



NORES NEWS

JULY 2015 – The Month dedicated to the Precious Blood of Christ
 Diocese of Northampton, Office for RE, Evangelisation, Catechesis & Schools
SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION
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From the Episcopal Vicar

Mgr Kevin

Pope Francis has called A HOLY YEAR OF MERCY from 8 December 2015 until 20 November 2016

see – *iubiliaemmisericordiae.va*. for details and the logo etc

We will be providing resources and more thoughts as we come closer to the beginning of the year. One of the main foci of the year will be the celebration of the **SACRAMENT of**



RECONCILIATION (Confession). I hope we can talk with the clergy of the diocese about how they can make the sacrament available to our young people in schools and parishes. It is important too for all catechists to think with their parish priests about preparation for the sacrament. The ideal suggested is to ensure it is prepared for as a separate sacrament and not part of First Communion preparation. One model is to prepare from September and celebrate the sacrament in December, and to make that celebration a very important event, inviting families and godparents, and to end with a party.

Pope Francis has also called for a Holy Door in all cathedrals for the Jubilee Year. The Pope will open the Holy Doors in



the four basilicas in Rome in early December. They become signs of how we can enter into a closer relationship with Christ. Those doors are only open during the Jubilee Year. Our schools, homes and churches probably do not have the luxury of a door we do not use. Yet we all have doors which are more important than others. We have time to think as

to whether there is a door which we could call our **HOLY YEAR DOOR**. It could be the main door, the assembly hall door, the chapel door, which for the year we would decorate in a very special way. It would be good to hear what ideas you may have. Please send them in so that we can share them.

Pope Francis has also just issued his encyclical, *Laudato Si* (*Praise be*) which is subtitled "On Care for our Common Home", about our stewardship of the earth. He is in a way simply asking us to have mercy on the earth entrusted to us and on all people who share the planet with us. That concern is a further dimension to explore for the Holy Year!

Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter – Laudato Si – June 2015 – concludes with this Christian prayer in union with creation. (A summary of the letter is on NORES website.)

Father, we praise you with all your creatures. They came forth from your all-powerful hand; they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.

Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made. You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this earth, and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.

Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory.

Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world towards the Father's love and accompany creation as it groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts and you inspire us to do what is good.

Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you.

Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made.

Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.

Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live.

The poor and the earth are crying out.

O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty.

Praise be to you! Amen.

MAKING OURSELVES KNOWN!

I want all our schools to consider more seriously how we can celebrate Catholic education in the media. There are many good reasons for this. It is a way of making sure society realises the contribution that our schools make to the common good. It helps people understand the purpose of schools with a religious character. At the same time it helps Catholic families know about our schools and helps them choose our schools for their qualities. I am very aware as I look at the media each week that some Catholic schools are often featured, whereas we hear little of others. Newspapers need a clear concise written account and good quality jpeg photographs. The following are the contacts for Catholic papers, national and diocesan. Then consider your own local paper, and local radio/TV

- editorial@catholicherald.co.uk
- joseph.kelly@thecatholicuniverse.com
- kevin.flaherty@thecatholicuniverse.com
- thetablet@thetablet.co.uk
- vineo1@btopenworld.com
- your local paper????

One project that helps develop this relationship with Christ is our

CLASS PRAYER BAG.

We launched this on June 22 here at NORES. It was very well received and the majority of our schools were there to take the prayer bags home. The project, based on an idea from Birmingham RE Service, is simple. Each class has one bag which allows each child to take the bag home for one week, perhaps from Thursday to Tuesday. Each bag contains prayer cards, prayer booklets, some artefacts (rosary, cross, a prayer cloth). The hope is that this will enable a family to gather together each evening the bag is at home to share a time of prayer. We hope that this will enable a family to think about prayer in their lives and carry on when the bag moves onto another home. We also look forward to hearing how schools will personalise the bags according to your own local traditions and practices.



NEWS AROUND THE DIOCESE

HEAD TEACHER INDUCTIONS – 7pm at the school
Thornton College – Jo Storey – Thursday 17 September
Simon Detre- St Teresa's Princes Risborough -29 September
Martin Lowe – The Good Shepherd, Northampton – 30 September

Kirsty Yuen - St Mary's Aston-le-Walls - 1 October
PARTNERSHIP ACADEMIC MASSES – diary these now!

Buckinghamshire – 4.30pm 18 June, Princes Risborough

NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR – in EDUCATION WEEK

Bedford – 4.15pm, 5 October 2015

Northampton Town – 6.30pm, 6 October 2015

North Northants – 5.30pm, 7 October 2015

Slough – 5pm, 8 October 2015

CALENDAR 2015/16 is NOW OUT – check your dates

Also please make sure all the events below have serious priority in your diaries!!!

NORES LECTURE – Friday 3 July 2015 – 7.30pm at NORES

The 22nd Annual NORES lecture will be given by Sister Raymunda Jordan op. Celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life she will take the following for her subject: *Celebrate the past with joy, live the present with passion and look to the future with hope.* The lecture is followed by evening prayer and refreshments. All are welcome.

Sister Aidan's retirement – Thanksgiving Mass

Monday 6 July at 7pm here at NORES in the Holy Ghost Church with Bishop Peter.

PROVINCE CELEBRATION for heads and chairs of our five dioceses

- 24 September 2015 - with Francis Campbell, Vice Chancellor of St Mary's Catholic University, Twickenham.

We need to strengthen all possible links with Catholic colleges to develop RE teachers and Catholic leaders. Mass at 10.30am in Westminster Cathedral with Bishop Nicholas Hudson. Contact the NORES office to book.

EDUCATION WEEK 2015 – October 5-11

Please think about what you will do as a school and partnership. It would also be very helpful if you could talk with local clergy now and see how together you can celebrate **Education Sunday on October 11.**

A major event will be - 50th anniversary Lecture of **GRAVISSIMUM EDUCATIONIS - the Vatican II Document on Christian Education** by Adrian Porter sj, Delegate for Education for the British Jesuit province Friday 9 October, 7.30pm, at NORES.

DEPUTY & SENIOR LEADERS' CONFERENCE

9-11 November 2015 at Sarum College, which is within the precincts of Salisbury Cathedral. Details will be sent out soon – please book by the end of term.

HEADS' CONFERENCE – Note date change

At our recent conference it was decided to hold the conference on Thursday and Friday. This means that next year's conference at Poole will be on **10 and 11 March 2016**, beginning on Thursday morning. It will be possible to arrive on Wednesday evening.

POPE FRANCIS in July 2015 asks you to pray for

Universal: Politics - That political responsibility may be lived at all levels as a high form of charity.

Evangelization: The poor in Latin America That, amid social inequalities, Latin American Christians may bear witness to love for the poor and contribute to a more fraternal society.

FEAST DAYS and PRAYER INTENTIONS

- Do try to remember these intentions and ask the school to pray with the Pope's intentions (above), the intentions set by our bishops, and for the schools who celebrate their feast days

11 July St Bernard's Preparatory, Slough (St Benedict)

22 July St Mary Magdalene Primary, Milton Keynes

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

Summer School 2015

A last reminder in NORES News and an encouragement to come and join us at the Summer School this year where our speakers; Fr Chris Thomas, Sister Hyacinthe Defos du Rau OP and Edmund Adamus will lead us in reflections on poverty, obedience and chastity in our following of Jesus Christ. The Summer School will take place at the RE Centre from 23-25 July 2015. Booking forms with full details and posters have been sent to all parishes and to catechists and are also available from the NORES office and website. We look forward to seeing you there. It would really help us to know soon if you are planning to come. Thank you.

Pentecost Poetry Competition 2015

Many congratulations to our two winning poets and their schools in the Pentecost Poetry Competition 2015. The Key Stage 2 Winning Poem was 'One Special Day' by Madeleine Jones from St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Marlow. The Key Stage 3 Winning Poem was entitled 'Pentecost' by Leonie Brunning from St Thomas More Catholic Teaching School, Bedford. A newsletter has been sent out with news from this year's Pentecost Novena Initiative which includes the text of the winning poems. Each winner received a £20 book token and a certificate. Here's another one of our entries to give you a flavour of the competition, unfortunately this poem didn't win but like many of the entries is a wonderful poem none the less. It is by Jack, a Year 5 student from Our Lady of Walsingham RC Primary School, Corby, and entitled

'Holy Spirit':

You crackle in the wind.

You hover above our heads.

You beam in me.

You glow as yellow

as a king's shiny golden crown.

You rush into the room.

You shine in the darkness

like a flickering light.

Being a Catechist Training Course

Some catechists will already be aware that 'Being a Catechist- Basic Training for the Ministry of Catechesis' is a course which is available for anyone who would like to know more about what is involved in being a catechist or to support those who already are involved in the vital ministry of catechesis. Drawing on Scripture and Church documents the course will cover some basic principles of catechesis, helping us to grow in confidence as we seek to share the precious gift of faith in Jesus Christ with others. The course will include times of sharing, reflection and prayer.

The course is being run this month for the Slough Pastoral Area over one Monday evening and a Saturday in the summer term and is also underway in Northampton over 5 Tuesday evenings. The course is available on request for your parish or pastoral area, please contact the NORES Office for more details.

Venues & Dates:

Northampton-ST GREGORY THE GREAT RC PARISH,
22 PARK AVENUE NORTH, NORTHAMPTON, NN3
2HS on Tuesday evenings 7.30pm-9.30pm on the following dates: June 9, 23, 30. July 7, 14
Slough-THE NARTHEX, HOLY FAMILY RC CHURCH,
226 TRELAWNEY AVENUE, LANGLEY, SLOUGH, SL3 7UD
On Monday 13 July 2015 from 7.30pm-9.30pm and
Saturday 18 July 2015 from 10am-4pm (please bring a packed lunch for the Saturday session). Booking forms are available from the NORES Office.

NYMO NEWS

Alex Hindmarsh

Dates for your Diary

24 – 28 July 2015 - Summer Camp. Alton Castle. 11-18 Years old.

21– 28 August 2015- Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. 16- 30 Years old.

22 July – 1 August 2016- World Youth Day Krakow- 16-30 Years Old.

Contact us....

Northampton Youth Ministry Office
33 Westbourne Road, Luton LU4 8JD
Find us on twitter & Facebook

Neil Roseman – Director of Youth Ministry

Neil@nymo.org

Steve Harris- Parish Youth Liaison worker

Steve@nymo.org

Fiona Murphy- Administrator: Fiona@nymo.org

Summer Camp

This Summer holds an exciting opportunity to join the NYMO team for an experience you will never forget. Loads of fun will be had as we travel and stay in an actual castle in Staffordshire for 5 days AND visit Alton Towers theme park. When: 24/07/2015- 28/07/2015
Cost: £250 pp but we ask for a minimum donation of £165. To find out more email Neil@nymo.org

Salt & Light Project

The Salt & Light Project is NYMO Young Leaders' Programme. It is for 16 - 18 year olds who wish to take on leadership role within the school, parish or local community, alongside work or study. Each young person plans their own project, which could be a one off event day or an on-going project. They reflect upon their skills and as they prepare in a structured way and with the help of an adult mentor. Reflective practice is an invaluable way for young people to look at their work and initiate improvements: a valuable skill in the eyes of employers and educators. To find out more email steve@nymo.org

NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY CORNER

Sister Aidan

The end of the year is a time for evaluation and generally looking back and taking stock before planning for the future. July is a time for finishing off, for celebrating with outings and end of term Masses for leavers, especially staff members. I wish them all the best and God's Blessing. I hope to see many of you on 6th July at Holy Ghost in Luton. I am experiencing some of these thoughts and emotions myself at this time. This newsletter gives me an opportunity to express some of them.

Firstly I'd like to thank so many of you and your predecessors for your co-operation throughout this time. I have met some wonderful people and excellent teachers.

My first task was to initiate the first edition of "Here I Am". I hadn't been part of any working party and didn't know it. We worked together. Then began the years working as part of the National Primary Group of Advisers, which I have treasured and where I have learnt so much, most of which I have passed on to yourselves over the years.

Then came "Here I Am" Mark 2. By this time most of the diocese was working with "Here I Am" and the second edition came as a gift! It was so much better. But it soon became apparent that this too had inadequacies and as part of the National Group I became a writer of "Come and See", and we had our introductory sessions with Sister Vicky and David Quinn in various parts of the diocese. Three years later I think we know where we are and are trying to get the best for our children.

My latest project has been the Prayer Bags which we hope will help to bring prayer into the lives of the families of the children. What next? I think I shall be around doing some supportive work with NORES. It has been my life for so long!

For now, thanks and s'long.

God Bless. Sister Aidan

Remember that we keep the Year of Consecrated Life until 2 February 2016. Pray for all the religious sisters and brothers who have served our Catholic schools, and for vocations to the religious life. Try to list any who served in your school



SECONDARY RE AND INSPECTION

Stephen O'Brien

Religion and Belief in Schools

On Monday 15 June 2015 a new report 'A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools' was published by Charles Clarke, former Education Secretary, and Linda Woodhead, Professor of the Sociology of Religion at Lancaster University.

This research-based report examines the developing world of religious education since the 1944 educational settlement and tries to offer some analysis of the modern educational relationship between church and state, thus adding to the debate about the future shape of religious education in the early decades of the twenty first century. Its general conclusion is that 'the time is ripe for a new relationship, and that education, religion, and the wider society will benefit.'

The report charts the history of educational reform since 1944 and offers a statistical description of schools in England today focusing on worship, the quality of curriculum RE in differing types of schools and on the supply and training of teachers for the subject. The report concludes with a series of recommendations about collective worship, curriculum RE and faith schools that will certainly stimulate debate and will not be comfortable for every reader. 'A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools' can be downloaded from www.faithdebates.org.uk. It is well worth reading as a contribution to this crucial on-going debate.

May I take this opportunity to wish all colleagues a happy and restful summer holiday after the many joys and challenges of the past year!

VACANCIES IN OUR SCHOOLS –

In response to requests we are making a page available on the NORES website for vacancies in our schools. Staffing is a real challenge in all schools, and we hope this may be a small way of helping. Details have been circulated already and we welcome comments on how it can be of service to you.

**Come along to
the NORES
LECTURE on
July 3 at 7.30pm
Sr Raymunda op
on Religious Life**

