



ROMAN CATHOLIC

DIOCESE OF CLOYNE

Adult Faith Formation in Parish Today

A Day of Reflection and Information on the possibilities for Adult Faith
Formation at Parish Level

Goal: To introduce manageable parish-based formation programmes to help establish a
formation "culture" at parish level

Vienna Woods, Saturday 9th April 2016

Schedule

**11:00-11:30
Formation?**

Input 1:

Why Adult Faith

**11:30- 13:00
Session (From**

Input 2:

Sample Adult Faith

Word on Fire's *Catholicism* Series)

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 15:15

Input 3:

Can My Parish Do This?

Open Forum

**PRAYER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE
EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY**

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly
Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.
Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from
being enslaved by money;
the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness
only in created things;
made Peter weep after his betrayal,
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.
Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the
words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:
“If you knew the gift of God!”



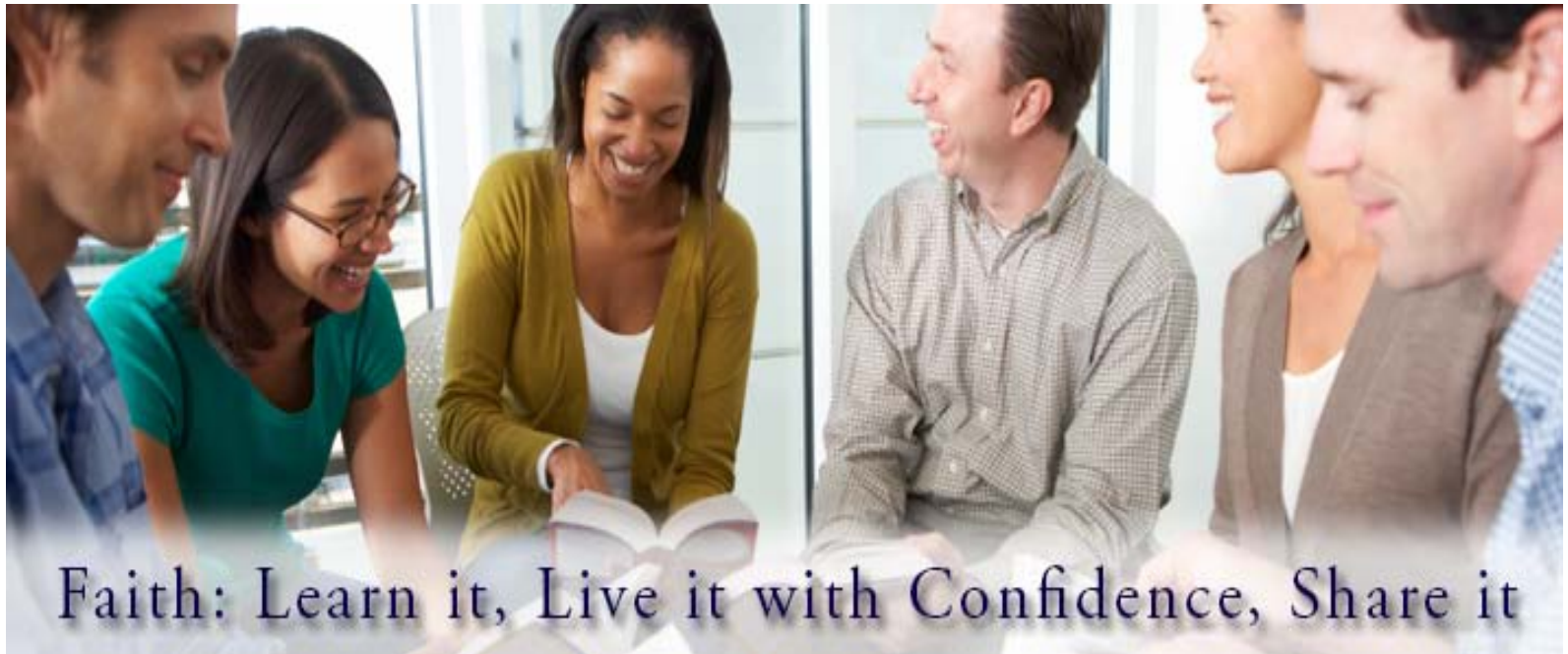
You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:
let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness
in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error:
let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by
God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the
poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of
Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever
and ever.

Amen.



Faith: Learn it, Live it with Confidence, Share it

ADULT  **FAITH
FORMATION**

InPut 1: WHY Adult Faith Formation?

Connecting with Dr Edward Sri's Day (23rd

February 2016)

- Missionary Disciples
- Culture of Encounter
- The 7-minute Homily
- The New Evangelisation



on

Missionary Disciples

“Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are ‘disciples’ and ‘missionaries,’ but rather that we are always ‘missionary disciples’” (Pope Francis, EG, 120)

“All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients” (EG, 120).

“If we are not convinced, let us look at those first disciples, who, immediately after encountering the gaze of Jesus, went forth to proclaim him joyfully: ‘We have found the Messiah!’ (Jn 1:41). The Samaritan woman became a missionary immediately after speaking with Jesus and many Samaritans come to believe in him ‘because of the woman’s testimony’ (Jn 4:39). So too, Saint Paul, after his encounter with Jesus Christ, ‘immediately proclaimed Jesus’ (Acts 9:20; cf. 22:6-21). So what are we waiting for?” (EG, 120)

Taking it forward . . . Am we able, ready, competent?

“Of course, all of us are called to mature in our work as evangelizers. We want to have better training, a deepening love and a clearer witness to the Gospel. In this sense, we ought to let others be constantly evangelizing us. But this does not mean that we should postpone the evangelizing mission; rather, each of us should find ways to communicate Jesus wherever we are” (EG, 121).

In your heart you know that it is not the same to live without him; what you have come to realize, what has helped you to live and given you hope, is what you also need to communicate to others. Our falling short of perfection should be no excuse; on the contrary, mission is a constant stimulus not to remain mired in mediocrity but to continue growing.” (EG, 121).



Adult Faith Formation Testimonies from Margaret and Ruth

7-minute Homily

- Dr Sri and “Irish” Time – The 4-minute homily?
- Not enough of an encounter – we need more, we need it more often
- When an aggressive surge in secularism washes away the Christian fabric of society and the natural law foundations of the common good, believers not formed in faith “drown” and are “swept away” by the ensuing ideological and sociopolitical floodwaters.
- The New Evangelisation – Peter’s Remedy . . .

The New Evangelisation

In a section entitled *The Hour Has Come for a Re-evangelisation* (34) from his Apostolic Exhortation, *Christifideles laici* (1988), Pope St John Paul II stated:

“Whole countries and nations where religion and the Christian life were formerly flourishing and capable of fostering a viable and working community of faith, are now put to a hard test, and in some cases, are even undergoing a radical transformation, as a result of a constant spreading of an indifference to religion, of secularism and atheism. This particularly concerns countries and nations of the so-called First World, in which economic well-being and consumerism, even if coexistent with a tragic situation of poverty and misery, inspires and sustains a life lived ‘as if God did not exist’.”

“LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH COMMITMENT TO A NEW EVANGELISATION, ONE THAT IS NEW IN ITS ARDOUR, NEW IN ITS METHODS, AND NEW IN ITS MEANS OF EXPRESSION.”

Pope John Paul II to Bishops of Latin America, Haiti, 1983

A Culture of Formation

Setting aside our Faith Formation at Confirmation is no longer tenable, sufficient or satisfactory – Irish society is too challenging for a Catholic to navigate on his or her own.

The modern-day phenomenon is that Adults are now returning to questions of faith because their external factors trigger them within us

God's grace is very alive in the search for meaning taking place in us as Adults (and in Irish society)

A Culture of Formation (in Faith) is the antithesis of the dictatorship of relativism