



# NORES NEWS

March 2020 – The month dedicated to St Joseph

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 AND BISHOP PETER** have both issued their messages for Lent 2020. These are included here. They give great food for thought, and as it is Bishop Peter's farewell message to the diocese his words hold a special place for us. After fifteen years of generous service as our chief shepherd he enters into well deserved retirement on 19 March, when he will hand over the crozier, the symbol of pastoral ministry, to **CANON DAVID OAKLEY**, then ordained as the thirteenth bishop of our diocese. *In these coming days find time to help people pray for them both.*

We look forward to Bishop David becoming a welcome visitor to our schools as he begins his ministry, and finds his way across the diocese.

## THE GOD WHO SPEAKS – the YEAR of the WORD



We hope you are enjoying this initiative of our bishops and finding your way to make it your own. The great **DIOCESAN WORDFEST** will be a day to remember for all, young and old. Book now. If you have not ordered a pop-up banner there are a few left. Contact the office now! As we move through Lent explore how the scriptures lead us to Easter, to celebrate our Baptism.

## ENGLAND, the DOWRY of MARY

Our bishops have asked us all to take part in the rededication of England to Mary, which has roots in our mediaeval history. Bishop David will celebrate Mass on Sunday 29 March at 11am in the Cathedral as will all bishops. It is linked to the feast of the Annunciation, the title of Walsingham. We encourage all schools and communities to find their own ways of being part of this nationwide celebration. The ANGELUS is recommended as a daily prayer. See [www.Behold2020.com](http://www.Behold2020.com)

**FEASTING in LENT** – times to celebrate! There are a few breaks to the severity of Lent :

March 1 - **St David**, pray for Wales

March 4 – CAFOD Lent Fast Day

March 17-**St Patrick**, pray for Ireland

March 19 – **St Joseph** – pray for our new Bishop David, ordained today, for the universal Church and Pope Francis on the seventh anniversary of his installation

March 22– Fourth Sunday of Lent –

*Laetare* Sunday – **Mothering Sunday**

March 25 – **The Annunciation of the Lord**



## THE REAL EASTER EGG

The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has an Easter story book and is made of Fairtrade chocolate to support charitable projects.

Direct from The Meaningful Chocolate Company, Redemptorist Publications, ASDA etc



**RESERVED POSTS** – as we come to appointment time just a quick reminder to ensure you contact NORES immediately when any reserved post become available through resignation or any other reason – this is head teacher, deputy head teacher, chaplain, lead/head of RE. The bishop, as Trustee, is represent throughout any process by NORES.

## SCHOOLS' CONTRIBUTION TO NORES 2020/2021

The diocese is very grateful for the generous response to this fund which covers about one third of the cost of running NORES. We appreciate the constraints on the school budget as we send out the new requests, and hope that will respond as positively as before.

**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**

## SECONDARY RE AND THEOLOGY

Paul McHugh

Dear Colleagues

I hope that in these busy school days, you find time for reflection and sharing. With that in mind, our Heads of RE day falls this month on Tuesday, 17.

In this Lent of a special year, it is particularly appropriate to enter more deeply into sacred scripture. 'All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness' wrote St Paul (2 Tim 3:16-17). With the New Testament still in formation, Paul was referring to the sacred Hebrew texts. As a former Pharisee, he would have been steeped in them. As for Jesus, we note that as a boy he amazed the learned teachers in the Temple with his understanding. As a class exercise, it might be good to explore Jesus' own reference to and use of Jewish scripture. From the time of his desert temptation (when he drew from the Torah) to his dying breaths (when he gasped out lines of a Psalm), Jesus showed his immersion in sacred scripture he had come to fulfil: Law, Prophets and Wisdom. After his resurrection, he walked with the two disciples and 'interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself' (Luke 24:27). In his Church and by his Spirit, he continues to do the same for us if we have ears to hear.

*"Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?" (Luke 24:32)*

### PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

**PRAYER INTENTIONS** – *ask the school to pray with the Pope for Catholics in China. We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.*

#### FEAST DAYS

17 March - St Patrick's Primary, Corby

19th March - St Joseph's Infant, Aylesbury,

St Joseph's & St Gregory's, Bedford,

St Joseph's Primary, Chalfont St Peter,

St Joseph's High, Slough

**THE VINE** - *As Communications Manager, Neil Roseman is working as editor. Please send all news items to him as soon as possible after an event, with appropriate photographs.*

[communications@northamptondiocese.com](mailto:communications@northamptondiocese.com)

## PRIMARY RE

Anne Marie McIntosh

### COME AND SEE INSET

The next Come and See day will take place on Thursday 25 June. We will focus on preparing for the Advent Term. Please book a place by sending an email to Ann [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk)

### GREATER DEPTH TASKS

These have been in place for about a year now. Please would you take some time to feedback to your RE Subject Leader as to have these have gone, if they have enabled the children to produce greater depth work and how we might develop them further in the future. Thank you.

### RE SUBJECT LEADERS DAY

Our next RE Subject Leaders day will take place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. 9.30am for refreshments with a 10.00am start. I know some of you have booked on already but if you haven't already done so please email Ann [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk) to book your place. It's a great opportunity to keep up to date with recent developments and share ideas on how we move forward as a Diocese. Please come ready to offer feedback on the greater depth tasks. We will also have a joint day with the Secondary Heads of RE and Chaplains in the Pentecost Term on Friday 5 June.

### PRAYER BAGS

Following the huge success of the Prayer Bags initiative, I am currently in the process of applying for a grant to renew them and their contents. It is envisaged that these will be relaunched in the new school year, September 2020 with the blessing of our new Bishop.

### RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION

We, at Nores, are hosting a day run by the Catholic Education Service on Relationships and Sex Education. It will take place in July – date to be confirmed. This day will explore the changes in legislation, a model policy, implementation and good practice.

### Just a thought.....

'Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path' (Psalm 119.105)

And finally

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

### DATES for 2020/2021 – next academic year

Included is the NORES Calendar to give you plenty of opportunity to include our events in your planning and hopefully we can avoid clashes.

## From the DIRECTOR of SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

Collette Curtis

Changes to the process for allocating Capital Improvement funding for schools

There are changes for the majority of schools in the Diocese in the allocation of funding for Capital Improvement Funding from the DfE for 2020 onwards. The allocation of funding for improving condition for all of our Academies will be received directly by the 2 Regional Trusts, Our Lady Immaculate and St Thomas removing the need to bid nationally for funding. VAT on projects for Academies is claimed back.

The Diocese will be the responsible body for allocating Diocesan Conditional Improvement Funding previously known as LCVAP. VA schools will need to apply to the Diocese for funding by March 31<sup>st</sup> for round 1 allocations and 30<sup>th</sup> September for round 2. The application, approval and monitoring process for this funding was explained in detail during the Finance and Property day on Tuesday 25 February and is available on the NORES website. If you have any questions contact me directly on [curtis@nores.org.uk](mailto:curtis@nores.org.uk)

### DfE updates

#### • Governance

The DfE has published the latest edition of the governance update. There are two versions available: one for maintained schools and one for academy trusts. These updates are for anyone involved in school or academy company governance who wants to know the latest messages from the DfE such as: governors, directors of academy companies, chairs, governance professionals, and members.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-governance-update>

#### • Statutory policies

The DfE has updated its guidance on statutory policies for schools and academy trusts. This page provides guidance on the policies and documents that governing bodies and proprietors of schools must have. A new link has been provided in the 'Relationship and Sex Education' section to statutory guidance published which must be followed from September 2020. Added references to specify if policies also apply to maintained or non-maintained nursery schools. Updated 'Register of business interests of headteachers and governors' section to reference that it is a live document. Updated 'Capability of staff' section to reflect that academies can set their own terms for approval.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-policies-for-schools-and-academy-trusts>

#### • Initial Teacher Training

Initial Teacher Training (ITT): criteria and supporting advice. The statutory guidance which provides the criteria that organisations must meet to provide ITT has been edited to reflect the new ITT core content framework.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/initial-teacher-training-criteria>

#### • Tools to support financial efficiency

School resource management self-assessment tool. The tool dashboard has been updated to include additional RAG ratings for average teacher cost and spend on teaching staff as a percentage of total expenditure, so that schools can benchmark different years of data. Also, there have been updates made to the dashboard support notes to reflect the other changes.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-resource-management-self-assessment-tool>



## CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield

CAFOD's school Lent appeal is focusing on the support needed by the indigenous peoples of the Amazon polyhedron, as Pope Francis has described the area, to defend their rights to a safe place to live and to maintain their culture and lifestyles. They are spread across nine countries each of which has its specific needs but who share these concerns. We need to understand and value the way indigenous people see the world in a very holistic way and so appreciate how interdependent we all are. Our Lent materials (available on our website) can help your classes focus on the work already being done by and on behalf of the Amazonian peoples but also to appreciate how much more needs to be done.

Your school volunteer is happy to visit and share a workshop about Children's Rights (based on the UN Convention for the Rights of the Child). This can spark the interest of even the youngest ones and help them to realise how important our basic human rights are, and how important it is to defend the rights of our brothers and sisters at home and abroad.

We also have a super workshop using the exciting tool of Augmented Reality which enables classes to share the way children and young people in Peru are themselves standing up for their rights and safeguarding them for future generations.

Finally, has your school considered having a **CAFOD Club**? It will help your pupils to live out their faith and will strongly support the Catholic life of your school. We have a lovely support pack to help you set it up and maybe your children will be the next ones making a real difference in their communities.

We send blessings on your journey through Lent and in the words of Saint Oscar Romero- *"We can't do everything, we are not called to do everything, we are called to do something, and to do it very well."*

For more information on any of the above look at our website or get in touch : 01494 863 777

[northampton@cafod.org.uk](mailto:northampton@cafod.org.uk)

**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**

Our first Catechetical AGM takes place on Saturday 14 March at the RE Centre for nominated catechists from our Pastoral Areas and any clergy who would like to attend. Following this a report will be sent out to very parish with a summary of the main issues arising from the meeting. 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). Hard copies of these will also be sent to parishes following the AGM and are also available on request from the NORES Office. It outlines all the various Catechetical Gatherings and also the various training opportunities available.

**SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY TRAINING DAYS**

We had a fantastic School Chaplaincy Training Day on Tuesday 4 February 2020 where we welcomed 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 also shared 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 Wintershall Education. The fantastic team from Wintershall Education will provide an explanation 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.

**MISSIO NEWS**

**Fr Wayne Coughlin**



In addition to our Year of the Word primary and secondary school resources for Lent, "Mission Together" (the young persons arm of Missio) also have two new assemblies to celebrate the Solemnity of Saint Joseph on 19 March and the Memorial of Saint Oscar Romero on 24 March. By hearing about these two great saints children can learn how to become missionaries of God's love within their school, family and friends.

To that end, Pope Francis has frequently spoken of Mary, the mother of God, as being a model for all missionaries. Thus as we approach the Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary on Sunday, 29 March do have a look at the wealth of Marian resources for primary schools that "Mission Together" makes freely available on its website. Missio too has created a Marian resource for secondary schools called "Mary, Model of Missionaries" (again for free download on the website).

As Pope Francis also encourages children and young people (and we adults too) to take all our concerns to Mary in prayer; for she - as a trusted and compassionate advocate - will lead them and us closer to her Son, Jesus.

One way to foster devotion to Our Lady is through the Holy Rosary and "Mission Together" has a resource for that too. Another really fun way is a Marian procession! On Sunday, 29 March the Catholic Youth Minister in Bedford (Stephanie) has arranged a procession for the end of Mass with an image of Our Lady of Walsingham to our new outdoor shrine. To ensure our children and youth are at the heart of this celebration they are to carry the statue in the procession as well as wave Marian flags and scatter rose petals! Our young people are also making crowns, floral head dresses, capes hand decorated with "Ave Maria" on the back and paper flowers for the bier. We are also having a child dressed as King Richard II (for it was he who offered England to Our Lady) and shall be praying the \*Mission Rosary as we make our holy journey from the Church. It is going to be a glorious way to celebrate the Rededication of England as Mary's favoured place (her Dowry); please pray that we have fine weather in Bedford on that day

Do remember that Margaret and Sue, our two wonderful Missio volunteers, are always willing to visit your school to talk about our work! Please contact me for details.

\*The Mission Rosary was established in 1951 by the Venerable Fulton J. Sheen (the US National Director of Missio); this consists of five different colours each representing a different continent so as to envelope the whole world in prayer. See the Mission Together website for more details.

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