

What is this 'Good News' and who decided the Church should spread it?

The Good News

'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.'

[Luke 2:10-11]

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." [John 3:16-17]

"And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. [1 John 4:14]

"God our Saviour desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all." [1 Timothy 2:3b-6a]

The Church's Mission

'Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ... And behold, I am with you to always, to the end of the age.' [Matthew 28:19-20]

'I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church. and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.' [Matthew 16:18]

The missionary mandate. 'Having been divinely sent to the nations that she might be "the universal sacrament of salvation", the Church, in obedience to the command of her founder and because it is demanded by her own essential universality, strives to preach the Gospel to all men'.(Mark 16:15) [Catechism of the Catholic Church, 849]

Why does this *matter to me*?

The People of God

"Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." [Colossians, 3:12-15a,17]

'Jesus Christ is the one whom the Father anointed with Holy Spirit and established as priest, prophet and king. The whole People of God participates in these three offices of Christ and bears the responsibilities for mission and service that flow from them.' [Catechism of the Catholic Church, 783]

Our Baptismal Calling

"The call to be missionary disciples is a consequence of our Baptism. It is a responsibility that is placed on every Christian." [The Word Who is Life, 3.3.ii]

'They are called, each according to his or her particular condition, to exercise the mission which God entrusted to the Church to fulfil in the world.' [Code of Canon Law, c.204]

"All the baptised, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelisation, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelisation to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. The new evangelisation calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptised." [Evangelii Gaudium ("The Joy of the Gospel"), n.120 - Pope Francis, 2013]

With knowledge comes responsibility

"As the Church we must witness to the good news in an ever-changing world and each and every living stone in the spiritual house that is the Church must take their place in this mission." *[Bishop Richard, Pastoral Letter on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, 10th January, 2025]*

"Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to who they entrusted much, they will demand the more." *[Luke 12:48]*

"He is not saved, however, who, though part of the body of the Church, does not persevere in charity. He remains indeed in the bosom of the Church, but, as it were, only in a "bodily" manner and not "in his heart." All the Church's children should remember that their exalted status is to be attributed not to their own merits but to the special grace of Christ. If they fail moreover to respond to that grace in thought, word and deed, not only shall they not be saved but they will be the more severely judged. (cf. Luke 12:48) *[Lumen Gentium ("The Light of the Nations"), n. 14 – Vatican II]*

What does this mean for me?

A Christian Life

"Evangelisation, dear brothers and sisters, is not our attempt to conquer the world, but the infinite grace that radiates from lives transformed by the Kingdom of God." *[Pope Leo XIV, Pentecost 2025]*

"The first means of evangelization is the witness of an authentically Christian life." *[Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Nuntiandi ("In Proclaiming the Gospel"), n.41 - Pope Paul VI, 1975]*

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." *[Colossians 3:16-17]*

"Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses." *[Pope Paul VI, Address to the Members of the Council of the Laity, 2 October 1974]*

Each according to our gifts

"There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." *[1 Corinthians 12:4-7]*

"Each one of you has received a special grace, so, like good stewards responsible for all these different graces of God, put yourself at the service of others. If you are a speaker, speak in words which seem to come from God; if you are a helper, help as though every action was done on God's orders; so that in everything God may receive the glory, through Jesus Christ, since to him alone belong all glory and power for ever and ever. Amen." *[1 Peter 4:10-11]*

"I am with you always"

"Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever.'" *[John 14:15-16]*

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth." *[John 15:26]*

"Jesus ordered the disciples not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, 'You heard from me; for John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'" *[Acts 1:4-5]*

"When the day of Pentecost arrived, the Apostles were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit." *[Acts 2:1-2,4b]*

"O God, who have brought us to rebirth by the word of life,
pour out upon us your Holy Spirit,
that, walking in oneness of faith, we may attain in our flesh
the incorruptible glory of the resurrection."

[Roman Missal, Prayer after the Third Reading for the Vigil of the Mystery of Pentecost]