



Agency for Evangelisation  
and Catechesis  
ARCHDIOCESE of SOUTHWARK

# THE IMPORTANCE OF HOSPITALITY

IN  
CATECHESIS, EVANGELISATION & FORMATION

12 November 2022



# OVERVIEW

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A definition

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Synod responses on hospitality

The economy of radical hospitality

10 tips for parish hospitality

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Listen

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Be the change

## PULSE CHECK

1. What does **hospitality** mean to you?
2. What does hospitality look like at **your** parish activities?
3. What could be a step forward in hospitality at your parish?

/hɒspɪ'tælɪti/

*Noun*

**HOSPITALITY**

“the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers”

Oxford Dictionary Online



HOLY FAMILY

Sanderstead, Croydon Deanery

**Loretto HOME is a place of RADICAL HOSPITALITY** where people feel welcome, loved and cared for as we seek the face of God and encounter Him personally, we invite others in to experience the joy and goodness of God. We want people to experience God's love in the love we share.

*"If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing"  
(Philippians 2:1-2).*



# New here?

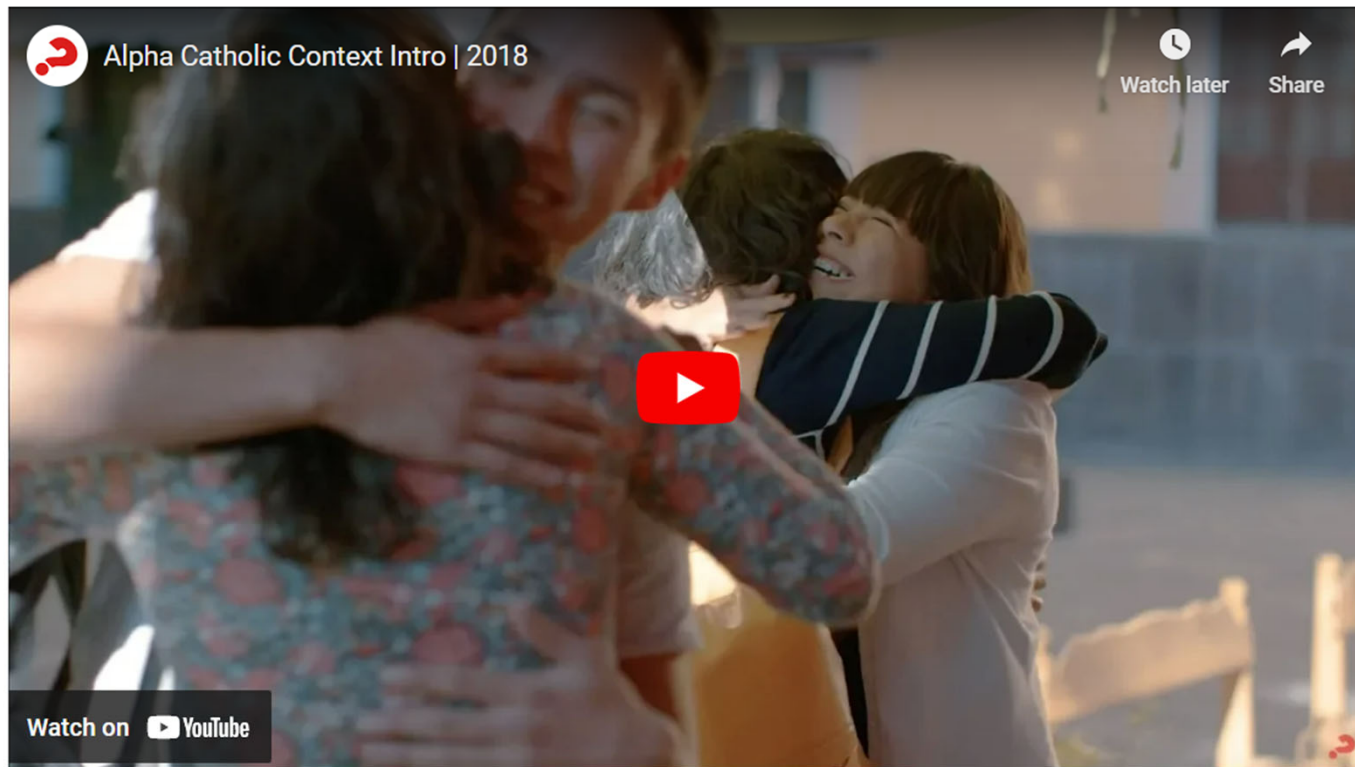
At St Elizabeth's we try to be a community where people are known and cared for, grow in faith together, and can use their gifts to make our world a better place. Whether you're just curious about our Catholic faith or totally committed, we would love you to join us, and look forward to meeting you in person.

Introduce yourself



St Elizabeth of Portugal, Richmond  
[www.catholicrichmond.org](http://www.catholicrichmond.org)

Many Catholic parishes have seen Alpha have a transformative effect on their community, by both welcoming people who have never heard the gospel message before and reawakening the faith in those who have.



[www.alpha.org.uk/catholic-context](http://www.alpha.org.uk/catholic-context)



# SCRIPTURE TELLS US

## Hebrews 13:2

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares”.

## 1 Peter 4:9

“Show hospitality to one another without grumbling”.

## Romans 12:13

“Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality”.

# SYNODAL RESPONSES SOUTHWARK

74. At the parish level, Christian hospitality was considered a 'priority' (**P131**), a 'consistent emphasis' on welcome was needed (**I15**) as 'welcome and smiles makes for a sense of family' (**P105**).

A small but significant number of parishes acknowledged that an emphasis on welcome, without a related focus on invitation, can lead the parish to be more inward than outward looking (**P4, P8**).

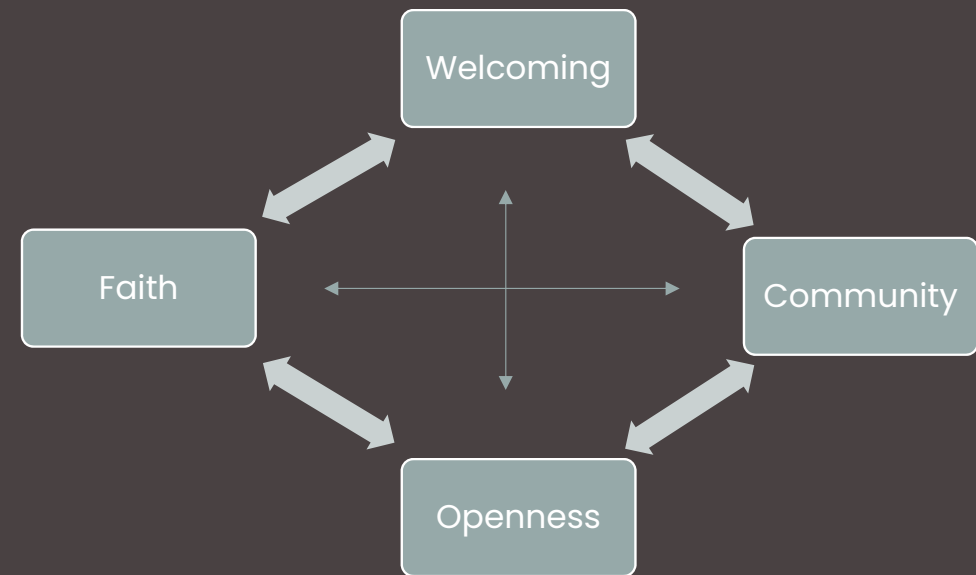
It was noted that the lack of a church hall or other quality facilities can limit Mission (**AM-KENT**).

The role of groups and programmes that support people in significant life events, such as 'Bereavement and Consolation groups, can draw people to the Church who haven't been before or for a while' (**P15**).

75. **COMMENT:** This lack of invitation and outreach may also be a result of a lack of implied or explicit permission to undertake Mission, 'Many feel like parts of a devoted but passive congregation. They would really like to be involved in the mission of the Church, but do not always feel welcomed, valued or encouraged to do so' (**P20**).

Initiative can be often stifled by a lack of formation, a lack of confidence or a lack of understanding of the lay vocation in the world.

# THE ECONOMY OF RADICAL HOSPITALITY



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**1**

**Smile**

**2**

**Talk to  
people you  
don't know**

**3**

**Be  
courteous**

**4**

**Learn  
people's  
names**

**5**

**Make eye  
contact**

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**6**

**Listen  
attentively**

**7**

**Offer  
assistance  
to guests**

**8**

**Offer  
your seat  
to others  
as needed**

**9**

**Acknowledge  
young  
people**

**10**

**Be  
understanding  
and welcoming  
to young families**

# DIRECTORY FOR CATECHESIS

222.

The spaces for catechesis are settings in which the community expresses its own way of evangelising. In the current social and cultural context, it is appropriate to reflect on the specificity of the places of catechesis as instruments of proclamation and of education in human relationships. It is therefore necessary that such environments be welcoming and well-kept, that they convey a climate of familiarity that fosters serene involvement in community activities. The very widespread environments that are patterned after school buildings do not constitute the best places for the unfolding of catechetical activities. It would therefore be good to proceed with an adaptation of these spaces to the actual meaning of catechesis.

# DIRECTORY FOR CATECHESIS

223.

It is however true that the dynamic of the Church that goes forth, that goes through catechesis, also has implications with regard to space. Encouragement should be given to attempts at catechesis in different places: the home, the office, educational, cultural, and recreational environments, prisons, etc. These places, which are often more loosely focussed than those of the Christian community, are suitable for casual catechesis because they create more familiar relationships, and in this more visible connection with everyday life catechesis can turn out to be more compelling.

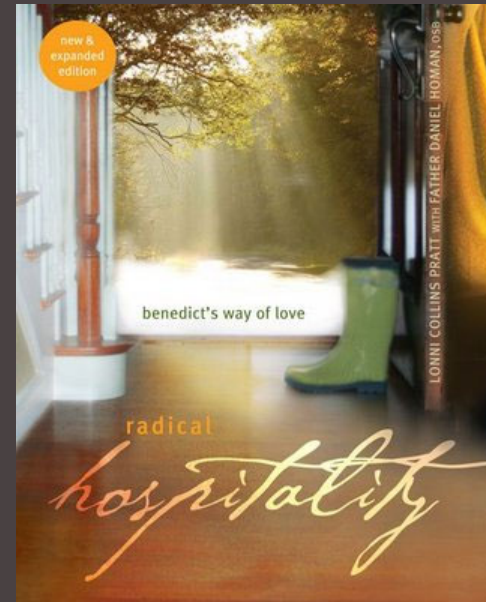
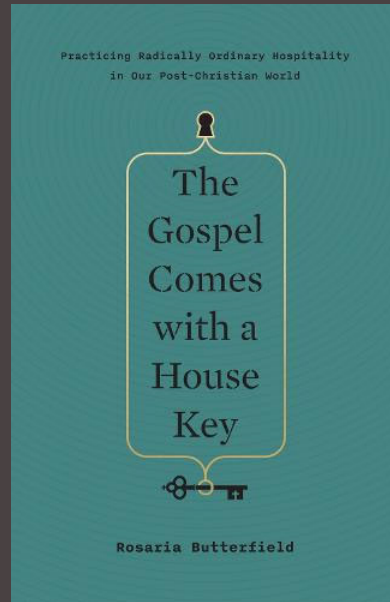
“With listening, a guest is welcomed as “a person, with his history, his heart rich in sentiments and thoughts, so that he might feel truly that he is among family.”

*Pope Francis - 17 July, 2016*

“Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place”

**Henri Nouwen**





*"The Gospel Comes with a House Key: Practicing Radically Ordinary Hospitality in Our Post-Christian World"*  
Rosaria Butterfield

*"Radical Hospitality - Benedict's Way of Love"*  
Daniel Homan and Lonni Collins Pratt

## BOOKS

“

*... I was a stranger and you welcomed me”*

*Matthew 25:35*

*Rule of St. Benedict 53:1-2*

