

Portsmouth Diocese

Keeping in Touch with You

KIT

Newsletter

Issue 4 – Spring 2008

PRAYER SPONSORS We are building a national list of prayer sponsors to say the KIT prayer daily for the success of our movement. If you would like to join, please give your name and address (or email address) to Valerie on KIT@catholicwindsor.org or write to Park Place (address overleaf).

'The fields are ripe for harvesting'. Research by the evangelical group, Tear Fund, found that up to 3 million people would come back to church, given the right invitation. A report to the Australian bishops' conference last year listed 7 reasons why Catholics stop coming to Mass: the failure of the Church to connect with people's lives; misuse of power and authority in the Church; lack of intellectual stimulation; problems with the parish priest; structural factors; concerns relating to parish as a community; a sense of being excluded by the Church's rules.

BUT the report also finds that many people would consider coming back to Mass, some expect to; many still feel they are Catholic, **AND**, that we can do something about many of the problems identified in the report. **What a challenge for us!**

Please treat this as a priority! KIT has now presented workshops widely. The programme is a good one; it works, and addresses a key concern of most parishes. But parishes are finding it very hard to find and form their KIT team. Why? If this is your experience, please return the enclosed questionnaire. We need to find a way forward and you hold the key.

ADVICE! Don't advertise for members of your KIT team in newsletters or talks at Sunday Masses – it never works! Select and invite team members as suggested on pp 10-11 of Manual, train, then involve the parish.

News around and beyond the Diocese

- ❖ **Caerphilly:** adopted KIT as their deanery Lenten programme and ran a workshop for 27 people from 4 parishes
- ❖ **Christchurch, Bournemouth:** are exploring ways to adapt KIT for parents of children involved in Sacramental preparation.
- ❖ **Boarhunt (nr Fareham):** held a Day of Prayer for non church-going Catholics on February 23rd, and could organise another in the Autumn for KIT members. Interested? Send names to Sheila Keefe.
- ❖ **Leeds diocese:** held a KIT workshop on October 6th with 21 people from 5 parishes; no progress as yet; see questionnaire
- ❖ **Come Home for Christmas:** We only have news of 2 parishes in our diocese but, in those parishes, The CASE campaign has attracted the interest of at least 8 returners, now part of their KIT groups. Did your parish take part? If so, please send us your news to inspire others to take up this initiative
- ❖ **Hailsham & Polegate (A&B diocese)** KIT group visited over 100 homes and know of at least 4 people who have returned to Mass.
- ❖ **Kate Harris** is with us again to our delight! This is because Fran has had to retire for health reasons. Fran has been a continuing inspiration to us since she joined KIT, and we look forward to keeping in touch and continuing to learn from her wide experience.
- ❖ **ALL THESE GROUPS ASK US FOR OUR PRAYERS.** Copies of the KIT prayer and the KIT commissioning service are available from Park Place.
- ❖ Send us your news, questions, comments for inclusion in the next edition of this KIT newsletter

This questionnaire is based on one sent out by Leeds Diocese, but which addresses issues faced by us all.

Please fill in and return to Sheila Keefe at
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Winchester Road, Wickham, HANTS, PO17 5HA. Tel: 01329 835583

enquiries@kit4catholics.org.uk

(Name and contact details are optional)

NAME:

CONTACT DETAILS

1. Have you got 'KIT' established in your parish? Yes/no
2. If yes, how have you found the process and what progress have you made so far?
3. If no, what difficulties have you encountered?
4. In your opinion, how could the training and the programme be improved?