



NORES NEWS

April 2017 – The month dedicated to The Blessed Sacrament

Diocese of Northampton, Office for RE, Evangelisation, Catechesis & Schools
SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

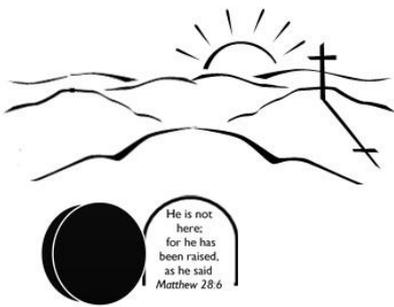
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From the Episcopal Vicar

Mgr Kevin

EASTER – we rise with Christ!

So many schools will finish well before Easter and come back in Easter Week that it is important to plan now just how we will celebrate Easter as soon as we return. Lent is forty days preparing us for the Great Fifty Days of Easter, but often Eastertime enthusiasm seems to peter out. Sometimes Pentecost does not have that real sense of bringing Eastertime to a glorious conclusion.



So how will you celebrate Resurrection in your school / parish / community for 50 days?

- ALLELUIA

"We are an Easter people

and Alleluia is our Song" So says St Augustine. Just as you may have had a particular image for Lent [eg the ashes] so this becomes our Easter theme. At the Easter Vigil after the reading of the letter to the Romans the cantor turns to the priest saying : *Reverend Father I bring you a message of great joy. The message is....(pause).....ALLELUIA*

Then Alleluia is sung, and repeated at least three times. How could this be part of a first Eastertime assembly?

- SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP – one of the noticeable things about the resurrection scriptures is the way Jesus prepares his apostles and disciples for taking up his rôle as faith leader. Jesus is clear about Peter's rôle : "I have prayed for you Simon that your faith may not fail, and once you have recovered you in your turn must strengthen your brothers." [Luke 22:32].

This offers a definite challenge to all in our Catholic schools and communities who teach and lead. The events of Holy Week, seeing Christ die, made great demands on the faith of those women and men who had

followed Christ with great hope. Now they have to be brought into the confident new life of the Resurrection. We need to ask how we communicate this to all of our young people, especially those who find life difficult in any way. We need to see how we do this for one another as colleagues on staff of schools and in whatever groups where we work. In a particular way it applies to school leaders, especially head teachers, who share so clearly in the teaching ministry of the bishop as does a priest. We often quote Pope Paul VI:

'Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.' [Evangelii nuntiandi n.42]

While we acknowledge the huge demands made of a head teacher today their role is specifically as a witness to the enduring and lifegiving hope of the Risen Lord. Our young people will see in the example given by all school leaders the depth of faith that you live by your vocation – it is there in personal relationships, in fair decision making, in exercising mercy and forgiveness – it is there too in the way faith is expressed in prayer and participating in liturgy. Young people see the value adults place on prayer through seeing you at prayer. When prayer permeates a meeting, a class, an assembly, a school event – when it is a priority for a school leader – then young people are brought into contact with the Risen Lord. Whatever else, he is their real future and ours. We neglect him at our peril. We celebrate with Easter hope. **ALLELUIA!**

CHRIST'S TOMB REOPENED

The Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, Theophilos III, recently presided over the reopening of the shrine over the tomb of Christ within the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, after many months of restoration work. (The shrine is known as the Aedicule, from the Latin "aediculum - a small building," and is contained within a large rotunda which forms the back half of the church.) The Jerusalem Patriarchate has a fairly active *Youtube* channel, and just posted a video of the ceremony; after about 30 minutes of milling around, there is some nice music, and representatives of the various communities that use the church speak, including the superior of the Holy Land Franciscans.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

Youth Mental Health First Aid Course (MHFA)

The course is an internationally recognised 2-day training course designed to teach people how to spot the signs and symptoms of mental ill health in young people and provide help on a first aid basis. We are delighted to be able to offer this to representatives from our schools and parishes. It will take place on **29 & 30 June 2017** from **9am-5pm**. It is for anyone who teaches, works, lives with or cares for 8 to 18-year-olds. We are specifically offering this course for our Diocesan schools and parishes to support all who work with young people whether laity, clergy or religious. The course would be particularly suitable for members of SLTs, teachers, school chaplains/ chaplaincy co-ordinators, members of staff with pastoral roles and catechists among others.

What will I learn? The training is designed to fit into four manageable sections:

- *What is mental health?*
- *Depression and anxiety*
- *Suicide and psychosis*
- *Self-harm and eating disorders*

Within each section there is clear focus on the issues faced by young people today, including bullying/ cyber bullying and substance misuse. The course also teaches the importance of promoting protective factors and good parenting. Everyone will receive a copy of the Youth MHFA manual which is an excellent support resource and when you have completed the course you will be a Youth Mental Health First Aider.

How will it help? The course will: *give a deeper understanding around the issues that relate to young people's mental health & teach practical skills that can be used every day, including being able to spot the signs and symptoms of mental health issues.* Research and evaluation shows that taking part in an MHFA course: *raises awareness and promotes mental health literacy; reduces stigma around mental ill health; boosts knowledge and confidence in dealing with mental health issues; encourages people to start a conversation with a person who may be experiencing a mental health issue & promotes early intervention which enables recovery.*

Please see mhfaengland.org

Course details, Costs & Bookings

Dates: Thursday 29 June & Friday 30 June 2017 (9am-5pm) Venue: NORES Centre, 33, Westbourne Road, Luton, LU4 8JD Cost: £300 per person for the whole of the 2-day course which is to be paid in full on booking and is non-refundable. The £300 course fee includes course materials, lunch and refreshments for the 2-day course. Please note places for the course are limited. The maximum cohort per course is 15. If we have a greater demand, we will add you to a waiting list. Once a further cohort becomes viable we will contact you to

offer an additional course in other rooms at the same venue on these or similar dates. Course Leader will be David Robinson.

Booking form with all the details is available via the events/ courses section of the NORES website or the NORES office. We look forward to welcoming you.
heath@nores.org.uk

CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield



A big thanks to all who supported our Lenten appeal. Schools and Parishes responded very generously and we are able to support our partners achieve their goals.

LiveSimply Award Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si'* takes on the political, economical, philosophical and ecological systems. Nothing is left untouched by this visionary and powerful document. He invites us all to "work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us."

The [LiveSimply award](#) is an opportunity for Catholic communities - parishes, schools and chaplaincies to respond to that invitation. Some schools and parishes have already taken up this challenge. We are holding a session on 29 April at Holy Family parish Slough from 10:30am – 12:30pm. Please get in touch for more information. Let's make our diocese a LiveSimply one!

Please write to your MP CAFOD is asking people to write to their MPs to remind the Secretary of State for International Trade, Liam Fox, of the importance of a values-based trade policy that can promote our own interests, and facilitate sustainable poverty reduction, respect for human rights and environmental protection, dramatically improving the lives of millions of people. There's more information on cafod.org.uk/trade to help you with your letter. Our government needs to hear our concerns!

– dpurfield@cafod.org.uk,
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REGINA CAELI – our midday prayer in Eastertime to replace the Angelus

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
The Son whom you merited to bear, alleluia.
Has risen, as He said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.
V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary,
alleluia.
R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.
Let us pray.

O God, who through the resurrection
of your Son Jesus Christ gave rejoicing to the world
grant, we pray, that through his Mother, the Virgin Mary,
we may obtain the joys of everlasting life.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

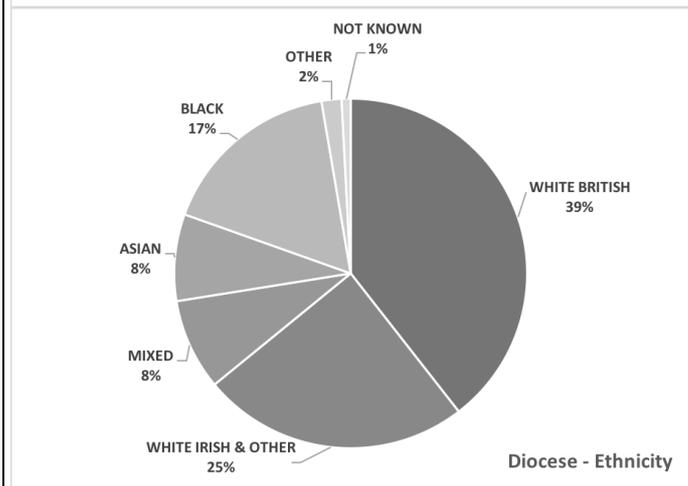
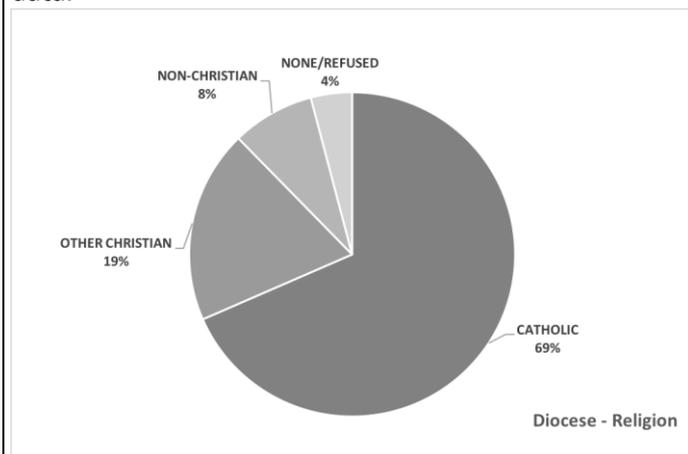


SCHOOLS' COMMISSION

Collette Curtis

Head teacher conference – Father Jonathan Veasey from Birmingham Diocese provided inspiring input into sessions on leading a Catholic school at the recent Head teacher conference. This was very well received by those who attended. The conference next year will be on Thursday 1st March/ Friday 2nd March at Hothorpe Hall, Leicestershire. We will be allocating time during the 2 days to allow head teacher groups from areas to hold their own meeting in recognition of the difficulty of finding time out of school. It is particularly important as we deal with the external pressures facing all leaders in education that we support one another and retain focus on the unique nature of the high quality Catholic Education we are providing. Please ensure you have the date for next year in your diary. In a discussion at the conference on attracting more Catholic leaders to put themselves forward for headship, the importance of a personal invitation was recognised and it was suggested that if you know a practising Catholic working as a head in a non –Catholic school you might invite them to attend with you.

The diverse community we serve- Thank you for providing us with your data on the religion of the children in your school. Debbie Main has collated this and will be sending out the summary data for your local area and the Diocese to complement the data you already have on your individual school and national data.



Developing Catholic Leaders: The Catholic Education Service are working with colleagues from Catholic teaching schools in a number of Dioceses to review how we can develop training materials to run alongside the revised NPQ's. The focus will be on the 7 behaviours of leaders and how that relates to the practical application of Catholic leadership. The first module on Commitment has been written and trialled, the remaining behaviours are; personal drive, resilience, awareness, integrity, respect and collaboration. These materials will be made available on the CES website and will be incorporated into the Catholic leadership development model we are working on with Thomas More School Bedford for use with leaders across the Diocese in local hubs. I will keep you updated. The next group for the Headstrong programme for aspiring Catholic leaders is being recruited to be focused in the South of the Diocese. If you are interested to know more please contact me curtis@nores.org.uk or Susanne Combe, head of the Teaching School at St Thomas More Bedford: scombe@stm.beds.sch.uk

Teacher survey – succession planning. To inform the strategic planning within the Diocese and nationally to support the recruitment of Catholic staff and leaders it would be really useful if you could complete a survey from the CES on Teacher recruitment accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/DSCSurvey1>.

Apprenticeships levy A new Apprenticeship Levy is due to come into force on 6th April 2017. Briefly, the purpose of the Levy is to fund apprenticeships to significantly increase the quality and quantity of apprenticeships in England and achieve 3 million new starter apprentices by 2020.

From 6th April 2017 all employers operating in the UK with a pay bill over £3m will be required to invest in apprenticeships by way of payment of a levy calculated at 0.5% of their total pay bill. There will be a levy allowance of £15,000 which is, in effect, an offset of the levy amount i.e. 0.5% of total pay bill less £15,000 = amount payable. An explanatory letter and full briefing paper for schools will be sent to all head teachers and chairs of governors/Trusts.

SCHOOL NEWS -

Appointments – from September

Paul Kassapian as Head of St Bernard's Grammar, Slough
Caroline Lovegrove as Head of St Joseph's, Gerrards Cross.

Governors / Directors appointments

Please note that for all new appointments and for those who have completed their term of office and are seeking reappointment the sooner applications are made to NOIRES the better, as getting the required references is taking longer and longer!!!!

Building Project Request Forms –

It is still essential that all our schools [academy and voluntary aided] submit the appropriate request form to NORES for approval. All buildings are the property of the Diocesan Trustee and only the Trustee can agree to any changes.

SECONDARY RE AND INSPECTION

Stephen O'Brien

Subject Leaders' Meeting Colleagues had a very good day in mid-March with Philip Robinson, the national RE Adviser, looking at teaching and assessing the new GCSE courses currently underway with year 10 students in all our schools. It was a good opportunity to ask questions, review choices and to compare notes with fellow subject leaders. Philip has provided a selection of the notes and PPs that are now on our collective Dropbox. Please let me know if you have any trouble accessing these resources. Generally, many of you have created a range of high quality planning and teaching resources - can I encourage you to put these up for others to share?

Examples of outstanding Catholic Relationship and Sex Education The Department for Education is looking for best practice examples of Relationship and Sex Education in Secondary Schools to help them develop the Government's approach to new RSE guidance. If you feel that your school can provide such an example please could you share it with Marie Southwell at the CES who will use your good practice examples to compile a number of case studies. These case studies will help with CES in its ongoing engagement with the Government and to promote a Catholic understanding of RSE. Your school could be cited by the Government in their examples of best practice.

GCSE/A-Level Research Project The CES [Catholic Education Service] and NBRIA [National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers] are co-ordinating a research project with the Catholic HEIs (Higher Education Institutions) designed to monitor the roll out of the new GCSE and A-Level programmes. CES/NBRIA are looking to identify a number of schools in Northampton diocese that would be happy to take part in this process and provide a named contact who would be the Project Liaison. Please reassure that all data - including the identification of schools - will be anonymised. I will send further information directly to RE subject leaders. If you think you might be interested please contact me at Nores.

obrien@nores.org.uk

WESTMINSTER PROVINCE CELEBRATION DAY

A theology of Hope for Catholic Education

Speaker – Mike Ion

21 September 2017 for Heads, Chairs of Directors and Trusts begins with 10.30 Mass in the Cathedral with Bishop Peter, Bishop John Sherrington, and others.

Programme :

10.30 Mass in the Cathedral

11.30 Coffee/Registration in Cathedral Hall

A session before and after lunch, finishing by 3pm

Caterers – *Spoilt for Choice* – again!!!

Booking forms will be out soon.

NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY

CORNER

Anne-Marie McIntosh

Come and See The new / tweaked activities and tasks, in the **Reveal** section have now been completed for Year 3 on the Come and See website. Please print off the topics from the website rather than use your books. Every member of staff should have a login for the website.

Live Simply Thank you for taking part in the 'Live Simply' Challenge. It is great to see it being used in so many schools. During the month of April I will live simply by 'Reading more'

I promise to find out more about the lives of other children around the world by visiting

www.cafod.org.uk/kidzzone

Inset The whole school inset '**The Changing Shape of Catholic Education**' has been well received around the Diocese. Northampton is next on Tuesday 21st March followed by Bedford on Wednesday 22nd March. It is hoped that this inset will replace your staff meeting for that week.

Luton, South Bucks and Milton Keynes will take place in June.

RE Subject Leader Meetings Please let me know the dates of these meetings as I really want to attend to work alongside you and support you in your role. Thank you.

RE Subject Leaders Day Our next day together is on **Thursday 22 June, 2017**. Look out for the flyer and booking form. This will be a joint day with our Secondary Heads of RE colleagues. Following on from the work we did with Angela Warren (from CAFOD) we will explore Catholic Social Teaching in both its theology and practice. We will be inspired as to how our schools can continue to contribute to building a more just and peaceful world. Our guest speaker is Dr Anna Rowlands from the University of Durham.

Just a thought..... Courage is like a muscle. We strengthen it by use.

And finally Don't forget if there is anything I can do to support you please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Wishing you all a restful holiday over the Easter break.

May holy week unfold within us as well as before us.

mcintosh@nores.org.uk

PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

PRAYER INTENTIONS – *ask the school to pray with the Pope for his intentions for April*

Young People.

That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.

FEAST DAYS - pray for the school which celebrates their feast day this month.

16 April St Bernadette's Primary, Milton Keynes

REMEMBER that in Eastertime we replace the Angelus by the REGINA CAELI to celebrate the Resurrection. Text over /.