii Nuntiandi*’ 70]. KIT trains us to do just this - to reach out to, welcome and keep in touch with all our parishioners, whether or not they go to church; and it offers a way back to the Sacraments for those who wish.

FAQS. Is combining RCIA and KIT teams a good idea?

A. Rite of Christian initiation for adults- RCIA - is different to KIT. KIT is for Catholics. RCIA is for non Catholics and non Christians who are exploring the Catholic Church for the first time. Catholics come to KIT meetings seeking healing and strength, bringing with them the ups and downs, blessings and challenges of being Catholic in today's world, and often including their hurts, anger or guilt - a very different agenda. The two do not mix.

A new face: A warm welcome to Canon Gerard Hetherington who has joined the diocesan KIT group. We look forward to benefiting from his experience..

An idea for making contact! Does your local Council of Churches send Christmas/Easter cards with times of services each year? One Council, not in Portsmouth Diocese, inserted a simple census form in their Easter cards asking which religion people might belong to and would they welcome contact? 900 replies were received, including 300 Catholics not on the parish list.

News around and beyond the Diocese

- ❖ KIT workshop: at Exeter University. 'Living God's word - Loud & Clear' Conference 2007: July 16-19th 2007. All are welcome to attend this conference – details from Park Place [see over]
- ❖ KIT workshop: at ICNE (International Congress for New Evangelisation) Next meeting is in Budapest from September 16-22nd 2007. Visit www.caseresources.org.uk for further details
- ❖ St. Michael & All Angels, Leigh Park (Havant) KIT group now numbers 14. Carole Maddock writes: 'We have recruited ten additional volunteers, through posters and talks after Mass, but most importantly by personally asking parishioners to help'. They are sending sensitively composed letters to 'missed' parishioners, requesting the opportunity for one of the team or their priest to visit.
- ❖ Windsor: KIT group, now with 2 returned members, have begun new group meetings, are targeting 'occasional' Mass-goers and hope to start training for home visits later this year.
- ❖ Leeds diocese:
- ❖ St. Mary's, Leyland held a KIT evening last April, and have since been training a team to go out home visits. N.B. ALL THESE GROUPS ASK US FOR OUR PRAYERS. Copies of the KIT prayer are available from Park Place.
- ❖ Enquiries about KIT have come in from Rutland, Rugby, Basingstoke, Bournemouth, Caerphilly, County Meath, California and Sydney, Australia.
- ❖ Send us your news, questions, comments for inclusion in the next edition of this KIT newsletter