



Welsh Language Strategy

The story of Pentecost demonstrates the universality of the Church and the importance of embracing language and culture within the Catholic faith. The amazement of the crowd hearing the Word of God in their native languages is significant. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI emphasised that through the story of Pentecost 'it becomes clear that many languages and different cultures are part of the Church; in faith they can be understood and make one another fruitful'.¹

As an agency of the Bishops' Conference in both England and Wales, we recognise that Welsh heritage and language should be embraced as something that enriches the Catholic faith and still holds great value today. Below are examples of ways that we aim to demonstrate this through our work. This list is by no means exhaustive but offers an overview of our ongoing commitment to promoting Welsh language and Welsh Catholic heritage:

CES Documents

To promote important documents and statements on our website in both English and Welsh such as the annual census.

Website

To have a page on our website dedicated to our work in Wales including the latest news from Welsh Catholic schools and the Senedd.

To have the Catholic Education Service Logo on the home page to be in both English and Welsh, as well as the titles to each page on the website.

Promote Welsh Language in Catholic schools

To share Mass parts and common Catholic prayers - in particular a prayer to both St David and Mary, 'Santes Fair' - in Welsh on our website.

To offer suggestions of common Welsh Catholic hymns for schools to use in assemblies and collective worship.

To share best practice examples from Welsh Catholic schools on how to use the Welsh language at school.

Social Media

To share facts and information about Welsh Catholic heritage and to highlight specific Welsh Saints and celebrate their feasts days with CES Twitter followers.

To engage with Welsh Catholic groups on Twitter and share resources from Catholic agencies and charities that have been translated into Welsh.

Staff Engagement with the Welsh Language

To give staff access to a Welsh translator so that documents such as application forms can be translated and published in Welsh on the CES website.

To provide all CES staff with a sheet of useful Welsh phrases - such as common greetings - for them to use when writing to Welsh organisations, schools and stakeholders.

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¹ http://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/homilies/2008/documents/hf_ben-xvi_hom_20080511_pentecoste.html