



NORES NEWS

JULY 2016 – The month dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus
Diocese of Northampton, Office for RE, Evangelisation, Catechesis & Schools
SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION
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From the Episcopal Vicar

Mgr Kevin

**The JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY continues
until 20 November.**



We come to the end of another academic year. There have been many changes in the educational landscape, which is nothing new. More of our schools are

entering the academic frame, and while the government pressure is slightly less the reality for us all is that we must be ready to make the most of academic status. The change in funding stream, bringing all schools and academies into line with the Education Funding Agency (EFA) by 2017-19 is very significant. BREXIT has happened and the implications of that for our schools is unknown. What is essential that we are able to fulfil our Trust Deed which is "to promote the Catholic religion". It means we need to be very attentive to all aspects of the political settlement to ensure that we can be faithful to that mission. The referendum debate, however, needs careful reflection by everyone. It was conducted in a very combative style and brought to the surface so many issues at so many different levels. Leaving aside the politics involved the finely balanced decision to leave means we must be aware of the very diverse opinions held by some many of our families, and therefore of our pupils and staff. How do we allow honest and free exchange within the context of gospel teaching? We must encourage this because the feelings behind the divergent opinions are very real. We need to make sure everyone is talking from an informed and developed position. As Cardinal Nichols commented "A great tradition of the United Kingdom is to respect the will of the people, expressed at the ballot box. Today we set out on a new course that will be demanding on all. Our prayer is that all will work in this task with respect and civility, despite deep differences of opinion. We pray that in this process the most vulnerable will be supported and protected, especially those who are easy targets for unscrupulous employees and human traffickers. We pray that our nations will build on our finest traditions of generosity, of welcome for the stranger and shelter for the needy. We now must work hard to show ourselves to be good neighbours and resolute contributors in joint international efforts to tackle the critical problems of our world today."

FOUNDATION GOVERNORS APPOINTED:

Welcome to :

St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School, Milton Keynes - Mr David Newcombe -

St Monica's Catholic Primary School, Milton Keynes – Mr Joseph le Roi-Smith -

St Michael's Catholic School, High Wycombe – Miss Catherine Livesey -

St Paul's Catholic School, Milton Keynes - Mrs Linda McComie, Mr Conrad Dumbah, Mr Honest Kagoro

FOUNDATION GOVERNORS APPOINTMENT

PROTOCOL - With immediate effect because of the legal and canonical nature of these appointments

a. we can only accept original paper copy of the application, completed and signed

b. it must be submitted directly by the priest who is supporting the application to ensure confidentiality about his statement.

No exception can be made to these requirements.

A different procedure applies to application for Academy Directors and Foundation Representatives.

SAFEGUARDING AND CLERGY IN SCHOOLS

A note from our Diocesan Safeguarding Officer:

Priests coming to our Catholic schools as frequent visitors? Good practice is that: Priests only attend schools for a specific reason and by prior arrangement (Mass etc.); they are DBS checked; they sign in and wear school visitor ID and they observe school and diocesan Code of Conduct regarding their interaction with children. CSAS feedback was that it is for the school to determine how it registers and supervises its visitors. If the Priest is visiting as part of his parish duties then it is expected that he would be classed as a visitor. If the school have recruited him as a volunteer then he should be treated by the school as if he were their employee. If a Priest is a regular visitor and is working directly with children, unsupervised, then he will need an enhanced DBS check with barred list. If he is working with children under the day to day (in view) supervision of a teacher then he should still have an enhanced check but no need for a barred list check

SCHOOLS' COMMISSION *Debbie Main*

Summer is fast approaching and I am looking forward to September to ensure that all Foundation Governors, Representatives and Directors have all their paperwork in order for the new academic year. I have a list of those whose terms of office are ending this calendar year and will be contacting all Clerks concerned over the next couple of weeks.

For those of you representing schools in Luton, in order to continue to raise the standard of governance in all schools, Luton Borough Council are beginning a series of termly Governor Briefings. Open to all schools and academies, the first one will focus on Academisation and will take place at the Leagrave Centre 7-9pm on 13 July, all governors, Directors and Representatives are welcome to attend. Please email Craig Smith craig.smith@luton.gov.uk to let him know you are attending.

Governors, Directors and Representatives do a sterling job in helping to improve the standard of Catholic Education in our Diocese, professionally supported by our Clerks. As volunteers the task can sometimes seem onerous and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work this academic year.

GOVERNORS' FORUM 2016-2017

We are offering these sessions, 7-9pm in different locations around the diocese during the next academic year. They are for all governors, especially Foundation Governors, Directors and Representatives. If you miss the one in your area come along elsewhere. It is the serious expectation of the Trustee that every school will be represented by at least one if not more governors. Clerks will inform you. Please place these dates in your diary.

2016 22 Oct 10am-1pm - Diocesan Conference

2017 7-9pm at local venues:

6 February - NORES, Luton

9 February - North Northants 27 February - Slough

6 March - Buckinghamshire

8 March - Northampton Town

13 March - Bedford 15 March - Milton Keynes

EDUCATION WEEK 2016 – October 10-16

Have you begun thinking about this?

NORES will produce materials to help you for the week.

You need to check before the end of term with your local parish(es) about how you might be involved on Education Sunday. There is not that much time left when we return in September=.

Schools could exchange students (Y6/SchoolCouncil) or your head or other teachers for assemblies etc. Tell each other what your school is like. It is a great opportunity to help understanding how we all belong to the same diocese, same local church, the same Christ.

NYMO *Steve Harris*

Summer Camp is a residential retreat for 11 – 18s, taking place 14 – 19 August at Alton Castle, Staffs. It's an action-packed five days of outdoor activities, a day at Alton Towers and exploring our Catholic faith together through inspiring talks and the sacraments. £175 minimum donation inc. accommodation, food, entrance to Alton Towers, all activities and transport. Visit www.nymo.org > Young People > Lux & Summer Camp or contact Fiona on 01582 720 627 or fiona@nymo.org for more details and a booking form. Applications will soon be opening for **NYMO's young leader (16+) programme** for young people who wish to take on leadership within the school, parish or local community. The programme runs concurrently with work or study (not unlike the Duke of Edinburgh Award). The programme begins with a formation and training weekend at the Chellington Centre, Beds from 25–27 November. The programme, including the weekend, is free to participants. Contact steve@nymo.org for more details.

CAFOD NEWS *Deborah Purfield*



Over 10 million people in Ethiopia currently face a hunger crisis due to food shortages caused by severe drought. Latest information on Ethiopia crisis appeal can be seen on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZv3GQgjsk>

Sports fun! We have great Primary, Youth/Secondary Olympic resources. See website for more detail

First release of new GCSE RE. Our People of God adapted site is now live for teachers to prepare for teaching in September 2016.

We are still encouraging parishes and schools to take part in the Year of Mercy journey which can be done in a classroom, church or in the open. Get in touch with the cathedral to borrow the actual Lampedusa cross for your event. See online resources for primary, young people and parishes.

Those interested in getting more involved in campaigning can attend a volunteers event on 6 July in London. See <http://cafod.org.uk/Events> for more information.

Our Schools volunteer team are still offering assemblies and workshops on the Year of Mercy, the theme of Sports and Games as we approach the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games this Summer.

Please see website for further details or book a visit – dpurfield@cafod.org.uk, 01844 274 723

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

As part of a resource writing initiative of the **RCIA Network for England & Wales Executive** I have produced a series of 8 faith sharing leaflets based around the 7 *am* Sayings of Jesus Christ that we find in the Gospel of St John. The first leaflet provides an introduction and explains the context of other leaflets in the series. The resource can be used flexibly and includes opportunities for scripture reading, prayer, faith sharing and teaching.

The resources are available via the website for the RCIA Network for England & Wales. Simply go to: [www.rcia.org.uk/What's new/ Evangelisation & Pre-Catechumenate/](http://www.rcia.org.uk/What's%20new/Evangelisation%20&%20Pre-Catechumenate/)

Schools may also consider using these resources outside of an RCIA context if they would be helpful for any member of staff or parents who are interested in exploring the Catholic faith. Parishes and schools would be most welcome to contact me via the NORES office if I can help in any way in using these resources.

Event for Catechists in the Year of Mercy

To coincide with the Jubilee celebrations for Catechists in Rome we are running an event for catechists on the afternoon of **SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2016, 2pm-5pm** at St Joseph's Church, Chalfont St Peter. The Jubilee Year of Mercy offers us as catechists the opportunity to encounter the mercy of the Lord anew in our own lives and to reflect on our calling to be messengers of mercy. Our host parish, St Joseph's in Chalfont St Peter, has a designated Door of Mercy for our Diocese so we will have the opportunity to make a pilgrimage through the Holy Door. We are also delighted to welcome Bishop John Wilson, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, who will help us reflect on our service as catechists following the theme, chosen by Pope Francis for this Jubilee, "By Having Mercy and Choosing" from his own motto. This motto is taken from a passage from the Venerable Bede (Homily 21 (CCL 122, 149-151)) on the Feast of St Matthew, which reads: *Vidit ergo Jesus publicanum, et quia miserando atque eligendo vidit, ait illi, 'Sequere me' (Jesus therefore sees the tax collector, and since he sees by having mercy and by choosing, he says to him, 'Follow me').*

The timetable for our afternoon is:

1.15pm-2pm Room available for those bringing a packed lunch

2.00pm Welcome & Opening Prayer

2.15pm Pilgrimage through the Holy Door

(The Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharistic

Adoration will be available between 2.15pm-3.15pm)

3.00 pm Tea/Coffee

3.25 pm Bishop John Wilson

4.15 pm Closing Prayer

5.00 pm Departures for those not staying for Mass (5.30pm Mass for those able to stay)

Cost: £5 per person, payable on the day or in advance to the NORES Office, thank you. Please send in your name/parish in advance via the booking form or by phone or e-mail to help us prepare for the day.

Booking forms are available from the NORES office and website.

School Chaplaincy continues to develop in various ways in schools around the Diocese. In September I will be attending a national meeting where issues around school Chaplaincy will be explored. It will be useful to see how we can continue to support this vital area of ministry on a national level.

The Chaplaincy Training Days for next academic year have been planned and schools should have copies of the booking leaflet with all the information 5 October, 3 February, 22 June 2017. Copies are available via the NORES website (Events and Courses) or the NORES office.

May I take this opportunity to wish all a blessed and refreshing summer holiday.

NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR

OUR NORES KALENDAR FOR 2016/2017 has been circulated

- please make sure you put all the dates that apply to you in your diary now, and make sure the school calendar takes account of them in your planning

- members of the Head Teachers' Association and Deputy Heads Association are asked to ensure that they make their meetings a PRIORITY

- RE Coordinators/Heads of RE/Chaplains – please ensure that you also make your meetings and the conferences a priority in all your work.

DEPUTY HEADS/SENIOR LEADERS' CONFERENCE

Dates - 16-18 November 2016 Booking forms out now!

Venue - Hothorpe Hall, Leicestershire. Book and pay before the end of term and get a discount.

Theme - "*Justice and mercy have met*" (Psalm 85)

CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

(CCRS) COURSE in Aylesbury from September

A new course starts at St Louis Primary School in Aylesbury from September 2016 and finishing in December 2017. There are eight modules, each consisting of 2 sessions. The course is aimed at teachers in Catholic schools or those who wish to discover more about their faith. For more details and a booking form check out the Adult Education tab on the NORES website or contact Warren Edwards: edwards@nores.org.uk the course administrator.

THEOLOGY FOR CATHOLIC ADULTS is a very useful modular course. It offers the chance to spend a day doing theology for yourself, which then becomes invaluable for your teaching. Look for the leaflet!

NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY CORNER

Anne-Marie McIntosh

Summer is here!

We're almost at the end of the Pentecost Term and summer is here! I would like to start by saying thank you to every one of you for your warm welcome, openness and willingness to engage. It has been a privilege to work with you. There are so many great things going on in our schools and its all down to each and every one of you.

School Visits

The following schools are due a visit in the first half term of the new academic year:

St Joseph Luton, St Monica Milton Keynes
St Gregory Bedford, St Theresa Princess Risborough
St Michael High Wycombe, Thornton College
St Mary Aston Le Walls

I know that some of you have just had a visit this term but hopefully from now on you will be in the same term year on year. You will shortly receive an email so that we can agree a date and a focus for the meeting before September. Of course if you would like me to come into school for anything in addition to the annual visit please don't hesitate to ask.

RE Subject Leader Meetings

Thank you to those of you who continue to meet on a regular basis. If you have any dates in advance please let me know. The earlier I can get them in my diary the more chance I have of being able to attend. Thank you.

Levels of Attainment

The review of the levels of attainment in RE is underway. We wait to hear the collated results. David Quinn from Nottingham Diocese did some in-service in Luton last week and one of the main improvements in the area of assessment is the development of end of year expectations for each year group. Watch this space!

In-service If you need any in-service on anything at all please don't hesitate to ask.

Courses The RE Conference on Friday 17 June went well. *David Wells: 'Teaching the Pope Francis Way'* was fantastic. Can we really transform our schools by gesture?

And finally Thank you for everything you do for the children in your care.

I hope you all have a great holiday and a well deserved rest.

NORES LECTURE 2016 –

Friday 8 July 7.30pm Canon John Udris – *'Mercy through the Eyes of the Mystics'*
Canon John is a priest of our diocese, at present serving as Spiritual director at St Mary's College, Oscott, the seminary in Birmingham where we have several students training for the priesthood.

SECONDARY RE AND INSPECTION

Stephen O'Brien

GCSE Edexcel made their fourth full GCSE submission to Ofqual on 6 June 2016. This was processed and returned by the third week in June with a requirement for further changes. I would assume that a further submission will follow shortly. Edexcel's third short-course submission was received by Ofqual on 9 June so presumably a response from Ofqual is imminent. Most schools across our and other diocese seem to have opted for AQA or Eduqas with the majority choosing AQA. For those still undecided or hanging on for Edexcel, a look at the Eduqas offering is recommended as both this [and AQA] are highly regarded. A range of text books associated with the various boards have been or are about to be published. All have merits and some will make a significant contribution to your work.

New Inspection Schedule. A national working group is currently shaping a new Section 48 inspection schedule, expected to be ready for first use in September 2017. This will include some significant changes to the current and successful schedule that we have followed here in Northampton for more than three years. The new document will align Section 48 more closely with current Ofsted practice and is also designed to streamline the process somewhat. This will be a part of our discussion at the inspection team meeting on Friday 15 July 2016.

As the academic year draws towards its end, I would take this opportunity to thank all school and inspection colleagues for their hard work this year and to wish you all a happy and restful summer break.

SCHOOL NEWS - THIS YEAR

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

Universal: That indigenous peoples, whose identity and existence are threatened, will be shown due respect.

Evangelization: That the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean, in her mission to the continent, may announce the Gospel with renewed vigour and enthusiasm.

FEAST DAYS - pray for the schools who celebrate their feast days this month.

11 July - St Bernard's Preparatory School, Slough.

22 July – St Mary Magdalene, Milton Keynes.

HEAD TEACHER INDUCTIONS

Jo Anne Hoarty as Head of St Paul's, Milton Keynes
7pm at the school, Monday 10 October.

Anthony Noble as Executive Principal of St Francis of Assisi Academies Trust,
7pm Tuesday 4 October. Venue to be confirmed

HEAD TEACHER APPOINTMENTS - Interim

Jon Davis – Thomas Becket, Northampton

Niamh Rolph – St Gregory, Northampton

Daria Hass – St Vincent, Houghton Regis