



NORES NEWS

DECEMBER 2015 – The month dedicated to the Coming of Christ and the Immaculate Conception

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

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

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From the Episcopal Vicar

Mgr Kevin



(Luke 6:36)

Pope Francis opens the **JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY** on December 8 in St Peter's Basilica. Bishop Peter will inaugurate the Jubilee in our diocese with Mass at 7pm in the Cathedral on the day which is also our Patronal Feast, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He will open a second Holy Door at St Joseph's, Gerrards Cross on December 13 at 11am.

The **resource pack** and the banners you ordered have already been distributed. A **second resource pack** is included with this issue. Both are available on the website, as well as the **Epiphany Class/School Blessing**. Now it is the time for us to move forward and celebrate this great opportunity to thank God for his mercy and forgiveness to all. How will we use the Holy Door, or the one in our school? How will we express mercy and forgiveness in the life of our schools and communities – will we engage in the spiritual and corporal works of mercy? – do we pray for forgiveness each day? – do we approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) ourselves?

POPE FRANCIS: EDUCATE OPENNESS TO TRANSCENDENCE, PRACTICE OF MERCY

Pope Francis received the participants in a major international congress under the sponsorship of the Congregation for Catholic Education on 21 November. More than two thousand educators, administrators, students and teachers from around the world had been examining the challenges facing the mission of Catholic education in the 21st century, at a four day conference - *Educating today and tomorrow: a passion renewed* - organised in connection with 50th anniversary celebrations for the II Vatican Council's document on Catholic education: *Gravissimum educationis*.

Pope Francis held a question-and-answer session, a fielding queries on a wide array of topics ranging

from the challenges of maintaining Christian identity in an educational setting across all social, political and cultural contexts, to the dissolution of the ties that historically have bound together family, school and society, to the specific challenges to education posed by the "piecemeal World War III" being fought around the world.

"Today there is a tendency toward a neopositivism," he said "that is, to educate in immanent things, and this both in traditionally Christian countries and in countries of Pagan tradition. Transcendence is what is wanting. To prepare hearts, that the Lord might manifest Himself, is the true mission of the teacher and the goal of all education worthy of the name.

Using the example of St. John Bosco's "emergency education" in response to the Masonic threat in northern Italy in the 19th century, Pope Francis said, "There are three languages: the language of the head, the language of the heart, and the language of the hands; education must go forward by these three ways; instructing how to think, helping students to feel well; accompanying students as they do [what they have learned or are learning to do]. The three languages must be in harmony: that the child, the student thinks what he feels and does, feels that which he thinks and makes, and does that which he thinks and feels." He gave an appeal and an assignment to the educators present and for all their colleagues, everywhere: to respond to the brutalities of war in contemporary life, by committing themselves anew to learning and teaching mercy, especially the fourteen Works of Mercy. "Think through once again the works of mercy," he said, "they are the work of the Father."



ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

Resources for Evangelisation and Catechesis Matthew Pinto (Ascension Press Tour)

On Monday 9 November at St. Gregory the Great RC Church Hall, Northampton, Matthew Pinto, Founder and President of Ascension Press (who produce *The Great Adventure Bible Timeline* and other resources) came to talk on the theme of "Where Catholicism is Headed: Five Trends that Will Affect Your Parish, Ministry and Personal Faith"

A hall full of catechists, priests, deacons and religious heard how it is important for Catholic leaders to understand the key trends occurring in the Church, both here and abroad, and how these trends are impacting our parishes, ministries, and faith journey. Matthew Pinto also presented a shortened talk on faith-Building Resources and there were resources available courtesy of St Paul's bookshop.

I would recommend you to take a look at the excellent catalogue that gives details about the various faith formation resources at: <http://fliphtml5.com/wtds/szun> Their main website address for Ascension press is: <http://ascensionpress.com/>

As many of you will know over the last couple of years we have been promoting and supporting parishes and groups who are using the Bible Timeline course and other courses. We hope that this latest tour will give further encouragement to those who would like to use these timely resources to support their work in evangelisation and catechesis.

Celebrating the Year of Mercy in Schools - School Chaplaincy Training Day with Fr Stephen Wang

On Thursday 11 February 2016 (9.30am- 3pm) at the RE Centre we will be delighted to welcome Fr Stephen Wang to lead a Chaplaincy Training Day exploring the Year of Mercy.

As well as exploring Pope Francis' aims for the Year of Mercy we will also explore some ideas for how we can make the most of this opportunity in our schools.

Please come with your own ideas to share too.

Fr Stephen Wang is a priest in the Diocese of Westminster. He is currently Senior University Chaplain in the Diocese, which involves chaplaincy ministry at Newman House Catholic Centre, and coordinating the student outreach for the Diocese. He has been an assistant priest in a north London parish, and Dean of Studies and Lecturer at Allen Hall Seminary. He is the author of *Aquinas and Sartre, A Way of Life for Young Catholics, How to Discover Your Vocation*, and *The New Evangelisation*. He has recently published *The Christian Faith: A Mini-Catechism for Adults*. The booking form is available under the Schools section of the NORES website or available from the NORES office, we look forward to welcoming

Chaplaincy Co-ordinators and members of Chaplaincy teams.

Finally may I take this opportunity to wish all of you a very happy and holy Christmas and New Year with thanks for all you do in service of the Lord and the mission of the Church in evangelisation, catechesis and School Chaplaincy.

But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord (Luke 2:10-11)

CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield



Parish and Schools

Advent Calendar – See website for our interactive Advent calendar which has a reflection & prayer for every day and a suggested action that you could take on your own, with your family or as part of your parish or community.

Christmas Cards and Gifts - Don't forget that when you shop at Traidcraft via this link traidcraftshop.co.uk/CAFOD, CAFOD receives 10% commission. You can order a catalogue from Traidcraft on 0191 491 0855.

New Campaign Action - Join us in calling on Amber Rudd, the Climate and Energy Secretary, to lead a joined-up approach across government to shift away from fossil fuels to renewable energy. See website for details.

School Resources

Laudato Si' and Year of Mercy In this Jubilee year of Mercy, we are encouraging schools to see their participation in CAFOD activities as part of their contribution to this special year! Do invite us into your schools to give sessions on this.

World Gift assembly – Our schools' team can still deliver assemblies on what World Gifts are and how they have changed people's lives. Ideal for this time of year!

(see website for further details or get in touch – dpurfield@cafod.org.uk)

MAKING OURSELVES KNOWN!

Please make sure you are constantly letting the world know the good things about your schools and parish. Here are some of the links you need to use -

- editorial@catholicherald.co.uk
- joseph.kelly@thecatholicuniverse.com
- kevin.flaherty@thecatholicuniverse.com
- thetablet@thetablet.co.uk
- vineo1@btopenworld.com
- your local paper – have you the details?

NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY CORNER

Anne-Marie McIntosh

My initial school visits have gone very well with only one school to go - last but not least! Thank you for your warm welcome.

I have already started the second round of visits. As I have already explained I hope to visit schools on an annual basis, working with you on whatever area of curriculum RE or wider Catholic life of the school you are focussing on at the time. I have been asked, so far, to work on a variety of areas including book scrutiny, learning walks, display, lesson observations, sex and relationship education, British values, prayer tables, worship and updating the SEF.

Another part of my role is to meet with the RE Subject Leaders in their various partnerships. I have attended two meetings so far in Luton and seen the good collaborative work going on between the schools. I look forward to joining the other subject leader meetings across the Diocese.

The Year of Mercy materials are now on the NORES website. I have given in-service on this to a few groups of schools, for an hour at the end of the school day. Please contact me if you would like the in-service – the material is much more usable when explained and discussed.

I spent a few days with the Deputy Heads from across the Diocese at their annual Conference. We had three fantastic speakers, amazing camaraderie and a great opportunity to step back from the often frantic life of school to reflect and pray together. Bishop Peter joined us for a short time and celebrated Mass with us. He thanked the Deputy Heads for all they do in the service of our schools in the Diocese of Northampton. If you didn't come this year please make space in your diary for next year. I hear the barmaid did an exceptional job!

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

POPE FRANCIS in December 2015 asks you to pray with him for these intentions :

Universal: That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving.

Evangelization: That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.

FEAST DAYS and PRAYER INTENTIONS - Do try to remember these intentions and ask the school to pray with the Pope's intentions (above), the intentions set by our bishops, and for the schools who celebrate their feast days:

8 December : St Mary's Primary, Caddington;
St Mary's Primary, Aston le Walls; Our Lady's Primary, Amersham.

HEADS' CONFERENCE – *Note date change*

Next year's conference at Poole will be on **10 and 11 March 2016**, beginning on Thursday morning. It may be possible to arrive on Wednesday evening. The theme is "Behold a treasure". David Wells will speak on the treasure that is the educator, and Fr Adrian Porter SJ on the treasure that is the student.

RE CONFERENCE - for Primary and Secondary – 17 June 2016 led by David Wells, Plymouth Diocese

NYMO

Neil Roseman

Dates for your diary:

16 January – Lux. teachings, a free evening for 11 – 18 year olds @ Sacred Heart, Flitwick

AND 29 – 31 January – **Lux.Mercy** - NYMO's yearly residential retreat for 11 - 18 year olds, held at King's Park Conference Centre, Northampton. The weekend is a real mixture of activities, discussions, games, art, music, drama and much more. Throughout the weekend a speaker will be explore why Mercy is so important to Catholics and why we are thinking about it this year. The cost for the weekend is £90 which includes food and accommodation. More information and booking forms are available at www.nymo.org or call 01582 720627

Introducing...

NYMO are delighted to welcome two new team members on board. Laura Cullen is from County Meath in Ireland and will be the liaison for schools and parishes in the south of the Diocese. She is also overseeing our pilgrimage to World Youth Day in 2016. You can email her at laura@nymo.org. Emily Young is from Luton and she joins NYMO on a part-time basis whilst studying youth ministry at St. Mary's University Twickenham. She is the school and parish liaison for Luton and is also NYMO's social media department. Email her at emily@nymo.org

Academic Masses for 2015/16 have been celebrated in most of our partnerships and are great occasions for staff, governors, clergy and all connected to our schools to come together. It is good to offer an invitation to any Catholics working in other schools in the area. They witness their faith by their work there, and it is also an opportunity to invite them to consider finding posts in our schools. Still to come – Luton & Dunstable – 4.30, December 1 at St Joseph's Primary
Buckinghamshire – 7pm 22 June 2016 at St Edward's Aylesbury, their partnership patronal feast.

INTRODUCING THE DIOCESE meetings 2015/6

2 December – 4pm – at St Thomas More, Bedford
11 January - 4.30 - at St Joseph's, Chalfont St Peter
13 January - 4.15 - at St Edward's, Aylesbury
21 January - 4.30 - at St Michael, High Wycombe

SECONDARY RE AND INSPECTION

Stephen O'Brien

Teaching Judaism Conference Since there is now a requirement for secondary departments to teach Judaism as the second religion at GCSE, colleagues have been asking for Inset opportunities for teaching Judaism at the appropriate level. The first such opportunity to prepare for topics in the new GCSE Judaism annexe will be on 22 February 2016. This training, situated in a central London venue, will be provided by the Board of deputies of British Jews and features speakers of the highest quality. *Programme details are as follows:*

- Keynote speaker is Lord Winston of Hammersmith
- Presentations will be given by chief examiners of the main exam Boards
- Workshops will be led by leading educators on different areas of the new syllabus
- Lunch and refreshments are included
- There will be an exhibition of Jewish life in the 21st century
- Colleagues can visit the 'market place' for information and resources
- Colleagues will have access to teaching materials appropriate to the course.

Places are limited so I am inviting you to **book now through Nores**. The Board of Deputies have asked dioceses to take numbers and collect money from schools and make one single diocesan booking since the Board's resources for managing large volumes are limited. It would be wonderful if we could secure a significant number of bookings for our RE teaching staff before the end of this term. Further details have been sent to departments via their schools.

Survey of other religions In the light of the changes to GCSE RE from September 2016 and the debate surrounding the choice of second religion, I have written to secondary RE subject leaders requesting some basic information about departments current commitment to the teaching of other religions at KS3. It would be useful to have a clear picture of the current situation. In responding could you briefly outline which religions you teach, where in KS3 you teach them and the amount of teaching time dedicated to each religion [E.g. Islam: 2 hours per week over 5 weeks in Year 8, term 2]. Building upon the teaching of other religions at KS 1 + 2, it will be interesting to see how, when and to what extent these opportunities are offered to our pupils leading up to GCSE. Thank you.

Inspection Team Meeting Our meeting on 27 November 2015 will be interesting. We have a number of inspections and IMVs to report back on as well as various national and local updates to consider. The meeting will begin at 10am and lunch will be provided as usual. I look forward to seeing inspection colleagues there.

SCHOOLS' COMMISSION

Frances Image

Living wage

Following a joint campaign involving the Bishops' Conference and UNISON, the union for low-paid staff in schools, the CES reports that a growing number of Catholic schools are now paying the living wage to thousands of teaching assistants, as well as catering and school support staff. For Cardinal Nichols and the Bishops of England and Wales, the payment of the Living Wage recognises that fair wages are essential to the common good of our society. He says: *For more than 100 years the Catholic Church has championed the cause of a just wage so that employees can meet the needs of their families. It is encouraging to see that this has now become a national movement with real momentum behind it. In accordance with Catholic Social Teaching, and as part of its mission to support the poor and vulnerable, the Bishops fully endorse the principle of the Living Wage. As a Church we have given a commitment to work towards implementing the Living Wage for all who work with us. This week I reiterate that commitment. A just wage is the basis for creating a fair economic system. We now look to the wider business community, public sector and the Government to play their part in securing a just wage for the lowest paid in our society. We would like to encourage all schools that do not already do so, to ensure that their support and catering staff and teaching assistants are paid the living wage.*

CES Model contracts and policies The CES currently provides model contracts for use in Catholic schools and academies in England and Wales, together with model policies that underpin the contracts. It also provides a number of guidance documents, where there is a specific Catholic aspect. All contracts and policies as well as other guidance are now under review. New documents are also being considered, for example the production of a job description for a Headteacher of a Catholic school or academy and consideration of guidance on the use of the TUC model agreement for academies in England, including whether a model may be adapted for use in Catholic academies.