



NORES NEWS

February 2018 – The month dedicated to The Holy Family

Diocese of Northampton, Office for RE, Evangelisation, Catechesis & Schools

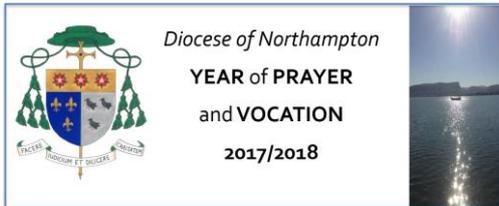
SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

33 Westbourne Road, Luton, LU4 8JD Telephone: 01582 723312

admin@nores.org.uk www.nores.org.uk www.northamptondiocese.org

From the Episcopal Vicar

Mgr Kevin



How is **YoPaV** going in your school or community? Lots of different ideas have been emerging as it is such a simple yet crucial theme for us as Catholic Christians. Lent is an ideal time for us to use to strengthen our engagement with this special Year –

- make Lent a time of **deeper prayer** : rather than give up things, give God more time in prayer, pray more for people who need your support
- as Lent is a journey to Easter **remembering our own baptism**, think about the call God makes to each one of us as his baptised daughter/son, and see how we are responding. It will be a powerful preparation for renewing our baptismal promises at Easter
- think especially of all **those who will be baptised at Easter**, especially many adults, and pray for them on their journey

LENT begins on Valentine's Day this year. Easter Sunday is April Fools' Day. I wonder will the secular world think of the religious days at all? Easter eggs appeared at Christmas, and Hot Cross Buns [special treat on Good Friday] are always in the shops. It is ever more important for us to deepen our appreciation of the Church's seasons.

- make sure **Shrove Tuesday** is marked with the idea of celebrating before fasting : it will have to be done before half term, but no problem being ahead of time!
- don't forget that we fast from **ALLELUIA** in Lent. It is brought back at the Easter Vigil. There is a tradition of actually burying/hiding a scroll decorated with the word Alleluia just before Lent, and then incorporating it into your Easter garden. Try it this year!
- prepare for **ASH WEDNESDAY** by burning last year's palms [with H&S care] to make ashes, and use them for a liturgy after half-term, as so many will not have been to church on the actual day. We use the brazier of the Easter fire to burn the palms, and then keep that brazier, with some ashes in the centre of the church during Lent.

Thomas Merton writes

In laying on us the light cross of ashes the Church desires to take off our shoulders all other heavy burdens - the crushing load of worry and oppressive guilt, the dead weight of our own self love. We should not take upon ourselves a burden of penance and stagger into Lent as if we were Atlas carrying the whole world on his shoulders.

It is important to find a really positive way forward for Lent 2018. Keep **YoPaV** to the fore.

Remember CAFOD and your own charities, and the Food Banks. As the poet Robert Herrick reminds us

It is to fast from strife and old debate,

And hate; to circumcise thy life.

To show a heart, grief- rent;

To starve thy sin, not bin ;

and that's to keep thy Lent

DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF

1 - NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

for England and Wales in Liverpool - 7 - 9 September 2018

Go to cbcew.org.uk and see what is available under "Adoremus A series of podcasts has been produced, and the Spirituality Committee will have a series of leaflets available soon. This is an opportunity for us all to consider what we mean by Eucharistic adoration in schools and parishes.

2 - **WORLD MEETING of FAMILIES** with Pope Francis Dublin 21-26 August 2018, with the theme "The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World". See worldmeeting2018.ie.

NYMO are organising a group, and Bishop Peter is there as the led bishop for Marriage and Family Life in England and Wales.

GOVERNANCE APPOINTMENTS

Our thanks to all who have accepted this ministry and service

Foundation Governors:

Holy Family Primary, Slough

Mrs Maura Appele, Canon Kevin O'Driscoll

Milton Keynes :

St Bernadette's Primary- Mr Ian Peterson, Mr Kevin Turner, Dr Andrea Moro

St Monica's Primary- Mr Michael Manley

Bletchley Federation - Mrs Samantha Boon; Bishop Parker,

St Patrick's Primary, Corby - Mrs Linda Rodrigues Fernandes,

St Edward's Junior School - Aylesbury -Mrs Helen Parry

St Mary's Primary, Aston-le-Walls - Mr Richard Harkin,

Foundation Directors

St Francis of Assisi Multi Academy Trust, Bedford-

Mr Ira Ottley, Mrs Kath McFarlane, Miss Catherine Piotrowski,

SCHOOLS' COMMISSION

Director of School Development - Collette Curtis

Update on Leadership, governance development

As you will be aware we are working with Dioceses across the country to share strategies and resources to support 3 key areas in delivering high quality Catholic education

- Recruitment and retention of teachers
- Development of Catholic leaders
- Development of governance both a school and Catholic Multi- Academy Trust level

In leadership we are looking to access the accredited routes used in other areas of the country to ensure consistency and provide access both online and locally through a hub model. More details will follow as these are confirmed.

In response to feedback from serving leaders, aware of time pressures in an already busy working life, we will be providing opportunities for leadership development at all levels through a non-accredited route. This will be based on the current model being used in St Paul's, Milton Keynes. This training uses materials from the Master's qualification in Catholic Leadership being used in St Paul's Milton Keynes in collaboration with the author of these materials Alan Murphy and his website www.cpdf.co.uk. He provided valued input at our last Deputy Heads' and Senior Leaders' conference.

Upcoming dates where further information on this will be discussed:

Head Teachers' Conference – 1,2 March Hothorpe Hall
Governors Forum 10 March - 10-12 NORES, Luton
Governors Induction - 10 March 1 – 3 NORES, Luton
Deputy Heads Association meeting 20 March NORES

External monitoring of schools Update to the Ofsted guidance for short inspections published December 2017. The updated guidance is available on the Ofsted website. In summary from the guidance:

"Outcomes of a short inspection The purpose of a short inspection is to determine whether the school continues to provide a good standard of education and whether safeguarding is effective.

There are four possible outcomes for a short inspection. These are explained below and are illustrated in the diagram on page 15.

Outcome 1 – the school continues to be a good school
or Outcome 2 – the school remains good and there is sufficient evidence of improved performance to suggest that the school may be judged outstanding if it received a section 5 inspection now. The school will be informed that its next inspection will be a Section 5 inspection, which will typically take place within one to two years
or Outcome 3 – the lead inspector is not satisfied that the school would receive at least its current grade if a Section 5 inspection were carried out now. The school will be informed that its next inspection will be a Section 5 inspection, which will typically take place within one to two years

or Outcome 4 – the lead inspector has gathered evidence that suggests the school may be inadequate in one or more of the graded judgements under section 5 inspections; there are serious concerns about safeguarding, pupils' behaviour or the quality of education; there are concerns that the performance of an outstanding non-exempt school could be declining to 'requires improvement' The short inspection will be converted to a Section 5 inspection, usually within 48 hours. (Non-exempt schools are maintained nursery schools, pupil referral units and special schools). Inspectors **will always** report on whether or not safeguarding is effective. If safeguarding is not effective, the lead inspector **will always** convert the short inspection to a S5 inspection."

Memorandum of Understanding [MoU] between the Department for Education and the Catholic Church

There is a MoU in place between the DfE and the Catholic Education Service which underpins the way in which we work together with our schools. This agreement ensures that the Diocese is informed and involved in the DfE monitoring of Academies and consulted over any issues or concerns. This means that the DfE should not be contacting MATs directly or arranging visits without informing the Diocese. It has become apparent that there is a lack of induction for new staff which has resulted in some breaches of this protocol. I have raised this with Martin Post the Regional Schools Commissioner and his team who have apologised. The Catholic Education Service will also be raising this with Sir David Carter to ensure that it is fully understood by all staff and that protection for our MATs is upheld. If you have any issues relating this or would like anything raised with the DfE on your behalf, please do not hesitate to contact me curtis@nores.org.uk.

Finally, just an article picked up recently to raise to your attention: **The Telegraph reports** that primary school children should be taught about copyright law and intellectual property amid a rise in social media, a Government agency has said. The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) has launched a raft of teaching resources and videos aimed at helping children aged seven to 11 learn about piracy, patents and trademarks. Catherine Davies, head of the IPO's education outreach department, said that children start using technology and social media at an increasingly young age, so by the time they are teenagers it is already too late to teach them about respecting copyright laws.

PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

PRAYER INTENTIONS – *ask the school to pray with Pope Francis for his intentions for February* – Say "No" to Corruption- that those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

FEAST DAYS - pray for the schools which celebrate their feast day this month.

3rd February Thornton College (St. Claudine Thevenet)
25th February St Ethelbert's Primary, Slough

SCHOOLS' COMMISSION

Debbie Main

Aca Evaluating the effectiveness of Teaching & Learning in your school

There are many sources of information Governors can use to assess the various aspects of their school. Focussed and insightful questioning of the Head Teacher or Senior Leaders should elicit plain and easy to understand answers, but governors can also make use of the following resources to evaluate the information they are given:

- External data from national assessments and examination results, Analyse School Performance (ASP) or FFT
- Internal data from half-termly or termly assessment of every pupil
- Discussions with pupils to find out their opinion of teaching in the school
- Governor visits to the school – not to monitor or judge lessons, but to see:
 - How well policies, such as marking and behaviour, are implemented
 - Whether what governors are told by the SLT is also evident in the classroom
- Discussions with subject leaders through link governor visits
- Reports from any internal or external reviews of teaching and learning
- Results from parent, pupil and staff surveys

<http://www.questionsforgovernors.co.uk> is a good source of model questions for governors to ask about science and maths. Contact Debbie Main, Schools Officer: main@nores.org.uk for further information or for model questions for other areas.

GDPR – Is your Board aware of its responsibilities?

From May 2018, schools must ensure their data processing complies with new data protection law under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The overall responsibility for data protection is collective. Even if you're lucky enough to have a data protection expert on your board, everyone needs a strong baseline knowledge of the school's data protection duties, and what the upcoming changes mean.

You need to know:

- What the GDPR is
- How it affects your school and the data you hold
- What your school is doing to prepare for the changes
- That your school's preparations and processes are robust and effective
- How you as governors will monitor the robustness of your data protection processes on an ongoing basis

You don't need to:

- Know every detail of the legislation
- Know specific information about how the school's IT processes work

- Hold or attend specific or dedicated data protection training, as this will probably go into operational detail you don't need

There is a lot of information available on GDPR, a good place to start is <https://ico.org.uk> which has an unbiased introduction to the new legislation and a checklist to see how ready your organisation is.

PRIMARY RE AND THEOLOGY

Anne Marie McIntosh

New Standards in RE - Thank you very much if you have agreed to pilot the new standards this term. If you are not taking part then its business as usual with the Attainment Target levels. If you are taking part in the pilot and haven't let me know then please send me an email as I have to submit a list of schools taking part to the Catholic Education Service. Thank you.

RE Subject Leader Meetings Please let me know the dates of these meetings in advance 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 in the Lent Term on Friday 23rd March, 2018 when we will welcome David Wells as our key note speaker.

This will be a great day for personal reflection and inspiration. I promise not to mention the word 'assessment!' Our joint day with the Secondary Heads of RE and Chaplains, in the Pentecost Term, will take place on Friday 22 June, 2018. This will be led by Fr David O'Malley sdb.

INSET The third *Come and See* day will take place on Monday 12 March from 10am – 3pm. [Not Thursday 8 February 2018 as previously advertised.] These are stand alone days so if you missed the first two you are still welcome to come along to the third one. Booking forms are available.

Just a thought.....Do all you can with the means at your disposal and calmly leave the rest to God! (St Mary Mackillop)

And finally - Don't forget if there is anything I can do to support you please do get in touch. Can't believe it's only three weeks to half term!

COURSE NEWS -

Preparing for Senior Leadership – 28 February 2018

Venue: NORES, Luton. This ran very successfully in 2017 and is a one day course helping people see what it means to move into senior leadership in a Catholic school. Forms have been sent out.

Head Teacher Conference: March 1, 2, 2018. Venue: Hothorpe Hall. With Dr Anna Rowlands and Canon Luiz Ruscillo. Cost £280 Applications from Debbie Main main@nores.org.uk

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

PASSOVER SUPPER Are you interested in holding an authentic Jewish Passover Supper in your parish? If so, this could be an ideal Lenten preparation for the Easter Triduum. A convert to Catholicism from Orthodox Judaism, Martyn Furman has led over 100 Passover celebrations both within and outside Northampton diocese over the last 20 years. As a child, the Passover was Martyn's favourite festival and this love of and enthusiasm for this great feast radiates through the evening. Drawing on the studies of acclaimed Catholic writers, he provides expert exposition on how, to the finest detail, the sacrifice of Our Lord at Easter perfectly fulfils the Jewish Passover festival and its prophecies. This is a festival which Jesus, His family and apostles, as faithful Jews, would have celebrated each year in Jerusalem. In ministry with his wife Fiona, the celebration is informative, prayerful, joyful and very sociable - especially as it incorporates a shared meal. If you are interested in finding out more, please feel free to contact Martyn

on 07788811831 / martynfurman@sky.com.

PASSING ON THE FAITH-A DAY *Looking at Some Resources* - Saturday 17 March David Wills from Arundel & Brighton will help us explore some new resources to help us in our mission of passing on the faith. This day will take place at St Teresa's Centre, Beaconsfield. All are welcome especially catechists, members of Bible Timeline groups, members of evangelisation teams and anyone interested in passing on the faith. The morning will focus on the RELIT DVD programme and be based around the RELIT evangelisation DVD course which is a perfectly suited resource for your work. Check the website address. The afternoon is on First Reconciliation & Holy Communion catechetical material that enables us to coach parents in their role as the first and best educators of their children in faith. You are welcome to come to either the morning or afternoon sessions or both!

10.00am Arrivals: Tea & Coffee

10.20am Welcome & Opening Prayer

10.30am Exploring the Evangelisation Resource RELIT

12.30pm Lunch (Bring packed lunch. Tea/coffee provided)

1.15pm Exploring the GROWING UP CATHOLIC resources for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

3.15pm Opportunity for questions

3.45pm Closing Prayer 4pm Depart

Please contact the NORES office for booking details.

WORD ON THE GO: The Bible for Busy Catholics-

[www.wordonthego.org] an exciting new website from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales & the Bible Society which helps Catholics to:

-Build the Bible into your busy life.

-Deepen your faith and spirituality.

-Experience Scripture anytime and anywhere.

It explores the Bible through a range of pathways:

Prayer, the arts, the sacraments, creative activities, tradition and history. It shows you how easy it is to turn to the Bible outside of Mass.

SECONDARY RE AND THEOLOGY

Paul McHugh

Just a reminder of the upcoming meeting on **Thursday, March 8, from 10am to 3pm** here at NORES. The first meeting in November was a great opportunity for Heads of RE to get together and share ideas and common concerns. I very much hope the March meeting will be even better. Please confirm your attendance as soon as you can to Jackie admin@nores.org.uk

Among the things up for discussion is Year 6 to Year 7 transition. I plan to visit some of our Catholic primary schools in February to meet with RE Subject Leaders and get a feel for the expectations and attainment typically demanded in a Year 6 Catholic RE setting.

There is also a session planned to focus on ways of boosting A-level RS attainment. The idea is to fix on a few topics common across the specifications and suggest simple theological inputs that have the potential greatly to enhance responses on these topics. I'd also want you to share any feedback from your experience of running mock GCSE RS examinations in the new specifications. It is vital we help each other out here.

In the meantime, I hope you have begun this new term and year with renewed energy and enthusiasm. Don't forget that there are opportunities for after-school INSET on specific areas in RE should you wish it. Again, just drop me a line and suggested dates, and we ought to be able to arrange things.

CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield

CAFOD
Just one world

Book your School Visits

We have assemblies and workshops for Primary and Secondary students for Lent. Some schools have already requested a visit. If you have not yet done so, please get in touch to book a visit.

Lent Fast Day – matched funding! - Get ready for Lent Family Fast Day on 23 Feb. We have great resources to help you hold a prayer session (eg stations of the cross, Sunday reflection and a Lenten calendar of prayer), soup lunch and give a talk in your parish. We are delighted to be awarded matched funding by the UK government again so all donations will be doubled up to £5m. See our website for more information.

Show the Love - In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis invites us all to have a conversation about how we are shaping the future of our planet. Get creative with CAFOD and the Climate Coalition by making, wearing and sharing green hearts to get the conversation started on Valentine's day. Visit cafod.org.uk/showthelove

For more details or to get in touch :

dpurfield@cafod.org.uk, 01844 274 723