



# NORES NEWS

**MARCH 2015 – 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*



**LENT is well underway** – with the themes of prayer, fasting, and works of love deeply rooted in our Catholic tradition. Each year we can find new possibilities to give expression to the time honoured practices. It is

something we can value deeply – that our schools are privileged places where all our young people and staff can experience in their own individual way a Christian Lent. This is something we need to consider and appreciate in a world which for many differing reasons is making it more difficult for people to live as Christians or according to their religious beliefs. It is clear that people who have been to Catholic schools (and no doubt many other types of distinctive schools) have had a privilege of living in a community where faith is lived naturally, and so faith practices become natural. They become entwined in the fabric of our lives. It becomes a responsibility then for us to ensure that this will continue into the future. We must safeguard this and other practices. To do that means we must take great care to ensure that we all understand what we do and why we do it. We can no longer assume that everyone in our society even knows the words of the Our Father. It is suggested that it is known by no more than 40% of the population today, when once it would have been presumed known by all. Let's make sure that this Lent is a time of sharing what we do and its meaning as fully as we can.

**EASTER and the celebration of HOLY WEEK** have become more popular in recent years. Can I urge all schools to ask local parishes to send you the times of all their Holy week and Easter celebrations for you to include in your parents' newsletters!

One question – is the name of your school and contact details on local parish newsletter(s)? It is amazing how many people do not know where our schools are!

## **THE YOUNG ARE THE FUTURE – 5 February 2015**

*Scholas Occurrentes*, (Schools for Encounter), held its Fourth World Congress in the Vatican on the theme "Responsibility of all in education for a culture of encounter". This international network of schools was established with a small number of children in Buenos Aires by Pope Francis when he was Archbishop. It now involves four hundred state and religious schools in five continents, linked through sports, art and technology. Pope Francis held a video-conference with seven disabled children from different parts of the world, to whom he said, "Each one of us has a treasure inside. If we keep it locked up, it stays locked up inside; if we share it with others, the treasure multiplies with the treasure that comes from others". Thanks to them, we understand that "life is a beautiful treasure, but it makes sense only if it is given".

He spoke of a "broken educational pact". "Society, the family, and various institutions delegate education to teachers who, generally underpaid, bear the burden of this responsibility and are berated if the outcome is not successful; however, no-one looks to the various institutions that have broken the educational pact, who have delegated it to the professionalism of teachers".

The aim of *Scholas Occurrentes* is to reintegrate the efforts of all in education, and to harmoniously rebuild the educational pact, "as only in this way, if all those of us who are responsible for the education of our young act in together, can we change education". He also emphasised the importance of "harmonising the language of the head with that of the heart and of the hands, so that a person, a boy or a girl, thinks about what he feels and does, feels what he thinks and does, and does what he feels and thinks".

Every person and every people's searches for "the beauty we create with our art, our music, our painting, our sculpture, our literature. Educate in beauty, because harmony means beauty. We cannot achieve harmony in our educational system without having this perception of beauty". "Joint work and monitoring are necessary, so that this spark may become a flame, and may help to rebuild and harmonise the educational pact. Those who benefit from this are the young, and the young are the future".

## CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield



Brilliant News! The UK Government has agreed to increase its matched funding from £3.5, to £5m so all donations made as a result of your Lenten activities from Ash Wednesday 18 Feb to 17 May 2015 will be doubled up to £5m. We have wonderful liturgical and activities resources for children and young people during Lent. There are also useful fundraising ideas too. Our 'Cut it out' theme encourages people to make choices that help change the lives of some of the poorest people in the world.

There is also a fabulous Climate campaign animation for children and young people. Really worth a view! All can be found at [cafod.org.uk/Education](http://cafod.org.uk/Education)

Our schools team are still available to do assemblies and/or classroom sessions. Get in touch to book a visit :01844 274 723 or [northampton@cafod.org.uk](mailto:northampton@cafod.org.uk)

## REAL EASTER EGGS 2015 !!!!



Out of the 80 million chocolate Easter eggs sold each year in the UK, The Real Easter Egg is the first and only Fairtrade chocolate Easter egg to explain the Christian understanding of Easter. We also give a sizeable donation from profits and Fairtrade Premium fees, to our

farmers allowing them to invest in their community buying everything from school books and solar panels to providing fresh water. The Real Easter Egg is now in its fourth year of production with more than 400,000 sold so far. <http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk>

## NYMO NEWS

Alex Hindmarsh

**WORLD YOUTH DAY Krakow 2016** - the NYMO team has launched WYD Krakow 2016 in the diocese. Pope Francis invites all young people aged between 16-30's years to join him and millions of Catholics from around the world to Krakow to celebrate WYD. Contact - [alex@nymo.org](mailto:alex@nymo.org)

**LUX.adore** – a great success for our residential weekend – look out for the next one!

**Salt & Light Project** - NYMO Young Leaders' Programme for 16 - 18 year olds who wish to take on leadership role in the school, parish or local community, alongside work or study. email [steve@nymo.org](mailto:steve@nymo.org)

**Sign Language Day** for secondary school age or youth leaders Contact 01582 720627 / [Fiona@nymo.org](mailto:Fiona@nymo.org)

21 March - 12.30pm-4pm Our Lady of Peace SL2 2NL - £5

**Summer Camp 2015** - Alton Castle – 24-28 July. Sign up at [www.nymo.org](http://www.nymo.org) / 01582720627 Bookings close on Friday 10th July 2015

## Pope Francis' Message for World Youth Day

Palm Sunday – 29 March

**"Have the courage to be happy"**

Pope Francis divides his message into four parts

- the desire for happiness
- care for creation -
- encouraging prayer and reading the Bible
- invitation to World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow

"You young people are brave adventurers! If you allow yourselves to discover the rich teachings of the Church on love, you will discover that Christianity does not consist of a series of prohibitions which stifle our desire for happiness, but rather a project for life capable of captivating our hearts."

"Dear young people, the Lord wants to meet us, to let himself "be seen" by us. "And how?", you might ask me. St. Teresa of Avila, born in Spain five hundred years ago, even as a young girl, said to her parents, "I want to see God". She subsequently discovered the way of prayer as "an intimate friendship with the One who makes us feel loved". So my question to you is this: "Are you praying?" Do you know that you can speak with Jesus, with the Father, with the Holy Spirit, as you speak to a friend? And not just any friend, but the greatest and most trusted of your friends! You will discover what one of his parishioners told the Curé of Ars: "When I pray before the tabernacle, 'I look at him, and he looks at me'".

This year's World Youth Day begins the final stage of preparations for the great gathering of young people from around the world in Krakow in 2016. Thirty years ago St. John Paul II instituted World Youth Days in the Church. This pilgrimage of young people from every continent under the guidance of the Successor of Peter has truly been a providential and prophetic initiative. Together let us thank the Lord for the precious fruits which these World Youth Days have produced in the lives of countless young people in every part of the globe! How many amazing discoveries have been made, especially the discovery that Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life! How many people have realised that the Church is a big and welcoming family! How many conversions, how many vocations have these gatherings produced! May the saintly Pope, the Patron of World Youth Day, intercede on behalf of our pilgrimage toward his beloved Krakow. And may the maternal gaze of the Blessed Virgin Mary, full of grace, all-beautiful and all-pure, accompany us at every step along the way.

**NYMO is organising a diocesan group to World Youth Day (16-30s) – Contact them for details.**

## NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY CORNER

*Sister Aidan*

The season of Lent is upon us! I'm sure that by now all classrooms reflect the sombre season with the purple cloths, a crucifix, may be some stones or other objects that reflect penance, self-denial etc. For anyone who is a beginner in our schools please have a look at the CAFOD material. There is a link for Prayer and the Lent Calendar is very good. It just needs co-ordinating through the school. May be that your Head Teacher would use it for assemblies. Lent is an important part of the liturgical year. Some significant things to remember are: Jesus' own time in the desert, when he fasted and prayer - Palm Sunday is special as it celebrates the people' acclamation of Jesus even though the scribes and Pharisees were plotting his death. This leads us into the events of Holy Week and the three final days of Jesus' life. The hour of Jesus' Passover reaches across and underlies all history. This is best followed and prayed through the Stations of the Cross. Some schools say they have not got a set of Stations, may be a Year 5 or 6 class could create some. I feel that this is more effective when the Stations themselves are broken up and prayed in parts especially for the younger children. In the CCC (1164) we read how the people of the Old Law observed feasts..."to commemorate the astonishing actions of the Saviour God, to give thanks for them, to perpetuate their remembrance and to teach new generations to conform their conduct to them". Every Sunday celebrates Christ's Resurrection. As we listen to the Word of God and take part in the Eucharist we call to mind the Passion, Resurrection and glory of the Lord Jesus and we are reminded that we are born again into a living hope. I wish you a blessed Lent, a time to take opportunities for prayer and reflection that we may all be renewed and join in the Easter celebrations.

**POPE FRANCIS** *in March 2015 asks you to pray for Universal:* Scientists - That those in scientific research serve the wellbeing of the whole human person.  
**Evangelization:** Contribution of women  
That the unique contribution of women to the life of the Church may be recognized always.

### ***PARTNERSHIP ACADEMIC MASSES – diary these now!***

Buckinghamshire – 4.30pm 18 June, Princes Risborough

**NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR – in EDUCATION WEEK**

Bedford – 4.15pm, 5 October 2015

Northampton Town – 6.30pm, 6 October 2015

Slough – 5pm, 8 October 2015

## SECONDARY RE AND INSPECTION

*Stephen O'Brien*

**GCSE/A Level Criteria** Following consultations at the end of 2014, the DfE published the much discussed criteria for RE GCSE and A Level on 12 February 2015 - to be first taught in September 2016. The criteria, which remain much as the draft proposal, can be found on the gov.uk website.

**OCR Specifications** OCR intend to present a draft specification for Religious Education this summer [2015] based on the recently published DfE criteria. They have organised a series of meetings for second phase reform subjects to run later this academic year. Sessions will run in both London and Birmingham as well as at other venues across the country. I assume that other boards offering RE GCSE and A Level will follow suit. Further information can be found at: [www.cpdhubocr.org.uk/expo](http://www.cpdhubocr.org.uk/expo).

**Section 48 Inspection requests** With the extended interval between S48 inspection for most diocesan schools under the new de-coupled arrangements, a number of schools have enquired about the possibility of an inspection before their due inspection date. This is possible with diocesan agreement, but strict DfE regulations means that the full cost of around £1000 will be the schools responsibility because grants will only normally be available at the published intervals.

**Inspection Team Meeting** Inspectors are reminded that we have a full team meeting between 10.30 and 14.00 on Friday 6 March at the RE Centre in Luton. Lunch and refreshments will be provided as usual.

### **FEAST DAYS and PRAYER INTENTIONS**

**Do try to remember these intentions and ask the school to pray with the Pope' intentions (qv), and for those intentions set by our bishops, and for the schools who celebrate their feast days**

**1 March** St David, Patron of Wales

**17 March** St Patrick, Patron of Ireland  
St Patrick's Primary, Corby

**19 March** St Joseph, husband of Mary  
foster father of Jesus. Patron of the Universal Church  
**Anniversary of the Installation of Pope Francis as Bishop of Rome**

St Joseph's Infant, Aylesbury,

St Joseph's Lower, Bedford

St Joseph's Primary, Chalfont St Peter

St Joseph's High, Slough

## SCHOOLS' COMMISSION

*Frances Image*

### LCVAP

The 2015-16 LCVAP allocation has now been announced and is on average 10% higher than last year's allocation. Meetings with headteachers will take place within the next few days to on local priorities. Please ensure that projects for your own school have been prioritised and costed. This will help us determine together those projects that are most in need of funding.

### Reconstitution of Governing Bodies

May we remind you again that **it is now very urgent for NORES to receive from your school completed skills audits for all foundation governors** so that the Diocese can comply with the requirements under the Amendment Regulations 2014: to ensure that all foundation governors *have, in the opinion of the person/body appointing them, the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.*

Some schools have provided a summary sheet showing the skills of every governor on the Governing Body. These are useful in giving an overview of the strengths of the Governing body concerned, but please note that we need to receive **individual audit skills completed and signed** by individual governors. Please do contact NORES if you have any further queries.

### Draft National Minimum Wage Regulations 2015

Please note that the draft National Minimum Wage Regulations 2015 have now been published. You will remember that last year the Diocese encouraged all its schools into a "Living Wage" employer following a resolution passed by the Catholic Bishops' Conference. The results of this should go beyond the requirements of National Minimum Wage legislation.

### VACANCIES IN OUR SCHOOLS –

In response to requests we are making a page available on the NORES website for vacancies in our schools. Staffing is a real challenge in all schools, and we hope this may be a small way of helping. Details have been circulated already and we welcome comments on how it can be of service to you.

### LITURGY IN SCHOOL 25 March 2015

*a special training to develop a diocesan reflection on the basic principles for celebrating liturgy in schools, with a special focus on mass in school. **Every school needs to be represented.** Booking forms are out. Being able to celebrate the eucharist in school is a unique privilege and also a unique responsibility. Schools need to be able to prepare the liturgy well, but also to be fully equipped for these celebrations, practically and spiritually.*

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

*Alex Heath*

The Bishop's Council for Catechesis met last month and had a fruitful time of sharing ideas, experience, resources and good practice. A date for your diaries; the next meeting will be at 7.45pm for 8pm on Wednesday 24 June at Sacred Heart RC Church Hall, 5 Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1HZ. Our thanks to Sacred Heart parish for hosting us. See you there!

### Retreat for Catechists - Saturday 25 April 2015

10am – 3pm on at the Monastery of Christ our Saviour, Turvey Mews, Turvey, Beds MK43 8DH  
Our day will include

- Times of guided reflection led by Alex and other members of the Bishop's Council for Catechesis.
- Eucharist
- Opportunity to meet other catechists and enjoy the beautiful and prayerful setting at Turvey
- Opportunity for personal prayer.

The cost is £10 per person (places are limited to 35)  
*Bring a packed lunch. Tea and Coffee will be provided.*

Parking: Cars are expected to park on the monks' side of the Turvey site, entry is via the first drive on the left in Jack's Lane (speed camera on the corner).

Parking space limited to a maximum of 15 cars.

**Pre- booking is essential.** To book your place please send a non-refundable cheque payment of £10 made payable to 'R.E. Service' along with your name, phone number and e mail address to: **CATECHIST RETREAT 2015**, NORES 33 Westbourne Rd, Luton LU4 8JD. For general enquiries- Tel: 01582 723312 (x 6), Email: [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk)

### Being a Catechist - Training Course

This basic training course of 5 sessions is available to any parish/ pastoral area on request. Our next courses:

- St Gregory's Parish, Northampton over 5 Tuesday evenings (7.30pm-9.30pm) on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> July 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Holy Family Slough - Monday 13 July (7.30-9.30pm) and on Saturday 18 July (10am-4pm). Booking forms for these courses will be available shortly from the NORES office and website (events).

### Summer School 2015

Finally an encouragement to come and join us at the Summer School this year where our speakers; Fr Chris Thomas, Sister Hyacinthe Defos du Rau OP and Edmund Adamus will lead us in reflections on poverty, obedience and chastity in our following of Jesus Christ. The Summer School will take place at the RE Centre from 23-25 July 2015. Booking forms with full details and posters have been sent to all parishes and to catechists and are also available from the NORES office and website. We look forward to seeing you there.