



# NORES NEWS

OCTOBER 2016 – The month dedicated to the Holy Rosary (The Holy Angels)

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 JUBILEE YEAR OF  
MERCY  
continues until 20  
November.**

As we move towards our **EDUCATION**

**WEEK and EDUCATION SUNDAY** we are challenged to ensure that we are committed to a **clear understanding of Catholic education and our contribution to the wider world of education.**

We look forward to joining with Bishop Peter for the **SCHOOLS' MASS 2016** and hopefully that week will be a great moment of sharing across our schools in the diocese.

I mention the need for a clear understanding in the context of various political statements in recent months by all political parties. We are facing yet again a time when education will be a political football. The government proposals especially about Free Schools have definite attractions for us in removing the cap of 50% open admissions. Yet this and other projects have yet to survive parliamentary scrutiny. There have already been murmurings against this by various secularist groups who object to schools with a religious character.

This is where we need to be very clear in the way we value our contribution to the educational project of our country. Our schools, that is you, are generally highly valued by parents and authorities, and not just because of academic achievements of which we are rightly proud. We are committed to an understanding of education that because we believe in the unique value of each individual, created by God for good, we acknowledge the worth of every person as made in that image of God. We need to find ways of making sure that the world sees and values this as our contribution to society, something that society needs so much in today's world.

Ad majorem Dei gloriam – should be our motto!

To the greater glory of God!

From **THE BIBLE SOCIETY**

Following hot on the heels of the other titles in the *Might There Be More?* series, comes the latest addition – ***Might There Be More to Halloween?*** With carved pumpkins and children trick or treating in scary costumes, Hallowe'en has become one of the fastest-growing commercial celebrations, but **how well do we understand the overlap between Hallowe'en and faith?**

This affordable resource will help you **engage your church and your community with the Bible** during a festival that often divides opinion.

Get your copies for just £2.50 each (plus P&P).

Or get 25% off when you order 10 or more copies. Visit our online shop today. Bible SOCIETY *Might There Be More to Halloween?* tells us some of the history of Hallowe'en, explores ideas about the spiritual realm and looks at how the Bible interprets the weird and wonderful at this time of year

## GOVERNANCE APPOINTMENTS

**Foundation Director:** St Francis Academies Trust - Mrs Ilona Bond

**Foundation Representatives: Northampton**

St Gregory- Rev. Michael Fleming, Mr Neil Roseman

Thomas Becket, - Neil Roseman

St Mary's Primary - Mr Michael O'Neill

**Foundation Governors:**

St Vincent's Primary - Mrs Colette Donohue & Mrs Jane Crow, Fr Jimmy Shiel.

St Anthony's School - Mrs Natalia Soper & Mrs Antao Bento

St Peter's School - Mr Stephen Eastmond

St Joseph's School, Chalfont St Peter - Mrs Deborah Taylor

St Mary's School, Aston -Le-Walls - Mr Laurence Flynn & Mrs Raphaelle Clark

St Thomas More Primary - Mrs Debra Marlow

St Ethelbert's School - Mrs Margaret Dickinson

## WELCOME TO NEW STAFF AT CES

Brendan McGurran – Leadership Project

Catherine Bryan – Schools Adviser (p/t) working with Peter Taylor

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

*Alex Heath*

**School Chaplaincy** Wednesday 5 October - 9.30am-3pm, at the RE Centre is first of this year's **School Chaplaincy Training Days**. It will be led by **Sarah de Nordwall** on the theme of **Developing our Creativity**. Sarah de Nordwall is a poet and storyteller and also a Catholic Voice who has spoken regularly on the Big Questions and Radio 4. She presented her CD 'Lipstick is a Spiritual Experience' to Pope Francis at a Conference on the Dignity of Woman at the Vatican. You will be able to experience Sarah's gifts and the resources at first hand and go away energised and inspired to try them out in your own chaplaincy. She is available to come and perform and lead workshops at your school on a variety of themes. Sarah's blog and website are: [www.sarahdenordwall.blogspot.com](http://www.sarahdenordwall.blogspot.com) [www.sarahdenordwall.com](http://www.sarahdenordwall.com) Copies of the booking form are available via the NORES website (Events and Courses) or the NORES office.

### **Catechesis**

The Bishop's Council for Catechesis meets again at 7.30pm on Monday 10 October at the RE Centre. As always we welcome catechists from various parts of the diocese who are doing great work in their local parishes. As well as reviewing the recent Jubilee for Catechists we will be spending some time planning an event on Saturday 13 May 2017 (please mark the date in your diaries), more details and publicity will be available soon. If you would like a Being a Catechist course (5 x 2 hour sessions on the basics of catechesis) in your area please talk to your parish priest and contact me. I would be happy to come to run one in your area at a time to suit your group.

**Scripture** - Some advanced notice also that the RCIA Network of England & Wales are running a conference on Scripture from 6-8 June 2017. More details and booking information will be available soon. Please keep an eye on the RCIA Network website [www.rcia.org.uk](http://www.rcia.org.uk) / NORES NEWS and our NORES mailing lists.

**Evangelisation Initiatives** - The Diocesan Evangelisation Team (D.E.T.) seeks to support parishes that have or are interested in starting parish evangelisation (mission) teams as well as parishes that have recently had a parish mission and are looking to build upon the experience, please get in touch if we can help. Simply follow the links for FAITH and EVANGELISATION on the Diocesan website. Background information as well as contact details are there. In addition to this the Bible Timeline courses continue to grow with Bedford being the latest place where courses are being run.

The Faith, Coffee and Cake evangelisation project continues at Hunsbury/Towcester, it's a simple but effective model for local outreach.

If you are interested in running this in your own parish the D.E.T. can help get you started. For more information about how we can support you with this or other evangelising please contact me at NORES

## SCHOOLS' COMMISSION

*Collette Curtis*

I hope you have had a great start to the term. I have enjoyed meeting some of the heads and new teachers to the Diocese in various meetings in the last few weeks. It has been very impressive to see the amount of close working which already exists between schools and the commitment heads have expressed in supporting one another. I am discussing with heads groups as I meet them how we can strengthen these ties to ensure a strong future for the development of Catholic education into the future as we negotiate the many national changes in education together. I look forward to meeting you in the coming weeks

## GOVERNORS' FORUM 2016-2017

There will be meetings in each area during the year but our **DIOCESAN GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE** is on 22 October, here at NORES, from 10am-1pm. Martin Post, the Regional Schools Commissioner, will give the first talk. He is the RSC for the whole diocese and our main link with the DfE. We are very grateful that he has given us this chance to meet together with him. It is a great opportunity for you to meet Collette Curtis, who has taken up her post as Director of School Development, and hear how she will work across the diocese.

It is expected that all governors, foundation local governors and foundation directors will attend, as this is part of the commitment made on your appointment.

## EDUCATION WEEK 2016 – October 10-16

Have you begun thinking about this?

NORES has produced materials to help you for the week. You need to check asap with your local parish(es) about how you might be involved on Education Sunday.

There is not that much time left

Schools could exchange students(Y6/School Council) or your head or other teachers for assemblies etc. Tell each other what your school is like. It is a great opportunity to help understanding how we all belong to the same diocese, same local church, the same Christ.



Inspire children and young people to make a difference in our world. We are here to support you with fresh resources and ideas, whether in class, in a parish group, or at home with the family. Check out our top 5 picks:

1. Explore our website to find resources to learn, campaign, pray and fundraise: primary, secondary, youth leaders and chaplains
  2. Download our weekly children's liturgies and our Confirmation resources for your parish
  3. Check out our YouTube best picks to help children and young people explore a range of global issues
  4. Save the date! Harvest Fast Day is on 7 October. Use our film, posters assembly and activities for children and young people to Brighten Up for Bolivia Pass it on... Do you know an RE teacher or chaplain?
  5. Share our website for 11-14 and GCSE RE and Catholic Social Teaching resources
- Schools can still book our volunteers to give an assembly and/or classroom session. Just get in touch – [dpurfield@cafod.org.uk](mailto:dpurfield@cafod.org.uk), 01844 274 723

## NYMO NEWS

Steve Harris

Registration for the Salt & Light Project – NYMO's programme for young leaders (16+) – is open! The Salt & Light Project is a year-long programme empowering young leaders (aged 16+) to lead, to serve and to grow in faith. Leaders receive input from NYMO, lead a project in the parish, school or community and have regular meetings with an adult mentor to discuss the project, skills and development. Reflective practice is a great skill both in work and education.

Participation in The Salt & Light Project is free, including the a formation weekend on 25th – 27th November 2016 at the Chellington Centre in Bedfordshire. For more information visit: [www.nymo.org](http://www.nymo.org) > young people > young leadership programme or email [steve@nymo.org](mailto:steve@nymo.org)

## THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

**OUR NORES KALENDAR FOR 2016/2017** has been circulated

- please make sure you put all the dates that apply to you in your diary now, and make sure the school calendar takes account of them in your planning
- members of the Head Teachers' Association and Deputy Heads Association are asked to ensure that they make their meetings a PRIORITY
- RE Coordinators/Heads of RE/Chaplains – please ensure that you also make your meetings and the conferences a priority in all your work.

## SECONDARY RE AND INSPECTION

Stephen O'Brien

**Secondary RE** May I welcome Secondary colleagues back to school for the new academic year. With so many recent changes in the field of Religious Education this is both an exciting and challenging time to teach RE! I hope to agree dates for GCSE and A Level leaders to meet each term to look at progress in delivering the new specifications and to share our experiences and resource ideas. Don't forget to utilise the Dropbox facility set up last term to provide colleagues in other schools the benefits of your creativity. All our departments have so much to offer! Can I remind RE subject leaders that we have the first meeting on 8 November 2016. I have invited the CAFOD national Secondary adviser Susan Kambalu to join us on the day. She has a wealth of valuable experience to share.

**People of God** – Called to Serve In the last few weeks the first four Year 9 framework units have gone live on the People of God website. I would encourage you to review these units which have been specifically designed to prepare students for and, in effect, start work towards the new GCSE. One or two schools have not yet subscribed to People of God. I would encourage you to do so since this will be the standard against which KS3 curriculum RE will be judged during future S48 inspections.

**Inspection Team Meetings** Inspection colleagues are reminded that we are now scheduled to meet on 4 November 2016 [also 10 March 2017, 22 June 2017]. Our work was very successful last year and we are now in line with the required programme of inspections. There will be a number of both S48 and IMV events this Advent term. I would like to thank members of the team for their work and commitment over the last twelve months. Your contribution is very much appreciated.

## PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

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

### **Universal: Journalists**

*That journalists, in carrying out their work, may always be motivated by respect for truth and a strong sense of ethics.*

### **Evangelization: World Mission Day**

*That World Mission Day may renew within all Christian communities the joy of the Gospel and the responsibility to announce it.*

**FEAST DAYS** - pray for the schools who celebrate their feast days this month.

- 1 October – St Teresa's Independent Princes Risborough
- 7 October – Our Lady of Peace Primary School, Slough
- 9 October- Cardinal Newman School, Luton
- 13 October – St Edward's Primary School, Kettering

## NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY CORNER

Anne-Marie McIntosh

**School Visits** this term are all confirmed. If there is anything in particular you would like to cover on the day or any inservice at all please e-mail me.

**RE Subject Leader Meetings** - Please let me know the dates of these meeting as I really want to attend to work alongside you and support you in your role..

**Levels of Attainment** - Thank you to everyone who completed the national questionnaire on the levels of attainment. The responses have now been collated and were shared with the RE Advisers at a national meeting on 21 September. Hopefully soon we will have a clear way forward.

**Live Simply** - Hopefully by now you will have received a letter regarding the Cafod 'Live Simply' Challenge. This monthly challenge encourages us to look at our personal responsibility for making choices that will enable us to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor. I've already noticed a difference in the office for September's challenge! Have a look at our website to see what's coming next in the October challenge.

**Sex and Relationship Education** - This has been a work in progress for many months or even years. The material is now available in draft form on the CES website. An email copy has also gone out to all Head Teachers. Please note that if you do anything with it, at this stage, it is only in draft form.

**Come and See** - The content of the programme is being reviewed. Years 6,5 and 4 have been completed. The updated texts, questions and activities are now available on the Come and See website. We hoe Y3 will be available in the new year.

**A Heart that Sees** is a Year of Mercy Legacy Resource. The document does not yet exist! It will be produced from schools across the country, including our schools, with initiatives already implemented in the Year of Mercy. We need five schools who would be willing to share something of what they have done over the year: practical activities - acts of visible compassion – gestures of love in action - reaching out to parents / the local community. You may not have even seen them as an act of mercy. It is a gesture, which your school has offered, which addresses a genuine need. It may be quite a small or simple thing. But it is a gesture of a deeper virtue, a value in action. Jo Perrett (St Bernard's Prep School) represents our Diocese at a national level and she will email any school a proforma for you to easily feedback on what has been achieved, in terms of practical help during the Year of Mercy, in your school. It's an exciting prospect to have your gestures included in a national project. If you are interested in taking part please email me by October half term.

**Missio** - I have been approached by the Education Co-ordinator of Missio - the Catholic Church's official charity for overseas mission. They work in 157 countries throughout the world bringing the hope of the Gospel where there is turmoil, poverty and uncertainty, and where the Church is new, young or poor. Missio empowers local people to form and sustain communities of faith and they train and nurture future leaders so that the vital work of the Church in the world can take place. If you already subscribe to their newsletter that's great, if you don't you might want to log onto their website: [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk) and see the sort of activities they are engaged in and the materials they send out to schools.

**Jesse Box Resource** - This has nothing to do with the Jesse Tree! but is a resource to support teaching the domestic church topic (among other things) Check it out at [thejessebox.com](http://thejessebox.com)

**The Real Advent Calendar** - A great way to prepare for Christmas. Each calendar comes with a Christmas Story / Advent Activity Book and behind each window there is a fair-trade chocolate. There's 10% off and free delivery if you order in October. Have a look at

<http://www.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk>

**Just a thought.....** If the highest aim of a captain were to preserve his ship, he would keep it in port forever. (Thomas Aquinas)

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

### DEPUTY HEADS/SENIOR LEADERS' CONFERENCE

Dates - 16-18 November 2016

Booking forms out now!

Venue - Hothorpe Hall, Leicestershire

Theme - "*Justice and mercy have met*"(Psalm 85)

### CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The new course in Aylesbury will now start from January 2017. Please contact the administrator Warren Edwards for details: [edwards@nores.org.uk](mailto:edwards@nores.org.uk)

**THEOLOGY FOR CATHOLIC ADULTS** is a very useful modular course. It offers the chance to spend a day doing theology for yourself, which then becomes invaluable for your teaching . Look for the leaflet!

**SCHOOLS' MASS** 14 October 11am – St Mary's Church, Dunstable

We look forward to welcoming schools. Please limit your numbers to about 30 pupils per school because of space in the church. Please book: [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk)