



NORES NEWS

March 2018 – The month dedicated to St Joseph

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

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

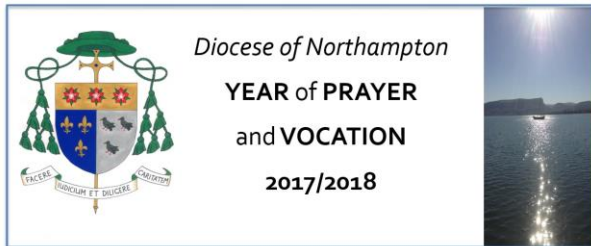
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From the Episcopal Vicar

Mgr Kevin

Bishop Peter launched the **Year of Prayer and Vocation** [YoPaV] for use in the diocese in December. It has been very good to see how our schools have taken up this initiative. Lent is fundamentally the time to prepare people for baptism at the Easter Vigil and for the baptised to be prepared to renew the promises of their baptism then too. It is because we are baptised that we each of us has a baptismal vocation to serve God, one another and the world through the Church. Let the last weeks of Lent then become a time for thinking about our baptism so that when we renew those promises we will commit ourselves to something deeper within the life of the Church. It is much more than just saying that we believe in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is how we live that belief!



This would be a great theme for our young people – how are they listening to what God wants them to do, wants them to become as human beings. It is again more than just assent to belief or to finding a good career! Perhaps you can set the challenge to think about this before the Easter holidays and then when you return it becomes the focus for prayer and reflection with some form of commitment.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? – I DO

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father? – I DO

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting? – I DO

And may almighty God,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit
and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins,
keep us by his grace,
in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.

AMEN

NATIONAL SHORTAGE OF RE TEACHERS – from The Church Times – 23 February 2018. *While this article concerns all schools it is important for us to acknowledge that Catholic schools play a crucial role in providing the best religious education possible. We must promote RE in our schools and encourage more candidates to apply for the work.*

The Religious Education Council of England and Wales [REC] has reported a “chronic” shortage of RE teachers in the UK: just 405 vacancies for RE teachers were filled last year. The government target is 643. The REC is calling on the (DfE) to hand out higher bursaries for RE teachers in training, and provide funding for specialist courses that would enable graduates from a wider variety of subjects to apply. It comes after Ofsted reported that almost half (46 per cent) the staff teaching RE in schools had no post-A-level qualification in the subject. The call is part of a wider campaign by the Council to highlight the attractions of a career in RE teaching, which started last week. It is a relaunch of a previous campaign — Beyond the Ordinary — led by the Council in 2015 after the Government suspended RE funding. The campaign resulted in a 30-per-cent increase in January applications in 2016 RE is among the academic subjects considered “least important” by the public. The findings of a YouGov survey of 1648 adults in the UK in December were published last Friday, and suggest that just 12 per cent of the public consider RE to be “very important” compared with 26 per cent who believe the subject to be “not at all important”. RE was considered more important only than drama, Classics, and Latin, which ranked lowest in the poll. English, by comparison, was considered “very important” by 84 per cent of the sample. And yet interest in the subject remains high for the next generation, the Council says. It reports that 60 per cent of all 16-year-olds (about 300,000 pupils) chose to take RE at GCSE last year, and that A-level entries have quadrupled in the past 15 years. A spokesman from the DfE said: “Religious education remains compulsory at each key stage for all state-funded schools, including academies and free schools, and we expect all schools to fulfil their statutory duties. In addition, we have changed the law and the requirements in schools so that they have to actively promote mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”

SCHOOLS' COMMISSION

Director of School Development - Collette Curtis

Supporting disadvantaged pupils I know all schools are carefully reviewing provision for disadvantaged children in all areas to meet their needs. At the Heads' meeting we have agreed to share some of the strategies which have proved to make the most difference, particularly when numbers of disadvantaged pupils in your school may be small. In the meantime, I have received this alert which may be of interest. This is not a recommendation as I do not know of a school in touch with them but it may be worth sharing.

Find out how near-peer Mentoring can boost outcomes for your FSM students - Engage a highly-trained team of full-time volunteers aged 18-25, from all backgrounds who serve in schools every day of the academic year, Monday to Thursday. Carefully selected and trained to be rôle models, mentors and tutors for targeted students, these volunteers work closely with low-income students to help to improve attendance, behaviour and curriculum progress.

Volunteers contribute powerfully to the culture and ethos of the whole school and can help schools to make an impact on an unprecedented scale by:

- Bringing extra adults to the classroom and playground from first thing in the morning until after the last after-school club
- Using evidence-based strategies to coach children most at risk of falling behind
- Supporting students who are failing to develop the necessary social skills and character traits for success
- Delivering school-mandated interventions to around ten percent of a school's roll

Mentoring teams come from different backgrounds and can really help to transform student life chances.

If this sounds like something your school could benefit from, then click to book a brief appointment to find out more or call 020 3191 6696 . NB: All schools will be offered a free online Interventions tracking tool in order to track and measure the outcomes of support.

SCHOOLS' COMMISSION

Debbie Main

GDPR – Are you ready? As you will be aware the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), is new Europe-wide legislation that replaces the Data Protection Directive, part of a wider package of reform that includes the Data Protection Bill. The GDPR sets out requirements for how organisations will need to handle personal data from 25 May 2018. Work that is being undertaken by the Bishops' Conference into the impact of the GDPR for the church. The CES has recently joined the Working Group that has been set up by the Bishops' Conference which hopes to produce a guide to the GDPR for dioceses. It is intended to include advice on carrying out data audits, and template key policies and privacy statement. At the same time, and

parallel to this work, the CES is considering the extent of advice that is needed specifically for Catholic schools, and to dioceses in respect of their relationship with their schools and the flow of data and information between them. The CES will build on the output of the Working Group for this specific advice for Catholic schools, and the provision of template policies and privacy statement so that there is a level of consistency. The CES has already embarked on a review of the CES model contracts and associated employment documentation to incorporate any necessary amendments arising as a result of the GDPR. Look out for CES and Diocesan guidance to schools and academies. In the meantime continue to audit your data and practices to ensure Data Protection compliance. If you have any questions about the development of Diocesan GDPR Strategy or advice for schools, please contact Debbie Main in the first instance on 01582 723312 or main@nores.org.uk

Gender pay gap reporting requirements for academies and multi-academy trusts – deadline 30 March 2018. Mandatory gender pay gap reporting was introduced in 2017 for organisations with 250 or more employees, including schools and multi-academy trusts. If your school or trust has 250 or more employees, you need to report your data by 30 March 2018 on the Government's online reporting service, as well as on your own website.

Register as soon as possible if your organisation is in scope of the regulations at: www.gov.uk/report-gender-pay-gap-data Further information and links to guidance are available - <https://genderpaygap.campaign.gov.uk/>

INSPECTION

Steve O'Brien

There are four inspections and four IMVs across the diocese during the course of the next half term. Inspections for the remainder of this academic year will continue under the 2012 schedule and SEF-RE, with the new system in place from September 2018. Schools should move to the new SEF during the remainder of the current academic year. Training in the new SEF-RE takes place here in Luton on 23 February 2018. There is also ab initio training for new S48 inspectors on 22/23 March 2018. Arrangements for this are being put in place as I write. Can I remind all members of the inspection team that we have a meeting on Wednesday 23 March 2018? Further details and an agenda will be circulated in due course. The meeting will follow the usual format and timings.

I took on the role of CCRS coordinator from January 2018 to replace Warren Edwards who has done a superb job over the last five years. Thank you Warren. We currently have four CCRS courses running across the diocese with the latest just started in Bedford this January. If you are interested in finding out more about CCRS or wish to enrol on a future course, please contact me at the education office in Luton. You can email me at obrien@nores.org.uk or ring during office hours on 01582 723312. New students are always welcome and will be directed towards the next study opportunity.

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 23 March when we 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!' Booking forms will be with you soon. 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 2018 from 10am – 3pm.. 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.....

The best way to make the future different is to live the present differently (Daniel Berrigan)

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!

SECONDARY RE AND THEOLOGY

Paul McHugh

Just a quick reminder about our meeting on March 8 at NORES. I have confirmation of attendance from some of you (for which, thanks). I encourage you all to get those confirmations in as soon as possible. On another note, I am in the process of preparing a significant resource called 'Catholic Basics' designed to address a need in our school communities for a simple, holistic introduction to the Catholic Faith. Though planned for roll out next academic year, we are running taster sessions this year to get your thoughts and feedback. If you think a little taster session could work in your school (an hour to an hour and half), please get in touch for more details.

Wishing you all the blessings of this Lenten season.

In Lent the whole church becomes a catechumen, receiving instruction from the Word of God, a penitent practising ascetical exercises. She meditates on the Word, and cleanses herself, so that, enlightened and free, she may receive the grace of Easter, and experience more vividly the joy of salvation which comes with the Risen Christ.

Luigi della Torre

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

School Chaplaincy Last month we had a great training day on Prayer Spaces in Schools led by Rachel Warwick. The good news for those who weren't able to make it is that there is a host of material on their website that takes schools through the whole process of setting up and using prayer spaces. There are reports and stories from schools, how-to guides and a wealth of resources there to use. See www.prayerspacesinschools.com for more details. Our next joint Chaplaincy and RE Day, on Friday 22 June, will be with Salesian priest Fr David O' Malley who has much experience, knowledge and wisdom to share about School Chaplaincy. **Passing on the Faith-A Day Looking at Some Resources** On Saturday 17 March 2018 (10am-4pm) David Wills 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 Church hall, 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 parishes, parish evangelisation teams and the Bible Timeline group.s (There's a website address below where you can see more). 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!

Helping our Parishes Pass On the Faith, led by David Wills, Saturday 17 March 2018 at St Teresa's RC Church Hall Beaconsfield

10am Arrivals: Tea & Coffee

10.20am Welcome & Opening Prayer

10.30am Exploring the Evangelisation Resource RELIT

12.30pm Lunch (please bring a packed lunch tea and coffee will be 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.

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 / at martynfurman@sky.com.

DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF

1 - NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS for England and Wales in Liverpool - 7 - 9 September

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". NYMO are organising a group, and Bishop Peter is there as the led bishop for Marriage and Family Life in England and Wales. See worldmeeting2018.ie. The site has great resources at all levels – look out for schools' material.

PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

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

Formation in Spiritual Discernment. That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels

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

17 March St Patrick's Primary, Corby

19 March St Joseph's Infant, Aylesbury;

St Joseph's & St Gregory's Bedford;

St Joseph's Primary Luton;

St Joseph's Primary, Chalfont St Peter;

St Joseph's High, Slough

24 hours for the Lord

Pope Francis has called us all to celebrate the Sacrament of

Reconciliation [Confessions] on 9/10 March, to celebrate God's tender mercy. Parishes will be offering different opportunities over three days with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Encourage everyone in your community to share in this. Publish the times available.



MISSIO NEWS

Fr Wayne Coughlin



This Lent we are reminded of Pope Francis' call for us to lead heroic lives so that our small sacrifices (e.g. the money saved from observing the obligatory Friday Abstinence from meat, etc.) will benefit other people and help bring the Joy of the Gospel to those "on the fringes of society". One way to show solidarity with the work of the Holy Father is to support Missio! Missio is the Pope's official charity for overseas mission and works in four areas, the: 1) Sending of missionaries. 2) Training of Priests and Religious Sisters. 3) Faith development of children and arranging aid relief to their impoverished communities. 4) Nurturing the baptismal call for evangelisation. Unlike many other charities Missio operates on a very small budget and employs few staff. Perhaps your School might consider adopting Missio as a charity? If so, you would be supporting the work of Pope Francis as together we seek to reach all people with the Good News of Salvation and bring healing where there is degradation. You might also consider including Missio in your regular school prayers and assemblies! To learn more about this papal charity visit www.missio.org.uk or contact me (parishpriestbedford@gmail.com).

CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield



A Big Thank You to schools and parishes who have raised and are raising funds for our Lenten appeal which will be match funded by the UK government up to £5m! The period ends on 12 May so if you can fundraise, this is the time to do it. Help us help twice the number of people!

Lent Resources

- online Lent resources for children and young people
- Our online Lent calendar 2018 is really a good way to reflect, pray and take global justice actions throughout the season of Lent
- There is a really lovely Lenten meditation to share in schools, parishes and groups

Sharing experiences from Sierra Leone

One of our Step into the Gap volunteers, Siobhan Doyle, has recently returned from an amazing experience with CAFOD in Sierra Leone and would love to share this with schools and parishes in the summer. Please get in touch if you would like a visit. For more details or to get in touch : dpurfield@cafod.org.uk, 01844 274 723

The **STATIONS of the CROSS** [Via Crucis] lead us through the journey of Christ from his judgement before Pilate to his death and burial. How will we make this journey? Are we prepared to celebrate the **STATIONS of LIGHT** [Via Lucis] which celebrate his Resurrection through Christ's appearances to his followers.