



NORES NEWS

July 2018 – The month dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus

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

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

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

From the Episcopal Vicar *Mgr Kevin*

We come to the end of another academic year – and time has passed so swiftly again! Another generation of students and staff have lived the life of our Catholic schools – some move on now out of the Catholic community – to other secondary schools, to college and university, to other posts outside the diocese even some to enjoy a blessed retirement. **This a time to thank them all** for what they have given to the life of our schools, and to pray that they have gained much from being with us. May our prayers and God's blessing go with them as they continue their lives and careers.

Many more will gladly enjoy the summer break, to return for a new academic which will be filled with its own joys and challenges May the weeks ahead then be restful where you can all find repose, enjoyment and the energy needed for 2018/2019!

With this edition of NORES NEWS is a précis of a Vatican document on **SPORT - "Giving the Best of Yourself. A document about the Christian perspective on sport and the human person."** The Vatican department for the Laity and Family Life sees many aspects of sport as celebrating the life God gives us to live to the full. Just as the church over the centuries has promoted the arts, so with John Paul II and now Pope Francis being avid football fans, the Church wants to encourage people to see sport as a valuable dimension of human experience. Google *Vatican Document on Sport* to read the whole text to see its message for you as an individual and for the school.

This has been and will continue to be a very eventful year for our world. It will be important for us to look beyond our own concerns, personal and for our schools. We are watching a world order that is changing in so many ways. As I write we await the outcome of the BREXIT negotiations, which will affect us undoubtedly. The situation of asylum seekers and migrants across Europe is so challenging in every way. You can hardly imagine what it means to abandon your home in the hope of finding a new and better life elsewhere, as you set out into the unknown. The political engagement of the United States with North Korea and Russia will have, hopefully, positive consequences, while Prince William's visit to Israel and Palestine highlights how the land where Christ lived still searches for the peace for which he prayed. All of these now need to be in our daily prayers, to be part of the way we bring our young people to be truly concerned for all of God's world.

DATES for YOUR DIARIES 2018/19

STAFF NEW to the DIOCESE - a day for all staff beginning in one of our schools in September 2018 – a chance to meet others coming into the diocese, to meet the NORES team and other diocesan agencies – a time to reflect on what it means to come to work and enjoy a fulfilling life in a Catholic school. Schools are asked to get this date into your diaries and let us know who will be coming as soon as you can.

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2018

begins on Monday 8 October. During the week we hope you will find the materials we are sending out useful to

- celebrate Catholic education in your school
- to link in different ways with other schools in your partnerships and multi-academy Trusts
- to work with your local parish[es] especially being present in the churches on Schools Sunday

OUR SCHOOLS MASS is on Friday 12 October, 11am in St Mary's Church, Dunstable with Bishop Peter. It will be a chance for our schools to celebrate his 50th anniversary as a priest.

NORES LECTURE this year is on Sunday 14 October at 4pm. Sister Elizabeth Mary and Sister Eva will take up the theme of our diocesan Year of Prayer and Vocation and explore what does it mean for us to be Christians today, serving God and one another in the Catholic Church. Sister Elizabeth Mary is the prioress of the Bernardine Sisters in Stroud where they moved from St Bernard's in Slough. So it is lovely to welcome her back to the diocese where she taught.

AMORIS LAETITAE

Pope Francis' 2016 apostolic exhortation on the joy of love will be the subject of our twilight school sessions in the Advent term. It will follow on from the World Meeting of Families [August, Dublin]. The family is the nucleus of societal life. Catholic teaching on family life rejoices in family values that are underpinned by Christ's teaching and the centuries of Church tradition. We live them in a contemporary society that is very different from previous times, so how we ensure we are faithful and aware of the signs of the times.

SCHOOLS' COMMISSION Debbie Main

Governor Skills Audit & Self-Evaluation As the end of this school year approaches it is the time for all Governing Bodies to review their performance over the year and look at the skills on the Board to inform Governor training and recruitment for next year. There are many governor self-evaluation tools available. I will shortly be emailing all Chairs of Governors details of a few. It is best practice to review your Governing Body's performance against the objectives you set for this academic year – otherwise how do you know if you're doing a good job? If you would like any advice about how to improve your self-evaluation or carry out a skills audit, email at main@nores.org.uk or call 01582 723312.

Governor Factsheets I recently sent out our new Governor Factsheet pack to all Chairs of Governors. Let me know if you haven't seen it! I have written a series of ten factsheets on common topics eg. Catholic Life, Finance, Disadvantaged Pupils to help Directors, Representatives and Governors monitor school performance and hold senior leaders to account. Each factsheet gives examples of mechanisms governors can use to monitor these topic areas and also sample questions governors can ask school leaders. Schools can order 12 hard copy sets of factsheets for £12 or you can download all ten factsheets from the NORES website: www.nores.org.uk in the School Leadership section.

NORES website One of my summer holiday jobs (I'm here over the summer holidays if you need advice) is to begin the refresh of the NORES website. We are currently looking at what we think should be on the site and I'd like to hear your views too. What do you like about the current site and what would you like to see on our new site? Any feedback is welcome to main@nores.org.uk

Social Media Over the past few weeks I have been tweeting excerpts from Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exultate (Rejoice and be Glad)*. You can read the entire publication at <http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html> We have also set up a Facebook page to share news and events, search for NORES PAGE and you should see our Mustard Tree logo as the profile picture. We would also like to use the page to advertise school vacancies so please tag us in any vacancies you post on your school Facebook page.

from the Director of School

Development

Collette Curtis

The future of Catholic Education in the Diocese

- working more closely together

Better two than one by himself, since thus their work is really profitable. If one should fall, the other helps him up; but woe to the man by himself with no one to help him when he falls down.
Ecclesiastes 9-11

We meet with the CEOs, Chairs of each of the MATs and the representative head teachers and chairs of governors from schools in Bucks and Milton Keynes regularly through the Dun Scotus Board. At the last meeting we discussed the current strengths and developments of the Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) within the Diocese and the key challenges they face. We will be involved in more detailed discussions over the next few weeks about ways in which we can work more closely together across MATs and schools in the North and South of the Diocese. More detail will be available through the representative heads for each partnership group of schools.

Catholic leadership development

Thank you to all of those involved in the *train the trainer* sessions for the Diocese accreditation of Catholic leadership training, led by Jo-Anne Hoarty from St Paul's Milton Keynes and included trainers from Bedford, Buckinghamshire, Luton and Northampton. They are all serving head teachers or senior leaders who will be accredited as Specialist Leaders of Education (SLE's) through St Thomas More Teaching School to deliver the training in 3 hubs from the Advent term 2018. The course will consist of 6 twilight sessions of 1.5 hours, one a half term, starting after the October break in the Advent Term 2018. A nominal cost of £30 for all 6 sessions will be charged to cover venue costs and hospitality. Dates for these sessions are available on the NORES calendar sent to all schools and on the NORES website. If you would like more detailed information, please contact me curtis@nores.org.uk

Judicial Review of the Bishops' Memorandum re employing Catholic teachers by the Humanists UK

Head teachers, Directors and Governors need to be aware that Humanists UK (the new name of the British Humanist Association) has started a High Court Judicial Review against the Catholic Education Service. They claim that the Bishops' Memorandum on the Appointment of Teachers in Catholic Schools is unlawful because it states that, in accordance with the Schools Standards and Framework Act ("the SSFA 1998"), schools may, and should, give priority to practising Catholics when employing teachers. The real challenge is their long-standing contention that the UK does not properly implement the 2000 EU Equal Treatment Directive. Apart from the substantive issues, this raises two other interesting points:

- Whether the CES, the Bishops' Conference (who issued the Memorandum), or CaTEW (as Trustees of both tCES and the Bishops' Conference), are reviewable by JR. They claim that the Memorandum and associated documents are published in connection with the exercise of a public function.

- Whether the JR has been issued outside the relevant time frame, [three months from the date of the action cited]. The current Memorandum was published in 2014. The Humanists claim that the Memorandum and CES documentation are 'ongoing in effect' so the time limit continues to run.

The CES is awaiting the formal issuing of the claim by the court. Since the Humanists have not applied for an expedited hearing, and given the volume of work in the Administrative Court, it is quite likely that there will not be any court hearing before the Autumn and, if Permission is granted, likely that a substantive hearing will not take place until 2019.

Implications for schools: it is recommended that clear guidance and expectations on what it means to be defined as a practising catholic in good standing with the Church be issued. This will be addressed by the Diocese and available from September 2018.

Something to think about: A vision comes first

The dedication of school governors is not questioned, but their first responsibility – to defend what is distinctive about Catholic education and promote its mission – receives too little attention. *Sr Judith Russi (National School of Formation)*

To do - MAKE SURE that governors are "big picture" people who, with the head teacher, set the strategic direction for the school.

GIVE governors the formation they need in terms of Catholic teachings and canon law to do the important work they do.

REMEMBER that education is a process of encounter, people on pilgrimage, in solidarity, learning to build the Kingdom.

SECONDARY RE AND THEOLOGY

Paul McHugh

Many thanks for arranging matters for my visit to each of your schools. I hope that it has proved as worthwhile and instructive an exercise for you and the RE departments as it has for us in the Diocese. Thanks once again for the welcome you have given me.

As for future plans: I hope over the summer to move on my work with the resources website. At some point later on I will ask for materials from you to help pre-populate the site before launch. The site is intended for all key stages from EYFS onward.

Some dates for your diaries:

Schools Mass - Friday 12 October;

Heads of RE meeting - Friday 9 November.

In the meantime, have a well-earned rest over the summer.

May God bless you and keep you.

PRIMARY RE AND THEOLOGY

Anne Marie McIntosh

Why does Mary wear blue? This came up as a question on our recent Come and See day and I thought it would be worth sharing with everyone! There are a number of theories:

1. In the Old Testament Book of Numbers blue is the colour specifically mentioned as the colour of the People of Israel. The People of Israel followed God's commandments. Mary perfectly lived this out.
2. In the Orthodox tradition in Iconography blue represents transcendence, mystery, divinity. It is the colour of the sky and as a result is viewed as a heavenly colour.
3. A more practical explanation is that in Medieval and Renaissance Europe the blue pigment was derived from the rock lapis lazuli. A stone imported from Afghanistan of greater value than gold. So it was an expression of devotion and glorification to swathe the virgin in blue.

Website for sharing resources Paul McHugh our secondary adviser is developing a website for teachers to share ideas and resources linked to curriculum RE and worship. It is embryonic at the moment but watch this space!

Relationship and Sex Education Just a reminder that Relationship and Sex Education becomes statutory from September 2018. Hopefully by now you have a policy in place, you have had your parent consultation / information evening, and will be following the recommended programme 'Journey in Love' This is taught as a discrete session once a week for half a term, generally the last half term of the year, 30 minutes in KS1 and 45 minutes in KS2

New Standards Thank you very much for taking part in the pilot of the new assessment materials and for feeding back your views through the questionnaire. The standards, skills guide and glossary have been tweaked following the pilot. The updated versions are on the NORES website. We will continue with the new standards next term as an extension to the pilot (If your school did not pilot the new standards then just carry on as you are with the levels). Hopefully by the November meeting of the RE Subject Leaders across the Diocese on Friday 16 November we will have a clear way forward.

In-set If you would like a staff meeting, in the new year, on anything at all please don't hesitate to ask.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

School Chaplaincy Training Days 2018-19 Some advanced notice of our School Chaplaincy Training Days for the coming academic year. The training day in the Pentecost term will be a joint RE and School Chaplaincy Conference.

Tuesday 2 October 2018- Liturgy Training Day for Schools Led by Mgr Kevin McGinnell, our Primary RE Co-Ordinator Anne-Marie McIntosh and myself this will be a valuable opportunity for all who are responsible for preparing and leading liturgy in school to learn or be refreshed in the essentials.

Friday 8 February 2019 -Missio This day will help us explore our call to mission, especially to the nations. It will include an overview of resources available from Missio.

Friday 7 June 2019- CJM Music It seemed high time that we invited CJM back to lead us. Many of you will know and use their music and resources. This will be a valuable opportunity to spend a day with Jo Boyce and her team in singing and learning music that can enrich our School Masses and other liturgies and Collective Acts of Worship.

Bookings form for all three days will be available from the NORES in September. Please pass on the dates and information to your Chaplaincy teams and whoever you feel may benefit. We look forward to welcoming you.

Carmelite Courses - During our Diocesan Year of Prayer & Vocation our catechists, School Chaplains and others in our schools and parishes may be interested in some courses and opportunities at the Centre for Applied Carmelite Spirituality (CACS). This is a centre for research and training that promotes the renewal and growth of the spiritual life, drawing on the rich resources of the venerable Carmelite Tradition. At the Centre people are welcome to enter into the silence where God's voice is heard in prayer, word and sacrament, inviting them to journey ever more deeply into a place of growth and wholeness. Their goal is to bring people to experience a life-transforming friendship with God through a lived experience of Carmelite spirituality that is authentic to its biblical roots. They do this through retreats and study programmes using various resources from books and publications to multimedia and online programmes. For more information : www.cacarmelitesp.co.uk

And finally... A thought ahead of our summer break which is an opportunity for rest in the deepest sense of how we understand rest, a time of renewal including spiritual renewal for us. Perhaps to go on retreat or find more time for prayer? Pope John Paul II wrote about Sunday as the day of rest and we can reflect on this sense of rest for our summer not just on the special day of Sunday. He writes:

"Through Sunday rest, daily concerns and tasks can find their proper perspective: the material things about which we worry give way to spiritual values; in a moment of encounter and less pressured exchange, we see the true face of the people with whom we live. Even the beauties of nature... can be rediscovered and enjoyed to the full. As the day on which man is at peace with God, with himself and with others, Sunday becomes a moment when people can look anew upon the wonders of nature, allowing themselves to be caught up in that marvellous and mysterious harmony."

Pope St John Paul II, Apostolic Letter Dies Domini, 67

Wishing you all a blessed and refreshing summer.

PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

PRAYER INTENTIONS – ask the school to pray with the Pope for his intentions for July - That priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, may find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests.

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

11 July St Bernard's Preparatory, Slough

22 July St Mary Magdalene Primary, Milton Keynes

NYMO

Olivia Rzadkiewicz

NYMO has a wonderful summer planned, packed with great events for young people to get involved in.

Summer Camp is all about high- adrenaline outdoor adventure, including archery, mountain biking, climbing and raft-building. Not to mention Mass, Reconciliation, Eucharistic adoration and talks from international speakers. Plus, we do a day at Alton Towers and dive head first into Summer Camp's famed messy games! The full cost of the trip is £250, however we request a minimum donation of £195 which includes coach transport from within the Diocese. Summer Camp is from 29th July – 2nd August 2018 and is open to anyone aged 11-18.

NYMO is also leading a bunch of 16-35 year olds to Dublin for the **World Meeting of Families** from 21- 27 August. This will be a great opportunity to celebrate the gift of family life in all its forms with Pope Francis and thousands of other Catholics from around the world. It's unmissable and there are still spaces left for you to join NYMO and Bishop Peter on this special occasion. For more information visit www.nymo.org or email fiona@nymo.org

JULY is the month dedicated to the Precious Blood of Christ.

This is a difficult image in schools and generally. It belongs to an older devotional life, yet we need to be aware of the theological ideas that it portrays – how Christ gave himself completely for us on the cross. Take the time to reflect on it

Blood of Christ, only Son of the Father **be our salvation**

Blood of Christ, incarnate Word

Blood of Christ, of the new and eternal covenant

Blood of Christ, that spilled to the ground

Blood of Christ, that flowed at the scourging

Blood of Christ, dripping from the thorns

Blood of Christ, shed on the cross

Blood of Christ, the price of our redemption

Blood of Christ, our only claim to pardon

Blood of Christ, our blessing cup

Blood of Christ, in which we are washed

Blood of Christ, torrent of mercy

Blood of Christ, that overcomes evil

Blood of Christ, strength of the martyrs

Blood of Christ, endurance of the saints

Blood of Christ, that makes the barren fruitful

Blood of Christ, protection of the threatened

Blood of Christ, comfort of the weary

Blood of Christ, solace of the mourner

Blood of Christ, hope of the repentant

Blood of Christ, consolation of the dying

Blood of Christ, our peace and refreshment

Blood of Christ, our pledge of life

Blood of Christ, by which we pass to glory

Blood of Christ, most worthy of honour

**GREAT THINGS
ARE still
HAPPENING IN
BEDFORD!**



Ss Philip and James Church
MK41 7BX

Updated!

Bishop Peter to be in attendance

Saturday, 14th July

Missio Mission Animation Day

9:30am - Votive Mass of Our Lady

10:30am - Refreshments

Followed by:

Inspiring Speakers

Free Lunch!

Update on this papal charity

4:00pm - VIGIL MASS

Fulfills Sunday Obligation

The day is open to everyone not just those associated with Missio. Please support this and encourage family and friends to do likewise!



MISSIO NEWS

Fr Wayne Coughlin

Our famous "red box" can be found in over 200,000 UK homes. There are 120 Missio offices worldwide. This papal charity helps the Holy Father support people in 157 countries. As wonderful as these statistics are they can be rather barren without the personal stories that accompany them. Therefore, Missio is to hold a "Mission

Animation Day" on Saturday, 14 July in Bedford (see above).

There will be an opportunity to gather for Mass, to listen to gifted speakers expound Pope Francis' inspiring missionary vision for the Church, to speak with missionary priests and to hear an update on the work of Missio across the world and in our own Diocese. Wondrously, there will also be a FREE delicious lunch! The event is open to everyone and not just those currently associated with Missio. Bishop Peter will be in there and will address us. Importantly, I would like to hear how Missio can support you in invaluable work of catechesis, education and evangelisation. Can I please therefore encourage your school to send representatives to the day so that they might speak with me? It will also be a perfect opportunity to see the "flowers" made by the detainees at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre. Please contact me for details: parishpriestbedford@gmail.com / (01234) 352607

CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield

CAFOD
Just one world

"Dear Lord, Give us the strength to

be persistent every day with our goal for peace and justice in the world." This prayer was written by Ella, a year 10 student and succinctly describes the work of CAFOD around the world. As we are now on the final lap before summer holidays, if you are looking for something new to revitalise these last weeks, then look no further than resources from CAFOD.

With the World Cup on, CAFOD's website has resources to help you follow this world event in the light of children's lives around the world and social justice rather than just who scores and who goes home in the first round.

All our primaries will be saying a fond farewell to their year 6s in a few weeks. If you are looking for a new Farewell liturgy then go to our website and see if our liturgy will hit the spot. Remember that CAFOD produces a wealth of resources to help teachers plan and develop their lessons. Have a look at our "Universal Church" modules which will help you deliver lively and exciting lessons this term? You'll find PowerPoint presentations as well as lesson plans all ready for you to use. Our schools' volunteers are still happy to come in an give sessions on these. Just get in touch.

For those retiring soon, we invite you to consider volunteering with CAFOD in schools when you feel ready. Your skills and talents will be really greatly appreciated! Everything CAFOD does depends on a partnership between peoples and communities both at home and around the world. Please keep us in prayer.

For more details on any of the above do get in touch: dpurfield@cafod.org.uk, 01844 274 723. www.cafod.org.uk