



NORES NEWS

March 2017 – 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

AFTER THE ASHES?



One writer tells us

*In Lent the whole church becomes a catechumen,
receiving instruction from the Word of God, a
penitent practising ascetical exercises.*

She meditates on the Word,

and cleanses herself,

so that, enlightened and free,

she may receive the grace of Easter,

*and experience more vividly the joy of salvation
which comes with the Risen Christ.*

[Luigi della Torre]

Probably you will receive this on Ash Wednesday or soon after, so Lent has begun. This season of grace is a great opportunity and in some senses easier to celebrate than the longer Eastertime, which will be a focus for next month. It would be good to think about we look beyond all the good things that happen in our own school or community so that Lent also is outward looking to the whole Church. No doubt it will already be that in the way we support CAFOD on the Fast Day and other charities.

But LENT

- began as a paschal fast of simply the two days before Easter
- then as the Church developed those who were to be baptised became its focus
- it is only later it takes on the penitential focus that we often use today
- eventually it became a season of 40 days – inspired by the forty years of the Jews in the desert and of Jesus in the desert for forty days

- someone might notice it covers more than forty days. Lent actually covers the First Sunday of Lent until Holy Thursday, but then you take off the six Sundays. Why? Because every Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection, the Risen Christ.

What to do for Lent?

The quotation which began this piece hints at several areas that we can consider. One is to remember that on Easter night and day we will be asked to remember **our baptism**. While we remember we are baptised Christians, we need to pray for those who will be baptised at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Day. Some may be in your school or community, but the majority will come to the Cathedral on the First Sunday of Lent and Bishop Peter and he will “elect” them, giving them the Church’s approval to become Catholics at Easter.

The writer goes on to speak about the Word of God as central to Lent. We have asked everyone to think about the place of the Scriptures, both the Book and the way we use them, following Pope Francis’ suggestion. Many Christians use **lectio divina** as a way of prayer, meditating on the Bible. It would be good to think about how we do take the words of scripture, think about them, mull them over, and see what they mean in our lives. Lent gives the opportunity to decide to take things more slowly and reflectively.

A third element is summed up by the poet Robert Herrick :

*It is to fast from strife and old debate,
And hate; to circumcise thy life.*

To show a heart, grief- rent;

To starve thy sin, not bin ;

and that’s to keep thy Lent

It may be a lot easier to give up chocolate or whatever than to give up that sin which persists.

Lent is the time to think about that too!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

School Chaplaincy We recently had an excellent Chaplaincy Day focussing on Developing our Leadership Skills with Charles Whitehead. Charles inspired us with practical, Biblical and relevant teaching to help us develop our understanding and practice as leaders called by God to serve. We are hoping to invite Charles back for another session in the future. Our next joint RE & Chaplaincy Training Day will be in the Pentecost term and will focus on the social teaching of the Church and how we can help put it into practice. We look forward to welcoming Chaplains & Chaplaincy Co-ordinators again

Diocesan Evangelisation Day On Saturday 4 February at Stony Stratford the Diocesan Evangelisation Team invited parish mission teams and leaders of Bible Timeline groups to a day of follow up to the Proclaim '15 initiative. After prayer and some input from Maria Heath on our call to mission we explored our own experiences of mission and shared useful tools and ideas. A version of Maria's key note was given at the Celebrate Weekend Conference (October 2016 in Torquay) which we believe is available from Agape Ministries for those who would like a copy. Please see:

<http://www.agapeministries.co.uk> Tel: 0170 4224 286
Here are a selection of some of the resources recommended on the day to help us grow as missionary parishes:

Trypraying is a 7 day prayer guide which is available as a booklet or a smart phone app. Many people pray who would not consider themselves religious. *Trypraying* is written for them. It's in accessible language and is a simple challenge to try praying for 7 days and see what happens. It has short information articles and stories of answers to prayer. It's a resource for churches, Christian organisations, or anyone who wants to share their faith with a friend, neighbour or family member. Across the UK, churches in various towns and cities have come together to display it on buses and banners and billboards, resulting in some amazing stories. More details including copies of booklets, apps and resources available from: www.trypraying.co.uk
www.thereishope.co.uk

Some Contemporary Literature on Mission: *Divine Renovation* by Fr James Mallon (Twenty Third Publications), 2014 *Rebuilt* by Fr Michael White & Tm Corcoran (Ave Maria Press), 2013
Forming Intentional Disciples by Sherry Weddell (Our Sunday Visitor), 2012

Good News books based in Luton can help provide these and other resources. They are based at: Upper Level, St John the Apostle Church, 296 Sundon Park Road, Luton, Beds, LU3 3AL
01582 571011 orders@goodnewsbooks.co.uk
www.goodnewsbooks.co.uk

Proclaim '15 Home Mission Materials a full e-catalogue of materials are available via:

www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15

A new DVD course on Evangelisation Training: Relit Overview video and information available from: relittraining.com

Alpha in a Catholic Context Please see alpha.org and follow link for Catholic context

Training with the Sion Community Training for Parish mission and other initiatives available from Sion Catholic Community, please see: www.sioncommunity.org.uk

Landings- Welcoming Returning Catholics This 8-week process offers 'a place to land', a place for compassionate listening and non-judgemental acceptance, for asking questions and reconnecting with faith as an adult. Details are available from <http://landings.org.uk/>

CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield



Lent Fast Day – 10 March 2017

Get ready for Lent Fast Day. We have great resources to help you hold a prayer session (e.g. stations of the cross, prayer cards), soup lunch and give a talk in your parish. Our enthusiastic volunteers are ready to give assemblies and/or workshops in schools. Do get in touch if you would like a visit.

A series of five weekly reflections, entitled *Care for our Common Home: Living simply, sustainably and in solidarity* has been produced. Each reflection includes links to the Sunday Gospels, Laudato Si' quotes, local and international stories, questions and discussions, reflections and prayer. Download the materials to share with your parish or get in touch for more information.

LiveSimply Award

The LiveSimply award is an opportunity for Catholic communities - parishes, schools and chaplaincies to respond to Pope Francis' invitation to "work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us." Some schools and parishes have already taken up this challenge. Please get in touch for more information or see our website

Step into the Gap programme

CAFOD's gap year programme, is an opportunity for anyone aged 18 – 30 to volunteer in the UK, gain experience, develop leadership skills and visit an international CAFOD partner. Applications are now open. For more information email cjones@cafod.org.uk. Deadline is 13 March 2017!
CAFOD volunteer Centre – dpurfield@cafod.org.uk,
01844 274 723

SCHOOLS' COMMISSION

Collette Curtis

As you will be aware I have been discussing ways of accessing funds for school development for schools within the Diocese with the DFE, LA's and St Thomas More teaching school. The details as they emerge are being shared with head teachers and MATs. The Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund is part of these discussions, see details below:

Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund

The Secretary of State for Education announced in her speech to the College of Teaching on the 16 February the first bidding round for the Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund which will provide funding for professional development programmes for teachers and school leaders. The fund is a 3-year investment worth £75 million and will support professional development in the government's twelve priority areas. The NCTL are hosting supplier information events for interested organisations to learn more about the fund. These will take place on the following days:

- Monday 27 February 10:30-13:00/13:30–16:00 -London
 - Tuesday 28 February 2017 10:30 - 13:00 in Birmingham
 - Wednesday 1 March 2017 10:30 - 13:00 in Sheffield
 - Thursday 2 March 2017 10:30 - 13:00 in Manchester
 - Friday 3 March 2017 10:30 - 11:30 online via WebEx
- You can find more information about the Fund on the TLIF webpage.

To register for the supplier events please visit:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/teaching-and-leadership-innovation-fund-tlif-supplier-information-days-tickets-3192667752>

PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

PRAYER INTENTIONS – *ask the school to pray with the Pope for his intentions for March*

Support for Persecuted Christians.

That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.

FEAST DAYS - pray for the schools who celebrate their feast days this month.

1 March – St David - *pray for the people of Wales*

17 March – St Patrick – *pray for the people of Ireland*

St Patrick's Primary, Corby

19 March – St Joseph – *pray for the Universal Church of which St Joseph is the patron.*

St Joseph's Infant, Aylesbury,

St Joseph's Lower, Bedford,

St Joseph's Primary Luton,

St Joseph's Primary,
Chalfont St Peter

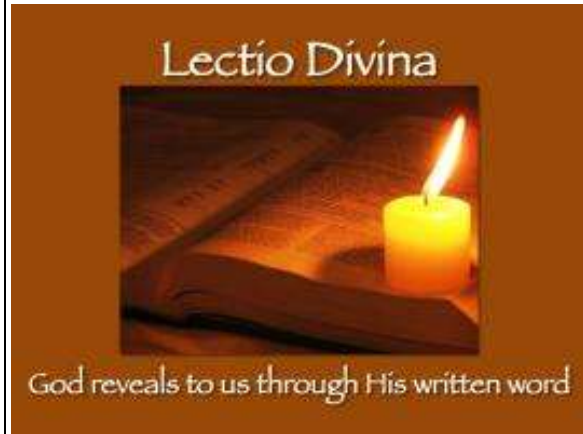
St Joseph's High, Slough

26 March – Laetare Sunday –

Mothering Sunday – *pray for mothers and those who have shown us a mother's love*



SCRIPTURE AND LENT



Pope Francis wrote at the end of the Year of Mercy : The Bible is the great story of the marvels of God's mercy. Every one of its pages is steeped in the love of the Father who from the moment of creation wished to impress the signs of his love on the universe.Creative initiatives can help make this an opportunity for the faithful to become living vessels for the transmission of God's word [such as] the practice of lectio divina, so that the prayerful reading of the sacred text will help support and strengthen the spiritual life.

We are encouraging everyone to think about the Bible this year, and Lent offers the chance to respond to this challenge. To give the Bible time rather than give something up! Or perhaps to give up something that takes too much time to find time for the Bible. If we only decide to read one verse a day from the scriptures in Lent and so see if it can touch us, make us respond to the power of God's word practically in our living. There will be a scripture Tweet each day from NORES throughout Lent as one way of engaging with this. You could use any text as a continuous reading through Lent. Repeat a favourite psalm, or learn one by heart as part of your prayer life. Many people in other Christian traditions know so much of the Bible by heart – you only have to listen to Dot Cotton!! [and she is often so much to the point!]

Lectio Divina is an ancient way of meditating on the scriptures, letting them rest with you and become part of you. There will be an afternoon introducing this way of prayer at the RE Centre on Sunday 19 March, from 3-5pm. It will be led by Sister Naomi, cj. Booking forms are available or just write/email the Centre or just turn up. There is no charge, just a request for donations.



Pope Francis was elected Bishop of Rome on 13 March, 2013. He was installed as Pope on 19 March. Pray for him and his ministry.

SECONDARY RE AND INSPECTION

Stephen O'Brien

RE Subject Leaders Meeting 10 March 2017

I have invited Philip Robinson, the National RE Adviser, to spend the day with us focusing particularly on RE GCSE and looking at aspects of marking, assessment and at the style of questions that various boards will set on first examination. Philp has worked extensively at national level and with the examination boards in the development of the new specifications and has extensive knowledge of the various boards, AQA and Eduqas in particular. On the day he will offer help and advice to colleagues currently using all three boards. If you have not already signed up, please do so. You are welcome to bring other departmental colleagues who may have an interest in this work.

CAFOD Lenten Materials 2017. Cafod have produced some excellent secondary resources for schools to use this Lent. Themed on helping those with few resources to develop their own sustainable income, you will find a thought-provoking animation telling the story of Florence from Zambia and one little fish in the pond that she set up with support from Cafod's local partner. The resource will deepen knowledge and suggest ways in which pupils can fund raise to 'turn little fish into big fish'.

Section 48 Framework and Guidance Writing of the new S48 Inspection Framework is nearing completion. The new framework will be introduced during 2017/18 and will update the existing process that has been in place since 2012. It will be a somewhat simplified approach with fewer areas over which contributory judgement grades will be made. The judgement guidance offered to inspectors [and schools] in each area has been extensively re-written and is [hopefully] presented in a more user-friendly format.
obrien@nores.org.uk

NYMO

Steve Harris

NYMO and Life Teen Summer Camp 2017 NYMO and Life Teen invite young people aged 11 – 18 to attend Summer Camp at Alton Castle on Sun 6 Aug -Thu 10 Aug Bookings for Camp go live on March 1! We can only offer limited places and we know these will go fast. If you want to secure your spot on this year's camp you need to set a reminder in your calendar! Your place will be secured when we receive your deposit and booking form.

'True Survivor: Beyond the Wild' is a spiritual survival course on 6 – 8 April, for boys aged 13 – 18. While camping in the forest, the group will learn essential survival skills They will also discover the essential tools of spiritual survival including the shelter of the Church and her sacraments!

The course is £105pp including coach transport from within the Diocese to Poole, Dorset. Speaker and NYMO friend Jimmy Mitchell will be joining the course. Visit www.truesurvivor.uk or www.facebook.com/truesurvivor to see the course. Email steve@nymo.org to book. Places are limited to 20! Contact Tel: 01582 720 627

NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY

CORNER

Anne-Marie McIntosh

Come and See The new / tweaked activities and tasks, in the Reveal section, for Early Years and Yrs 4 – 6 have now been completed on the *Come and See* website. Please print off the topics from the website rather than use your books. Every member of staff should have a login for the website.

RE Subject Leader Meetings Please let me know the dates of these meeting as I really want to attend to work alongside you and support you in your role. Thank you.

RE Subject Leaders Day Our next day together is on Thursday 23 March. Look out for the flyer and booking form. We will then have a joint day with our Secondary Heads of RE colleagues in the Pentecost Term on Thursday 22 June, 2017. Following on from the work we did with Angela Warren we will explore Catholic Social Teaching in both its theology and practice. We will be inspired as to how our schools can continue to contribute to building a more just and peaceful world. Our guest speaker is Dr Anna Rowlands from the University of Durham.

Inset The whole school inset 'The Changing Shape of Catholic Education' being offered around the Diocese has now been arranged. You should, by now, have received the flier with the dates and venues for your partnership area. This is primarily for teachers but support staff are welcome too.

Live Simply Thank you for taking part in the 'Live Simply' Challenge during the Advent Term. During the month of March I will live simply by 'Appreciating the things I have' I promise to look after the things that I have by keeping everything tidy and putting things away.

Relationship and Sex Education The recently approved policy and practice by the Bishops' Conference is available on the CES website. I will be covering this with particular reference to the role of Governors in the forth-coming governors' forums in various venues around the Diocese.

Lenten Resources Hopefully you will have bought into the *My Day by Day* children's books for Lent and Easter. They are great little books to support your teaching during this time. [Arch Publishing] The Lenten Calendar [Redemptorist] Publications is always a favourite!

Cafod have also got an online calendar for Lent. It offers beautiful reflections on scripture for each day and acts as a reminder to remember, in prayer, our sisters and brothers around the world at this time. You can also sign up for their weekly reflection e-newsletter.

Just a thought..... The good deed you do maybe the only sermon someone will hear today. St Francis of Assisi.

And finally Don't forget if there is anything I can do to support you please don't hesitate to get in touch.
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