



NORES NEWS

October 2018 – 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*

AMORIS LAETITA - Pope Francis' 2016 apostolic exhortation on the **Joy of Love** will be the subject of our twilight school sessions in the Advent term. It will follow on from the World Meeting of Families [August, Dublin] and from discussions with Bishop Peter at recent heads' and deputies' conferences. The family is the nucleus of societal life. Catholic teaching on family life is rooted in Christ's teaching and the centuries of Church tradition. We try to live this in a contemporary society that is very different from previous times, so how do we ensure we are faithful and yet serving the people of our own time.

The World Meeting of Families has given us great hope and encouragement that families are growing more and more conscious of their own irreplaceable role in passing on the faith. At the same time, Catholic schools and programmes of religious instruction continue to play an indispensable role in creating a culture of faith and a sense of missionary discipleship. I know that this is a source of pastoral concern for all of you. Genuine religious formation calls for faithful and joyful teachers who are able to shape not only minds but also hearts in the love of Christ and in the practice of prayer. The formation of such teachers and the expansion of programmes of adult education, are essential for the future of the Christian community, in which a committed laity will be increasingly called to bring the wisdom and values of their faith to their engagement in the varied sectors of the country's social, political and cultural life. *Pope Francis to the Irish Bishops, Dublin 26 August 2018.*

PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

PRAYER INTENTIONS – *ask the school to pray with the Pope for his intentions for October*- That consecrated religious men and women may bestir themselves, and be present among the poor, the marginalized, and those who have no voice.

THE POPE VIDEO. If you Google ThePopeVideo each month you will; find a YouTube clip to go with Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for the month giving a video of the place and intention he mentions and of the Pope himself. Handy for an assembly each month I suggest!

FEAST DAYS - pray for the schools on their feast day

1 October	St Teresa's, Princes Risborough
7 October	Our Lady of Peace Primary Burnham
9 October	Cardinal Newman, Luton
13 October	St Edward's Primary, Kettering, St Edward's Junior, Aylesbury

CATHOLIC OCTOBER ...

October 2 – Guardian Angels: "Popular piety encompasses many forms of devotion to the Guardian Angels. St. Basil Great (+378) taught that "each and every member of the faithful has a Guardian Angel to protect, guard and guide them through life" This ancient teaching was consolidated by biblical and patristic sources and lies behind many forms of piety. St. Bernard of Clairvaux (+1153) was a great master and a notable promoter of devotion to the Guardian Angels. For him, they were a proof "that heaven denies us nothing that assists us", and hence, "these celestial spirits have been placed at our sides to protect us, instruct us and to guide us". *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy Vatican 2001 n.216*

"Angel sent by God to guide me,
be my light and walk beside me;
be my guardian and protect me;
on the paths of life direct me."
Prayer to the Guardian Angel.

A Tradition of Prayer ICEL 1982 n.334

Praying the Rosary – October, month of the Rosary

October 7 is the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary, which coincides with 27th Sunday of the Year. It would be good to keep the celebration on Monday 8 October

There is a tradition of assigning different mysteries to different days :

- Joyful (Monday and Saturday)
- Sorrowful (Tuesday and Friday)
- Glorious (Wednesday and Sunday)
- Luminous (Thursday)

You can find scripture texts to go with each decade of all the mysteries on the diocesan website – [YearofPrayer/Resources/downloads/October/Parish.](#)

One useful way into the Rosary for anyone is to ask them to draw/paint any/some of the mysteries. We will be familiar with Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious. Less so are we used to the Luminous Mysteries of Light which were introduced by Pope John Paul II. They are

- Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan - *Mark 1:10,11*
- The Marriage at Cana - *John 2:1-11*
- Proclamation of the Kingdom of God - *Matthew 4:13-17*
- The Transfiguration - *Luke 9:28-36*
- The Institution of the Eucharist - *1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

From the Director of School Development

Collette Curtis

Congratulations to a number of schools in the Diocese with very successful visits from Ofsted last academic year. In September 2018, 90% of our schools are judged by Ofsted to be Good or Outstanding. For primary schools, this figure is 81% compared to a National figure of 90% and for Secondary 86% compared to a National figure of 78%. For Inspections of Religious Character, 97.5% of our schools are currently judged Good or Outstanding, for primary schools this is 96% and for secondary 100% (4 out of 7 outstanding).

Leadership and school improvement capacity

It is no surprise that we have a large group of talented colleagues in our schools with the ability within a structure to make a significant difference to Catholic education in the Diocese. In a recent survey we have 10 colleagues accredited as specialist leaders in education, 2 National Leaders of Education and 1 National Leader for Governance. These accredited colleagues are able to draw school improvement funding to support colleagues in other schools. A further 30 teachers have been identified by their head teachers as already involved in supporting colleagues.

In the same survey head teachers were asked about succession planning. 21 colleagues were identified as being ready to take the next step in Leadership within 1-2 years, 26 within 3-4 years, and 14 with the potential for leadership in the future. It is great that we have this pool of potential Catholic leaders and we continue to work with Dioceses across the South East of the country and those Nationally to ensure we have a range of training to nurture and develop this talent.

A review of the current Diocesan Policy on the organisation of Multi Academy Trusts

Consultation is currently taking place with School leaders, Governors, leaders of the Multi Academy Trusts, the Regional School Commissioner and Trustees to review the current organisational model for Multi Academy Trusts within the Diocese. All agree the need for closer working and the sharing of best practice and efficiencies while maintaining the close partnership identities across the Diocese. A working group is being set up to investigate the practical considerations of these proposals which will be open to heads and governors of schools currently in a MAT or in a VA school who have the time and commitment to contribute. This will be discussed at the Governors' conference on Saturday 10 November at the NORES office in Luton. Details are on the NORES website.

Asbestos management plan. The DfE have apologised over the confusion with schools completing the Asbestos management plan at the end of the Summer term. Access codes for schools to complete the plan were sent to individual school business managers/finance by the DfE where possible. There were many instances where these codes could not be

found and where Trust offices were not informed. This is being addressed and schools who have not already completed this will be given a further opportunity.

Leadership in Catholic schools at all levels Do you want to find out more about how living the Gospel values affects all of our decisions and relationships in Catholic schools? A series of 6 sessions of 1.5 hours is being delivered in the following schools starting from October: St Paul, Milton Keynes, Cardinal Newman, Luton. St Mary, Northampton, St Thomas More, Bedford. St Michael, High Wycombe

This is suitable for teachers/governors who are working in or interested in working in our Catholic schools.

More details can be found by contacting the schools direct or the NORES website (www.nores.co.uk)

SCHOOLS' COMMISSION *Debbie Main*

Foundation Governor Appointments

St Bernadette, M. Keynes: Mr Geoff Callan

St Mary Magdalene, M. Keynes: Mr Matthew Donoghue and Mrs Joanne Byrne

St Joseph Primary, Chalfont St Peter: Mr Barry Moloney

Holy Family, Slough: Mrs Maria Ann Fernandes, Mrs Joanne Shears, Dr Pauline D'Cunha

Foundation Director

St Luke Academies Trust : Mr Brian Sweeney

Foundation Representatives

St Luke Academies Trust: Mr Crofton Alexander, Mr Vincent Bourke –

MISSIO NEWS

Fr Wayne Coughlin



Reflecting on my own time in school I fondly remember the primary school teacher who taught me the Lord's Prayer and the woodwork teacher at my secondary school whom I knew by his words and demeanour wanted me to succeed, not just in my CDT project, but in life. I don't recall the PE teachers with the same fondness! Through your work you allow the Kingdom of God to break into this world. Therefore, I believe the uniqueness of a Catholic School is that it enables every young person to pursue holiness. Catholic Schools can make saints! Sainthood begins when we accept that true happiness is found only in Jesus and thus holiness is the difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing Him personally. This, Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed on his visit to the UK, is the difference between knowledge and wisdom.; It is the wisdom of the Church (truth, beauty and goodness) that you live and impart to our young people that can change their lives. *Missio* can assist you in the task of making saints! We can visit for school assemblies, workshops, INSET days, etc. We want to help you make saints! Please help us to fulfil our papal mandate. For details please contact me:

parishpriestbedford@gmail.com / (01234) 352607

PRIMARY RE

Anne Marie McIntosh

School Visits

School visits for next half term include St Mary's Caddington, Sacred Heart Luton, Our Lady's Wellingborough, St Anthony's Slough. St Mary's, St Gregory's and Good Shepherd in Northampton. Please let me know if there is anything in particular you want to do on the visit.

Inset

Looking forward to working with staff from all the schools, in partnership areas, on the 'Love in the Family' inset

Do you teach in Early Years? Following a number of requests for help with Come and See specifically related to nursery and reception I think it would be beneficial to have a day here at NORES for Early Years Teachers. I'll look for a date early in the Lent term when we can gather Early Years teachers together and share best practice across the diocese. If you would like to have some input on this day please let me know otherwise look out for the flyer towards the end of this term.

Just a thought

'You are the only Bible some people will ever read!'
John McArthur

SECONDARY RE AND THEOLOGY

Paul McHugh

Many thanks for your cooperation in providing examination data both for the Diocese and for the Catholic Education Service. It is part of Catholic education for us individually and corporately to be reflective practitioners. For an honest self-appraisal as a Catholic community of schools, our information about ourselves needs to be current, and part of this information is in the form of examination and progress data. Regarding the Catholic Education Service (CES), it plays a very important role in keeping the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) to its brief of maintaining equivalence of standards across, for example, different GCSE RS specifications and between options within the same specification. No GCSE Religious Studies specification should be harder than another equivalent specification. There have been concerns, for example, that since Catholic GCSE options are more overtly theological than, for example, broader-based Christian options, these latter options would provide an easier route to a GCSE RS good pass. Hence, the Catholic Education Service has called for 100% GCSE RS returns from Catholic secondary schools to make sure that there is equivalence of challenge between Catholic and other option specifications or to make strong representation to QCA if there is not. The CES can only do this if it has the information at hand, hence the urgency of the data trawl.

I look forward to seeing representatives from all our diocesan secondary schools at our **Schools' Mass** at St Mary's, Dunstable on Friday October 12 2018 at 11am. Date for diary: **Heads of RE Meeting, Friday 9 November 2018 at NORES, 10am to 3pm. Lunch will be provided.**

I wish you all the God's blessing as you continue into the new academic year. Paul

... may teachers by their life as much as by their instruction bear witness to Christ, the unique Teacher. Gravissimum Educationis, 8

DATES for YOUR DIARIES 2018/19 OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2018

begins on Monday 8 October. During the week we hope you will find the materials we are sending out useful to

- celebrate Catholic education in your school
- to link in different ways with other schools in your partnerships and multi-academy Trusts
- to work with your local parish[es] especially being present in the churches on Schools Sunday

OUR SCHOOLS MASS is on Friday 12 October, 11am in St Mary's Church, Dunstable with Bishop Peter. It will be a chance for our schools to celebrate his 50th anniversary as a priest.

NORES LECTURE this year is on Sunday 14 October at 4pm. Sister Elizabeth Mary and Sister Eva will take up the theme of our diocesan Year of Prayer and Vocation and explore what does it mean for us to be Christians today, serving God and one another in the Catholic Church. Sister Elizabeth Mary is the prioress of the Bernardine Sisters in Stroud whither they moved from St Bernard's, Slough. So it is lovely to welcome her back to the diocese where she taught.

GOVERNORS' FORUM: 15 November (3.15 – 4.45pm): Future of Catholic Schools in our Diocese at NORES, Luton. Open to all Governors, Directors and Representatives in our schools, come along to hear some of the plans and discussions currently taking place to shape the future of our schools. This is a free event and will follow on from the Diocesan Property and Finance Day.

DEPUTY HEADS' CONFERENCE 22 & 23 November: at Hothorpe Hall. 'Prayer and Vocation' with David Wells and David O'Malley SDB. Headteachers have recently received a reminder and booking form for this two-day conference. This residential event is open to all senior leaders in school at £275 per person for full board and all conference materials.

28 February & 1 March 2019: Head Teachers Conference at Hothorpe Hall. 'Let Your Light Shine' with Ani Magill and Fr Eamonn Mulachy. Booking forms will be sent out to all schools before half term. For further details or to book please contact Debbie Main on main@nores.org.uk or 01582 723312

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

New Song *Day by Day Thanks* is a great setting of the *Prayer of Richard of Chichester* composed by Teresa Brown for schools during our Diocesan *Year of Prayer and Vocation*. For a free download of the sheet music please see: www.devinemusic.org.uk/free-music-for-schools You will also find there an audio recording of the song to listen to. We hope you will enjoy using it in your schools. We will also be using it during our Diocesan Schools' Mass during Our Catholic Schools' Week later this month.

Retreat Opportunity Also, as part of our Diocesan Year of Prayer & Vocation and to supplement the many resources and opportunities available we are offering a day retreat this October.

"*Your God will be my God*" is a retreat based on the Book of Ruth and will take place on Saturday 20 October 2018, 10.30am arrivals for 11am – 4pm. The retreat will be held at the Bridgettine Guesthouse, Fulmer Common Road, Iver Heath, Bucks SL0 0NR and will include:

- Guided reflections on the *Book of Ruth*
- Opportunity to meet others & enjoy the beautiful setting
- Opportunity for personal prayer & silence
- Optional Sunday Vigil Mass at 4.30pm

The retreat costs £30 per person and includes lunch, tea and coffee. To book your place please send a cheque payment for £30 made payable to 'R.E. Service' along with your name, phone number and e mail address to: RUTH RETREAT AT IVER HEATH, NORES, Diocesan Pastoral and RE Centre, 33 Westbourne Road, Luton LU4 8JD

A New Mass Setting As I mentioned last time I have been working on composing a new Mass setting (Mass of Our Lady & St John) that will (hopefully) be easy to pick up and sing. It will be mainly responsorial so that students can easily hear and repeat short phrases. Once it is learnt a lot of it can then be sung as a through setting rather than echoed line by line. I now have sufficient response from my appeal for schools to help me to trial it. Once it is all complete and has the necessary approval and permissions I hope to be able to make it available to all our schools for use in school liturgies.

CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield

CAFOD
Just one world

This term CAFOD has some exciting and stimulating visits on offer for the whole school age range from KS1 to sixth form.

Our KS1 workshop is based on "Packing a bag". The children will learn through a fun group activity and at an age appropriate level, about what it might be like to leave home as a refugee.

For lower and upper KS2 there are workshops about Refugees which your volunteer is happy to deliver. There are also refreshed activities based on "Laudato Si" and this year's very colourful Harvest assembly "Brighten up".

KS3 can participate in an age appropriate game based on "Life without taps" and the whole school can enjoy a vivid and thought-provoking assembly presentation on who CAFOD are and what they do. Older students would also enjoy our "Brighten Up" presentation and doubtless have some amazing and creative ways to support CAFOD's work this Harvest.

If you missed the chance to take part in the CAFOD walk last term, there is still time! "Share the journey" materials are available from CAFOD or from your local volunteer

If your school is interested in a visit this term, then please contact the volunteer office as soon as possible as we are sure they will be in high demand this term.. For more details get in touch: dpurfield@cafod.org.uk, 01844 274 723. Website : cafod.org.uk

Vatican Pharmacy first range of perfumes

[*L'Osservatore Romano* August 22, 2018]

The new essences, inspired by the Bible, are called: gold, incense, myrrh and mystical rose, reported Vatican Pharmacy serves 2,000 and 2,500 clients daily. The new perfumes aim to rediscover the role of fragrances in Christian life. The researchers discovered ancient perfumes mentioned in the Holy Scriptures (the Magi offered incense and myrrh to Jesus) and they go back to their plants of origin, in the Mediterranean tradition and that of the Holy Land: aloes, nard, galbanum, myrtle, saffron, roses, hyssop, sandalwood, aromatic reeds, cinnamon, geranium, bergamot. It's about "entrusting to perfume a message that refers to the meeting between the sacred and nature, between divinity and humanity, in order to transmit sensations that also invite to reflection": "incense, with its typical smell, refers to the presence of God, to purification <and> to the sense of sacrifice." Myrrh was used "as aroma and to preserve the mortal remains of the dead." Both were also used as healing remedies. Gold is also "an effective method to combat certain pathologies, to the point that one speaks of gold therapy. "There is "a long tradition that links the mystics to perfumes," underscores *L'Osservatore Romano*: "Beginning with the Virgin Mary, also called by the title "Mystical Rose," to which the perfume of the same name makes reference. Suffice it to recall the ecstasies of dozens of women and men Saints, of whom the closest to us is Padre Pio of Pietrelcina. The intense perfume that one perceived on certain occasions, according to the witnesses, was a mixture of emanations of flowers such as roses, violets and jasmine, to the point that one speaks of *osmogenesie* as the charism proper to his holiness."