

# EVANGELISATION

Sources of Wisdom and Authority

“Go out and make disciples of all nations...”  
Matthew’s Gospel  
Evangelii Gaudium - The Joy of the Gospels

## Why does the Church engage in evangelisation?

Catholics believe that Jesus brought salvation through his death and resurrection. In doing this, he atoned (made up for) the sins of humankind.

However, **to be ‘saved’, individuals have to have faith in Jesus and believe in his atoning death and his resurrection.**

The Catholic Church believes it has a **duty and an obligation to spread this faith** as Jesus told his disciples to do, so that as many people as possible can be saved.

Helping the poor and those in need is an important part of evangelisation as it puts Jesus’ teachings about love and compassion into practice.

## How does the Church engage in evangelisation?



## Jesus gives his Apostles their mission

At the end of Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus gives his Apostles their mission. **Mission means the calling to go out into the world and spread the Christian faith.** This mission is also the mission of the Church.

The mission of the Church is to go out into the world:

- To go out to the ends of the Earth
- To baptise people into the church
- To teach the teachings of Christ



The Church began in Jerusalem and within a few decades of the resurrection of Jesus it had spread through the Roman Empire. Soon it reached the centre of the empire, Rome itself.

**St Paul**, whose letters make up a large part of the section of the New Testament called the Epistles, was one of the first missionaries. From Rome, missionaries went to many parts of the empire. Many were persecuted or even killed for their beliefs.

**In the last 500 years, the Church has become truly worldwide.** Missionaries have gone from Europe and started churches in Africa, South America and in Asia.

**Going out to preach the gospel is known as evangelisation.**

In recent years the focus of evangelisation changed and the Church is no longer evangelising in places that have not heard the gospel before. Instead they are focusing on Western countries, like European countries, which are becoming increasingly secular – this means an increasing number of people are saying they don’t have a religious faith.

## Knowledge Check

1. Define the key concept: *evangelism*
2. Define the key term: *mission*
3. What is the mission of the Church?
4. Where did the Church begin?
5. Which author of the Epistles was one of the first missionaries?
6. Why does the Church engage in evangelisation?
7. How has the Church’s focus altered in recent years?
8. How does the Church engage in evangelisation?

## Choose a Task

1. Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
2. Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
3. Create a poster/leaflet

### CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

## Exam Question

c) Explain the importance of evangelisation for Catholics [8]

### Locally

- This basic message of God’s love is passed on by the Church, most importantly, through the whole life of the parish (celebration of the Mass, sacraments, Bible study, charitable work, social events, parish retreats, outreach events, etc.). Pope Francis talks a lot about the parish and says that the parish “possesses great flexibility”, which means there are many ways they can spread God’s message.
- Also the parish can engage with other organisations (other Christian churches, other faith communities, social workers and agencies) to work for justice, social cohesion and the common good, which is also part of evangelisation, because it is living out the Gospel message of love.
- There may be local diocesan newspapers that the church uses to help people learn more about their faith, such as the Catholic Pictorial in Liverpool or the Westminster Record in Westminster.

### Nationally

- On a national level, the Bishops’ Conference of a country helps Catholics to know and share the Gospel
- In 2015, a national evangelisation initiative called ‘Proclaim’ 15: building missionary parishes’ was introduced by the Church by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, leader of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. It was designed to acknowledge all the good work that is already being done by the Catholic community, and to provide resources to develop new expressions of Catholic missionary outreach.
- There may be national Catholic publications used by the Church to help evangelise such as *The Universe*, *The Tablets*, *The Catholic Herald* and *The Catholic Times*.

### Globally

- The Catholic Church is a global presence. The Vatican has a specific department that focuses on evangelisation called *the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples*. The global reach of the Church means it can share the message of the Gospel with the whole world, for example, through the global figure of the Pope (e.g. World Youth Days) and through its own Vatican Radio and TV station.
- - The Church lives out the Gospel in the work of international charities like CAFOD
- -specific organisations exist, such as *Missio*, which is concerned with overseas evangelisation.



The Parish

Other faith communities

Social Workers



Diocesan Newspapers



Proclaim 15

The Universe,

The Tablets, The Catholic Herald, The

Catholic Times



Bishop’s Conference

The Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples

**CAFOD**  
Just one world

CAFOD  
Missio