



NORES NEWS

November 2018 – The month dedicated to Holy Souls

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

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

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From the Episcopal Vicar *Mgr Kevin*

Recently Pope Francis declared that six Christians were such examples of Christian virtue for us to follow that they can be known as Saints in the Calendar of the Church. They were saints before he canonised them, but now they are given to us as people to follow, and whose prayers we can invoke.

Among them are two women founders of religious orders, two priests, a pope, an archbishop, and a nineteen year old blacksmith. They came from Italy, El Salvador, Germany and Spain. Pope St Paul VI was the pope who concluded the Second Vatican Council and with great wisdom helped the Church to implement what the Council asked of us. St Oscar Romero, as the *Missio* column describes, died supporting the oppressed of his country.

The most striking of the saints is the young Italian blacksmith, St Nunzio Sulprizio, 1817-1836. He had a very hard short life.. His parents died when he was very young. He lived with an abusive uncle who forced him into very demanding work and ignored him when he began to suffer. This led to gangrene and bone cancer. Through it all, Nunzio held onto his faith and kept turning to God. He endured great suffering with tranquillity and grace. At home, he worked to the bone without complaining. In the hospital, this sickly young man served the other patients. He was doing simple things but through simple things, he was sharing an amazing amount of love with others. He did all this as a very young man. Nunzio's sickness got the better of him in this world but never stopped him from being an example of holiness for it. Too often we associate holiness with older people, but in St Nunzio we have a challenge for our young people to be holy. "To become saints" as Pope Benedict said to them at Twickenham in the Big Assembly of 2010. As we keep the feast of All Saints on November 1, and remember all who have gone before us in November 2, and throughout the month, it would be useful to reflect on all our young saints!



NOVEMBER is our month to remember all who have died – those we knew personally, those who have connections with us in our families, our schools and parishes, and those who are forgotten. This is rooted in our belief in Christ's resurrection and the promise of eternal life holds out to us from our baptism. Death is not a popular topic in our world today. People avoid it especially if they have no faith or hope. The Christian sees our whole existence in terms of an eternal destiny. Faced with the death of a sixth former in the school where he was head teacher *Blessed John Henry Newman said "What was our mission ... except to bring him to heaven? That was our very work ... not to gain him a long life and a happy one, but to educate him for his God."* Within our schools sharing the traditional prayers for the dead is an important part of Christian formation.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

May they rest in peace. Amen

May their souls

*and the souls of the all the faithful departed
rest in peace. Amen.*

Psalm 129 – De Profundis.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive ?

But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on God's word.

My soul is longing for the Lord
more than those who watch for day break.

Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

PRAYER INTENTIONS – *ask the school to pray with the Pope for his intentions for November* that the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict.

FEAST DAYS - pray for the schools celebrating their feast day-

3 November St Martin de Porres Primary Luton

16 November St Margaret of Scotland Primary, Luton

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL

DEVELOPMENT

Collette Curtis

Leadership in Catholic schools is a series of 6 twilight sessions of 1.5 hours to promote discussion on why leaders in Catholic education do what we do. How do we put Christ at the centre of every decision and relationship? What are the practical implications for our work every day?

This programme has been developed by St Paul's Milton Keynes based on material from Alan Murphy, former lecturer (MA in Catholic Education) at St Mary's University Twickenham. It is aimed at governors and leaders at all levels who would like to find out more in an informal environment where any questions are welcome. The sessions will be running in 5 locations; Cardinal Newman, Luton, St Michael's High Wycombe, St Paul's, Milton Keynes, St Thomas More, Bedford, St Mary's, Northampton. Please see the NORES website for details or contact main@nores.org.uk

Developing the future of Catholic Education in the Diocese

Thank you to all those who have been involved so far in the discussions around the strategic development of Catholic education in the Diocese. The first round of working groups have met and discussions will continue next term. If you have any questions or would like me to arrange a visit to your school to meet with the Headteacher and chair of governors, please do contact me curtis@nores.org.uk

Department for Education updated guidance

The DfE has published non-statutory guidance on school attendance. The guidance focuses on two key areas; section one on pupil registers and attendance codes, section two on the school day and year. See : https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/739764/Guidance_on_school_attendance_Sept_2018.pdf

The DfE has published guidance on complying with data protection requirements and the GDPR. The guidance is in the format of a toolkit and can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/data-protection-toolkit-for-schools>

The 'School teachers' pay and conditions: guidance' has been updated with the 2018 changes to teachers' and school leaders' pay. The guidance can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reviewing-and-revising-school-teachers-pay>

The DfE has produced a metric tool to help schools monitor their efficiency in comparison with other schools. The metric tool is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-financial-efficiency-metric-tool>

The school nurseries capital fund (SNCF) has been made available to create more school-based nursery places for disadvantaged children. The deadline for submission of bids is 22 November 2018 and more information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-nurseries-capital-fund>

SCHOOLS' COMMISSION

Debbie Main

School Admissions Policy 2020

We aren't even at Christmas yet but it's time to think about your 2020 Admissions Policy. Directors or Governors should review the current policy annually in light of pupil numbers and the number and types of appeals received. Particularly look at the oversubscription criteria – are they fair and transparent, can they be easily understood by parents? Try to keep the number of criteria to a minimum – if you only ever admit pupils down to criteria 6 do you really need 10 or 12 criteria? Does your policy reflect your school mission statement and the gospel values? Are Catholic children a priority over all others and are parents clear on the school requirement to confirm the children are practicing Catholics? Your local authority model policy may ask you to make Looked After Children the first criteria, but faith schools have an exception to this rule and we recommend Catholic children retain priority, with Looked After Catholic Children top of the list.

If you intend to change the admissions policy for 2020 you need to consult with the local community – the Admissions Code 2014 sets out the consultation process and who you need to consult. The consultation must run for 6 weeks between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2019 and your 2020 policy must be agreed in draft form by Directors/Governors by 28 February 2019. The draft must then be agreed by NORES before being submitted to your LA and put on the school/Trust website by 15 March 2019. Even if you haven't made any changes you must consult at least every 7 years, so check in school when the last consultation was held.

If you have any questions about your school admissions policy, oversubscription criteria or the consultation period, contact me on main@nores.org.uk or via 01582 723312

DATES for YOUR DIARIES 2018/19

6 November – Secondary Heads of RE meeting

7 November - Diocesan Heads' Assoc. meeting

14 November – Inspectors' meeting

16 November – Primary RE Subject Leaders Day

Schools INSET meetings on Love in the Family:

6 Nov	North Northants	St Brendan's Corby
12 Nov	Milton Keynes	St Bernadette's
13 Nov	Bedford	St Thomas More
19 Nov	Slough	St Ethelbert's
20 Nov	Luton 1	St Joseph's
26 Nov	South Bucks	St Michael's High Wycombe
27 Nov	Northampton	St Mary's Northampton
3 Dec	Luton 2	St Mary's Caddington
4 Dec	Aylesbury	St Edward's Aylesbury

Please book via the NORES office:

admin@nores.org.uk 01582 723312 Ext 6

PRIMARY RE

Anne Marie McIntosh

Schools' Mass What a wonderful celebration of Catholic Education in the Diocese. The children were amazing – all 900 of them! The readers, altar servers, banner carriers and those who took the offertory all did extremely well. Thank you also to St Brendan's Primary School in Corby for providing the music and the choir, they lead the singing very well and everyone sang beautifully. Thank you to all the staff and everyone who took part to make it such a remarkable celebration.

RE Subject Leaders Day You will shortly receive your invitation and programme for our day together on **16 November, 2018**. Please send back the booking form as soon as possible. Also, just to give you advanced notice of our day together in the Lent Term on **Thursday 21 March, 2018** and our joint day with the Secondary Heads of RE and Chaplains on **Friday 7 June, 2018**.

New Standards in RE The new end of phase, age related standards in RE, have now been completed. An interim document, for two years, has been produced by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales for implementation in Catholic Schools. These new standards will be explored with the RE Subject Leaders at their meeting in November. They will then be rolled out across the Diocese from January 2019

Inservice The first **Come and See day** was received very well. The next day will take place on **Thursday 7th February 2019**. These are stand alone days so if you missed the first one you are welcome to come along to this next one. Email Jackie – admin@nores.org.uk

The inset '**Celebrating the Family**' will start early in November. These will be held in various places around the diocese. It is hoped everyone will be able to attend as this will replace your staff meeting for that week. Myself and the Nores team are looking forward to working with you.

Come and See Website Check out the *Come and See* website as most topics have now been updated. If you go into Teachers' Resources (rather than year group) you will see the difference in the layout. Also, the Advent Term topics now include the new standards in place of the old levels of attainment.

Advent Calendar - Both *Cafod* and *Missio* have Advent Calendars available on their websites.

cafod.org.uk and missiontogether.org.uk

Just a thought.....The recently canonised Oscar Romero reminded us:

'Each one of you has to be God's microphone'.

SECONDARY RE AND THEOLOGY

Paul McHugh

I look forward to meeting you all in the first of our Heads of RE meetings for this academic year on **Friday November 9 at the NORES centre**.

Catholic Basics: Part I- begins at the NORES on January 31 2019. The course is from 10am to 3pm with lunch provided (arrive 9.30am for refreshments). Posters and booking forms have been sent to schools. Contact admin@nores.org.uk for online booking.

General Audiences and Catechesis. You are perhaps aware that Pope Francis has through a series of Wednesday General Audiences been offering catechesis on the Decalogue, the Ten Words 'written with the finger of God' (Ex 31:18). This series is worth visiting to enrich our understanding of the Decalogue and give us practical steers in how to broach the Commandments in the classroom. In one General Audience (cf. <https://zenit.org/articles/general-audience-on-the-commandments-2/>), the Pope draws a distinction between a *word* and a *command*. The former presupposes relationship and dialogue, the latter not. When a word is also a command, it is within this context of relationship. It is given for our good. 'Are His commandments just a law, or do they contain a word, to care for me?', the Pope invites us to ponder. For me, the passage in Hosea is also resonant: 'I myself taught Ephraim to walk, I myself took them by the arm, but they did not know that I was the one caring for them, that I was leading them with human ties, with leading strings of love, that, with them, I was like someone lifting an infant to his cheek, and that I bent down to feed him' (Hos 11:3-4). 'God has loved us first. The love of the One God is recalled in the first of the "ten words."' (CCC 2083)

MISSIO NEWS

Fr Wayne Coughlin



Oscar Romero was Archbishop of El Salvador during a time of great social injustice and civil unrest. He was so outspoken at the human rights abuses he witnessed that he found himself walking a dangerous path. He, however, refused to back down in the face of intimidation. Drawing strength from his Catholic Faith, he continued to proclaim the peace of Christ to all. This led to his assassination in March 1980 whilst celebrating Mass. Nothing, not even the threat of death, would keep him from approaching the altar of God to make present Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. St Oscar is a Martyr of the Eucharist and a Martyr for the oppressed. My devotion to this martyr has been renewed, not only through his recent canonisation, but also in discovering that **Oscar Romero was the National Director of Missio** in El Salvador! St Oscar can be an inspiration for us all, in that:

- We can be people of peace by treating all people with dignity.
- We can support the Pope's charity, Missio, and thus help build the Kingdom of God in those parts of the world where there is injustice and conflict.
- We can be missionaries by praying for the courage to share love of Jesus with other people.

To find out how your school can learn more about St Oscar Romero and his work with Missio, please contact me! The Presbytery, 2 Severn Way, Bedford. MK41 7BX • (01234) 352607

My thanks to the staff of St Teresa's School (Princes Risborough) for inviting me to celebrate Mass and lead the assembly on their Patronal Saint's Day!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

YOUCAT for Kids Sessions

Following the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Youth Catechism (YOUCAT) a wonderful new resource aimed at younger children, YOUCAT for Kids is now available. This is a great new tool for catechists, and for parents and carers as they pass on the faith to children. YOUCAT for Kids sessions will take place in each of our Pastoral Areas* over the coming months. During these 90 minute sessions there will be the opportunity to:

- Browse the YOUCAT for Kids
- Be guided through a method of using YOUCAT for Kids.
- Have the opportunity to purchase a copy of the YOUCAT for Kids at the reduced price of £10 (please bring £10 cash or a cheque payable to R.E. Service).
- Hear about support and training for catechists.

There is no charge for the event itself. Booking however is essential as capacity is limited at some of the venues and to help us with ordering sufficient numbers of YOUCAT for Kids books. Please book early to secure your place via the NORES office on admin@nores.org.uk.

DATE & TIME	VENUE (for the PASTORAL AREA of)
Tuesday 13 November 2018, 7.30pm-9pm	St Gregory's RC Church hall, Northampton (NORTHAMPTON NORTH & EAST)
Wednesday 14 November 2018 7.30pm-9pm	St Augustine's RC Church hall, Daventry (NORTHAMPTON SOUTH & WEST)
Tuesday 20 November 2018, 7.30pm-9pm	St Philip & St James RC Church hall, Bedford, (BEDFORD)
Wednesday 21 November 2018, 7.30pm-9pm	St Brendan's RC parish room, Corby, (NORTH NORTHANTS)
Tuesday 22 January 2019, 7.30pm-9pm	St Thomas Aquinas RC Church hall, Bletchley (MILTON KEYNES)
Friday 25 January 2019 7.30pm-9pm	NORES, Diocesan Pastoral and RE Centre, Luton LU4 8JD, (LUTON)
Monday 28 January 2019, 7.30pm-9pm	Holy Redeemer RC Church hall, Slough (SLOUGH)
Friday 1 February 2019, 7.30pm-9pm	St Aidan's RC Church hall, Little Chalfont (SOUTH-EAST BUCKS)
Saturday 2 February 2019, 11am-12.30pm	Our Lady of Grace RC Church hall (SOUTH BUCKS)
Monday 4 February 2019, 7.30pm-9pm	Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church hall, Aylesbury (AYLESBURY)

*Session for the Pastoral Area of CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE to be announced.

Full addresses of venues can be found on the Church finder section of Diocesan website

www.northamptondiocese.org

DIVINE RENOVATION CONFERENCE.

Divine Renovation is a popular resource helping parishes move from maintenance to mission. On 7,8 February 2019 at the Bethel Convention Centre, Birmingham Fr James Mallon, together with priests and lay leaders from parishes using the Divine Renovation model, will share their stories, experience and wisdom through a

range of keynotes, seminars and interviews, interspersed with prayer and worship. During the conference delegates will:

- Hear from parishes around the UK in a variety of contexts that are experiencing fruit from using the Divine Renovation model
- Reflect on the first steps to take to becoming a more outward-facing parish
- preparation
- Learn how to align hospitality, music and homilies towards mission
- Full details are available from [www](http://www.divinerenovationuk.org). Discover how to become an even better leader, either as a priest or lay person
- Learn about how to form effective and contagious teams
- Develop your vision and learn how to communicate it
- Explore what a missional parish looks like for youth ministry, children's ministry and sacramental [divinerenovationuk.org]

CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield



We had wonderful morning at NORES in October to meet and listen to the inspirational Archbishop Odama from the Diocese of Gulu in Uganda as he spoke at a joint meeting of CAFOD and MISSIO.

The Archbishop was very complimentary about the work of CAFOD and MISSIO having experienced them first hand. He gave a lively account of his incredible work for Peace in his country, despite putting himself in physical danger. His story about going into the bush, alone, to meet the leaders of the rebel forces showed his total faith in God.. like St Oscar Romero! He put himself in God's hands in order to help end years of strife. He spoke of his work with refugees and how his country was now welcoming refugees from neighbouring South Sudan who had supported the Ugandans during their civil war over twenty years ago.

The Archbishop's accounts of working for Social Justice, reminds us that we should educate our children and young people about the reality of life in developing countries and the need for action and prayer. CAFOD'S website is overflowing with resources to support this and your local Schools' volunteers are ready to offer support in the way of awareness raising assemblies and thought provoking workshops. Do get in touch to book a CAFOD visit.

Mass to celebrate the canonisation of Oscar Romero

Our Diocese will be holding a special mass said by Bishop Peter at 7pm on 20 November to commemorate this. It will be held at Sacred Heart Church, 5 Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard LU7 1HZ. This will be followed by a reception and a short talk by John Guy (CAFOD trustee) who will share his experience of being at the canonisation in Rome. To end at 9pm. Please join us.

For more details get in touch: dpurfield@cafod.org.uk, 01844 274 723. Website : cafod.org.uk