



# NORES NEWS

April 2020 – The month dedicated to St Bernadette

Diocese of Northampton, Office for RE, Evangelisation, Catechesis & Schools

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

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## From the Episcopal Vicar *Mgr Kevin*

**FIRSTLY** the warmest of welcomes with all our prayers to Bishop David, ordained on 19 March in our Cathedral by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, with co-consecrating bishops, Archbishop Bernard Longley and Bishop Peter, with

Bishop Pat McKinney of Nottingham, some 17 priests, Bishop David's family, students from Oscott College [where Bishop David was rector], members of diocesan staff and our Cathedral Choir. It was a unique occasion because the CoVid19 meant it could no longer be the usual public occasion. The restrictions in some ways made it more intimate a celebration with a heightened sense of how important it is for us to have a bishop as our teacher and leader in the faith. In his welcome message in the ordination booklet Bishop David writes : *Here in this Cathedral Church, we gather together as a diocesan family and friends. We find ourselves drawn into our heavenly Father's unfolding plan of salvation. We recognise the many challenges to our missionary discipleship. With St Joseph we are drawn into bold confidence in the Lord's will for ourselves. The angel of the Lord invited Joseph to trust, 'do not be afraid'. How we need to hear those words ourselves! Jesus is with His Church, which is described as 'the kingdom of Christ already present in mystery'. We are confident that the Holy Spirit is at work in the Church, 'unifying her in communion and in the works of ministry'. Celebrating these mysteries encourages us to respond to what the Lord has revealed with joy-filled hearts and praise. Our worship compels us to become mission-filled servants of others. We cannot keep this life for ourselves. It is to be shared with others. Today is a moment to give thanks for the life and mission of the Diocese of Northampton. We remember our forebears and their generosity in building the infrastructure which supports today the work of our diocesan family. We give thanks for the bishop shepherds who guided this work, not least those who are still with us, Bishop Leo, Archbishop Kevin and Bishop Peter. And we look forwards with hope, calling to mind there is work for all of us to do.*

We look forward to responding to Bishop David's challenge for us to work with him in this mission in the months and years ahead. At the moment these uncertain times mean we cannot make any definite plans but it was lovely to begin by presenting our new bishop with the book of prayers for him from all our schools. Continue to pray for him and for our diocese. Join him for Mass on the live stream from the Cathedral on Sundays and especially in the Easter Triduum. Bishop David's first Pastoral Letter is attached for you.



## PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

**PRAYER INTENTIONS** – *ask the school to pray with the Pope in April* that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

### FEAST DAYS

5 April : PALM SUNDAY – we begin HOLY WEEK

9 April : MAUNDY THURSDAY 10 April : GOOD FRIDAY

11 April : HOLY SATURDAY 12 April : EASTER SUNDAY

12-19 April : OCTAVE OF EASTER

16 April – St Bernadette [*can be kept on 20 April*]

23 April – Solemnity of St George, Patron of England

**Bishop Peter writes**, in thanks for your gift

*Please pass on my thanks to all the schools and assure them of my continuing prayers. Do let them know how important their place is in the life and mission of the Church, putting at the centre of the education of our children and young people the persons of Jesus Christ out saviour and brother.*

*with much affection and every blessing*

+ Peter



Bishop Emeritus of Northampton

**Message from the Rt Rev Marcus Stock, Bishop of Leeds and Chairman of the Catholic Education Service**

*To all teachers, parents, support staff, governors and pupils in Catholic schools*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At this time, we are living through an unparalleled global crisis. When faced with national emergencies in the past, the people of our country have overcome adversity by relying on their families and local communities for comfort, strength, and indeed, personal contact. However, because of the contagious nature of the COVID19 Coronavirus, many will have to face this challenge in isolation.

Over the last few weeks the leaders, teachers, support staff and governors of our Catholic schools have carried out their responsibilities outstandingly in the face of increasingly difficult circumstances, preparing for the long-term closure of their schools and developing home schooling resources for pupils and parents. For this, we owe them our sincere thanks.

Our prayers are particularly needed for those parents who are now taking up their role as teachers while their children are at home. As parents they are the first educators of their children. Those who are members of the Catholic Church exercise this duty principally by choosing to send their children to Catholic schools wherever and whenever it is possible. However, in these difficult times, the role of all parents of school-aged children as their primary educators will become even more important.

I will certainly be praying for all Catholic schools, and for the teachers and support staff in them, which will remain open for the children of key workers. While our nation's health services are on the front line battling the threat of this pandemic, our schools can play a crucial function in allowing doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals to exercise their vital role treating the sick.

Over the coming weeks and months, the resolve of our country is going to be tested. Each of us will have to play our part, whether by supporting relatives and friends, assisting those in our communities who are vulnerable and in need, by social distancing or by self-isolating if we become ill.

What we must do is pray. Together we must pray for schools, their leaders, teachers, parents and pupils. With this shield of prayer, let us support one another and place all our faith and hope in the Lord Jesus Christ and in the power of his love to save us.

With the assurance of my prayers and every blessing, I remain

Yours in the Lord

**+ Marcus**

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION,  
CATECHESIS & CHAPLAINCY** *Alex Heath*

The **NORES Catechists' Brochure** is now available from the office or via our website [www.nores.org.uk](http://www.nores.org.uk) (Catechesis section). Hard copies of these brochures will also be sent to parishes. It includes details of Catechists' Training that is available, including the Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis.

If you would like any of the training courses for your parish or Pastoral Area please contact me via the NORES office and I would be delighted to arrange that for you. The brochure also outlines the various Catechetical Gatherings that have been established over the last year on the parish, Pastoral Area and Diocesan Level.

During the coming Pentecost Term in 2020 each parish will once more be asked to host a gathering of all their parish catechists to identify the key issues you are facing in catechesis at the coal face. Catechesis is receiving fresh impetus in all sorts of ways in the Church both at the global and national level with all sorts of initiatives. As we gather and resource our catechists in our own Diocese we pray that this important ministry will continue to grow in strength and effectiveness.

The last page of the Catechists' Brochure includes a Prayer for Catechists, it would be wonderful if catechists would consider praying this prayer often, individually and in their groups over the coming months as years as we seek God's grace for strengthening this important vocation within the Church.

**Centre for Chaplaincy in Education**

An important development in School Chaplaincy is the establishing of a Centre for Chaplaincy in Education. This is a centre that seeks to work in partnership with everyone committed to Chaplaincy in Education. They work ecumenically are engaging in dialogue with various Christian denominations including those of us involved in School Chaplaincy within the Catholic education sector. As a charity they seek to serve Chaplains through training, support and resources and in other ways. As a community they strive to encourage, support and equip Chaplains in schools and colleges in their ministry and organise and facilitate training opportunities. I'm hoping we can welcome them to one of our School Chaplaincy Training Days next academic year to find out more about how our schools and chaplaincies may benefit from the resources they are developing. More information about their developing work can be found at <https://centreforchaplaincyineducation.co.uk>

**Diocesan School Chaplaincy Training Day**

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.

## From the DIRECTOR of SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

*Collette Curtis*

In these extraordinary times it has been a real blessing to see our schools working together to try and find ways of supporting our most vulnerable children. A quote from Jo Ann Hoarty Head teacher of St Pauls School, "Remember we are not alone and most things we can solve together!" In communion of prayer and action we will make a difference and get through the challenges we face.

**Thank you.** Bishop David has passed on his thanks for the book of prayers which was collated from all schools in the Diocese for his ordination. The collection was a really good example of how each of our schools in their own unique way share and promote our faith.

**Recruitment** A number of schools are facing recruitment for positions for September 2020. For the moment, until we have further advice from the government, we need to continue with plans for recruitment but we will need to be creative with the interview process. If schools have experience of effective ways of conducting interviews remotely and any other effective assessment activities other than an interview via an online platform, I would be grateful to hear of them.

### e-training for foundation governors

The current situation is a timely reminder of the need to develop more flexible learning for all but particularly directors and governors. After discussion with governors and Trust leaders we believe there is a need to develop/access e-learning modules which can be done in an agreed time as a governing body then discussed at the start of a meeting to share and develop learning. As part of this move, we are working with a developer to turn specific training for governors of Catholic schools into 15-minute chunks of learning which can be carried out on smart phones, accessed off line and then synchronised. The aim is to have these modules available from September 2020. This will be to complement the *Formatio* online training for governors already available at [www.formatio-ces.org](http://www.formatio-ces.org). I will let you know more details as they become available.

## SECONDARY RE AND THEOLOGY

*Paul McHugh*

Dear Colleagues

In these trying days, we look for comfort and direction. There has been mention of the Blitz spirit, of people pulling together, helping each other, looking out for the vulnerable, and so on. But then as now, there are also

many examples of utterly contemptible behaviour. In the bombed rubble of wartime London, looters would sometimes mingle with rescuers. Now we find, amid heroic endeavour on the part of our health and other services, not infrequent examples of selfish and ugly acts. So where to look for comfort and direction? To Christ and his Church. Among her many titles, the Church is called *Mother* and *Teacher*. The Church as *Teacher* directs our steps in the way of truth and right. For example, the Church has ever taught that human nature is fallen. We see this now, not only about us, but within us - a temptation to shut off all concerns but our own. The Church as *Mother* offers us the divine remedies for our spiritual and moral ills, and in a way suited to the needs of the times. I, for one, have found it touching and consoling to be present at Mass through the Cathedral's livestream and to make with many others an act of spiritual communion. These days shall pass. Let us never forget in more comfortable days what these harder days are teaching us. The Church, the Body of Christ, really *is* by divine appointment Mother and Teacher. She has seen many plagues, wars and upheavals in her past. Her sacred memory goes before and beyond that of peoples and nations. Let us give thanks for the Church, born from the pierced side of Christ, manifest at Pentecost, the Body of Christ into which we are incorporated at Baptism. And as we look to the Paschal Triduum, we recall the Church makes ten solemn intercessions on Good Friday. The last is for those in special need when we pray:

*That God the almighty Father may heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travellers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and rid the world of falsehood, hunger and disease.*

## PRIMARY RE

*Anne Marie McIntosh*

As you will already know by now, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, has suspended all public acts of worship from Friday 20th March until further notice, following official advice, and in order to keep each other safe, save lives and support the NHS. These are very strange and difficult times for us all. Please keep the community of schools in your prayers, and be assured of ours for you too. With our churches closed, prayer in the home is essential.

CAFOD are providing resources for children while the schools are closed. Please log onto [cafod.org.uk/Education/Resources-for-school-closures](http://cafod.org.uk/Education/Resources-for-school-closures). They will continue to add more resources as the weeks go by. Another great place is the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education website this can be found at <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/free-resources-for-you-and-your-pupils/>

Keep safe and well. Holding one another in prayer.

And don't forget:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9)

CAFOD's school Lent appeal

focused 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 (see 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 get in touch: 01494 863 777 / northampton@cafod.org.uk

## MISSIO NEWS

### Fr Wayne Coughlin



As coronavirus (COVID-19) sweeps across the world, Missio reaches out in prayer and solidarity to our brothers and sisters who are affected:

"We all now realise that we are living in unprecedented times. Almost every hour we hear fresh and often worsening news about the coronavirus and the impact it is having. As never before, we are reminded how closely we are all connected to, and dependant on, each other across God's world. Our international Missio network, at one with the whole Church, will play its vital role of providing care and spiritual support."

Our National Director of *Missio*, Fr Tony Chantry, offered the above reflection in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. He also wanted to assure our supporters, whether in parishes or schools, of our continued prayers.

*Missio* is also standing in solidarity with everyone across the world affected either by illness or isolation. To that end we are already hearing stories from the selfless missionaries and medical staff who continue to help the people in their communities, often at risk to themselves. They are igniting God's love through their compassion and practical care:

- In the Holy Land, Bethlehem is under quarantine. Here the Bishops urged parish communities to follow all the necessary guidelines but also to intensify efforts to pray, fast and give to others and in that way to walk in the light of God's love.
- In Ghana, the Bishops exhorted the faithful to intensify individual prayer and to rediscover the importance of praying together as a family: the domestic Church

Wherever and however you observed the season of Lent and the joy of Eastertide, do be assured that you and your school community have been held in prayer. When you are back in school do reach out to *Missio* and invite us to visit! We would dearly love to share with you more true stories from across the suffering Church of how local parishes are walking alongside those who are suffering.

The websites of *Missio* and *Mission Together* (the children's branch of this papal charity) have many resources for use in school, families and privately.

At what will be a difficult and strange time for us all, do be assured of being remembered in my own prayers at the Altar of God.

With Eastertide prayers, Fr Wayne

## GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS

***Our thanks to those who give and have given so much and those who are accepting this responsibility***

### ***Foundation Governors: Primary Schools***

*St Mary, Aston le Walls:* Ksenija da Silva

*St Patrick, Corby:* Fr Tony Whitfield

*St Thomas Aquinas and Bishop Parker, Bletchley:*

Paul Lawrence

*St Joseph, Luton:* Deacon Erik Kerr

*St Joseph, Chalfont St Peter:*

Simon Hardcastle, Margaret Van Duyenbode

*St Peter, Marlow:* Gerard Menezes

### ***Foundation Governors: Secondary Schools***

*St Paul, Milton Keynes:* Stephen Kiely

*St Bernard Grammar, Slough:*

Sandra D'Souza-Zerkhfaoui

### ***Local Academy Governors:***

*St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust: Primary Schools*

*St Margaret of Scotland, Luton:* Danielle Devaney

*St Mary's, Caddington:* Christopher Harkin

*St Martin de Porres, Luton:* Wioletta Biedz

### ***Secondary Schools***

*Cardinal Newman, Luton:* Fiona Traynor

*Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust:*

*St Gregory's Primary School, Northampton:*

Lorraine Foster, Fr Jerry Manomey