



# Evangelisation: Student Task – Kindness and Social Media

Eamon Martin is the Archbishop of Armagh and has recently been appointed as Cardinal Seán Brady's replacement in the role of Primate of All Ireland. In May 2014, he spoke at length on his firm belief that 'Church evangelisers must engage with social media'.

When the Gospel writers put quill to parchment, it was the most efficient and up-to-date way of communicating. Some might say that it was as radical and current as social media is today. So, why do you think it would be a good idea for the evangelists of today to use social media as a means of sharing the Good News?



**Below is an adaptation of the words Archbishop Eamon Martin offered to encourage Church evangelisers to engage with social media. Can these 'Ten Commandments' for online behaviour apply to us all? Read the passage and answer the questions that follow:**

1. Be positive and joyful. Offer 'digital smiles' and have a sense of humour. As Pope Francis says, 'no "funeral faces" or "sourpusses"!'
2. Never bear false witness on the internet. Never 'like' a lie!
3. Fill the internet with charity and love. Seek to include a sense of charity and solidarity with the suffering in the world (*Ubi caritas et amor*).
4. Avoid aggression and 'preachiness' online; try not to be judgemental. Instead, try Pope Francis's approach of 'tenderness'.
5. Have a broad back when criticisms and insults are made. When possible, gently correct.
6. Pray in the digital world! Establish sacred spaces, opportunities for stillness, reflection and meditation online.
7. Create connections and build community. Church has always been about 'gathering'. Share posts that have a powerful Gospel witness. Live the call to 'love one another'.
8. Promote behaviours that keep everyone safe. Use the internet responsibly!
9. Respect your dignity and the dignity of others in all that you do online.
10. The internet has the power and potential to bear witness – share the Good News online!

## Questions for you to answer:

1. Choose two of the Online Commandments that Archbishop Eamon Martin has mentioned above. How might these guidelines improve the way you use social media?
2. Consider the following for a moment: are any of the online links I regularly connect with faith-based? Check out *Busted Halo's* 'Daily Jolt'; it might inspire you on a daily basis or perhaps you could follow Pope Francis on Twitter.



**Prepare a snap for Snapchat/tweet something that promotes kindness on social media. Reconsider what you have read on page 27 of the CSW 2015 resource.**

Is it only those like Pope Francis and Archbishop Eamon Martin who can evangelise in today's world? Why not *you*? You can spread Good News by being Good News, by greeting each person you meet with love, respect and kindness. **Be Good News Online!**