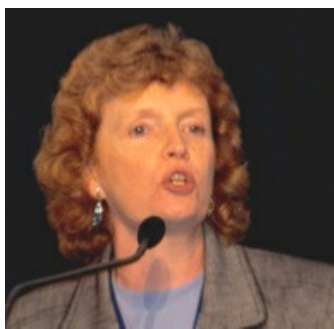


On Saturday 7th March 2009 the newly commissioned Diocesan Evangelisation Team organised a Diocesan Evangelisation Day at St John's RC Parish, Luton with enough supporters to pack the parish hall gathered from around the Diocese.



After prayer, singing and reflection we listened to Michelle Moran of the Sion community who challenged us to truly be a light in the darkness of people's lives especially now in this time where materialism seems to be faltering. We were encouraged in our call to witness through our actions and words and when called on to do so by swimming against the tide of shallow ethical values, with quiet dignity. Michelle reminded us of Pope John Paul II's manifesto for this New Millennium and the call to "*Put out into the deep*" (Duc in altum!).. to remember the past with gratitude, to live the present with enthusiasm and to look forward to the future with confidence... (*Novo Millennio Inuente 1*)

After lunch, prayer, and confessions the second part of the day concentrated on practical ways of evangelising remembering that we go out as humble beggars to lead other beggars to the Bread of Life; knowing that all we do should begin in the practice of communal prayer and the transforming of ourselves by God's grace, making our parishes welcoming places so we can reach out to others with the good news.

Fr Damian Walne said that it was good to be open to new ideas of how to evangelise and added that Our Lady is a great model for us as we seek to be truly set apart for the Gospel as disciples and evangelisers. He then generously welcomed all groups to use the Shrine at Billing as a place of rest and prayer.

There were great resources available from Good News Books and Tapes during the day that provided useful information with which we could consider moving forward in evangelising in our local communities. The day ended with a prayer of sending and we left feeling renewed in our commitment to respond to the call to share the good news, each in our own unique way.