



NORES NEWS

MAY 2016 – The month dedicated to 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



(Luke 6:36)

THE YEAR OF MERCY continues until 20 November. It is good to recall the first paragraph of Pope Francis' letter creating the year. Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him. The Father, "rich in mercy", after having revealed his name to Moses as "a

God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness", has never ceased to show, in various ways throughout history, his divine nature. In the "fullness of time", when everything had been arranged according to his plan of salvation, he sent his only Son into the world, born of the Virgin Mary, to reveal his love for us in a definitive way. Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father. Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person, reveals the mercy of God

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

It was easy once to spot a Catholic. They ate fish on Fridays and made the sign of the cross when they passed a church or saw a hearse. These were Catholic markers, so to speak, among many other things, and many who were not in Church on Sunday still kept these signs of Catholic identity.

In our educational world today where there are so many external pressures it is more important than ever to sustain those markers of our identity as a Catholic community. Indeed for them to become a natural part of the fabric of our schools we may well have to give them a greater focus. Given, too, the varied make up of those in our schools, staff/students/families, we must also ensure we make them intelligible to people, helping everyone understand why they are important, what they mean, how they have come to be part of a Catholic way of life.

Friday abstinence from meat originates out of prayerful respect for Christ's death on Good Friday. Many religions have different rules about food, and ours are few. Just no meat on Fridays, and then Ash Wednesday and Good Fridays as days of fast and abstinence. Kitchens need to know this to be prepared. [Next year Ash Wednesday is 1 March 2017.] When a great feast falls on a Friday then meat is permitted to enhance the celebration, such as the feasts of the Sacred Heart.

The way a school entwines the liturgical calendar in its life will offer regular reminders of Catholic identity. Mission Statements. Remembering saints days and other feast days, praying for other schools on their feast days, using the colour of the liturgical season, keeping the name of people according to their patron saints – all of these are Catholic ways of marking time. Prayer in our schools is central to our lives. The great tradition of the Angelus at midday reminds us that Christ came into the world for us. Prayers at the beginning and end of a school day need not be long yet sanctify the passing of time. We need to have a shared treasury of simple prayers that we can say together, for all our needs, for the living and the dead, for forgiveness, for thanksgiving.

One aspect of our schools that I would ask you all to re-examine is the mission statement. Two questions are important – a) is it explicit about the person of Christ at the heart of your school – b) is it clear enough for all to be able to remember it with ease?

PENTECOST 2016

For resources for Pentecost and especially the novena leading to this feast, the birthday of the Church go to www.northamptondiocese.org/Faith/Evangelisation

THANKS to staff leaving the diocese this term for all they have given to Catholic education here :

- to Alan Lee who has been Executive Principal of the St Francis of Assisi Academy Trust (April 2016)
- to Christine Lake who has been head of St Vincent's Catholic Primary School, Dunstable (August 2016)
- to Yvonne Lucey who has been head of Thomas Becket Catholic School, Northampton (August 2016)

THIS YEAR

SCHOOL NEWS

- St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Academies' Trust began on April 1 – for the four schools of Northampton Town

- Our Lady of Peace Infant, Nursery and Junior Schools, Burnham, became Our Lady of Peace Catholic Primary School on April 1

PRAYER INTENTIONS – ask the school to pray with the Pope's intentions for May

Universal: Respect for Women

That in every country of the world, women may be honored and respected and that their essential contribution to society may be highly esteemed.

Evangelization: Holy Rosary

That families, communities, and groups may pray the Holy Rosary for evangelization and peace.

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

1st May	Holy Family Primary, Langley
3rd May	St Monica's Primary, Milton Keynes
16th May	St Brendan's Primary, Corby

Academic Masses for 2015/16 have been celebrated in most of our partnerships and are great occasions for staff, governors, clergy and all connected to our schools to come together. Buckinghamshire – 7pm 22 June 2016 at St Edward's Aylesbury, their partnership patronal feast.

RE CONFERENCE - for Primary and Secondary – 17 June 2016 led by David Wells, Plymouth Diocese

NORES LECTURE 2016 –

Friday 8 July 7.30pm
Canon John Udris –
'Mercy through the Eyes of the Mystics'.

GOVERNANCE

1. Instruments of Government

These were all remade by Local Authorities in September 2015 or before when governing bodies were reconstituted. The legal procedure required them to be sent NORES for diocesan approval. We returned them for schools to send to the LA who then "made" the Instrument which sets out the legal status of the governing body. Please check that this has been done and if there are any queries please contact Debbie Main at the office.

2. Governor appointments

All clerks are asked to check that all foundation governor vacancies have been notified to NORES so that we can ensure new appointments. We reply completely in clerks to do this. It is essential that we fill vacancies as possible.

NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR

GOVERNORS' FORUM 2016-2017

We are offering these sessions, 7-9pm in different locations around the diocese during the next academic year. They are for all governors, especially Foundation Governors, Directors and Representatives. If you miss the one in your area come along elsewhere. It is the serious expectation of the Trustee that every school will be represented by at least one if not more governors. Clerks will inform you. Please place these dates in your diary.

2016 22 Oct 10am-1pm - Diocesan Conference

2017 7-9pm at local venues:

6 February - NORES, Luton

9 February - North Northants

27 February - Slough

6 March - Buckinghamshire

8 March - Northamptonshire

13 March - Bedford

15 March - Milton Keynes

OUR NORES CALENDAR 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

DEPUTY HEADS/SENIOR LEADERS' CONFERENCE

Dates - 16-18 November 2016

Venue - Hothorpe Hall, Leicestershire

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

Booking forms out very soon!

Advice from Pope Francis!

The love of friendship unifies all aspects of marital life and helps family members to grow constantly. This love must be freely and generously expressed in words and acts. In the family, three words need to be used. I want to repeat this! Three words: 'Please', 'Thank you', 'Sorry' - Three essential words! In our families when we are not selfish and can say: 'Thank you!'; and in our families when someone realises that he or she did something wrong and is able to say 'Sorry!', our family experiences peace and joy. Let us not be stingy about using these words, but keep repeating them, day after day.

Pope Francis Amoris Laetitia n.133

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

Events for Catechists in the Year of Mercy

To coincide with the Jubilee celebrations for Catechists in Rome we are running an event for catechists on the afternoon of **SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2016** in Gerrards Cross. Please save the date and we will send more details soon. The 5 session training course **Being a Catechist** is now underway in Beaconsfield on Tuesday evenings, this course can also be run for your parish or pastoral area on request and I am taking bookings now for future courses.

Pentecost Novena 2016

The Diocesan Evangelisation Team has compiled the resources for the Pentecost Novena 2016 and they are now available via the Diocesan website www.northamptondiocese.org/Faith/Evangelisation These simple resources are offered to encourage and facilitate prayer for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit for a New Evangelisation. On the webpages you will find a range of resources, including templates for Prayer Services, prayer cards, music, a poster and a Guidance document, that are freely available for those who would like to use them. The dates for this year's Pentecost Novena are: FRIDAY 6 MAY-SATURDAY 14 MAY 2016 inclusive. At the time of writing we are still looking for services on 7 and 8 May but any day within the 9 days of the novena that you can run a service in your parish or prayer group would be great. Just get in touch with me to let me know.

The aim is that on each of the nine days of the novena there will be at least one group praying somewhere in the Diocese of Northampton and further afield, using these resources. In this way the novena is prayed collectively over the nine days. These services can be prayed before or after Mass or other liturgies, in prayer meetings, as part of other meetings or at home. They are suitable for use by churches, prayer groups, families and individuals for their personal prayer. They can also be adapted for use in schools, eg. staff prayer. There is also an Ecumenical Prayer Resource available to encourage prayer with Christians of other traditions. This year we are inviting parishes and prayer groups to link up in prayer with twin parishes or contacts through family and friends in other parts of the world to celebrate the global family of the Church. There is a poster on the webpage that can be used to spread the word.

An Act of Worship has been sent to all our schools on the theme of 'The Day the Spirit Came' which we hope will help you with your preparations for Pentecost. A number of the resources are suitable for use across parishes and schools and can be used flexibly to enable communities to prayerfully prepare for Pentecost. For example the prayer services and prayer cards could be

used for staff meetings and staff prayer or other meetings in school, or even for older students in secondary schools. If you are organising a Pentecost prayer service please let us know so we can add yours to the schedule of prayer for the 9 days of the novena.

Chaplaincy Conference- RISE Theatre

Finally a reminder for School Chaplains and Chaplaincy Co-ordinators that RISE Theatre will be leading us in our Chaplaincy Conference on Friday 1 July 2016 (9.30am-3pm) at the RE Centre. The booking form is available from the NORES website (Schools section) or the NORES office. We look forward to welcoming you and members of your school communities.

CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield



Big Thank You to all who supported CAFOD's Lenten appeal.

Resources

The Year of Mercy pilgrimages for [primary](#) and [young people](#) and [parishes](#) are now online to be used, with the accompanying Lampedusa cross refugee action for children and young people to write messages of hope [Catholic Social Teaching cards](#), teachers' notes and game were mailed to all secondary schools and RE advisors. These resources are for KS3 and GCSE RE New ['Laudato Si' posters and postcards](#) for primary schools are available to order from the CAFOD shop. Our volunteer team can offer assemblies and workshops on Universal church, especially Year 3 : Explore the topic of special places and refugees.

Year 4 : Learn more about Saints, and how we are all called to be saints.

- the theme of Sports and Games which focusses on our work in Brazil as we approach the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games this Summer.

Please see website for further details or book a visit – dpurfield@cafod.org.uk, 01844 274 723

EDUCATION WEEK 2016 – October 10-16

Have you begun thinking about this?

NORES will produce materials for the week.

You need to check with your local parish(es) about how you might be involved on Education Sunday.

Schools could exchange students (Y6/SchoolCouncil) or head or other teachers for assemblies etc. Tell each other what your school is like, all of us being belonging to the same diocese, same local church.

NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY CORNER

Anne-Marie McIntosh

Happy Easter! I hope the new term has got off to a good start.

School Visits for this term are all confirmed. Thank you. If there is anything in particular you would like to cover on the day please email me.

Inservice A number of schools have requested in-service this term. Topics include Cafod resources, Year of Mercy, new staff, collective worship and assessment (with David Quinn). If there is anything you would like me to do please don't hesitate to ask.

Courses Steve and I are going to run a day, in the Autumn Term, on writing the SEF for RE so watch this space for a flier with more information. The RE Conference is on Friday 17 June. David Wells is our speaker and the day is open to all. The theme for the day is 'Teaching the Pope Francis Way' – Seven gifts of wisdom from Pope Francis' writing adapted for teachers. This will be a fantastic, thought provoking day. Not to be missed! Booking forms will be with you soon.

Meditation in Schools You may have seen a flier entitled 'Meditatio Seminar' This takes place at Heythrop College in London on Wednesday 29th June. Meditation touches on children's innate spirituality. It is immensely valuable for their faith and general well-being as they grow up in a world which is changing at an unprecedented rate. I know some schools already practice meditation but if you don't, and would be interested this will hopefully give us everything we need to start. I am attending the seminar if you would like to join me please email meditatio@wccm.org

Just a thought.....Typoglycemia is a neologism given to a purported recent discovery about the cognitive processes behind reading written text. The word appears to be a portmanteau of "typo", as in typographical error, and "hypoglycemia". See if you can read this – *"I cđn'uolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg: the phaonmneel pweor of the hmuon mnid. Aoccdrnig to a rseearch taem at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Scuh a cdonition is arppoiatrely cllaed Typoglycemia .*

"Amzanig huh? Yaeh and you awlyas thguoht spleling was ipmorantt."

Apparently research was not carried out by Cambridge University but this is just a legend that does appear to have an element of truth to it!

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

SECONDARY RE AND INSPECTION

Stephen O'Brien

GCSE At the time of writing the AQA specification is the only one fully accredited. Eduqas specification 'route B' has been rejected, but only on minor technicalities. The content will not change and approval is expected within a couple of weeks. Edexcel is still problematic with their third submission still looking highly likely to be rejected. Approval is not expected in the near future.

The Edexcel A Level specification does not currently allow for the study of both Scripture and Christianity since Ofqual felt that these areas contained too much overlap. The CES is negotiating with the DfE over this but it seem unlikely that the decision will be overturned.

Judaism for GCSE Training Day. The Jewish Educational consultant, Ruth Weiner, will be running a day for those who will be teaching Judaism at GCSE level from September. The session is designed to build knowledge, understanding and confidence amongst Secondary RE colleagues. The day will be held at NORES in Luton on Thursday 7 July 2016 and will include refreshments and lunch. As part of the day, Ruth will run a question and answer session and offer a variety of helpful resources. I will be writing with further details and costs in the very near future. Please make this date a priority in you departmental diary!

A Level Planning Meeting NORES is hosting a self-help planning meeting for those preparing to teach the new A Level courses from September 2016. This meeting, on Wednesday 22 June 2016, begins at midday with a light lunch and provides an opportunity to share ideas and resources for delivering the new course. The meeting will conclude at 3.30pm. This is an initiative arising from departmental leaders themselves and is open to all who might benefit from the opportunity to share in preparation for the new exam.

SCHOOLS' COMMISSION

Debbie Main

A big thank you to all our Clerks who have completed their Board Audit for me. It's important that our records are up to date so that we can contact Governors, Representatives and Directors with details of training, guidance and legislative changes. I've also been updating the NORES website, I'd appreciate any feedback and ideas for information you'd like to see on there. www.nores.org.uk Lastly, can schools please let me know if you need any Governor/Representative application packs for Pentecost Term appointments or Voluntary Parental Contribution leaflets. I can be contacted on 01582 723312 or main@nores.org.uk