



# NORES NEWS

February 2020 – The month dedicated to The Holy Name and Childhood of Jesus

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

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

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## From the Episcopal Vicar

Mgr Kevin

The warmest of welcomes with our prayers to **Canon David Oakley** as our Bishop Elect. We look forward to working with him in the coming years. He spoke very positively of his commitment to Catholic education at his introduction to the diocese, and he knows what we are about through his work in several parishes where he has served on governing bodies. Some information about Canon David is to the right and in *The Vine*.

*Each school will receive two tickets for the Ordination Mass on March 19, which coincides with the anniversary of the installation of Pope Francis.*

**Bishop Peter** then enters into well deserved retirement. He has been supportive of everything about our schools throughout his time as our bishop, and perhaps more importantly has been personally engaged with everyone he has met through the schools and the work of NORES. His farewell mass is appropriately on 22 February, the feast of the Chair of St Peter, reminding us of the fact that all that we do is about building up the Church of God throughout the world in union with the Holy Father.

Pope Francis has dedicated the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time each year [January 26 2020] as the **Sunday of the Word of God**. This fits neatly with our bishops designating 2020 as the year of **GOD WHO SPEAKS** – which means we have to be the people who listen to that Word of God. Please use all the opportunities being offered and that you can discover for yourselves, especially the diocesan celebration, the **WORDFEST** at Thornton College on 6 June.

Rededicating England as the **DOWRY of MARY** will be celebrated on March 29. We are asked to pray the **ANGELUS** daily until then, and make it part of our daily prayer. Its text can be found elsewhere in this issue.

**CCRS/DCRS Course, Slough 2020-2021.** After a short postponement, I am very pleased to say that the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies/Diocesan Certificate in Religious Studies course will begin at 10am on Saturday 14 March at Saint Anthony's School, Farnham Road, SL2 3AA with the Old Testament Module taught by Anne-Marie McIntosh. If you are not already booked on the course, which is open to all parishioners and teachers, please contact me at the RE Centre on Luton on 01582 723312 or email to: [obrien@nores.org.uk](mailto:obrien@nores.org.uk) where full details are available. You will be most welcome to join us for some or all of modules! **Steve O'Brien**

## BISHOP ELECT Canon David Oakley to be the thirteenth Bishop of Northampton.

The Holy Father has accepted the resignation of Bishop Peter Doyle from the pastoral care of the Diocese of Northampton. Meanwhile, he has appointed as the new bishop of Northampton, Canon David James Oakley, of the clergy of the archdiocese of Birmingham, currently rector of Saint Mary's College Seminary in Oscott.

Please pray for him – and for Bishop Peter who is retiring.

Canon David was born in Stourbridge on 28 November 1955. He completed his high school studies at Saint Mary's College in Oscott and became a priest for the archdiocese of Birmingham on 5 July 1980. He was awarded a doctorate in pastoral theology from the University of Hull, a licentiate in theology from the University of Louvain and a Master's degree from the Maryvale Institute. He has held the following offices: assistant priest in Birmingham (1980-1982), Wolverhampton (1982-1985), and, Leamington Spa (1985-1988). He then served as parish priest at Whitnash (1988-1992) Kingstanding (1992-1999), Cheadle (1999-2003), and Maryvale (2003-2013), teaching simultaneously in the Department for Family and Catechesis at the Maryvale Institute in Birmingham. In 2013 he was appointed as rector of Saint Mary's College Seminary, Oscott and has served as member of the Cathedral Chapter of the Archdiocese of Birmingham since 2016. Cardinal Vincent Nichols will celebrate the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Elect David in Northampton Cathedral on the Solemnity of St Joseph on Thursday 19 March 2020.

Speaking of his appointment Bishop Elect David said: "I was very surprised to be appointed by Pope Francis to be Bishop of Northampton. Obviously this involves leaving the Archdiocese of Birmingham where I have lived all my life and being a priest for the past 40 years. I am very aware of my own weaknesses but also know God's loving grace and mercy and that is what I put my trust in and I hope that everyone will keep me and my new ministry in their prayers."

Bishop Peter Doyle, rejoices in this good news. He has worked closely with Canon David during his seven years as rector of the seminary at Oscott, and knows him to be a man of faith and prayer, and a pastoral priest and wise teacher.

Archbishop Bernard Longley of Birmingham, said: "Warmest congratulations to Canon David. This is wonderful news, especially for the Diocese of Northampton, and I am delighted that Canon David will bring his considerable experience and many gifts to his new responsibilities. We shall greatly miss Canon David in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. I am immensely grateful to him for the 40 fruitful years that he has served as a priest of the Archdiocese and in particular for all that he has brought to the work of formation at St Mary's College, Oscott as Rector these last seven years."

## SECONDARY RE AND THEOLOGY

Paul McHugh

Dear Colleagues

After the Feast of the Presentation, the Sunday Gospels in February are taken from the Sermon on the Mount in St Matthew's Gospel. As a way of helping pupils unfamiliar with this, perhaps they could reflect on the many common phrases and proverbs which have their origin in English translations of the Bible. Some, of course, derive from the Old Testament - phrases like 'forbidden fruit', 'the writing on the wall', 'skin of my teeth', 'eye for an eye', 'fly in the ointment', and so on. And some derive from the New Testament, for example, 'road to Damascus conversion', 'powers that be', 'eleventh hour', and so on. It just so happens the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew, chapters 5 to 7) is a rich source of these common phrases, such as 'salt of the earth', 'letting your light shine', 'jot and tittle', for example. It might be a good exercise to have pupils research these. Given these phrases are commonly used without understanding of their origin, pupils could try to put the text back in its context and get a sense of what these words meant to those on that mountain side in Galilee listening to Jesus and what they really mean for us today.

*"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away"* Matthew 24:35.

## PRIMARY RE

Anne Marie McIntosh

### The Year of the Word

A number of schools have started to celebrate the Year of the Word.

If you are looking for inspiration check out these websites: [biblesociety.org.uk](http://biblesociety.org.uk); [cbcew.org.uk](http://cbcew.org.uk) and [Cafod.org.uk](http://Cafod.org.uk). You could have a whole school picnic based on the Feeding of the Five Thousand!

### Come and See Inset

The next Come and See day will take place on **Thursday 6 February**. We will focus on preparing for the Pentecost Term. If you haven't already booked a place and would like to come please email Ann [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk)

The Come and See day in the Pentecost Term, on **Thursday 25 June**, on how we prepare for the Advent Term.

### RE Subject Leaders Day

I am really sorry to have to change the date of our next RE Subject Leaders Day. It was scheduled for Thursday 19 March 2020 and has now changed to **Friday 20 March 2020**. The reason for the change is that Bishop David will be ordained on the Thursday. Booking forms have already been sent out for this so I hope you have all booked a place. We will then have a joint day with our Secondary Heads of RE and Chaplains in the Pentecost Term on **Friday 5 June, 2020**.

### Just a thought.....

'Being a person of faith is not about becoming more religious. Being a believer is to experience, nourish and appreciate the beauty of our true humanity, no matter what form it takes'

Donal O'Leary

### And finally

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

Anne-Marie

### ACADEMIC MASSES – 2020/2021 ..... Be prepared!!!

Slough – 18 November, 5pm, St Anthony's Church

Luton – 10 November, 4.30pm, Cardinal Newman School

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS & CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

### WORDFEST Scripture Festival Bookings Now Open!

On SATURDAY 6 JUNE 2020 our DIOCESAN SCRIPTURE FESTIVAL called WORDFEST2020 will take place as part of our celebrations for the Year of the Word. It features CJM Music leading our prayer times, great speakers, youth and children's streams and a wide variety of scripture based workshops, as well as RISE Theatre, Scripture tents and the national scripture tour profiling commissioned artwork all in the beautiful setting of Thornton College in Buckinghamshire! Please see [www.northamptondiocese.org/wordfest](http://www.northamptondiocese.org/wordfest) for more details about the exciting programme and to book your tickets which include lunch and refreshments.

### Catechist Training & Gatherings

A reminder that our Catechists' Brochure with all the details of what is included in each of the levels of the Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis is now available from the NORES office or electronically via [www.nores.org.uk](http://www.nores.org.uk) (Catechesis section). It outlines the various Catechetical Gatherings and also the various training opportunities available. The conversations that have taken place in the parish and pastoral areas over the last two terms will inform the AGM in this Lent Term with our Bishop when we will hear about catechetical issues from around the Diocese.

### School Chaplaincy Training Days

A last call for our next School Chaplaincy Training Day on Tuesday 4 February 2020 where we welcome Martha Flavell who has been instrumental in helping to offer Open the Book to Catholic schools as well as a team from GIDEONS UK. Open the Book (OtB) is a project which offers primary school children an opportunity to hear key Bible stories, from a team of Christians from local churches, who present the stories during assemblies/acts of Collective Worship. GIDEONS UK will also share about their work and the opportunities they can provide for our schools.

Our Joint RE & School Chaplaincy Conference for 2020 will take place on Friday 5 June 2020 where we will welcome Fr Eamonn Mulcahy and Wintershall Education. During the morning session Fr Eamonn Mulcahy will help us to explore the theme 'The God Who Speaks'. Fr. Eamonn Mulcahy is a Spiritan or Holy Ghost Father Missionary originally from Manchester. In the afternoon bringing the Word of God to life we have the fantastic team from Wintershall Education. Included in this afternoon session is an overview of their work in Biblical drama including an overview of the resources and opportunities they offer to schools such as: Actor-led Assemblies, the Life of Christ production, Character Education material, Themed Workshops and Online Resources. For more information on their work please see: [www.wintershall-education.com](http://www.wintershall-education.com). Please see the booking form which is now available from the NORES office for full details and to book places for your members of staff.

## PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

**THE Pope's PRAYER INTENTIONS for February – ask the school to pray with the Pope - Listen to the Migrants' Cries**

We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

### FEAST DAYS

25 February St Ethelbert's Primary, Slough

## From the DIRECTOR of SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

Collette Curtis

### Launch of the two new Regional MATs on February 1<sup>st</sup> 2020

Great news, after months of planning and hard work by all involved the two new MATs, Our Lady Immaculate and St Thomas Catholic Multi Academies Trusts have received final sign off by the DfE and will open on February 1.

Lots of exciting work on closer collaboration between schools has already begun. All of the Secondary schools are meeting within each Regional MAT to develop closer working links. Leaders from the Secondary schools in the North of the Diocese have been trained on carrying out "deep dives" in curriculum areas to establish consistency across the group and the first secondary peer review is taking place this month. A detailed School Improvement plan for primary schools has been developed in Our Lady Immaculate Trust after a series of evaluation visits to identify common areas of development. The peer reviews in Luton continue to provide schools leaders with a detailed external view of strengths and remaining areas for development with opportunities for accessing support and sharing best practice. All partnership groups have identified their key priorities and where they can benefit by closer collaboration.

In the next few weeks each partnership area, if they have not already done so will be setting up a Strategic Partnership group of heads, Chairs of governors of all schools whether in the MAT or not. The aim is that these groups will focus on; the Catholic identity of the partnership schools, opportunities for celebration and collective worship and the impact of actions to improve outcomes for children in the schools in the partnership, following the identified shared priorities. I will be contacting all VA schools if I have not done so already to offer the opportunity of a meeting open to all governors in the area to find out more information, ask questions to inform decisions on when would the right time for the school to join the new MATs.

### Finance and Property Day - Changes to the allocation of LCVAP funding from September 2020.

On Tuesday 4 February all heads and chairs of voluntary aided schools are invited to the Finance and Property day in the Holy Ghost Centre Luton. The first session will be focused on the changes to how LCVAP funding is allocated through Diocesan Condition Improvement Funding. Representatives from MATs will then be invited to join the group as we continue with Diocesan guidance from the Finance and property team on compliance, liabilities and care of the buildings and estates. All voluntary aided schools and MATs will be receiving a formal invitation in the coming weeks. In preparation for the allocation of the Diocesan Condition Improvement Funding the allocations of LCVAP over the past 5 years has been collated and condition survey reports are being reviewed for named key priorities. We are aware that work has been completed and other issues arise in the time between surveys so all voluntary aided schools will be invited by letter to update their key priorities for capital management identified on school asset management plans prior to the consideration of applications. For details of the day see NORES website/ contact Debbie main@nores.org.uk

### Developing strong leadership across our Catholic schools.

Bernie Grimley, Head of *Inspire* teaching school based in Thomas More School Bedford and I are working closely with officers and teaching schools from Dioceses across the South East of the Country to develop a suite of courses specifically focused on leadership within a Catholic school at seven

identified stages of their career. There is currently a course for Aspiring Heads, designed for colleagues ready to apply for Head teacher posts in a Catholic school within the next two years. The next course being developed for roll out is for middle leaders. These courses will be accredited and recognised by each of the Dioceses involved to support teachers as they move for jobs across boundaries within the country and delivered by our experienced Catholic leaders across the South East region. For details of these courses and how to apply please see the NORES website.

As you will be aware it does take time to develop these materials, trial them and deliver them, training leaders as part of the process. In the mean-time we have signed a partnership agreement with a training company Outstanding Leadership to deliver National Professional qualification training for middle and senior leaders. This term there will be 12 colleagues studying for the NPQML and 14 for the NPQSL, all from our schools being trained by our experienced head teachers in venues within the Diocese. All of these courses are free to schools.

### Foundation Governors on line training

Just a reminder for newly appointed Foundation Governors and Directors that the Catholic Education Service has developed free online training modules for governors in Catholic schools. The training can be found at: <http://formatio-ces.org/moodle/login/index.php> The first two modules lasting about 40 minutes each are currently available and we are expecting 2 more modules later this term.



## CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield

We will soon be in the season of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday - 26 February. As always CAFOD is here with splendid and numerous resources to support you with your classes.

Does anyone in your class like football? Well they will love this year's Lent campaign "What's your goal?". The campaign focuses on the people of the Amazon rainforest and their fight to protect their rights in the face of global pressures. More than one football pitch of rainforest in the Amazon is being lost every minute. This cannot go on! Go to our website for masses of resources including films, assemblies, fund raising ideas and resources for prayer and liturgy with your classes and parish. This campaign focuses on the Holy Father's initiative of "Caring for our common home" .. To support your own school campaign, you can invite your local school volunteer to present an assembly which will invite responses from all your students and develop activities to raise awareness.

**Lent Fast Day is on Friday 6 March.** Could your class support this with a food related event? Again, your school volunteer is there to help and support your endeavours.

As well as these campaigns, please keep in your prayers and thoughts the peoples of Zimbabwe and Zambia who continue to suffer the effects of drought and starvation, and those who are working to relieve their suffering.

*Living God,*

*In the parched lands and failed harvests*

*May the shadow hunger be broken by the light of your hope.*

*In our hearts we hold a vision of a better world.*

*May we, by our actions bear witness to your love.*

by Linda Jones/CAFOD

For more information on any of the above look at our website/contact: 01494 863 777 northampton@cafod.org.uk





The people of the two Bedford parishes where I minister have been throwing themselves wholeheartedly into observing the “**Year of the Word**” and have come up with some really interesting ways of doing so! At the end of Mass on **Mary, Mother of God** (1st January) parishioners received a Christmas Cracker with a Sacred Scripture quote attached, on **Epiphany Sunday** parishioners were encouraged to read the Gospel of the day as a family when gathering to place the traditional inscription (20 + C + M + B + 20) on their home and on the Sunday of the **Baptism of the Lord** small bottles of Holy Water were distributed again accompanied by a beautiful card with an inspiring quote from Holy Scripture. It has thus been a busy time for us; can you imagine how long it takes to fill hundreds of small bottles with Holy Water?!

Throughout the year the parishes are also looking to more frequently use the Book of the Gospels at the Sunday Mass and also to create a display with a beautifully illustrated Bible at its centre. In addition, we are also using incense at the proclamation of the Gospel. This is a powerful visual reminder of the presence of God; it also stirs the imagination of our youth who become enthralled by the gathering clouds of the beautifully performed smoke!

Each of the above initiatives will help us to focus on the truth that when the Sacred Scriptures are proclaimed it is Christ Himself who speaks to us (this is most particularly so at Mass). As Holy Scripture is foundational to the life of the Church, the purpose of the “**Year of the Word**” is to celebrate, share and live out our Catholic Faith through a deeper engagement with the Word of God.

I wonder how you and your school are observing the “**The God Who Speaks: A Year of the Word**”? To support this initiative, Mission Together (the youth component of Missio) has ensured all its resources place great emphasis on Holy Scripture. The aim is to invite children to draw closer to Jesus – the Word made Flesh – through deeper reflection on God’s Holy Word. All our resources are available to download for free from our website!

**CHAPLAIN INDUCTIONS**

- 24 February 12.30pm St Bernard Grammar, Slough  
*Siobhan Denny*
- 27 February 5pm Northampton Town Schools  
*Rose Darwen, at St Gregory’s Primary School*
- 16 March 6pm St Michael, High Wycombe  
*Maria Corcoran*

**THE VINE, our diocesan newspaper**

Neil Roseman, as Diocesan Communications Manager, has asked me to strongly encourage all schools to send material for THE VINE from your school as soon after an event as possible. It is very important for the people of the diocese to know about the great things happening in our schools and this can also be very positive for recruitment of staff and students. I hope that every school and Trust will take advantage of this valuable opportunity.

*Neil writes : "We would love to print their news (preferably linked to the Catholic life of the school) if they send an article ( up to 200 words and a pic)."*

I hope you can help all staff to keep this in mind and respond positively.

**REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND as the DOWRY of MARY**

“In 1381 England was dedicated to Mary by King Richard II and was set apart for her from among the nations. This year the Christians of England are called upon to make a personal dedication to Mary, taking up her example as Christ’s first disciples.” Go to behold2020.com for more details of how to take part as a school or any community. We are asked to pray the Angelus daily. The text below is from behold2020 and was prepared especially to lead into the Rededication on 29 March.

**The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary  
And she conceived by the Holy Spirit**

As God once chose Mary to become the Mother of His Son through the message of an angel, so He chooses me this day, and invites me through the ministry of the Church or the example of another, to seek and do His Will at this moment in my life. **Hail Mary full of Grace...**

**Behold the handmaid of the Lord**

**Be it be done unto me according to thy Word**

Mary’s response to her invitation, “let it be done to me according to your Word”, opened her heart to God’s grace and all things became possible. Let my “yes” today take away fear, as I embrace God’s Will, and like Mary “ponder these things in my heart”. **Hail Mary full of Grace...**

**And the Word became flesh (Bow or genuflect)**

**And dwelt among us**

At a moment in history, Mary’s faith-filled “yes” conceived Him, first in her heart, which then led to the birth of our Saviour. Through accepting Him in my heart, enable me to recognise my role in bringing Christ to my sisters and brothers today. **Hail Mary full of Grace...**

**Pray for us most holy Mother of God**

**That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ**

Let us pray: O Holy Mother of God, pray for us, and assist us as we dedicate ourselves this day. Your Yes at the Annunciation brought our Saviour Jesus into the world, and you invite us to contemplate the great mystery of the Incarnation, sharing your joy in announcing that “the Word was made flesh and lived among us.” May our yes, this day, open our hearts to serve our sisters and brothers in this your Dowry, that they too may share our joy in the Good News that God walks among us. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

Details from NORES : [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk)

- 25 February – Schools Property & Finance Day
- 11 March – Liturgy in Schools day
- 23, 24 April – Head Teachers’ Conference
- 8 June – Aspiring Leaders Taster Day
- 24 September – Education Celebration for Heads and Chairs of the Province, Westminster [N King sj]

**WELCOME to ANN COLLON** who succeeds Jackie McCarthy as NORES Administrator. She is already settling in well and is a great asset to the team. Jackie was very touched by the gift from the schools and thanks you for your generosity. Serving us for 24 + years is a great achievement!