



# CatholicVoices

We tell the Church's story





I want a laity, not arrogant, not rash in speech, not disputatious, but men who know their religion, who enter into it, who know just where they stand, who know what they hold and what they do not, who know their creed so well that they can give an account of it, who know so much of history that they can defend it. I want an intelligent, well-instructed laity.



St John Henry Newman

## The Vision

We want to see the Church speak directly to contemporary culture in a way that is clear and compelling, with lay men and women at the forefront.

## The Mission

Catholic Voices exists to equip the Church with a new approach to civil communication that helps the Church's story to influence society and culture.



# A new vision for sharing the Church's story...

Catholic Voices is a lay-run communications project that trains and offers speakers for TV and radio interviews, as well as for talks and training in parishes, schools, and universities. CV does not speak officially for the bishops but has their blessing and is seen as close to them.

Since its first project in the UK, CV has become a global network projects in over of 20 countries; each of which exist independantly and self-sustainingly, with the blessing of their bishop.



## ...Globally

**Spreading across the world since it was first created in the UK in 2010**, Catholic Voices has won the admiration of bishops and broadcasters alike. It is increasingly recognised by the media in various countries as the authoritative source of commentary and opinion, representing a mainstream, faithful Catholic view.

In media interviews, trainings, workshops, talks, articles, books, briefings and podcasts, CV has been helping Catholics to communicate the Church's story with charity and clarity – especially its positions on hot -button issues.

Catholic Voices was created in 2010 to improve the Church's representation in the media for the Papal Visit and to model civil communication when faced with hostility. Many people have admired the way in which our speakers communicate the Church's message and wished that they had the confidence to do the same when faced with challenging questions from family members, colleagues at work, or friends at the pub.





## Our Big Idea: Reframing

We believe that by finding common ground, by identifying the positive intention behind the criticism of the Church, and speaking to that, we can win the heart of the critic. We call this method 'reframing'.

To 'reframe' means to tell a different story from what's out there. It only works if you are substituting a false picture for a more authentic one.



"False ideas may be refuted indeed by argument," said Saint Cardinal John Henry Newman, "but by true ideas alone are they expelled."

Reframing means, above all, understanding the filters that lead people to view the Church in a negative light, and to let the truth and beauty of Catholic teaching shine out.



Brenden Thompson  
CEO, Catholic Voices

BBC BREAKFAST

08:50



# We tell the Church's story through...

## **(a) Media presence**

Since Catholic Voices started, our speakers have completed over 1,200 media interviews, an average of 2 per week. We have made appearances on hundreds of programmes ranging from BBC News, Sky, Al Jazeera, Victoria Derbyshire and the Big Questions.

## **(b) National Speakers' Training**

We hold an annual training programme designed to train successive generations of CVs. Since 2010 we have trained over 150 speakers in the art of 'reframing', principles of civil communication as well as practical training and briefing for media appearances and/or public speaking in public settings.

## **(c) CV Talks & Training in the UK**

In June 2017 we launched the Public Speakers' Project (PSP). In just a few short years since the launch of PSP our speakers have been able to give more than 150 talks in parishes, schools, and universities across the country.

## **(d) CV Workshops & Trainings Abroad**

CV has become a global network inspired by the first Catholic Voices project in the UK in 2010. CV groups have started in 25 different countries. An important moment for the development of CV Global have been the bi-annual conferences held in Rome. The last CV Global retreat in Rome was attended by 30 people from 20 countries.

## **(e) Academy Briefings**

Through the CV Academy, we offer briefings to both our speakers and to the general public on topics in the news. To date we have organised over 50 Academies with a range of experts on diverse issues which enjoy good attendance and engagement.





# Reframing how we tell the Church's story & training others to do the same



For every one Catholic convert there are 10 cradle Catholics who no longer regard themselves to be Catholic.



Contemporary Catholicism in England and Wales: A statistical report based on recent British Social Attitudes survey data, p. 9

## The Reframe Programme

Reframe is our flagship programme for introducing the Catholic Voices method of 'how to defend the faith, without raising your voice'. We provide full day workshops, evening talks, and 'Reframe Talk Series' tackling individual 'hot-button' issues, topics specifically chosen by the parish.

**This was made for you!**

How can we help you tell  
the Church's story?



# Reframe in Parishes

We have seen how parishioners gain confidence in communicating their faith, how they are able to ask questions they do not usually get the opportunity to ask, and how they feel part of a larger community of Catholics in the UK who love and wish to share their faith.

We organise single day workshops, 11am-3pm, usually held on Saturdays, where we explain Reframing through interactive talks.

Another popular option for parishes is the 'Reframe Series', which features evening talks spanning multiple weeks.

The parish gets to choose which topics they would like to see covered and we provide a qualified speaker.

## Topics include:

**How to Defend the Faith  
Without Raising Your Voice**

**Pope Francis' Vision for the Church**

**Defending the Unborn**

**Amoris Laetitia: Catholic Vision  
for Marriage and the Family**

# Reframe in Schools

Catholic Voices have been working with secondary schools, colleges and universities across the UK to support, equip, and train students with fundamental methods of communication. Students have the opportunity to hear a refreshing and modern defence of the faith, to ask hard questions, and to see that the faith can be defended in a compelling way.

We offer a range of talks and workshops directly applicable to the curriculum. Our sessions can last anything from one hour to a whole day depending on need and availability.

## Topics include:

**The Church in the Modern World**

**Public Speaking 101**

**The Church's positive vision for Love and Sex**

**The Fundamentals of Debating**

**How the Church works for a Fairer World**

**Science & Religion**



# Reframe Workshops & Talks

We are often asked to give workshops and training sessions, as well as media consultancy work.

Catholic Voices enjoys collaborating with a wide range of groups and organisations to provide training and continued professional development. Our sessions can last anything from one hour to a whole day depending on need and availability.

Some examples of workshops we offer

**Public Speaking & Presentation Skills**

**Media Training**

**The Power of Storytelling**

**Principles of Civil Communication**

**Leadership Training**



## What Next?

Want to get involved, book a talk, or attend one of our events? It's simple: Contact us and let's make it happen...

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   @CatholicVoices

 Catholic Voices UK



Catholic Voices is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England 7493766, and a registered Charity 1142482. The registered address is Cuckoo Hill Farm, Cuckoo Hill, Pinner, HA5 2BB. Lord Brennan is the patron.

The Board has currently five trustees and meets every quarter. Catholic Voices is run day-to-day by the Catholic Voices Coordinators, led by Brenden Thompson. Although Global CV and clients are self-funding, Catholic Voices depends on donations to cover costs of training and the Academies. If you would be interested in contributing you can do so through the website [www.catholicvoices.org.uk/donate](http://www.catholicvoices.org.uk/donate)