

Parish Resource 2



*“Welcoming the
Stranger into our
parishes”*

Some first steps...





Some First Steps

This leaflet offers seven first steps that parishes might adopt as they begin to develop a ministry of welcome to their community.

1. **Meet and Greet at Liturgies.** Develop a team whose ministry is to welcome people, be they regulars or newcomers, when they come into Church.
2. **Welcome Newcomers** are acknowledged and welcomed by someone on the altar during the Mass. Everyone is involved in the welcoming of newcomers—sometimes the most gratifying welcome a visitor can receive is from someone s/he wouldn't expect to welcome him/her, in a place s/he didn't expect it to happen.
3. **House Blessings.** Develop a team who will visit newcomers to the parish and who will offer them a house blessing ceremony.



4. **Baptismal teams.** The Baptism of a child can be an important point of contact between your parish and newcomers. It can be used as an ideal opportunity to welcome new families into the life of the parish.
5. **Newsletter segments in other languages.** Include segments in your newsletter in the languages of immigrant communities in your parish.
6. **Connect with other local immigrant services.** We often struggle to know how best to engage with newcomers in our communities. There will be many organisations working with immigrants in your local area. Contact them! They may be able to point to specific needs immigrants in your community have or to establish projects that you might support.
7. **Meeting people where they are at.** Be creative in meeting people where they usually socialise, work or live, rather than expecting them to slot into existing parish activities.



The Irish Episcopal Council for Immigrants is a pastoral resource available to parishes. It provides parishes and migrants with pastoral support, information and assistance for parishes involved in welcoming the stranger into the life of our faith community.

Irish Episcopal Council for Immigrants

A Council of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

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