



# NORES NEWS

**NOVEMBER 2017 – 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*

**Year of Prayer and Vocation** - Bishop Peter launches this year when he asks us to develop our prayer life and reflect on what God is asking each one of us to do as a Christian Catholic. He will speak on a DVD to all parishes on the 27 November, and celebrate it especially at the Cathedral Mass on December 8, at 7pm for our diocesan feast of the Immaculate Conception. Various resources will be made available throughout the year, with a theme for each month focussing on a particular call within the life of a Christian. The idea is to sustain the theme throughout the year with a simple framework. Often special years fizzle out because there is so much going on generally that they get lost. One idea per month, we hope, will help the Year to be sustainable. It would be good then if this theme can be highlighted for your school prayer and for families and home through your newsletter and email contacts.

**November** in our tradition asks us to remember all who have died, beginning with **ALL SAINTS**, a Holyday of Obligation, and then **ALL SOULS DAY** leads us to all those for whom we wish to pray - friends, family, people we know, people for whom no one else may pray. Remembrance Sunday reminds us too of the way so many people gave their lives for truth and justice, and for the peace we enjoy.

Sunday 25 November, the feast of Christ the King, is **YOUTH SUNDAY** in our countries. It coincides with Bishop Peter's launch of the Year of Prayer and Vocation. The image of serving Christ as our King lends itself to this Year. Perhaps we can find ways of helping our young people understand that their baptism is their call to serve Christ in whatever way they can in their daily living.

**ADVENT** begins on 3 December. The Advent Wreath is a simple reminder of the waiting for both Christ to come in glory to judge, and to come as a human being in the Bethlehem story. As the wax burns we can see the movement of time, and even to a degree a sense of sacrifice. This is part of revered theology in the church. There is no need for the candles to be coloured, attach ribbons of the colours to white candles. Recently a central candle has been added, which has no tradition and is really confusing. There is a candle for Christ in the Cringle, and clearly THE candle for Christ is the Paschal Easter candle. The Advent wreath should be taken away before Christmas Eve because the infant in the crib is the image of Christ for the season.

## GOVERNANCE APPOINTMENTS

*Our thanks to all who have accepted this ministry and service*

### Foundation Governors:

Mrs Doreen Donovan – Holy Family Primary, Langley  
Mr Michael Robinson – St Joseph's Primary, Chalfont St Peter  
Mrs Rita Wrightson – Our Lady's Primary Wellingborough  
Mr Simon Navin and Mr Adetola Adesina –  
St Paul's, Milton Keynes  
Mrs Jean McCarthy, Mrs Anne-Marie Lawson and Mr Sean Kennedy – St Patrick's Primary, Corby  
Mr Martin Farrell – St Thomas Aquinas Primary Bletchley  
Mr Michael Jackson, Mrs Rita Sequeira and Mr Robin Thoms –  
St Peter's Primary, Marlow  
Mrs Joycelyn Horne – Sacred Heart Primary Luton  
Mr Peter Mandhu – St Joseph's Infant, Aylesbury  
Mgr Sean Healy and Mrs Angela O'Connell – St Michael's School, High Wycombe  
Mrs Liz Berkeley – St Edward's Junior School, Aylesbury  
Mrs Nuala Potter, Mrs Eileen Paya and Mrs Patricia Haywood –  
St Louis Primary School, Aylesbury

### Foundation Directors

Mrs Jane Crow – Duns Scotus Trust  
Fr Malcolm Bull, Mrs Mary O'Sullivan and Mr Christopher Donnellan – St Francis of Assisi Academy Trust, Bedford  
Mr Paul Gardiner - St Luke Academies Trust, North Northamptonshire

### Foundation Representatives:

Mrs Theresa Atkin – St Thomas of Canterbury Academy Trust, Northampton  
Mr Paul Joy – St Luke Academies Trust, North Northamptonshire  
Mr Vincent Cheshire, Mr Ian Godfrey, Mrs Pauline Cotton, Mrs Anne McDonald, Fr James Sheil, Mrs Jacqueline Huntley, Mrs Jane Crow and Mrs Ceili Boland –  
St Alban Catholic Academy Trust, Luton and Dunstable.

2018 will host two major events for the Church

### WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES Dublin

21-26 August 2018 - [www.worldmeeting2018.ie](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie)

### NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE

7-9 September, Liverpool – [www.catholicnews.org.uk](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk)

Fr Andy Ollard [Chesham Bois] is the diocesan coordinator. Parishes should have a named delegate. During the coming months we will offer further news and resources for this.

## SCHOOLS' COMMISSION

Collette Curtis

### Ofsted update: Amanda Spielman Chief Inspector

came to the Diocesan School Commissioners meeting on 12 October to share her view on the priorities, challenges and development for Ofsted in the next few years.

Amanda noted that she is the third consecutive Catholic appointed to this role. Michael Wilshaw is now working for St Mary's University Twickenham. Amanda gave a number of reassuring messages:

- There is an emphasis on research informing change.
- Tackling the issue of segregation of gender and communities promoted in some Faith schools is a priority for Ofsted. However, a clear distinction is made between Catholic schools where this is not the case and specific schools causing concern
- The success of Catholic schools and the high quality of provision is acknowledged by Ofsted. On average in Catholic schools the progress of disadvantaged children is above national and 90% of Catholic schools in the Country are judged to be good or better

A focus for Ofsted is a good curriculum which should lead to good exam results. Good exam results, however, do not always mean a good curriculum. A concern shared was that there are quite a number of primaries where the curriculum is being narrowed to focus on KS2 outcomes. KS3 is being shortened to 2 years with the model often focused on KS 4 attainment and therefore not always meeting the needs of the least able. This will continue to be a focus for Ofsted for the year a start of the wider conversation about the curriculum.

### Analyse School Performance (ASP) Update

The DfE have asked the CES to circulate the message below: At the **end of October 2017/first week in**

**November**, we are planning to release an updated and improved version of ASP which will include KS1 and Phonics data for 2017.

KS2 Children Looked After data, including disadvantaged breakdowns, not previously available will also be added to the service. Access to ASP is via Secure Access; help with logging in is available here.

**Coming next:** provisional KS4 data will be added to ASP towards the **end of November**.

**Catholic Leadership Development** - The commitment and dedication of head teachers in our schools across the diocese is evident in the high quality of education being provided to our children Catholic and non-Catholic alike. It is a key focus that we use the vast experience and expertise of our head teachers to develop our future leaders. In the next few weeks, meetings will take place between dioceses in four areas of the country based around the four Catholic Universities to consider ways of working together to ensure accredited courses in catholic leadership and a more coherent approach to Catholic leadership development across the country. In preparation for this series of meetings the CES circulated a survey to which 780 leaders responded. Thank you if you were one of these. Among other questions these leaders were asked the following:

Which of the following areas do you think should be the priority for your regional hub?

Formation of governors: 34%

Provision of Catholic NPQ's: 51%

Support for aspiring head teachers: 57%

Support for sustaining those in leadership roles: 67%

I am attending a regional development Leadership hub meeting on Tuesday 21 November. If you strongly agree or disagree with these views, please let me know before so that I can include this in the discussions which will plan the priorities moving forward.

### Opportunities for Leadership development, reflection and networking in the Diocese:

#### Headstrong – Leadership development for aspiring leaders

This is the second year this heavily subsidised course has run. Last year the venue was St Thomas More School in Bedford and evaluations were extremely positive. A number of delegates had not previously thought about headship as a career route but after the practical sessions felt much more confident about their future development and the steps they needed to take back in school to support this.

The course consists of four twilight sessions this year running in St Michaels School, High Wycombe starting on Wednesday 15 November plus one full day of mock interviews and a motivational speaker. The cost to school for the whole course is £100. For further information or to book a place contact [csearlye@stm.beds.sch.uk](mailto:csearlye@stm.beds.sch.uk)

**Deputy Head Teacher Conference** : Late afternoon of Wednesday 22 November until Lunchtime on Friday 24 November at Hothorpe Hall. The theme of this conference is *Dreams and Visions*. Bishop Peter will be joining us on Wednesday evening for an informal discussion around issues directly related to your work in our Catholic schools. Day One is a focus on Spiritual Leadership with Alan Murphy, a former lecturer at St Mary's University, on the Catholic Leadership Masters programme. What is the vision for Catholic Leaders how can you make this a reality in your life? How are you sustained in your role as a senior leader? Day Two focuses on the Dreams and Visions of the children we teach and how catholic education has prepared them for life with two motivational speakers who are former pupils of our schools.

For more information or to book a place please contact Jackie McCarthy or Debbie Main at [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk)/  
[main@nores.org.uk](mailto:main@nores.org.uk)

**Head Teachers Conference:** Advance notice March 1,2 2018 at Hothorpe Hall

#### ESFA Condition Data Collection Programme – Update

The following schools are included in Tranche 3 of the ESFA Condition data collection programme:

St Mary's Caddington, St Thomas Aquinas Bletchley, St Peter's Marlow, St Louis Aylesbury. You will be contacted directly and you will receive permission documentation from Debbie Main [main@nores.org.uk](mailto:main@nores.org.uk)

**OUR TRADITIONAL PRAYER FOR THE DEAD for NOVEMBER**

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace. Amen*

## GOVERNANCE NEWS

Debbie Main

### **Final National Funding Formula Consultation Response**

The Secretary of State for Education set out the final design of the national funding formulae (NFFs) for schools and high needs in a speech to Parliament. This is set out in detail in the national funding formula for schools and high needs **policy paper** which you can access here:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-for-schools-and-high-needs](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-for-schools-and-high-needs)

The schools' **operational guidance** on the national funding formula for 2018 to 2019 has been updated as follows:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pre-16-schools-funding-guidance-for-2018-to-2019>

### **2017 to 2018 payment schedules uploaded for academies open up to August 2017**

For academies open up to August 2017, the government has uploaded the general annual grant (GAG) payment schedules for 2017 to 2018 to the ESFA Information Exchange. The documents are available in 2017/18 'revenue funding' folders for academies on the Document Exchange section.

### **Reminder: school admissions timetable**

Admission authorities must have determined their admissions arrangements for entry in September 2019 by 28 February 2018. As set out in the Schools Admission Code 2014, the timetable for consultation and determination of admission arrangements is that:

- consultation should take place between 1 October 2017 and 31 January 2018
- admission arrangements must be determined by 28 February 2018
- a copy of determined admission arrangements must be approved by NORES by 9 March 2018
- a copy of determined admission arrangements must be sent to the local authority by 15 March 2018
- the deadline for objections to the Schools Adjudicator is 15 May 2018

**Please note, consultation should take place when either admission arrangements are changed or if a school or academy has not consulted within the past 7 years.** The Admissions Code can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-code--2>

Lastly, all schools have received two copies of our updated Governance Handbook, it is available to download from the NORES website and will be sent out to all new and returning Foundation Directors, Representative and Governors. However, if you would like extra printed copies please contact me on [main@nores.org.uk](mailto:main@nores.org.uk). There is a small charge to cover production and postage.

Appointments – a full list of the recent appointments by the Governors' Court is on the front page. Bishop Peter thanks all who have accepted this important ministry.

## SECONDARY RE AND THEOLOGY

Paul McHugh

My thanks to all of you and your schools for being so wonderfully accommodating during my recent visits. It was really good to get a close up view of the particular challenges and opportunities before you. Thanks are also due to you all for getting in the CES GCSE survey and other data requested.

Just a quick reminder about the upcoming Heads of RE meeting on Friday 3 November. I will send a proposed agenda about a week before. If there are items you would like to discuss as AOB, please email them to me soon. I mentioned that the agenda would, in part, be set by the sorts of concerns that were aired during my initial visits. It will be no surprise, then, that the new GCSE specifications will feature significantly in our first meeting together.

In the meantime, I you have had restful half term break and look forward to meeting you shortly.

## CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield



### **Not too late to book a CAFOD School visit**

We have assemblies and workshops for Advent, Laudato Si', migration and refugees, our campaign "Power to Be". Please get in touch to book a visit.

Have a look at our GCSE RS resources for secondary schools - [cafod.org.uk/gcse](http://cafod.org.uk/gcse) and the handy textbook supplement

**Memorial Mass** - There will be a memorial mass to pay tribute to our loved ones who are no longer with us.

This will be on 26 November at St Francis of Assisi, 25 High Street, Shefford, SG17 5DD at 9am followed by refreshments. Please let us know if you would like anyone's name included in the book of remembrance

**Advent Liturgy** - Prepare for Advent with our prayers and liturgies which can be found on our website under "pray". We also have a wonderful Advent calendar and Advent service which can be used in parishes and schools.

**World Gift** - We have fantastic gifts which help transform the lives of poor communities and families in developing countries. See our website for great ideas for schools and parishes.

See website for more details or get in touch :

[dpurfield@cafod.org.uk](mailto:dpurfield@cafod.org.uk), 01844 274 723

## PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

**PRAYER INTENTIONS** – *ask the school to pray with the Pope for his intentions for November.* - That Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions.

**FEAST DAYS** - pray for the schools which celebrate their feast day this month.

3rd November St Martin de Porres Primary Luton

16th November St Margaret of Scotland Primary, Luton

## PRIMARY RE

*Anne-Marie McIntosh*

**Schools' Mass** - What a wonderful celebration of Catholic Education in the Diocese! The children were amazing – all goo of them! The readers, altar servers, baton and banner carriers, all did extremely well. Thank you to St Edward's Primary School in Aylesbury for providing the music and the choir. Leading the singing on their school feast day was very fitting. Everyone sang beautifully. Thank you to all the staff and everyone who took part to make it such a remarkable celebration.

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

**RE Subject Leaders' Day** Calling all RE Subject Leaders - you should have received your invitation and programme for our day together on **10 November, 2017**. Please send back the booking form as soon as possible. Also just to give you advance notice of our day together in the Lent Term on **Friday 23 March, 2018** when we will welcome David Wells as our key note speaker. Our joint day with the Secondary Heads of RE in the Pentecost Term will take place on **Friday 22 June, 2018**. This will be led by Fr David O'Malley.

**New Standards in RE** - New end of phase standards have now been completed. These will be explored with the RE Subject Leaders at their meeting in November. They will then work with all staff in implementing the new standards from January to Easter. This time period will be an occasion to pilot the new material and feedback to the Catholic Education Service on its implementation.

**Inservice** The first **Come and See** day was received very well. The next day will take place on **Thursday 16 November 2017**. These are *stand alone* days so if you missed the first one you are welcome to come along to this next one.

**Relationship and Sex Education** A new policy document on RSE has been written by the Catholic Education Service. This will become statutory for primary schools in September 2018.

**Come and See** - 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.

God's Story 3 has been updated and is available on CD Rom.

**Advent Calendar** - Look out for the CAFOD Advent Calendar on their website. **Just a thought.....** Knowledge speaks but wisdom listens – Jimmi Hendrix. **And finally** - if there is anything I can do to support you please do get in touch.

## SCHOOL NEWS -

**Deputy Heads' Conference at Hothorpe Hall**  
Late afternoon of Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November until  
Lunchtime on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November. Book asap

**Preparing for Senior Leadership – 28 February 2018**

**Head Teachers' Conference: March 1, 2, 2018**  
at Hothorpe Hall

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

*Alex Heath*

**Catechist News** There is a Retreat for Catechists from 2-4pm at Holy Ghost Church, Luton on Saturday 18 November for catechists in the Luton Pastoral Area. The same can be run on request in other parts of the Diocese. A Catechists' training course took place in Wellingborough on 13, 14 October, for new and current catechists. More details about catechists' training will be sent out shortly, available to every parish and pastoral area. Catechists from various parts of the Diocese joined me recently for a very useful conversation with Bishop Peter about how we can best support each other to move forward. He suggested we have a follow up meeting with him next autumn.

**School Chaplaincy Training Days** Following our day on 3 October with Frances Novillo, a reminder of our two other Training Days booked for this academic year.

7 February - Rachel Warwick will help us explore what is possible in developing creative and innovative Prayer Spaces in Schools

22 June - Fr David O' Malley the well known Salesian priest who lead us in a joint RE and Chaplaincy Conference.

We look forward to working with schools during the year to help support and develop school chaplaincies. Please follow the IN THE CLASSROOM section and then select CHAPLAINCY for a copy of the booking form on the NORES website or contact the NORES office.

**Evangelisation** Along with others from our Diocese I attended the *Divine Renovation* conference at Twickenham. Fr James Mallon, who authored the book of the same name, presented with other leaders. There are many opportunities for us to explore here for our parish evangelisation efforts in the years to come. I encourage you to read this timely book. Encourage others to read it!

**Exploring the Riches of Scripture** 'The Names of God are Mercy, Steadfast Love and Faithfulness' is the title of a morning of Scripture study led by Dr Tarcisius Mukuka (Lecturer at St Mary's University, Twickenham) which will take place on 11 November 2017, 10am- 1pm at the DIOCESAN PASTORAL AND RE CENTRE, Luton.

At the close of the Year of Mercy Pope Francis wrote: "I greatly desire that God's word be increasingly celebrated, known and disseminated, so that the mystery of love streaming from this font of mercy may be ever better understood." (Misericordia et Misera n.7). During this event which has been organised by the Liturgical Formation section of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission Dr Mukuka will lead us through a study and reflection of the riches of Scripture, helping us reflect on the Names of God as revealed in the Scriptures-Mercy, Steadfast love and Faithfulness. Tarcisius Mukuka is a lecturer at St Mary's University, Twickenham, he is an alumnus of the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and holds a Licentiate in Sacred Scripture and Biblical Languages (1993). He also holds a United Kingdom QTS in Classical Civilisation (2004). Booking forms have been sent to parishes, to book a place please contact the NORES Office. We look forward to welcoming you