



1. Suggestions for Using the Eucharistic Congress Bell

In so far as it is possible all members of the community; the infirm, senior members of society, families, incarcerated, and the marginalised, should be included in the pilgrimage of the Eucharistic Congress Bell. The following ideas may support you in your role. It is by no means an exhaustive list. Let us know if you come up with any other ways of using the bell for gathering or for prayer.

IEC2012 and other diocesan delegates would appreciate any other suggestion you may have in using the bell.

- *Visitation to the local hospital/medical centres:*
 - Hospital chaplains to prepare patients for the visit of the bell; what it symbolizes, what the International Eucharistic Congress aims are, etc.
 - Small prayer service that includes patients and staff of the hospital (where possible).
 - Think of how the bell could be rung quietly / gently !!!!
- *Visitations to Nursing Homes:*
 - A similar approach as above.
 - Families and grandchildren could be involved in the prayer service/event.
- *Families:*
 - Baptisms might be celebrated to coincide with the arrival of the bell. This is an opportunity to celebrate Baptism as a call to discipleship and as the origin of our Christian communion in Baptism.
 - It could provide an opportunity to invite the active participation in the faith community of families which might be on the margins of Church.
- *Primary Schools:*
 - Visitations to the local schools.
 - Communion and Confirmation groups to be involved in a special way.
- *Post-Primary Schools:*
 - Senior Cycle students to volunteer in carrying the bell. It could be a 'top-up' to their John Paul II Award, President's Award, etc.
 - The bell could be involved in a school Mass or paraliturgy

- *Youth and Volunteer Groups:*
 - Local youth groups in the parish to be invited to get involved.
 - Other Youth organisations non-parish based to take part in a stage/ceremony
 - Make contact with the Scouts, Girl-guides. Volunteering with the Bell could be part of a 'badge.' They could host other volunteers for refreshments or overnight stays in the Scout Den.
 - An outreach to the marginalised should be made by taking the bell to shelters, drop-in centres, Vincent de Paul etc.

- *Prisons:*
 - An outreach to those incarcerated should be made. Prison chaplains might be consulted in arranging a ceremony/event
 - Reconciliation is an element of Eucharist; as such the visit of the bell to prisons could be interpreted as incorporating both an invitation to repentance and a promise of reintegration into the community

- *Local Places of Interest:*
 - Visits to Mass rocks, other bells, round towers, monasteries, etc.
 - Take the bell up a hill/mountain (e.g., Croagh Patrick)
 - Visits to the islands of your diocese.