



NORES NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2017 – The month dedicated to the SEVEN SORRIWS OF MARY

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

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

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From the Episcopal Vicar

Mgr Kevin

A warm welcome back with all our prayers for the new academic year. We hope that you have all enjoyed a time of rest, enjoyment and renewal. It helps us see again the value of our mission in Catholic education, and its place in the mission of the local church with Bishop Peter. That is why we look forward to **OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' WEEK** – note the change of title!

With the Schools' Mass and also our diocesan Schools' Sunday it is a valuable opportunity to reflect on the place of the Catholic School in a challenging time in education. Materials to support the Week will be on their way to you soon.

The liturgy of the **SCHOOLS MASS** will be sent too, and this year we are reviving something we did at the Millennium, the **PRAYER BATON** for each school – so while not every student or member of staff can join us in Dunstable their prayers can be carried to the altar! This year the Mass is on the feast of St Edward the Confessor, the English King, who strengthened the life of the Church in his day, including education and religious life, such as founding Westminster Abbey. It will remind us that we are successors to a great tradition and so carry a great responsibility to build for the future.

We hope that all schools will be involved in your local parish[es] on **SCHOOLS SUNDAY** for which Bishop Peter is preparing a Pastoral Letter. We are aware that not every Catholic family has easy access to Catholic education at all levels, and this is something we cannot solve easily. It makes us more conscious of the rôle of parents as the first educators in their faith, and of the great contribution of catechists to the faith formation of the young of the Church, in Catholic schools or not.

The summer break gives time for reading, and it is interesting to see how religion appears very often in contemporary novels. In one such I found this piece which struck me as a useful reflection as we begin a year together in faith and worship of our God. It describes Gloria, the daughter of an American Protestant minister:

"Faith for her was habit and family loyalty, a reverence for the Bible which was also literary, admiration for her mother and father. And then that thrilling quiet of which she had never felt any need to speak. Her father had

always said, God does not need our worship. We worship to enlarge our sense of the holy, so that we can feel and know the presence of the Lord, who is with us always. He said, Love is what it amounts to, a loftier love, and pleasure in a loving presence."

in Marilynne Robinson, *Home*, Virago 2009 p.115.

Her other novels of the same context [*Gilead*, *Lila*] are worth reading too for the insight they offer into people of faith. Fostering faith is at the heart of what we are called to do in our schools and parishes, and this is true for those who share life with us, Catholic or not. "Faith" someone once said "is how you lean into life". Our calling is to help people "lean into life" with the eyes and mind of Christ, and his values, and with the vision of our Church. This is something with which we need to equip our young people so that their education is much more than just learning.

Open Invitation to our NORES LECTURE 2017

as part of **Our Catholic Schools Week**.

4pm - Sunday 15 October at NORES

Our theme - **CALLED and CHOSEN**.

- the call of all the baptised,
- the response of people to the ordained ministry
- how both calls are for mission in the Church

The lecture will be given by

Rev. Canon Dr. David J Oakley. KHS STL, MEd, PhD, Rector of St Mary's Seminary, Birmingham, where many of our diocesan seminarians study for the priesthood, and where Canon John Udiers of our diocese is Spiritual Director.

WESTMINSTER PROVINCE CELEBRATION DAY

A theology of Hope for Catholic Education

Speaker – Mike Ion

21 September 2017 for Heads, Governors and Directors

We begin with 10.30 Mass in Westminster Cathedral with Bishop Peter and Bishop John Sherrington.

Programme :

10.30 Mass in Westminster Cathedral

11.30 Coffee/Registration in Cathedral Hall

A session before and after lunch, finishing by 3pm

Caterers – *Spoilt for Choice* – again!!!

Booking forms have been sent to schools and all Chairs and Clerks. Please reply as soon as you can.

SCHOOLS' COMMISSION

Collette Curtis

I hope you have had a great start to term and are refreshed after a well earned rest. over the summer.

Diocesan Protocols for maintained schools and academies

All schools should have received an upto date version of Diocesan Protocols. This document aims to provide clarity for schools and their governors by collating Diocesan guidance. A full copy with relevant links to all named documents is available on the NORES website. If you have any questions about any of the information included please contact either Debbie main or myself on main@nores.org.uk / curtis@nores.org.uk

Catholic Leadership development

We are grateful to the Sisters of the Holy Cross who have awarded us a bid to set up Catholic Leadership development across the Diocese, using a hub model in partnership with St Thomas More Teaching School in Bedford. I will be using the head teachers' meetings to discuss the next steps in the next couple of months. This will be developed in conjunction with the work the Diocese is involved in with Dioceses across the country and St Mary's University, Twickenham to ensure that Catholic leadership modules are accredited alongside generic leadership qualifications.

Aspiring Catholic Leaders – Headstrong programme

After a successful programme delivered last year at St Thomas More Bedford, the course this year will be delivered in St Michael's School, High Wycombe.

The aims of the course are:

- To reflect on our source of strength as leaders
- To build reflective acumen and strengthen the vision of leaders in Catholic schools
- To articulate with confidence moral and faith leadership
- To foster effective communication
- To deal with some of the issues which prevent staff from aspiring to Headship
- To collaborate with experienced leaders
- To become inspired and to model a successful application process

The course consists of 4 twilight sessions and 1 full day. The course is heavily subsidised through a successful bid to the National College and costs schools £100 to cover expenses and hospitality. We are looking to recruit aspiring Catholic leaders to the next cohort starting in October. For more details, please contact Susanne Combe scombe@stm.beds.sch.uk

Opportunities for developing closer partnership working:

Strategic School Improvement Funding- DfE

At the time of writing we are awaiting the outcome of a bid for Strategic School Improvement funding. The DfE are not clear how this funding, part of the £140million School Improvement funding will be allocated and indicated that it is likely that only a small portion of the

budget will be allocated in this round. We will wait and see. If it is successful it will involve all 5 of our MATS in supporting one another. If it is not, we will continue to work together to build up school improvement capacity within school partnership groups.

Economies of scale

ChurchMarketPlace has listened to the needs of schools for looking at ways of working together to look for economies of scale in buying power particularly with energy suppliers and contracts all schools will have. In meetings with heads, chairs of governors/MATS and the Dun Scotus meeting on 31 October we will review how practical this could be.

HR Policies- Just a reminder that all schools in the Diocese should be using CES model policies which can be found on the website.

The Adoption Process

It is important that documents and procedures used in employment matters are those authorised by the employer. It is necessary at times to indicate (to unions for example) from the minutes of the governing body or the board of director, that authorised procedures are being used. To allow for the fact that the CES reviews and adjusts their documentation from time to time, and authorises the diocese to approve any local variations. A suitable wording for a resolution noted in minutes would be:

'The board of Governors/Directors will use the Catholic Education Service employment documentation as published from time to time on their website.'

If you are reviewing policies a file of model policies from schools across the Diocese and available on the internet have been collated for all statutory policies and are available on the NORES website.

SCHOOL NEWS -

Appointments – from September

Niamh Rolphe as Head of St Gregory's Northampton
Induction – 7pm Monday 18 September

Caroline Lovegrove as Head of St Joseph's, Gerrards Cross
Induction – 7pm Wednesday 27 September

Paul Kassapian as Head of St Bernard's Grammar, Slough
Induction – 7pm Thursday 28 September

Fraser Donald as Head of St Thomas More, Kettering
Induction – Monday 25 September 7pm

Debbie Rainer as Acting Head of St Anthony's, Slough

Elsie Gribble as Deputy Head at Our Lady's, Wellingborough

Andrew Tunn as Deputy Head at St Thomas More, Kettering

Resignations : Our thanks and best wishes to

Simon Detre, St Teresa, Princes Risborough

Jon Davies, Thomas Becket, Northampton

NORES CALENDAR 2017-2018 - *The team have established dates for all the main events and meetings for the next academic year. Copies have been sent, and we ask you to please make sure you take note of this in your planning for the year ahead. Book this date now !!!*

Preparing for Senior Leadership – 28 February 2018

NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY CORNER

Anne-Marie McIntosh

Welcome back

Welcome back to a new school year. I hope you are all well rested and refreshed after the summer break. I am really looking forward to working closely with you all, this year, as we work together to enhance the Religious Education, worship and overall Catholic ethos of our schools.

School Visits

School visits for the first half of this term are all confirmed. Thank you. If there is anything in particular you would like to cover on the day please e-mail me. If you're not due an 'annual visit' this term but would like me to come into school, for whatever reason, then please don't hesitate to contact me.

Life after levels

The end of phase expectations, in RE, are almost complete and ready to be piloted. As I will not be meeting with the RE Subject Leaders until November we will start the pilot, across the diocese, in January 2018. Every school is welcome to try out the new material for one term. Feedback will then be given to the national Curriculum and Assessment Working Party for their consideration. The day for RE Subject Leaders will be crucial for the development of assessment in RE. This will take place on **Friday 10 November, 2017**.

Following this, there will be a series of twilight sessions for all teachers across the diocese to have a look at the end of phase expectations, gather information and have an opportunity to ask any questions. It will be essential to gain the insights of teachers, working with these expectations across the year groups. I hope that these meetings will replace your staff meeting for that week. Dates will follow early in the new academic year.

MAT / Partnership RE Subject Leader Meetings

Thank you to those of you who have sent me your dates for this academic year. I shall make every effort to attend these meetings as they are vital to the continuity and development of RE in our schools. It has been great for me to be a part of these groups, to work alongside you and struggle with you on the issues at hand. If any other groups have dates set, in advance, please let me know.

INSET

If you need any inset on any topic at all please don't hesitate to ask.

Looking Ahead - Advent Service

I know many of you will be looking ahead to your Advent Service.

Why not try something different this year based on the Jesse Tree? There is a PowerPoint and script on the Nores website – all you need is a bare tree!

Just a thought.....

Living in the past is a dull and lonely business. Looking back strains the neck and causes you to bump into people not going your way. (Edna Ferber)

Look to this day for yesterday is but a memory and tomorrow is only a vision but today well lived makes every yesterday a memory of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well, therefore, to this day! (*Ancient Sanskrit Poem*)

And finally

Don't forget if there is anything I can do to support you please do get in touch.

SECONDARY RE AND THEOLOGY

Paul McHugh

WELCOME TO Paul J McHugh [from mid September] as Secondary RE Adviser & Theological Development

[*Inspection manager from September 2018*]. Stephen O'Brien stands down from Secondary RE but continues with responsibility for S48 Inspection

Paul writes by way of introduction :

"I am honoured to have been appointed to the NORES team to support secondary RE and the general theological tenor of our work as educators in the Catholic sector. I am very fortunate to have Stephen on hand for advice and support this coming year. By way of background, I have been a teacher and leader in Catholic RE for many years. After recent studies in Rome and with St Mary's University, Twickenham, I expect shortly to receive my doctorate in the religious philosophy of Bl. John Henry Newman. I hope to be able to get round the secondary schools fairly soon so as to get to know you all. In the meantime, I hope you have had a chance to get some rest and refreshment this summer. I look forward to working with you all."

S48 INSPECTION

Stephen O'Brien

I will not be writing a regular monthly column in the newsletter but will make contributions as and when I can report something of particular interest. Since I am working on the new inspection schedule and SEF-RE, I will report on progress and on training opportunities for colleagues in the months to come.

PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

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

That our parishes, animated by a missionary spirit, may be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen.

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

3 September	St Gregory's Primary, Northampton
8 September	St Mary's Primary, Northampton, Our Lady's Primary Wellingborough
24 September	Our Lady of Walsingham Primary, Corby
27 September	St Vincent's Primary, Dunstable
29 September	St Michael's, High Wycombe

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

I hope all of you had a very blessed and restful summer break. We look forward to seeing you during the new academic year.

Catechists' Meeting (revised date) At 7.30pm on Wednesday 27 September at Bishop's House, Northampton we will have our next meeting of the *Bishop's Council for Catechesis (BCC)* with Bishop Peter. This is a revised date from the original date we sent out for the next meeting. If you are an active catechist and would like to come or join the email mailing list for news of catechesis and evangelisation events please contact Jackie our administrator at the NORES office with your request via admin@nores.org.uk

On Friday 15 September 2017 at the parish hall of Sacred Heart RC Church, Leighton Buzzard (7.30 -9pm) there will be a retreat being run for catechists from the local area. Thank you to Sacred Heart parish who hosted our recent meeting of the Bishop's Council for Catechesis (BCC) and who are hosting this retreat.

School Chaplaincy Training Days Schools will have received our booking form for this year's School Chaplaincy Training Days where we will be welcoming some exciting speakers to lead us:

On Tuesday 3 October Frances Novillo will help us develop our use of music in our liturgy and Collective Acts of Worship. On Wednesday 7 February Rachel Warwick will help us explore what's possible in developing creative and innovative Prayer Spaces in Schools and on Friday 22 June we are currently arranging a visit by Fr David O' Malley the well known Salesian priest who will be leading us in a joint RE and Chaplaincy Conference. We look forward to working with schools during the year to help support and develop school chaplaincies.

Scripture Based Retreats - Last year I offered a half day retreat based on the Book of Ruth. I have been asked whether I could run more of similar events in future. If this is something you would like for your area please get in touch. I can either offer the Book of Ruth retreat again or for those who have already attended this if there is enough interest I can offer another follow up retreat on another scriptural theme.

Talks on Various Themes As well as the courses and events we offer I am also available to give talks on various themes in parishes and for parish groups. This is something I do from time to time and which I am happy to do with a bit of notice so I can get it into the diary. Please get in touch with me if I can help in this way. These opportunities are a useful way of meeting new people and can be a great stepping stone and encourage people to think about attending one of the other courses and events that are being run in the Diocese and beyond.

GOVERNANCE APPOINTMENTS

All appointed during the Pentecost term of 2016/17. Please ensure all appointments are up to date so that those appointed can exercise their right to vote.

Foundation Directors:

Catherine Leong, St Thomas of Canterbury Academy Trust, Northampton
David Ford, St Peter Catholic Academy Trust, Slough

Foundation Representatives:

Natalia Soper & Eva Antao-Bento, St Anthony's Catholic Primary Slough
Paul Barnaville, Cardinal Newman Luton
Daniel Zinnikas, Our Lady of Walsingham Primary Corby
Samantha Anderson, St Brendan's Primary Corby
Maureen Williams, Thomas Becket, Northampton
Jim Hayes & Roman Kulczykowski, St Joseph's Catholic High School, Slough
Theresa McInally & Martin Flannigan, St Thomas More, Kettering

Foundation Governors:

Rev Peter Griffin & Josephine Jukes, Our Lady's Primary Wellingborough
Laura Maw, Richard Chattaway & Michael Bacchus, St Mary Magdalene Primary, Milton Keynes
Ruby Anugwom, St Bernadette's Primary, Milton Keynes
Canon Kevin O'Driscoll, St Joseph's High and St Bernard's Grammar Slough
Lorraine Skorupska, Maria Boland, Angela Oxlade & John O'Shea, St Bernard's Grammar School, Slough
Vivian Dodd, Alan McLaughlin, Michael Bennett & Clare Thompson, St Louis Primary Aylesbury.
Elaine Sidhu & Maria Harty, St Edward's Junior Aylesbury
Mary Jenkins & Prithi Mascarenhas, Our Lady of Peace Primary, Slough
Michelle Rogers & Andrew Payne, St Michael's, High Wycombe
Deborah Dry, St Joseph's Primary, Chalfont St Peter
Lucky Chidumba, Sacred Heart, Luton

POPE FRANCIS on Catholic education

"Catholic schools and universities make a great contribution to the mission of the Church when they are at the service of growth in humanity, in dialogue and in hope

- the Church, as Mother Teacher, looks always at the new generations in the perspective of the "formation of the human person, be it in view of his ultimate end be it for the good of the various societies, of which man is a member and in which, on becoming an adult, he will have tasks to perform"

- We are encouraged by the conviction that the new generations, educated in a Christian way to dialogue, will come out of the school and university classrooms motivated to build bridges and, hence, to find new answers to the many challenges of our time

- I am convinced that today's young people have, above all, need for this life that builds a future. Therefore, the true educator is like a father or a mother that transmits a life capable of a future." *Rome, February 2017*