



3. Inviting people back to Church

Back to Church Sunday provides you with an opportunity to show a friend or neighbour that he or she is a V.I.P! (Very Important Person) At the same time it is a reminder to those of us already in church that we are all V.I.Ps in God's sight.

On Back to Church Sunday you welcome back to church people you know who used to belong to a church but have not been for a while. It provides your guest with a way back into belonging to a church community and rekindling a relationship with the God who celebrates every person He created.

There is nothing scary in talking to people you don't know. The very worst that can happen is your friend / neighbour politely declines the invitation. Even then, they will feel special because you took time and trouble to invite them.



come as you are

3 steps to inviting people back to church.

We all have a network of contacts - people we know well and acquaintances - that we can invite to evangelistic events, but normally we don't!

Some reasons are:

- We are embarrassed about speaking about God/Jesus/Church/faith: it's just not Australian or Anglican
- We are worried that inviting people back to church might somehow damage our relationship with them
- We are worried that if we did invite them, they might come, and the service might be really bad quality or have a high 'cringe-factor'.
- We are worried about being seen as 'Bible-bashers'.

But Jesus tells us that 'all the world' needs to hear the good news of the kingdom. What we have in Jesus is good - we should share it.

Here's a simple plan to help people invite others back to church.

Step one: Pray

Stop for prayer. Pray for the Back to Church event as a whole.

In prayer, think about the people you know that aren't yet committed to following Jesus as part of his Church - not just close friends and family, but even those you know only a bit. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you which people you should invite to the Back to Church event. Be aware that the Holy Spirit might bring more than one person to mind.

Pray for the people you have identified, that they will be open to be invited and will respond positively.

"I came because you personally invited me"



Back to Church Sunday

Step two: Invite

We often shy away from inviting people to church events for a whole variety of reasons. The secret to successful invitation involves 5 simple steps.

This is what to say:

1. Our church is holding a special service for people who don't usually come to church
2. There will be lots of new people there and it's going to be good
3. I'm going
4. Would you like to come with me?
5. I will pick you up and sit with you and be with you....

Accept their decision.

Arrange to pick them up or where to meet them.....if they've decided to take up your invitation.

“ I came because you personally invited me”

Step three: Look after your very important guests.

If you have invited someone to come, please sit with them and explain the customs of the church like the passing of the peace, the collection, or when to stand and sit. Don't assume anything.

Invite your friends to have a cuppa in the hall.

Introduce your friends around to others. Do not leave them on their own.

When Jesus was walking through Jericho he spotted Zacchaeus up a tree trying to see him. Zacchaeus was a tax collector and very rich. Jesus stopped and invited himself to tea at Zacchaeus' home. At dinner Zacchaeus repented of his sins and turned towards God and became a follower of Jesus. Zacchaeus had found salvation. (Luke 19:1-10)

When we invite people to Church we invite them to take a closer look at God and to follow him. They are also given a chance to turn around and start again like Zacchaeus.



BacktoChurchSunday

come as you are

SUNDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2010

8am Anglican Parish of Christ Church, Essendon
9.30am Anglican Parish of Christ Church, Essendon

**IF EVERYONE INVITED AND BROUGHT ALONG ONE FRIEND —
WHAT A GREAT CELEBRATION WE COULD HAVE...**

“ I came because you personally invited me ”

Back to Church Sunday Prayer

Gracious God, thank you for today.
Thank you for making us and loving us.
Thank you for inviting us to know you.
Help us to invite (Your friend's name here) to come to church
so they can know you too.
Please bless Back to Church Sunday and bless everyone in our church.
Help us all to know you better.
We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen

For more information please contact our Parish Priest:

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BacktoChurchSunday