

Key Concepts

Evangelisation

Literally means spreading the “Good News” (Gospel). The sharing of the Gospel and life of Jesus with others.

Evangelii Gaudium

The Joy of the Gospel by Pope Francis.

Evangelisation

Catholic teaching on the need to evangelise

Catholic attitudes to mission and evangelisation locally, nationally and globally

Evangelising in Britain; benefits and challenges

Key Sources of Authority

“Go and make disciples of all nations...baptise them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” (Mt 28: 19)

“The primary reason for evangelizing is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of him. What kind of love would not feel the need... to make him known? ...There is nothing more precious which we can give to others.” Pope Francis Evangelii Gaudium

“If the whole Church takes up this missionary impulse...to whom should she go first? ...to the poor and the sick, those who are usually despised and overlooked, ‘those who cannot repay you.’” (Lk 14:14)

Key Beliefs

Why is evangelisation important according to Catholics?

Catholics are called to spread the word. The Catechism and the Pope encourage evangelisation. It is a Catholic’s duty to share the Good News with others; they are saved so they should want others to be saved too. Britain is a multi- faith society so they should tell others about our faith. The Church recognises this is a difficult time, especially with many ‘lapsed’ Christians, so this new teaching is called the ‘New Evangelisation’. Evangelisation also involves reaching out to those who are spiritually or physically poor.

How can Catholics evangelise?

Locally - The Good News is passed on through the Church- Mass, Sacraments, Parish events, Brownies, Scouts etc. Diocesan newspapers spread the word as well as Catholic schools, Churches together and Alpha courses.

Nationally - Catholic publications; the Bishop’s conference helps Catholics to share the Gospel; Communities e.g. Sion; Flame- youth events.

Globally - World Youth Day; Vatican department for evangelisation; Charities e.g. CAFOD; Missio to raise funds to evangelise overseas.

What are the main teachings of Evangelii Gaudium?

Everyone needs to proclaim the Good News. If we love God, we must also love our neighbour and want to share the Good News with them (in word and in action). We need to work towards a society for all. The Holy Spirit can help give us strength. Evangelise, don’t proselytise- don’t force belief. Share the joy of the Gospel.

The challenge of evangelism

Can someone be respectful of people with different faiths and beliefs and yet try to evangelise? Some argue that we should not evangelise because people have their own faith and it would be wrong to try to convert them. It is hard enough to focus on your own faith without trying to convert others. Catholics may face abuse or hostility in an ever increasing secular society. People may not have the time or confidence to evangelise. It is arrogant to suggest that your faith has all the answers. Your own faith could be weakened by focusing on the faith of others.

Exam Practice

Explain the possible benefits and challenges of Catholic mission and evangelisation in Great Britain today. (8)

Explain Catholic teaching about the importance of evangelisation. (8)

Key Connections

How do Catholic beliefs about the relationship between faith and salvation influence attitudes to mission and evangelisation?

What is the link between the duty to evangelise and Catholic Social teaching? How did Jesus evangelise in both word and action?