

UNITY

*Newsletter of the Portsmouth Catholic Diocesan Christian Unity
Committee*

Summer 2010

Unity in Action – Christians Reaching Out To Society

A day forum has been organized with displays and short presentations of local and national practical ecumenical initiatives in the diocese. All are invited to hear about what is and has been happening by Christians working together from caring groups to addressing the needs of local communities, from street pastors to local mission initiatives. The venue and date are:

**St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX
Saturday 23rd October 2010 10.30 – 15.00**

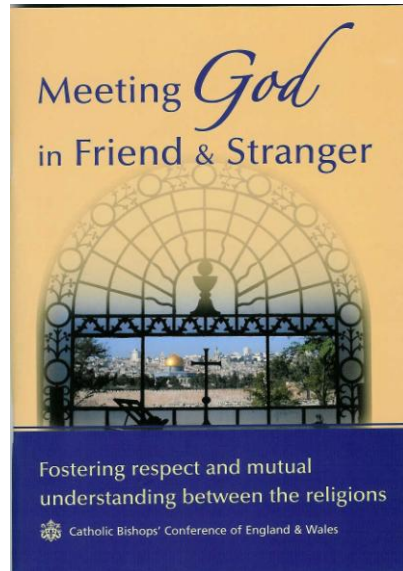
This event is open to all who are interested and it is hoped that as many people as possible will attend learning and sharing best practice from examples of Christians from different traditions working together within our diocese. There is no cost, but booking is essential by 15th October for organisational purposes. Please contact Mairead Boyce by phone, 01367 242494, or e:mail, boycemairead@aol.com . Please bring a packed lunch, coffee and tea provided.

Church of England General Synod

The July meeting of the General Synod of the Church of England agreed to allow women to be ordained bishops. This is a logical progression from the 1992 decision to allow women to become priests. Although such decisions have created an obstacle to corporate reunion with the Catholic Church, experience over the last fifteen years or so has shown that Catholic communities can and do work closely together with Anglican communities pastored by female clergy. There is no reason why the latest decision of the General Synod should change such close co-operation. How full communion is to be achieved is difficult to discern at present, but being open to and trusting the Holy Spirit will lead us in a way to achieve Christ's will for unity currently unimaginable.

New Publication

Meeting God in Friend & Stranger is a teaching document of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales dealing with inter-religious dialogue. Although the document is concerned with dialogue with other religions it recommends that this dialogue should be undertaken ecumenically, that is, with our fellow Christians. Such an arrangement is more effective and the document quotes Pope Benedict as saying that one important reason for Christian unity is the impetus it can give to inter-religious dialogue, so that we can go out to other religions as one in Christ.



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Churches Together in Berkshire

Francis Connolly, Catholic Denominational County Ecumenical Officer for Berkshire, reports a number of changes taking place in Churches Together in Berkshire (CTB). With the appointment of Stephen Cottrell, Suffragan Bishop of Reading, as Bishop of Chelmsford Nick Thompson of Wokingham has been elected to succeed Bishop Stephen as Chairman of CTB. Honor Alleyne, County Ecumenical Officer, will resign from her position at the end of the year. As well as recruiting a new County Ecumenical Officer CTB is also looking to fill the positions of Vice-Chairman and Treasurer.

Jargon Buster

PCPCU – Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, the body in the Vatican which is concerned with Christian Unity and Catholic-Jewish relations. It has a new president, Archbishop Kurt Koch, who succeeds Cardinal Walter Kasper. The Council maintains contact with other Christian traditions and oversees the bilateral dialogues which the Catholic Church is involved in as well as relations with the World Council of Churches. It is also involved in the arrangements for high level meetings between the Pope and other Christian leaders which occur on a not infrequent basis.

Newsletter published by Portsmouth Catholic Diocesan Christian Unity Committee. All communications to be sent to chair@christianunity.org.uk.