



NORES NEWS

November 2019 – The month dedicated to Holy Souls

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

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

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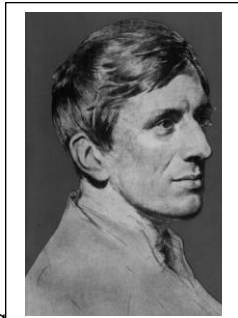
From the Episcopal Vicar *Mgr Kevin*

OUR NEW ENGLISH SAINT!

Saint John Henry

Newman was declared a saint of the Church on October 13 in Rome. It was a great occasion, especially for all of us who were privileged to be there.

Pope Francis preached on the gospel of the day, the ten lepers of whom only one returned to give thanks. With Newman three religious women were also “raised to the altars of Mother Church” –



from Italy, Switzerland, India, Brazil.

This is how the Holy Father concluded his homily by insisting on three elements of the gospel story - *To cry out. To walk. To give thanks* and then he said:

Today we give thanks to the Lord for our new Saints. They walked by faith and now we invoke their intercession. Three of them were religious women; they show us that the consecrated life is a journey of love at the existential peripheries of the world.

Saint Marguerite Bays, on the other hand, was a seamstress; she speaks to us of the power of simple prayer, enduring patience and silent self-giving. That is how the Lord made the splendour of Easter radiate in her life.

Such is the holiness of daily life, which Saint John Henry Newman described in these words: “The Christian has a deep, silent, hidden peace, which the world sees not... The Christian is cheerful, easy, kind, gentle, courteous, candid, unassuming; has no pretense... with so little that is unusual or striking in his bearing, that he may easily be taken at first sight for an ordinary man”

(Parochial and Plain Sermons, V, 5).

Let us ask to be like that, “kindly lights” amid the encircling gloom. Jesus, “stay with me, and then I shall begin to shine as Thou shinest: so to shine as to be a light to others” *(Meditations on Christian Doctrine, VII, 3).* Amen.

NOVEMBER begins with the feast of ALL SAINTS.

It will coincide with half term for some of our schools.

Whichever way we need to remember that it is in fact the response to Hallowe'en [the eve of *All Hallows, All Saints*]. When Pope Benedict came to England he spoke at the “Big Assembly” at St Mary’s, Twickenham about the need for us all to become saints. It would be a great and natural follow up to the story of our new Saint – the universal call to holiness. This is what Pope Benedict said:

Once you enter into friendship with God, everything in your life begins to change ... You are attracted to the practice of virtue. You begin to see greed and selfishness and all the other sins for what they really are, destructive and dangerous

tendencies that cause deep suffering and do great damage and you want to avoid falling into that trap yourselves. “You begin to feel compassion for people in difficulties and you are eager to do something to help them. You want to come to the aid of the poor and the hungry. You want to comfort the sorrowful, you want to be kind and generous. And when these things begin to matter to you, you are well on the way to becoming saints.”

ALL SAINTS leads to **ALL SOULS**, the day of devotion when we remember all, who have died, which is also a central theme for the month. This is a central part of our Catholic spirituality, to pray for all who have died. Death is the ultimate mystery, and our only response to it is to offer our prayer in love for those who have died. The secular world often responds to death by avoiding the reality of the issue and looks rather to celebrating someone’s past rather than their future with God. Our faith calls us to respond with faith asking that someone, that all who have died, may see face God face to face and enjoy the glory of the saints in heaven. It is important that we are familiar with the traditional prayers for the dead:

*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 daybreak.

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 that a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

FEAST DAYS

3 November St Martin de Porres Primary Luton

16 November St Margaret of Scotland Primary, Luton

THE VINE - As Communications Manager, Neil Roseman is stepping into the role as editor. Please send all news items to communications@northamptondiocese.com

SECONDARY RE AND THEOLOGY

Paul McHugh

Dates for diaries: **Heads of RE Meeting, NORES, Tuesday 26 November**

It is well known that November begins with the great feast of All Saints and the commemoration of All Souls. Less well known is the feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, on November 9. There might seem at first glance little connection between the first two and the third significant day. In truth, these days convey a profound ecclesiological understanding. All Saints and All Souls point us to the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ, united with and transcending the pilgrim Church on earth. As the Catechism reminds us: 'The Spirit is the soul, as it were, of the Mystical Body, the source of its life, of its unity in diversity, and of the riches of its gifts and charisms'. United in the Spirit, the faithful are in communion with one another, the communion of saints. Accordingly, our prayers may reach beyond the boundaries of our time and space. We ask the saints to intercede for us and we pray for our departed brothers and sisters. The feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica helps convey another aspect, that of the pilgrim Church in the world, but not of the world. A Church with a mission to evangelize. The Basilica of St John Lateran has a Latin inscription which translates as 'the mother and head of all the churches of the city and the world'. The dedication of this ancient church, the Pope's cathedral, is celebrated as a sign for Catholics of a pilgrim Church journeying together in unity with the See of Peter. *We believe in the communion of all the faithful of Christ, those who are pilgrims on earth, the dead who are being purified, and the blessed in heaven, all together forming one Church.* Pope St Paul VI

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS & CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

Year of the Word 2020- 'The God Who Speaks' Initiative

Firstly an important date for your diary.... **SATURDAY 6 JUNE 2020** - a DIOCESAN SCRIPTURE FESTIVAL as part of our celebrations for The Year of the Word. Save this date. More details about the exciting programme soon.

As some of you will already know we recently marked the launch of 'The God Who Speaks' Scripture initiative on the Feast of St Jerome and a few days later hosted Fleur Dorrell for our NORES Lecture. Fleur outlined the vision and opportunities the year presents for us. The First Sunday of Advent, 1 December, is the beginning of the campaign year and our Diocesan launch will be on 7 December at our Feast Day Mass. (See <http://godwhospeaks.uk> or on the diocesan website, 'YEAR OF THE WORD') for more details.

You may have heard also that Pope Francis has instituted a new Sunday dedicated to celebrating the Word of God. In a Motu Proprio – titled 'Aperuit illis', Pope Francis has declared the **Third Sunday of Ordinary Time** the 'Sunday of the Word of God'. This will typically take place in late January.

Catechist Training & Gatherings The next offering of the training for the Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis Level 1 is this month in Luton over 5 Thursday evenings starting on Thursday 7 November (7.30-9.30pm). We look forward to welcome catechists both new and more experienced. For copies of the booking form or to book a course for your parish/ Pastoral Area contact me at heath@nores.org.uk. This term is also the time for Pastoral Areas to have a conversation for catechists building on the conversations that took place during the Pentecost Term at Parish level.

These conversations will inform the AGM in the Lent Term with our Bishop when we will hear about catechetical issues from around the Diocese.

School Chaplaincy Training Days We look ahead to our next two days. On Tuesday 4 February 2020 we welcome Martha Flavell who has been instrumental in helping to offer *Open the Book* to Catholic schools. Open the Book (OtB) is a project which offers primary school children an opportunity to hear key Bible stories, from a team of Christians from local churches, who present the stories during assemblies/acts of Collective Worship. Our Joint RE & School Chaplaincy Conference for 2020 will take place on Friday 5 June 2020 where we will welcome Fr Eamonn Mulcahy and Wintershall Education. In the morning Fr Eamonn will help us explore the theme 'The God Who Speaks'. He is a Spiritan, Holy Ghost Missionary Father originally from Manchester. In the afternoon bringing the Word of God to life we have the fantastic team from Wintershall Education. This will include an overview 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 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

The future of Catholic education in the Diocese

"We are at our best when we work together, for each other, in service of the common good, embracing both solidarity and subsidiarity. This is essential in all decisions undertaken by our Catholic schools." Bishop Peter February 2019

The legal process of merging the current MATs is taking place to schedule with an anticipated date for the merger of 1 January 2020. The core group with representatives of schools in all 7 partnership areas is continuing to meet every month to share developments and agree ways forward as we develop the systems within the new regional Trusts. The key to the strategy for the new Regional MATs is built on the work already being done in partnership areas to collaborate, share best practice and drive school improvement. The focus of the core group meeting this month was to share this practice across the partnerships particularly the key areas of focus for the partnership and the development of peer reviews. The aim of the closer collaboration between schools is to really get to know each other's schools so that we can walk, learn and grow together. This work is being developed within the Secondary schools. The focus for the Core group meeting next month is to review the scheme of delegation and how governance will work across the Trusts. If you want to know more about this or want to get involved please contact me curtis@nores.org.uk

Training for Directors and Governors

Training for all those involved in governance within the new MAT structure from January and two representatives from each voluntary aided school are invited to two days of specific training on Thursday 14th November and Wednesday 8th January. This will be a great opportunity to meet others involved in governance in the Diocese, contribute to the vision of the new MATs, ask questions and gain updates on legal responsibilities. For more information contact Debbie Main, Schools Officer at main@nores.org.uk

Formatio is the name of the National project co-ordinated through the Catholic Education Service to develop leadership and governance across England and Wales, Formatio has developed a suite of online training materials for Foundation governors. The first two of these modules has now been released and are free to all governors whether a Foundation governor or not to support their knowledge of the distinct nature of governance within a catholic school. **Find the training at:** <http://formatio-ces.org/moodle/login/index.php> If you have any problems accessing this, please contact Debbie Main at main@nores.org.uk

GOVERNANCE APPOINTMENTS

Debbie Main

A request from Bishop Peter: We need people who, in the midst of all changes to education policy will keep Christ at the centre of everything they do. Do you have experience in Education or HR? I would like you to consider whether you are someone who could serve our children as they grow in faith by volunteering as a Director for Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust (OLICAT). OLICAT will be formed in January 2020 by the merger of our existing Trusts in Bedford, Northants and Northampton. For more details, including training offered, contact Debbie Main on main@nores.org.uk or 01582 723312 or our website (School Leadership - Diocesan Regional MATs)

CCRS News

Steve O'Brien

A new CCRS course will begin at St Anthony's school in Slough in January 2020. Publicity and application forms have gone out to schools and parishes during October so, if you are considering joining the course, please look out for details in you staffroom or parish. If you can encourage a friend or colleague to join you, it is always good to share the experience! Following on from the Slough course, CCRS will begin in Luton in September 2020. It is also worth noting that, for those who would wish to follow the course at a more accessible level, the DCRE [Diocesan Certificate in Religious Studies] covers the same material but require the completion of a short reflective log rather than full assignments. Students opting for DCRS will be awarded the Diocesan Certificate on completion.

In national survey of students who recently completed the CCRS, 89% of responders said that CCRS was highly relevant for their work in school and would recommend it to others, whilst 83% said the course had met or surpassed their expectations. I hope to see you on a course in 2020! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.



CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield

HUGE congratulations to **St Bernadette's in Milton Keynes** for achieving the **LIVE SIMPLY** award! First in our diocese! Well done to all. Could your school or parish be next? A massive THANK YOU to all who participated in our **Harvest Fast Day**. Your efforts are very much appreciated in both raising awareness of CAFOD's work and in raising funds to support this work.

From 6-27 October 2019 there was the **Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops**, on the theme of "Amazonia, new paths for the Church and for an integral ecology". It was a way for the Church to listen to the people of the Amazon and respond with them to the devastation facing them and their environment. Under discussion were many issues of importance to CAFOD's work in the region, including:

- the rights and culture of indigenous people

- poverty
- the impacts of climate change and extractives
- the role of the Church.

Your school may be interested in this extra thread of Caring for Our Common Home.

We are still offering assemblies and workshops on the **UN Convention on Rights of the Child**. This is a fascinating area of work for your pupils and our wonderful resources can help your class focus on this. Do book a visit.

Finally, your older students and staff may be interested in the next **CAFOD "Faith in Action" day** in Westminster on 30 November on the theme of "Love is civic and political". The Church here and around the world has a proud history of encouraging Catholics' political reflection and action with amazing results.

For more information on any of the above go to our website or get in touch: 01494 863777 northampton@cafod.org.uk

MISSIO NEWS *Fr Wayne Coughlin*



I find myself typing this article on a rare moment when I can sit down and do nothing; more accurately I find myself in Church and therefore that 'nothing' should be 'prayer'! I have no excuse for not praying as I am gazing upon our new temporary Shrine to St John Henry Newman. The reason for being in the Church is that I am waiting for a pilgrim group (of protestants and non-believers) who are visiting the Church to learn more about the Catholic Faith. The creation of this Shrine and the visit of the pilgrims are, in some ways, just two examples of the many wonderful 'extra' events that took place during Pope Francis' Extraordinary Month of Mission.

I wonder how you and your school observed the Extraordinary Month of Mission? I have certainly seen a great number of tweets on the official Missio Twitter feed about what individual parishes and schools have been doing! Well done to everyone who has responded to Pope Francis' request that we rediscover the zeal to proclaim the truth of salvation found in Jesus. It was thus a great joy to meet so many of you at the diocesan Schools Mass in Dunstable and to hear what you are doing for Missio. Thank you also to everyone who came and said "hello" to me! Although the Extraordinary Month of Mission has now passed the hope is that we will continue to share with people the joy and beauty of the Gospel. Missio has some powerful resources that can be used in school assemblies to explore the themes of evangelisation, missionary saints, etc. There is also a wonderful assembly on the newly canonised St John Henry Newman. Do have a look at the "Mission Together" section of the Missio website. You might also consider inviting a volunteer to visit your school and deliver the assembly for you!

Do be assured that the parishioners in Ss Philip and James' Church (Bedford) are holding all our diocesan Catholic schools in prayer at the Shrine of St John Henry Newman. You would be most welcome to bring your school on a visit. Stephanie, our full-time Catholic Youth Minister, would love to welcome you to our parish! Please do contact me for details. parishpriestbedford@gmail.com

DATES for YOUR DIARIES 2019

5 November – S48 Inspectors meeting
20-22 November – Deputy Heads' Conference
26 November – Secondary Heads of RE day

ACADEMIC MASSES 2019/2020

Luton – at St Martin de Porres 4.30pm, 13 November