



NORES NEWS

February 2017 – 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*

HONOURING THE SACRED SCRIPTURES

In *Miserando et Misera* [following the Year of Mercy] Pope Francis proposes a greater attention to the Scriptures. While not establishing another themed *Year of* this idea can be an excellent focus for reflection in

2017. We are asking every school to consider

- how the actual book is present/honoured/visible in the school, classroom etc
- how do we use Scripture in our worship
- how do we use Scripture in our curriculum, not just in religious education.

While the scriptures have always been central to our Catholic tradition we did not share the emphasis found in other churches and ecclesial communities. We are challenged to deepen our knowledge and love for the Word of God that guides us, that nourishes us. At Mass we are fed from two tables, that of the Word and that of the Eucharist. Christ is truly present to us in his Word, the Word of God, for which we give thanks.

What ideas can you share with others of the ways in which the Word of God is honoured, alive and active in your community

HEAD TEACHERS' CONFERENCE 2017 – 2,3 March

Book the date now! Forms and details have been sent out. This will be led by Fr Jonathan Veasey, Director of Schools and RE in Birmingham diocese. He wants to explore the way your leadership contributes to the New Evangelisation – and invites your comments. Email Fr Kevin with your thoughts.

PREPARING for SENIOR LEADERSHIP in a CATHOLIC

SCHOOL - Thursday 9 March, 2017 at RE Centre, 33 Westbourne Rd, Luton LU4 8JD

This day course is sponsored by the five dioceses of the Westminster Province, including ourselves. It has proved very useful to help people consider how they can move forward into leadership in Catholic schools. Information as already been sent out. Apply now through the NORES Office.

PREPARING FOR LENT 2017

Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day, 28 February, derives its name from “*shriving*”, which means to be absolved, after confessing sins. We also think of it as **Carnevale**, [“*farewell to meat*”], or **Mardi Gras** [“*the eating up of fats*”]. So the day before Lent the tradition was to consume all the meat, cream, butter and the like, to be ready for the great fast of Lent. Pancakes are a reminder of that. Nowadays that great Lenten fast is much reduced – perhaps to giving up something we enjoy, but whatever is done needs also to produce some good.

BURY THE ALLELUIA – during Lent at Mass we never use Alleluia for the Gospel Greeting. It is also



taken out of all prayers chants, hymns and songs. So in preparing any liturgy make sure it is not there!

There is a tradition of **burying the Alleluia**. Before Lent sing Alleluia

with great gusto [and over and over again] for the last time before Easter. Then with the word **Alleluia** printed or drawn colourfully on a scroll, cover it up/lock it away. As soon as you can after Easter then you bring it out with great Alleluias!!!

ASH WEDNESDAY is the beginning of the forty day fast of Lent, leading up to Holy Thursday. [That period is more than 40 days because Sundays are

not counted as fast days, as they are always a celebration of the Resurrection.] The ashes we use are made by burning the palms from



last Palm Sunday. Then we sang *Hosanna*, but we realise that often our sin means we are far from living out *Hosanna!* Parishes may well burn palms after mass on the Sunday before Lent. Making sure we take all the necessary precautions it is a powerful visual to do with young people. It is not a liturgical act per se, just very practical and personal.

In laying on us the light cross of ashes the Church desires to take off our shoulders all other heavy burdens - the crushing load of worry and oppressive guilt, the dead weight of our own self love. We should not take upon ourselves a burden of penance and stagger into Lent as if we were Atlas carrying the whole world on his shoulders.

Thomas Merton

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

School Chaplaincy - A last minute call for any School Chaplains/ Chaplaincy Co-ordinators for our next Chaplaincy Day which is on Friday 3 February and focusses on **Developing our Leadership Skills** with Charles Whitehead. Copies of the booking form are available via the NORES website (Events and Courses) or the NORES office.

Catechesis - The next meeting of the **Bishops' Council for Catechesis** will be on Monday 27 February at 7.30pm at the RE Centre, we look forward to welcoming you. The next basic training course in catechesis, '**Being a Catechist**' is in Bedford from 7.30-9.30pm on Friday 10 March & 9.30am for 10am start -4pm on Saturday 11 March 2017. Publicity material is now available. 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. There is a gathering for catechists in the Luton Deanery in the summer where we will explore some possibilities of supporting local catechists, more information to follow.

Scripture With our focus on the Bible this year there are a number of opportunities to help us engage with the riches of the Bible in 2017 here is just a flavour of what's coming up:

A new short retreat based on the Book of Ruth (approx. 2-3 hours in length) is available for any group, parish or school that is looking for a Scripture based retreat opportunity for adults in the coming months, perhaps for Lent or Eastertide. I have developed these reflections working through the Book of Ruth and am happy to offer this on demand in the Diocese. Please contact me at the NORES office if you would like to book this retreat. On 16 February there will be one of these retreat days at Turvey Monastery (please see NORES website for poster). On Sunday 7 May 2017 there will be one offered for staff in Catholic Schools. More details on this to follow shortly.

There is a **Scripture Conference** entitled: *Who do you say that I am? Images of Christ in the New Testament* for all who engage in scripture in liturgy and catechesis. The main speaker will be Ian Boxall. It will be from 6-8 June at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts. Sessions will include: Jesus the Teacher: Christ in Matthew | Jesus the Enigma: Christ in Mark | Jesus the Merciful Physician: Christ in Luke | Jesus the Mystic: Christ in John | Jesus the Divine Warrior: Christ in Revelation. Please see www.rcia.org.uk for more details and to book.

There is a day offered by our Bishops' Council for Catechesis on Scripture that is prayed in **Morning and Evening Prayer of the Church** with Fr John Hemer, on Saturday 13 May. More details available soon.

CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield



Supporter Days

There is still time to book on our Lent Supporters' Days. This is a wonderful way of hearing about CAFOD's work and getting ready for Fast Day. Great for teachers too! Do get in touch if you can make it. We would love to see you there.

Sat 4 Feb - St Martin de Porres, 366 Leagrave High Street, Luton LU4 0NG

Sat 18 Feb - St Joseph – Austenwood Common, Chalfont St Peter SL9 8RY

Lent Fast Day – 10 March 2017

Get ready for Lent Fast Day. We have great resources to help you hold a prayer session (e.g. Stations of the Cross), soup lunch and give a talk in your parish. Our enthusiastic volunteers are ready to give assemblies and/or workshops in schools. Do get in touch if you would like a visit.

Show the Love

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis invites us all to have a conversation about how we are shaping the future of our planet. This Valentine's Day, show your love for our common home by starting a conversation with those around you about climate change, how it affects our global neighbours, and how renewable energy can help them out of poverty. We have [resources, prayers and creative ideas](#) to help you get talking about climate change with your parish, friends, family and even your MP. We have great stickers too which can be ordered FOC and used in parishes, schools, children's liturgy etc.. to start a conversation. So go on, get chatting!

Lampedusa Cross

Do keep sending in your messages of solidarity with refugees. We now have over 28,000 received. Having the Lampedusa Cross present in parishes and schools for group activities can be a very powerful sign of solidarity. Please get in touch with the CAFOD volunteer centre to borrow the cross.

CAFOD volunteer Centre – dpurfield@cafod.org.uk,
01844 274 723

RSE documents on CES WEBSITE

We have been asked if these can be made available as Word rather than pdf documents. Any pdf can be opened by Office 2010 and newer by right clicking on the file and selecting "open with Word". This will open the pdf as an editable Word doc.

SCHOOLS' COMMISSION

Collette Curtis

Ofsted updates- message from Sean Harford HMI, National Director, Education

Sharing the confidential outcome of an inspection prior to reporting

I have picked up that there are still cases where governor representatives who have not been present at the feedback meeting are being informed that the provisional judgement from the inspection cannot be shared with them. This is not the case. Every member of the appropriate governing authority of a school is entitled to know, in confidence, the inspection outcome, regardless of whether or not they attended the feedback meeting. Similarly, when the draft report is shared with the school, all governor representatives are entitled to see the report, along with relevant senior personnel as determined by the school.

Secondary schools - We are soon to publish a survey report on how secondary schools are preparing pupils for the world of work. It is clear from the survey how important high-quality careers advice is for pupils, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Therefore, can I please ask that inspectors thoroughly assess and report on the effectiveness of this important provision in secondary schools?

Meetings and events with the Diocese This term the team will be meeting governors and teachers across the Diocese in sessions: The changing shape of Catholic Education and in Governors forums. The details of these have been sent out to all schools.

We are in the processing of reviewing and planning the CPD offer for next academic year to ensure you have early notice of dates for the diary. If you have any particular feedback or suggestions for useful input from the Diocese we would be happy to receive this by email main@nores.org.uk.

I am looking for a small working group of leaders to work with the Diocese and the Teaching school to develop a leadership development programme to identify and develop Catholic Leaders. This will also inform the content of the Head Teacher conference and agenda items for the head and deputy head teacher association meetings. This will not involve significant meeting time, more intellectual input! If you are interested in being part of this group please let me know curtis@nores.org.uk

Free seminars provided by Winckworth Sherwood Solicitors

The seminars (which are relevant for maintained schools and academies) are held at their offices in London Bridge:

9 February 2017 Exclusions and how to get it right
Suitable for Head teachers, staff, governors and clerks
27 April 2017 Effective governance; school clerks
Suitable for clerks, company secretaries and governors
All of the seminars are *free to attend* and will run from 9.30am to 12.30pm with registration and refreshments at 9am and lunch and networking at 12.30pm.
If you have any queries about the seminars please

contact events@wslaw.co.uk.

Teacher recruitment- CES Survey - To assist the CES with a response to the Call for Evidence from the Migration Advisory Committee as part of their 'Review of the Shortage Occupation List: Teachers' they conducted a survey of Catholic schools. In total 268 schools completed the survey. The key findings included:

- 43.2% of secondary and 16.6% of primary schools reported an increase in foreign born teachers in their schools in the last 5 years.
- 20.5% of secondary schools had recruited a teacher directly from outside the European Economic Area (EEA).
- 50% of primary and 67% of secondary schools reported that the problem of teacher retention had become more significant in the last 5 years.
- 70% of secondary schools had struggled to recruit Religious Studies teachers

FOUNDATION GOVERNORS APPOINTMENT

PROTOCOL - With immediate effect because of the legal and canonical nature of these appointments

- a. we can only accept original paper copy of the up to date application form, completed and signed
- b. it must be submitted directly by the priest who is supporting the application to ensure confidentiality about his statement.

No exception can be made to these requirements.

A different procedure applies to application for Academy Directors and Foundation Representatives.

GOVERNANCE APPOINTMENTS

MAT Directors:

St Peter Catholic Academy Trust [SPCAT]

Canon Kevin O'Driscoll, Mrs Fidelma Gough

Mrs Maria Grazia Hindmarsh, Mrs Margaret Dickinson,

Mr Ciran Stapleton, Prof. Mark Watson-Gandy

St Alban Catholic Academy Trust [SACAT]

Mrs Sarah Milnthorpe

MAT Foundation Representatives:

St Thomas of Canterbury Academy Trust [STACAT]

Mrs Fiona Wheeler

St Alban Catholic Academy Trust [SACAT]

Mrs Noelette Hanley

Foundation Governors:

St Edward's Catholic Junior School, Aylesbury

Mr Paul Sherley, Mr James Sisk, Mrs Patricia

Fuchter

HEADSHIP VACANCIES for September

Primary - St Thomas More, Kettering; St Bernadette, Milton Keynes; St Anthony, Farnham Royal; St Joseph, Gerrards Cross

Secondary – St Bernard's Grammar, Slough

SECONDARY RE AND INSPECTION

Stephen O'Brien

Secondary/Inspection

People of God The KS3 *People of God - Called to Serve* Framework for Key Stage 3 RE is near finished with work coming to completion on the last area which is the Year 9 unit on Islamic Identity. This will be on the website [peopleofgod.co.uk] by the end of February. The writers continue to add more and more resources for each of the units of study along with theological notes for teachers, glossaries and a wealth of scriptural and other reference materials to support the teacher in the classroom. The development of a growing resource base will continue. Please consider subscription if you are not already subscribed.

RE Subject Leaders After being unable to successfully arrange a meeting for departments to look at assessment and marking of the new GCSE, I am hoping to follow a similar theme at our subject leaders meeting on 10 March 2017. Once again, the meeting will allow subject leaders to share experience and resources with particular regard to GCSE and A level work. Details of the meeting will follow in due course.

Sister Mary Stephen RIP It is with great sadness that I heard of the passing of Sr. Mary Stephen, former Headteacher of St Bernard's Grammar School, Slough who died on 19 January 2017. She will be greatly missed by her Bernardine Cistercian community in Brownhill near Stroud and by her many friends across the Diocese of Northampton. Sister was a truly wonderful person. She can be seen on the *People of God* website speaking most beautifully of her faith and offering inspiring advice to young people. May she rest in peace.

NYMO

Steve Harris

Faith in Action Day

On 6 July St. Paul's Catholic School, Milton Keynes will join with Bishop Peter, Pax Christi and NYMO to host an interactive day of workshops and talks: 'Faith in Action: Justice and Peace'. Groups of Year 10 students from Diocesan schools are warmly invited to attend the day. Please email neil@nymo.org for more information

Summer Camp

NYMO invite young people aged 11 – 18 to attend 'Life Teen Summer Camp UK'. Camp is 6-10 August. The cost is £185 minimum donation per person. Coach transport is included with stops at Burnham and Northampton. Summer Camp will be the usual adrenaline-fueled mix of outdoor activities and living as community, focused on worship and the sacraments. We look forward to welcoming Jimmy Mitchell back to speak.

Contact Tel: 01582 720 627

NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY

CORNER

Anne-Marie McIntosh

School Visits for this term are all confirmed.

RE Subject Leaders' Day - Our next subject leaders' day will take place on **Thursday 23 March**. Please keep an eye out for the email / letter which will give you the timings and agenda for the day. Our third day for this academic year will be a joint day with our Secondary Heads of RE colleagues. This will take place in the Pentecost Term on **Thursday 22 June, 2017**.

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. Thank you.

Inservice - I have led a number of staff meetings around the diocese on the 'Respond' element of the *Come and See* process. It takes about an hour. These have been well received. If you would like me to come to your school please ring / email to organise a date.

Twilight inset on *The Changing Shape of Catholic Education* will take place around the Diocese starting, with a session in Wellingborough for all members of staff, on 9 February from 4- 6pm. The flier with all the dates and further details should have arrived in school by now.

If you would like inset on anything else please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Live Simply - Thank you for taking part in the 'Live Simply' Challenge so far. During the month of February we are raising awareness of recycling. 'I promise to find out more about Fairtrade and encourage my family to buy Fairtrade products.' If you are not one already have you considered becoming a fairtrade school?

Email: mcintosh@nores.org.uk

PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

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

Comfort for the Afflicted - That all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalized, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.

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

3 February – Thornton College [St Claudine Thevenet]

25 February – St Ethelbert's Primary Slough

SCHOOL NEWS - THIS YEAR

Bedford - St Francis Academy Trust

Following the merger of St Joseph's Lower and St Gregory's Middle Schools, Frances Topa will be working as Trust Strategic Project Leader from September 2017. A strand of the role is to work with the Diocese through the Head of the Teaching School to offer school to school support to other schools outside of the Trust. Lisa Sumpter will be the head of the merged school.