

Bronagh Power's Presentation on LANDINGS – our cluster initiative to support those 'Resting' Catholics who wish to 'return home' –

(made at last Sunday's Masses)

Do you know anyone who would like to reconnect with the Church? Anyone who was raised a Catholic but for some reason has drifted away?

We recognise that it may not be easy to find a way back and we'd like to help with this process. Landings is a lay led series of meetings for those wishing to reconnect with their Catholic faith.

“Welcomers” give “returners” a chance to get to know the Catholic church of today. It's called *Landings* - as in “safe landings” after a time “out at sea” or “up in the air” - and it is for people who want to return to the faith community after some time away, either spiritually or physically.

Through a series of discussions and sharing of personal experiences we discover how God has been present in our lives through the good as well as the difficult times. It's a space where all will be welcomed and respected, where confidentiality is guaranteed and where hopefully each participant will leave feeling affirmed not just within Landings but also in the Church.

The 8 week programme offers a safe place to tell one's story, discern a place in the Church, and find a way home. We offer support and friendship within a small, friendly group setting. We need your help to reach out to Catholics who have been away from the Church or who struggle in their relationship with God and the Church.

We are starting the programme this Tuesday 12 November 7.30- 9.00pm in the St John's and Mary Magdalene's Parish House. It will run for 6 weeks up to 17 December and then for 2 weeks in the New Year.

We are promoting the programme in a number of ways designed to reach different audiences.

We have :

- small cards with our contact details – an email address and a phone number- which could fit easily in a wallet or purse for distribution.
- pew cards with a space at the back for someone to enter their details and we have a box at the back of the Church for anyone to post back.

Please feel free to take away a few of these and spread the word. We will ensure that anyone making contact will get a prompt response.

Finally, thanks to our Deacon, Eddie we are able to reach a wider geographical audience via Facebook. He has designed a very fast and easy form for anyone to get in touch to enquire more. This is available via our website and if this seems an easier way to let people know about the programme, please feel free to send the link.

As a team (of which we are ten across the parishes of St John's, St Mary Magdalene's and St Theresa's), we're excited about starting our journey and with your help and support, not least through prayer, we can welcome and support those wishing to reconnect with our faith communities. Thank you for your time.