



NORES NEWS

February 2019 – The month dedicated to The Holy Family

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

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

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From the Episcopal Vicar *Mgr Kevin*

At the recent Catholic Independent Schools' Conference two prominent Catholics spoke in a very positive way about Catholic education. They offer us something to think about
LORD PATTEN talked about the Church as his "first book". What he learned and who taught him in his primary years was clearly formative for his faith, and we need to make the most of the possibilities offered by all our Catholic schools. He also said that we must be proud of what we have achieved in Catholic education and not shy away from telling the world the good things that we offer and achieve.
RUTH KELLY, previously Secretary of State in several departments including Education, spoke of her work at St Mary's Catholic university especially to advance the prospects of children in care.
It was a very useful reminder that we need to be properly proud of the contribution we make as the Catholic sector to education in the country. Let each of us think and rejoice in the good we do!



Pope Francis in Panama for World Youth Day – Look to see all he said – here are a few words

The younger generation, with its joy and enthusiasm, with its freedom, sensitivity and critical capacity, demands that adults, and especially all those who exercise roles of leadership in public life, lead a life consonant with the dignity and authority that they possess and that has been entrusted to them. They call upon them to live in simplicity and transparency, with a clear sense of responsibility for others and for our world. To lead a life that demonstrates that public service is a synonym of honesty and justice, and opposed to all forms

of corruption. Young people demand a commitment in which all – beginning with those of us who call ourselves Christians – have the audacity to build "an authentically human politics" (Gaudium et Spes, 73) that makes the person the centre and heart of everything

Peter [I as the Pope] and the Church walk with you, and we want to tell you not to be afraid, to go forward with the same fresh energy and restlessness that helps make us happier and more available, better witnesses to the Gospel. To go forward, not to create a parallel Church that would be more "fun" or "cool" thanks to a fancy youth event, as if that were all you needed or wanted. That way of thinking would not respect either you or everything that the Spirit is saying through you. ... The culture of encounter is a call inviting us to dare to keep alive a shared dream. Yes, a great dream, a dream that has a place for everyone. The dream for which Jesus gave his life on the cross, for which the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost and brought fire to the heart of every man and woman, in your hearts and mine, in the hope of finding room to grow and flourish. A dream named Jesus, sown by the Father in the confidence that it would grow and live in every heart. A dream running through our veins, thrilling our hearts and making them dance whenever we hear the command: "that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this, all men will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:34-35)... "Christianity is not a collection of truths to be believed, of rules to be followed, or of prohibitions. Seen that way it puts us off. Christianity is a person who loved me immensely, who demands and asks for my love. Christianity is Christ" (Saint Oscar Romero). .. Do you believe in this love? Is it a love that makes sense? This is the same question and invitation that was addressed to Mary. The angel asked her if she wanted to bear this dream in her womb and give it life, to make it take flesh. She answered: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). Mary found the courage to say "yes". She found the strength to give life to God's dream. The angel is asking the same thing of each of you, and of me. Do you want this dream to come alive? Do you want to make it take flesh with your hands, with your feet, with your gaze, with your heart? Do you want the Father's love to open new horizons for you and bring you along paths never imagined or hoped for, dreamt or expected, making our hearts rejoice, sing and dance?

*Do we have the courage to say to the angel, as Mary did:
Behold the servants of the Lord; let it be done?*

PRIMARY RE

Anne Marie McIntosh

The next **Come and See** day will take place on Thursday 7 February, 2019. We will focus on preparing for the Pentecost Term. If you haven't already booked a place and would like to come please email Jackie admin@nores.org.uk In the following term the *Come and See* day will be on Thursday 27 June, 2019 here at NORES, preparing for the Advent Term.

New Standards in RE The new age-related standards for each year group have now been added to every learning focus of the *Come and See* topics. These, however, are not available on the *Come and See* website. Each RE Subject Leader has received a hard copy. They are also on the NORES website so that you can access them electronically.

Early Years Day – 11 June 2019. This is the first day we have held for staff who work in early years so please come along and see what good things are going on around the Diocese with the youngest of children in our care.

We will have three short presentations from outstanding early years practitioners and there will be plenty of opportunity to share thoughts and ideas. Look out for the flier and booking form which has been sent out to school. Or simply email Jackie admin@nores.org.uk

School Visits for this term are almost all confirmed. They are: St Thomas More Kettering, St Edward's Kettering, St Brendan's Corby, St Patrick's Corby, St Joseph's Luton and St Margaret of Scotland Luton. I look forward to seeing you all soon. Of course, if you are not on the list and would like a visit this term please don't hesitate to contact me.

Our **Year of Missio** continues with Liturgy for the World Day of the Sick for February. Look out for next month's suggestion coming soon. The year will culminate in a *Missio* themed Schools' Mass in October 2019.

RE Subject Leaders Day Our next day together is on Thursday 21 March 2019. Look out for the flyer and booking form coming soon. We will then have a joint day with our Secondary Heads of RE and Chaplains in the Pentecost Term on Friday 7 June.

Just a thought 'We do not sometimes have experiences of love, fear, beauty or anything else, and then also have experiences of God. No, the basic, original experience of God, on the contrary, is the ultimate depth and radical essence of every personal experience.' (Karl Rahner)

And Finally If you have any queries about anything please don't hesitate to contact me.

SECONDARY RE AND THEOLOGY

Paul McHugh

I hope that things are proceeding well in your school. It seems odd to think we're rapidly approaching halfway through the teaching year. I hope very soon to be able to secure some final dates for the proposed Sixth Form Religious Studies Conference. Thank you for your help and suggestions here.

March 8 - Heads of RE Meeting at NORES

In his recent catechesis on the Lord's Prayer, Pope Francis broached one of the most difficult challenges we face in our prayer lives: the feeling that our prayers seem to have gone unanswered. "How often have we asked and not received ... how many times have we knocked and found a closed door?" At these disconsolate moments, Jesus encourages us in his parables on prayer to *persist and to not give up*. The Pope went on to say: "Prayer always transforms reality, always. If things around us do not change, at least we change; our heart changes. Jesus promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to each man and to each woman who prays". To take an example from Christian history, St Patrick left an account of his life entitled *Confessio* (Confession). He wrote of his six years as a slave in Ireland: "Faith grew, and my spirit was moved, so that in one day I would pray up to one hundred times, and at night perhaps the same". His prayers in those years of slavery utterly transformed him spiritually, making him a readier instrument for the mission God had planned for him. As an exercise in class, it might be interesting to focus on examples in the Gospel where Jesus gave unexpected answers to requests. For example, when his friend, Martha, asked him to tell her sister, Mary, to help with the chores, his answer was not what Martha expected. The answer was given to change the requester rather than grant the request. Are there more examples like this?

"Prayer transforms reality; let us not forget this. It either changes things or changes our heart, but it always transforms." Pope Francis

BREXIT is planned for 29 March 2019, which will be Friday of the third week of Lent, like all Fridays a day of abstinence. In the gospel for that day, Mark 12:28-34. Christ dialogues with one of the scribes. They both reiterate the Golden Rule, love of God with all your soul, mind and strength and love of neighbour as yourself. There can be no better context for our prayer for the Brexit process than that text – that the outcome is shaped by what is the best for all. Ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit for all involved. A prayer from the Roman Missal may help:
O God, who arrange all things according to a wonderful design, graciously receive the prayers we pour out to you

for our countries that, through the wisdom of its leaders and the integrity of its citizens, harmony and justice may be assured and lasting prosperity come with peace.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

Missio - Resources and Opportunities for Schools



During this calendar year NORES will be profiling opportunities to engage with Mission

Together which is an initiative of

Missio that encourages children in England and Wales to pray, fundraise and become missionaries themselves – **children helping children**. This is especially timely as Pope Francis has dedicated October 2019 as an Extraordinary month of mission!



As part of this initiative **Missio will be leading our School Chaplaincy Training Day this term on Friday 8 February from 9.30am-3pm at the RE Centre**. During this training day we will hear more about Missio and how

schools can get resourced and involved. Under its original name of Holy Childhood, Mission Together has been active in Catholic schools for 170 years. Thanks to money raised by children in England and Wales, Mission Together carries out educational, medical and welfare projects in the poorest areas of the world. Missio is the Catholic Church's official charity for overseas mission.

The Mission Together website (missiontogether.org.uk) has resources to use with primary school aged children. They are also developing resources for use with young people in schools and youth groups. You can find resources under the Teachers' Resources section of the Mission Together website. Mission Together materials complement all Catholic RE programmes, uphold Catholic teaching, and are mindful of requirements within the Common Inspection Framework.

YOUCAT for Kids Sessions A wonderful new resource aimed at younger children, YOUCAT for Kids is now available. This is a great new tool for catechists, and for parents and carers as they pass on the faith to children. YOUCAT for Kids sessions will take place in each of the following Pastoral Areas below over the coming months. During these 90 minute sessions there will be the opportunity to: *browse the YOUCAT for Kids, be guided through a method of using the YOUCAT for Kids, have the opportunity to purchase a copy of the YOUCAT for Kids at the reduced price of £10 (please bring £10 cash or a cheque made payable to R.E. Service) & hear about support and training for catechists.*

There is no charge for the event itself. Booking however is essential as capacity is limited at some of the venues and to help us with ordering sufficient numbers of YOUCAT for Kids books. Please book early

to secure your place via the NORES office on admin@nores.org.uk.

DATE & TIME February 2019	VENUE (offered for the PASTORAL AREA of)
Friday 1 7.30pm-9pm	St Aidan's RC Church hall, Little Chalfont (SOUTH-EAST BUCKS)
Saturday 2 11am-12.30pm	Our Lady of Grace RC Church hall (SOUTH BUCKS)
Monday 4 7.30pm-9pm	Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church hall, Aylesbury (AYLESBURY)

Full addresses of venues can be found on the Church finder www.northamptondiocese.org

Breathe is a day of affirmation and blessing to support faith-filled people working in or with schools. It takes place at St Aloysius Church, London, on 30 March 2019, between 9.30 and 4.30 and is being organised by Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

MISSIO NEWS

Fr Wayne Coughlin



Prayerful greetings in this "Year of Missio for Catholic

Schools"! I have recently found myself visiting the doctors surgery and hospital with regards to my health; these are not occasions I look forward to! How blessed I am to have access to a doctor's surgery that is only two minutes' drive from the Presbytery and a world-class hospital that is only five minutes away. Finding a parking space at the hospital (whether visiting a parishioner or attending as a patient) is nearly impossible and paying for the privilege is not a pleasurable experience! I remind myself, however, this is nothing compared with what vast swathes of the world's population have to endure. Indeed, what about those people with no access to medical care at all?

I mention the above because in this "Year of Missio for Catholic Schools" Mission Together's February resource is a Liturgy for the World Day for the Sick. This references Mary as our protective mother and the case study is the health-clinic this papal charity helped to build in Malawi and which today is saving lives. Do have a look at the film "Sister Sonia's Journey" on the Mission Together website.

One of our Missio volunteers is a practising GP and she would love to visit your school and talk about the importance of good health care. Do email me for details: parishpriestbedford@gmail.com

During this "Year of Missio for Catholic Schools" the two Bedford parishes in which I minister are holding all our Catholic schools in prayer before the Most Blessed Sacrament; could I please ask that your school pray for Missio?

DIOCESAN E LETTER - Go to northamptondiocese.org and sign up for the diocesan monthly email newsletter. It is where you can people know about events that you want to publicise and news that you want to share.

THE VINE is always looking for news so please send photographs and articles to Neil Roseman, who is responsible for diocesan communications - neil@nymo.org

From the DIRECTOR of SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

Collette Curtis

Development of Catholic education across the Diocese Following the decision of the Bishop and the Trustees to agree in principle the move to form two Regional Multi-Academy Trusts in the Diocese there are a number of key issues to be agreed. The core group and financial officers in the Trusts and in the Diocese are working on ensuring the proposals will be financially sustainable in both the short and long term. I have been meeting with partnership heads groups and Directors/Governors to review the proposals in detail. All Head Teachers and Chairs of Governors will be kept informed of progress regularly and if you would like me to come into school to discuss this with you in more detail please contact me on curtis@nores.org.uk

Ofsted Education Inspection Framework

Consultation Launch As many of you will already be aware the Ofsted Education Inspection Framework consultation was opened on Wednesday, 16 January 2019, and will run for twelve weeks until Thursday, 4 April 2019. There will be a link on the front page of the Ofsted website (www.ofsted.gov.uk).

Lift your gaze and see anew This is your opportunity during our Head Teachers' conference Thursday 28 February and Friday 1 March. There will be opportunities for networking, reflection and inspiration through our speakers, liturgy and conference mass with Bishop Peter. If you have not booked a place already please contact Jackie McCarthy on admin@nores.org.uk.

SCHOOLS' COMMISSION

Debbie Main

I have received several calls recently about recruiting Foundation Governors and Representatives to schools and academies. Unfortunately NORES does not have a list of willing volunteers waiting to fill your vacancies. Finding the right balance of skill and experience is tricky, but it is important that potential applicants understand the unique role of the Foundation Governor. All of your staff and governors have a duty to uphold and develop the unique Catholic nature of your school in line with the teachings of the Church and Canon Law, but Foundation Governors are in the privileged position of directly representing the Bishop and his interests in schools. Foundation Governors are appointed by Governance Court, on behalf of Bishop Peter and upon appointment promise to "...comply with ... such determinations made by the Bishop and his Trustees and their agent, the Diocesan Education Service (NORES) in respect of the school or other schools..." This is important in two respects; we all serve the diocese and the wishes of the Bishop who ultimately grants our schools the special status of *Catholic School*. Secondly, this promise helps us to remember that whilst we may

sit in one school, academy or MAT, all our schools are part of the diocesan family and in serving as a Foundation Governor, Director or Representative we serve the Bishop, Diocese and Universal Church to further God's word.

CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield



Thanks to all those who lived out their sense of social justice across our schools and parishes by supporting CAFOD's World Gift programme before Christmas. So far over £700,000 has been raised. What an amazing achievement!

As we move towards the season of **Lent**, as always CAFOD has a large variety of resources to help you deepen your faith and to help champion the search for peace and justice around the world. Ash Wednesday isn't until 6 March but there is nothing like planning ahead! We are inviting schools to think about ways to "**Give it Up**" to help people in great need.

Don't forget CAFOD Fast Day, which you may wish to support, is on 15 March.

CAFOD is also offering a variety of **assemblies and workshops** which are available from your local school volunteer. For our primary children (including KS1) we offer exciting workshops on the reality of being a refugee. There are also classroom sessions based around "Laudato Si" and caring for our common home. Maybe your school might like to work towards the "Living Simply" award?

We are also offering our secondary colleagues a CAFOD-led **retreat**. Do get in touch to find out more. I'd like to end by sharing a prayer written by Matt, a year 12 student:

As we live in a time that lacks unity, that lacks justice and lacks peace, may we be able to accept our differences and embrace different opinions to be able to find peace with one another? Likewise, may we long to seek for the truth, to be able to find justice and ensure justice is for all peoples. Amen.

Jane Trott – CAFOD education volunteer coordinator - jtrott@cafod.org.uk, 01494 863 777

DATES for YOUR DIARIES 2019

- 7 February – *Come and See* Day - NORES
- 8 February – Chaplaincy Day - NORES
- 28 February to 1 March – Headteachers' Conference
- 8 March – Secondary Heads of RE – NORES
- 13 March – Inspectors – NORES
- 15 March – Deputy Heads' Association – NORES
- 21 March – RE Subject Leaders' Day – NORES

PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

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

For a generous welcome of the victims of human trafficking, of enforced prostitution, and of violence.

FEAST DAYS

pray for the schools who celebrate their feast day–

3 February Thornton College (feast of St Claudine
Thevenet)

25 February St Ethelbert's Primary, Slough