



NORES NEWS

May 2020 – The month dedicated to Mary

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

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

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From the Episcopal Vicar *Mgr Kevin*

May – Mary's month – just add an "r" to May!

As we continue in these very strange times we call upon Mary with one of the oldest prayers to her found in a third century Egyptian papyrus. It is often given its Latin title : *Sub tuum praesidium*.

We fly to Thy protection,

O Holy Mother of God.

Despise not our petitions in our necessities,

but deliver us always from all dangers,

O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

We remember that in March our bishops asked us to rededicate England to Mary, as this prayer used at Walsingham reminds us :

*To you, Our Lady of Walsingham,
we entrust, we offer,
we consecrate
our beloved land of England
thy Dowry
but also Holy Church,
the Mystical Body of Christ.*

The Litany of Our Lady of Walsingham is on page 2.

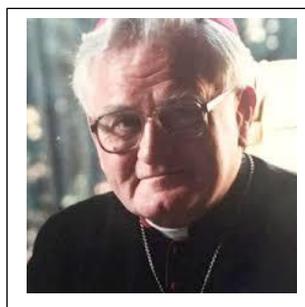


Some of you will have fond memories of the 2000 Millennium Schools' Pilgrimage to Walsingham

when over 1500 of us gathered to celebrate with **Bishop Leo**.

He died on 23 April. We give thanks to God for his ministry and for his support of our schools and staff.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



We wish **Bishop Peter** a very happy 76th birthday on 3 May and ask God's blessing on his retirement. I know **Bishop David** is hoping to engage with our schools when circumstances change. In the meantime he has written to all those who were to be baptised, confirmed and celebrate First Eucharist. *You can find these on the NORES website*

I am very conscious as I write, with my church closed, that we are in a unique moment in our history. I am also very aware of how much our schools are giving in so many ways as places for those who need to come to school and through all those other media by which education and school life continues. We can be truly proud and very grateful for all that everyone is doing facing such difficulties.

We must always reflect how our schools, are part of the mission of this local Church, the diocese of Northampton to proclaim the gospel and so build up the Church. With our new bishop, Bishop David, we need to consider how we use these challenging times, and what will come when the "lock down" is released.

As we do that I am reminded how in 2012 we began to consider the idea of academy for the diocese. Here and in several other dioceses I was asked to present its theological underpinning. One phrase of Jeremiah began my reflections:

Stand at the crossroads, says the Lord, and look, for the ancient way; ask for the good way and take it; so shall you be safe and prosper. (Jeremiah 6:16)

The good way for us is always rooted in the way we are Church. I never tire of quoting Cardinal Hume's words:

"The Church is communio, meaning a community, a fellowship, a communion and much more. The Trinity is the perfect relationship of love given and received. Structures in the Church and relationships should reflect and express this communio."

These days have made us realise ever more deeply our need for that "communio" – that mutual interdependence, that being Church, which underpins our existence as Catholic schools. Our model for our life together is the unique relationship which is the mystery of the Trinity. While it is mystery indeed we express it every time we make the Sign of the Cross. Our working together in a school, with the parish, pastoral area, in partnership and Academy Trust must reflect that mystery as we share in the life of the whole diocese, our local Church.

This is something to thank God for and to trust in as we face into an uncertain future, knowing that God is always with us.

CELEBRATING in MAY

as well as honouring Mary, this month is rich in devotion :

- 1 – Joseph the Worker : *celebrating human labour*
- 3 – Good Shepherd Sunday – *praying for Vocations*
- 4 – English and Welsh Martyrs – *“the Church is built on the blood of the martyrs”*
- 13 – Our Lady of Fatima
- 14 – Matthias, apostle : *elected to replace Judas*
- 21 – **ASCENSION** – *forty days after Easter!*
- 25 – the Venerable Bede, 672-735 - *great theologian and “father of English history”*
- 26 – Philip Neri, known as “apostle of Rome”, committed to *fostering faith in young people, began “oratorios”*
- 27 – Augustine, apostle of England – *Italian monk sent by Pope Gregory in 597 to convert the “Angles” [“angeli”]*
- 31 – PENTECOST – closes the Easter season

WALSINGHAM LITANY

Mary, pray to the Lord for us

Mary all graced by God

Mary mother of the Lord

Mary ever a virgin

Mary taken to Heaven

Mary at Bethlehem, pray for all mothers

Mary at Nazareth, pray for all families

Mary at Cana, pray for all married couples

Mary at the Cross, pray for all who suffer

Mary in the Upper Room, pray for all who wait.

Mary model of womanhood, pray for all women,

Mary exemplar of humanity, pray for all of us.

Woman of faith, keep us in mind

Woman of hope,

Woman of love,

Woman of suffering,

Woman of humility,

Woman of poverty

Woman of obedience,

Woman of integrity,

Woman who wondered, remember us to God

Woman who listened,

Woman who followed Christ,

Woman who longed for Christ,

Woman who loved Christ,

Mother of God, be our mother always

Mother of the Church,

Mother of humanity,

Mother of the earth,

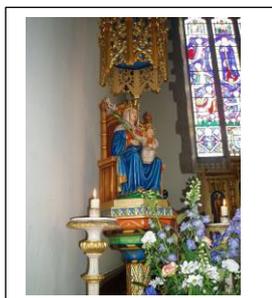
Mother we need,

Mary who went on believing, we thank God for you.

Mary who never lost hope

Mary who loved to the end

All holy and immortal God, in giving us Jesus Christ as our redeemer and brother, you gave us Mary His mother to be our mother also; grant us, we implore you, to live lives worthy of so great a Brother and so dear a mother, that we may come at last to You the Father of us all.
Amen.



RESOURCES in the CoVid19 pandemic

- NORES has a daily Tweet reflecting the scriptures of the day

- NORES website has CoVid19 resource sheets which are being constantly added to

- **THE VATICAN** : The Dicastery for Communication of the Holy See has produced a downloadable book entitled “Strong in the Face of Tribulation”, containing prayers, supplications and the Pope’s homilies as “a sure support in time of trial”. to help sustain the Church’s sense of communion amid the coronavirus pandemic. It is available for download free of charge at vatican.va/Strong in the Face of Tribulation in PDF format. in English, Italian, Spanish and French. The editors will constantly update the text.

***liturgyoffice.org** : has lots of helpful resources including

- When Mass cannot be celebrated publicly

- Making it a retreat - Prayer in time of sickness

- Prayer during a time of ‘flu and illness

* www.popesglobalprayer.net * www.jesuit.org.uk

* www.clicktopray.org * www.thepopevideo.org

Try to reflect on the Mass readings each day. Go to universalis.com which also gives you all the prayers of the Divine Office in each form. After the Mass, this is the greatest prayer of the Church, and consists of portions of the Psalms that are recited at different times of the day. Please do build in a regular habit of prayer into your day during this time which is so challenging for everyone. Prayer should be something special because it is time spent with someone important to us, not because it is something rare. Our routines and familiar prayers should be a consolation while we look forward to getting back to Mass and receiving Holy Communion.

PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

PRAYER INTENTIONS – ask the school to pray with the Pope for Deacons that faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire church.

FEAST DAYS

1 May St Joseph, Luton (St Joseph the Worker Holy Family, Langley)

3 May St Monica, Milton Keynes

13 May The Good Shepherd Primary, Northampton

16 May St Brendan’s Primary, Corby

THE VINE - As Communications Manager, Neil Roseman is our contact for our diocesan newspaper and eNews. Please send all news items to communications@northamptondiocese.com

The following columns are not available during the CoVid19 crisis

SECONDARY RE AND THEOLOGY

Paul McHugh

PRIMARY RE

Anne Marie McIntosh

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

From the DIRECTOR of SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

Collette Curtis

Happy Easter. I hope that you have been able to have some sort of break over the Easter period. Thank you for all of your hard work providing support for our children and their families both in school and those working from home. I know this has been a particularly challenging time both personally and professionally for many of your staff.

School Condition Allowance (previously known as LCVAP)

Please note the change of name. At the Finance and property day in February we referred to this Capital Funding as Diocesan Condition Improvement Funding. The first approval meeting to allocate School Condition Allowance (SCA) funding was held virtually on Tuesday 21 April. 28 bids from 11 schools were considered and schools notified of the outcomes 5 working days from the meeting. The allocation of £1,646,499 for Capital projects in voluntary aided schools in the Diocese means that VA schools will not be eligible to bid for Condition Improvement funding.

As part of the changes to the allocation of this funding the Diocese has agreed to terms and conditions for approving, reporting, monitoring and tracking this spending. The full details of the implications for schools and the Diocese will be released separately but the key points are outlined below.

A School should:

- Develop and agree with their board an estate vision, strategy and asset management plan;
 - Have clear, documented roles and responsibilities, processes and procedures covering: governance, budget and finance, performance management and other data related to the estate, procurement and delivery of projects, and emergency planning;
 - Develop policies and procedures that ensure buildings support the provision of a safe environment for children and staff, and comply with all relevant regulations, including, but not limited to, those related to health and safety, fire safety and the control and management of asbestos;
 - Understand their estate and maintain it through a prioritised programme of maintenance works informed by up to date and costed condition data;
 - have a robust and value for money approach to prioritising, planning, procuring and delivering projects.
- Keep accounting records, including original invoices, receipts, procurement records, VAT records etc. for work paid for using SCA funding for at least seven years.

Governing bodies have responsibility for:

- meeting the capital expenditure necessary for the purposes of maintaining and improving their

school, with the exception of any expenditure relating to playing fields

- maintaining an environment that is safe and in good working order for children to learn, and are expected to prioritise tackling poor condition, addressing building compliance issues, and dealing with health and safety and energy efficiency issues.

- The school's compliance with its statutory obligations and is required to secure any statutory approvals required to deliver the Funded Activity. Governing bodies will be expected to continue to meet the remaining 10% of costs, and so shall secure and contribute all other sources of funding identified for each project.

On a sample basis the department for Education will be carrying out further checks, drilling down into the detail of individual Funded Activities, and so you may be asked for further information or supporting evidence, for example, copies of invoices, procurement documentation or completion certificates. This may include seeking information on the assurances you secured from schools about their compliance with statutory and other obligations.

Information updates in relation to working under the current restrictions

Complaints - The Department for Education has updated its "Best practice guidance for school complaints procedures 2020" to confirm that it does not expect schools to handle new or existing complaints whilst they are closed. Schools are still expected to engage with parents and pupils where this is possible but complaints do not need to be considered until the government confirms that schools can safely re-open.

Winkworth Sherwood legal advice on some tricky matters during the restrictions

Agency Supply - Most schools will have some kind of ongoing relationship with supply agencies. Typically, supply workers will be employed by the agency and paid on the basis of placements fulfilled (signed timesheets being required to evidence work undertaken). Whilst the agencies are able to benefit from the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, there is an expectation that public bodies continuing to be in receipt of public funds will continue to pay for agency workers notwithstanding the closure of the school (see Procurement Policy Note 02/20 – Supplier relief due to COVID-19). For those on long term supply, this would seem appropriate and as the school will have budgeted for this cost, no reason for schools not to honour the arrangement. Schools have a legal duty under the Agency Workers Regulations 2010 not to treat agency workers less favourably than employees. However this duty only arises once an agency worker has been working at the school for a qualifying period of 12 weeks.

Online safety - All schools will also need to give careful consideration to the safety of pupils working online. The government's safeguarding guidance states that schools should signpost children to age appropriate practical support, for example from; [Childline](#) (for support), ([UK Safer Internet Centre](#) (to report and remove harmful online content) [CEOP](#) (for advice on making a report about online abuse); reinforcing the importance of online safety through communications with parents. We strongly advise that all schools familiarise themselves with the full guidance document so as to ensure safeguarding practices are in line with recent developments.

Funding - Schools' funding remains unchanged during the period of school closures. Guidance states that the government are aware that schools may face additional costs as a result of COVID-19 and that there are plans to put in place a way of schools being able to be reimbursed for exceptional costs. These plans are yet to be published.

Changes to duties in relation to provision in an EHCP and annual reviews - The Coronavirus Act 2020, which came into effect on 25 March, provides the Secretary of State with the ability to issue a notice to temporarily modify the absolute duty of the local authority to provide provision contained in a child or young person's EHCP to one of using their "reasonable endeavours" to do so. It will undoubtedly be very challenging for schools and local authorities to be able to deliver provision contained in an EHCP to the letter, particularly where that provision relies on the attendance of other children who may not have EHCPs (for example whether other children are the peers which comprise a social skills group or other group interventions), or the delivery of direct therapy by an external professional who is unavailable.



CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield

"These are such uncertain times. But we renew our hope this Easter that the Lord is with us and is showing us the way through these present challenges and problems."

These are words by Bishop John Arnold (Bishop of Salford and Trustee of CAFOD) in his Easter message. We hope that you have been able to celebrate the season of Easter and are coping in these most unusual of days.

If you are charged with creating online resources for your classes, have you seen the resources on the CAFOD website which have been created for these strange and unusual times? There is also a structured, regular resource to maintain the pattern of [the Liturgical Year](#). Each week there are worksheets and a [virtual Children's Liturgy](#) which is great for the family. CAFOD has also produced [curriculum-based resources for home learning](#) which includes videos and other great ideas.

While our churches are closed, our prayer as a global community is more important than ever. Let's take this time of physical isolation to reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters around the world with our [prayers, liturgies and](#)

[reflections](#). We invite you to listen to [how our programme work is being affected and what you can do](#).

To end with Bishop John's final words- "*Thank you for all that you are doing for our brothers and sisters in some of the poorest countries of the world. The CAFOD family really does transform lives and CAFOD's work is more important than ever.*" For more information look at our website or get in touch : northampton@cafod.org.uk

MISSIO NEWS Fr Wayne Coughlin

MISSION TOGETHER ACTIVITIES



FOR HOME SCHOOLING

As we adjust to these times of uncertainty, we are reminded how closely we are connected to each other across God's world. Pope Francis, *Missio's* patron, calls us to respond to this crisis with '*the universality of prayer, of compassion, and of tenderness*'.

At *Mission Together*, prayer has always been an important way for children to live out our motto: 'Children helping Children'. Through their prayers and donations, children all over the world stand in solidarity with those who live in poverty overseas.

Children like those living at Nazareth House in South Africa, whom schools helped during Advent. Abandoned or orphaned, the 40 children and babies are cared for by religious sisters. Already living with HIV/AIDS, frequent power cuts and water shortages, the pandemic is hitting the most vulnerable the hardest. The Sisters pray with the children and assure them that there are children elsewhere who pray for them. It is this exchange of love and friendship that makes *Mission Together* so unique.

By following our home schooling activities pupils can still be 'children helping children'. As well as Maths, English and Geography, our resources include prayers and Scripture to encourage children to stand in solidarity with children who were already living in hardship before the pandemic. The popular *Five Finger Prayer* is said on the fingers and thumb of one hand. Each digit prompts children to pray for others before they pray for themselves. They discover how, through God's love, we are connected to one another, even to those faraway, whom they may never meet.

As we enter the month of Mary, we are adapting and adding to our Marian resources to encourage children to ask for Our Lady's intercession. Just as the child saints, Jacinta and Francisco, prayed during the dark days of the war, so, too, can children bring hope to the world by praying the Mission Rosary. Our Pray with Our Lady Chart makes the prayer more manageable for younger children, who are invited to draw the face of a child from the continent they are praying for.

As children follow our home school activities, they are reminded that through their prayers and actions, they can still bring God's love into the world, in whatever way they can and wherever they may be.

All *Mission Together's* home school resources can be found here:

missiontogether.org.uk/school-closures-home-activities/
Sheila Isaac: *Missio's* Education Coordinator for Children and Young People