

A guide to Church-speak

<i>Church-speak</i>	<i>Meaning to normal mortals</i>
bold	misguided, ill-judged, likely to end in disaster, you should know better than to have suggested it
challenging	utterly impossible, but we have to pretend
clergy support	clergy discipline
discernment	dithering, incompetence
exciting (in an advert)	we're desperate: no applications last time it was advertised
exciting opportunity (of a new job)	what a relief to get out of that old job
experienced	face fits
extraordinarily creative	straight talking (not a compliment)
fellowship	insincerity with a fixed smile
focused	offensive
fund raising	raising the quota
growing (church)	slowing decline
I am deeply concerned but it's going to happen anyway
innovative (see <i>visionary</i>)	crazy
investment	spending
is minded to	hasn't got a clue; <i>or</i> makes a stab in the dark; <i>or</i> tosses a coin
legalistic	keeping to the rules
lively (evangelical)	we make the services up as we go along
lively (catholic)	the midweek mass has not yet folded
mission strategy	an excuse not to do my real work; <i>or</i> I've no idea what I'm doing; <i>or</i> I can bullshit better than most
new models of priesthood	driving a computer is easier than dealing with people
nurturing	burying the existing congregation <i>and/or</i> 'do not think of challenging this over-sensitive and unteachable congregation'
NSM	minister not yet disconnected from the real world
'permission giving diocese'	so long as it is in line with the bishop's opinion
pioneer minister	minister with a clerical T shirt
reconciliation, healing	cosmetic action that in the long run makes things worse
renewal (evangelical)	women's groups meeting for tea and waving hands in the air
renewal (general)	making do with fewer clergy
responding with grace	ignoring the issue
said in the spirit of Christian love	get stuffed
seek to	unattainable, but sounds good
sure to have views	a bully
visionary (see <i>innovative</i>)	crazy
we need a written strategy	we've run out of ideas
we work collaboratively	I decide, and don't tell anyone

We trained hard . . . but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form up into teams we would be reorganized. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganizing; and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency, and demoralization. *Petronius Arbiter, 210 B.C.*

Irregular verb

- I have principles
- You are awkward
- He/she/it is an intransigent *****

Irregular verb in context, reverse conjugation

- He/she/it is consistently unhelpful, and while you speak with a determined voice, it is the Lord's will that I