



NORES NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2016 – The month dedicated to the Seven Sorrows of 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

The JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY continues until 20 November.

The difficulty with Years with a special theme is that they can lose their impetus as time passes. It is more so when the

school year does not match the calendar year s in the case of our current Jubilee Year of Mercy.

OUR SCHOOLS' MASS with Bishop Peter will be a great opportunity to renew our interest and so we do look forward to meeting you there on October 14.

EDUCATION WEEK which runs from 10 October **until EDUCATION SUNDAY** on 16 October will be another chance to refresh our thinking about the theme of the Jubilee Year. Hopefully schools will be able to express their thoughts about God 's mercy by their involvement in their local parish(es).

One suggestion we have is to take the corporal ands spiritual works of mercy in these final weeks and to think of one from each list, and see how during a given time we can put them into practice. Given that we could not start immediately and then half term interrupts, and we finish by 20 November it will be reasonably easy to do this. A chart is included with this edition of NORES NEWS for you. So have a try and see if you can use this profitably.

GCSE Religious Studies – 284,057 students sat for this examination in July 2016. It is the highest number since 2002 and a slight increase in 2015. This is a very good sign across the nation's schools. For us the new reformed GCSE offers the chance to explore how we can deepen the understanding and knowledge of our faith. *Come and See* set new challenges to our work, and *People of God* is responding to that. By promoting the new GCSE and A level work we will hopefully develop even further the life of our community into the future. It will be from such work that our future Catholic schools leaders, RE specialists and theologians will emerge. They are essential for the future of our Church.

FROM WORLD YOUTH DAY Pope Francis

27 July 2016

"The world is at war, a piecemeal war. There was the 1914 war with its methods, then the 1939-45 one and now this one. It is not very organic (structured) but it is organized, it is war. Not a war of religion. No. All religions want peace. The others want war. Is this understood?"

"Young people speak with hope. Hopefully, young people will say something to give us a little more hope."

30 July 2016

"We didn't come into this world to "vegetate," to take it easy, to make our lives a comfortable sofa to fall asleep on. No, we came for another reason: to leave a mark. It is very sad to pass through life without leaving a mark." "Today's world demands that you be a protagonist of history because life is always beautiful when we choose to live it fully, when we choose to leave a mark. Jesus wants your hands to continue building the world of today. And he wants to build that world with you. What will you answer?"

31 July 2016

"For us too, this is the secret of joy: not to stifle a healthy curiosity, but to take a risk, because life is not meant to be tucked away. When it comes to Jesus, we cannot sit around waiting with arms folded; he offers us life – we can't respond by thinking about it or "texting" a few words!"

"Don't let your soul grow numb, but aim for the goal of a beautiful love which also demands sacrifice. Say a firm "no" to the narcotic of success at any cost and the sedative of worrying only about yourself and your own comfort."

"Jesus looks beyond the faults and sees the person. He does not halt before bygone evil, but sees future good. His gaze remains constant, even when it is not met; it seeks the way of unity and communion. In no case does it halt at appearances, but looks to the heart."

SCHOOLS' COMMISSION *Debbie Main*

Welcome back, the new school year comes around far too fast! Advent Term sees us launching a Foundation Governor recruitment drive, so keep a look out in your parish newsletters and around our schools for postcards and bookmarks containing some key facts about governance in Catholic schools. If you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a governor, please let me know. More information can be found on our website: www.nores.org.uk

I've been busy over the summer and have redesigned our Foundation Governor application form, so everyone who wishes to be considered for reappointment from September 2016 will need to complete the new style form - can schools and parishes please destroy any stocks of old forms and if you'd like to have a few of the new ones - do let me know.

As always, I ask Clerks to contact all their governors, representatives and Directors whose terms are coming to an end in the Advent and Lenten terms to find out if they would like to be considered for reappointment. If you have any queries about governance, admissions, buildings or recruitment, do get in touch main@nores.org.uk or 01582 723312

GOVERNORS' FORUM 2016-2017

We are offering these sessions, 7-9pm in different locations around the diocese during the next academic year. They are for all governors, especially Foundation Governors, Directors and Representatives. If you miss the one in your area come along elsewhere. It is the serious expectation of the Trustee that every school will be represented by at least one if not more governors. Clerks will inform you. Please place these dates in your diary.

2016 22 Oct 10am-1pm - Diocesan Conference

2017 7-9pm at local venues:

6 February - NORES, Luton 9 February - North Northants

27 February - Slough 6 March - Buckinghamshire

8 March - Northampton Town

13 March - Bedford 15 March - Milton Keynes

EDUCATION WEEK 2016 – October 10-16

Have you begun thinking about this?

NORES is producing materials to help you for the week. You need to check before the end of term with your local parish(es) about how you might be involved on Education Sunday. There is not that much time left now we have begun the new school year.

Schools could exchange students (Y6/SchoolCouncil) or your head or other teachers for assemblies etc. Tell each other what your school is like. It is a great opportunity to help understanding how we all belong to the same diocese, same local church, the same Christ.

CAFOD NEWS *Deborah Purfield*



This **Harvest Fast Day** (7 Oct) we will be focussing on the theme of food production and inviting schools to *Brighten Up* the lives of children around the world where growing food is difficult. In the Year of Mercy we are reminded by Pope Francis that to “feed the hungry” is one of the corporal acts of mercy which we are all called to do. The assembly focusses on children from Bolivia..

Volunteers are also offering a workshop session based on **Laudato Si'**. This interactive session will allow children to do what the Holy Father has asked us to do and “Live wisely, think deeply and love generously” and look at how as a school community they can “care for our common home

Year of Mercy

CAFOD's **Pilgrimage** focussing on messages of hope for refugees has been well received by schools and parishes. Our volunteers would love to come and share this very moving and powerful experience with more pupils. They can also offer a variety of activities focussing on the refugee crisis and as we approach the end of the **Year of Mercy**. You can also book an assembly on CAFOD's work on the corporal works of mercy suitable for all age groups.

We are also encouraging parishes to write messages of hope to refugees (see website for details). The Lampedusa cross may be borrowed from the cathedral. *To book a visit or for more details do get in touch – dpurfield@cafod.org.uk, 01844 274 723*

NYMO NEWS *Steve Harris*

Registration for the **Salt & Light Project** – NYMO's programme for young leaders (16+) – is open!

The **Salt & Light Project** is a year-long programme empowering young leaders (aged 16+) to lead, to serve and to grow in faith. Leaders receive input from NYMO, lead a project in the parish, school or community and have regular meetings with an adult mentor to discuss the project, skills and development. Reflective practice is a great skill both in work and education.

Participation in The Salt & Light Project is free, including a formation weekend on 25th – 27th November 2016 at the Chellington Centre in Bedfordshire. For more information visit:

www.nymo.org > young people > young leadership programme or email steve@nymo.org

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

To coincide with the Jubilee celebrations for Catechists in Rome we are running a **Jubilee Event for Catechists** on the afternoon of **SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2016, 2pm-5pm** at St Joseph's RC Church Chalfont St Peter. The Jubilee Year of Mercy offers us as catechists the opportunity to encounter the mercy of the Lord anew in our own lives and to reflect on our calling to be messengers of mercy. Our host parish, St Joseph's in Chalfont St Peter, has a designated Door of Mercy for our Diocese so we will have the opportunity to make a pilgrimage through the Holy Door. We are also delighted to welcome Bishop John Wilson, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, who will help us reflect on our service as catechists following the theme, chosen by Pope Francis for this Jubilee, "By Having Mercy and Choosing" from his own motto. This motto is taken from a passage from the Venerable Bede (Homily 21 (CCL 122, 149-151)) on the Feast of St Matthew, which reads: *Vidit ergo Jesus publicanum, et quia miserando atque eligendo vidit, ait illi, 'Sequere me'* (Jesus therefore sees the tax collector, and since he sees by having mercy and by choosing, he says to him, 'follow me').

The timetable for our afternoon is:

1.15pm-2pm Room available for those bringing a packed lunch

2.00pm Welcome & Opening Prayer

2.15pm Pilgrimage through the Holy Door

(The Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharistic Adoration will be available between 2.15pm-3.15pm)

3.00 pm Tea/Coffee

3.25 pm Bishop John Wilson

4.15 pm Closing Prayer

5.00 pm Departures for those not staying for Mass (5.30pm Mass for those able to stay)

Cost: £5 per person, payable on the day or in advance to the NORES Office, thank you. Please send in your name/parish in advance via the booking form or by phone or e-mail to help us prepare for the day.

Booking forms are available from the NORES office and website.

On Wednesday 5 October 2016, 9.30am-3pm, at the RE Centre the first of the academic year's **School Chaplaincy Training Days** will take place and will be led by **Sarah de Nordwall** on the theme of **Developing our Creativity**. Sarah de Nordwall Sarah is a poet and storyteller. She is also a Catholic Voice who has spoken regularly on the Big Questions and Radio 4 and has presented her CD 'Lipstick is a Spiritual Experience' to Pope Francis at a Conference on the Dignity of Woman at the Vatican. The opportunity of this day is to experience Sarah's gifts and the resources she offers at first hand and go away energised and inspired to try them out in your own chaplaincy. She is also available

to come and perform and lead workshops at your school on a variety of themes. Sarah's blog and website are: www.sarahdenordwall.blogspot.com
www.sarahdenordwall.com

Copies of the booking form are available via the NORES website (Events and Courses) or the NORES office.

This month I will also be attending a national meeting in London where issues around school Chaplaincy will be explored. It will be useful to see how we can continue to support this vital area of ministry on a national level. I look forward to seeing and working with many of you during the academic year.

NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR

OUR NORES KALENDAR FOR 2016/2017 has been circulated

- please make sure you put all the dates that apply to you in your diary now, and make sure the school calendar takes account of them in your planning

- members of the Head Teachers' Association and Deputy Heads Association are asked to ensure that they make their meetings a PRIORITY

- RE Coordinators/Heads of RE/Chaplains – please ensure that you also make your meetings and the conferences a priority in all your work.

DEPUTY HEADS/SENIOR LEADERS' CONFERENCE

Dates - 16-18 November 2016 Booking forms out now!
Venue - Hothorpe Hall, Leicestershire. Book before the end of term and get a discount.

Theme - "*Justice and mercy have met*" (Psalm 85)

CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES (CCRS) COURSE in Aylesbury from September

A new course starts at St Louis Primary School in Aylesbury from September 2016 and finishing in December 2017. There are eight modules, each consisting of 2 sessions. The course is aimed at teachers in Catholic schools or those who wish to discover more about their faith. For more details and a booking form check out the Adult Education tab on the NORES website or contact Warren Edwards: edwards@nores.org.uk the course administrator.

THEOLOGY FOR CATHOLIC ADULTS is a very useful modular course. It offers the chance to spend a day doing theology for yourself, which then becomes invaluable for your teaching. Look for the leaflet!

STAFF NEW TO THE DIOCESE 20 September 2016

We look forward to welcoming new staff to this event at the RE Centre in Luton from 10am until 3pm. Please book through the office: admin@nores.org.uk

SCHOOLS' MASS 14 October 11am – St Mary's Church, Dunstable

We look forward to welcoming schools. Please limit your numbers to about 30 pupils per school because of space in the church. Please book: admin@nores.org.uk

NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY CORNER

Anne-Marie McIntosh

Welcome back

Welcome back to a new school year. I hope you are all well rested and refreshed after the summer break. I am really looking forward to working closely with you all as we work together to enhance the Religious Education, worship and overall Catholic ethos of our schools.

The CAFOD 'Live Simply' Challenge

Throughout 2016 – 2017 we, at NORES, are taking part in the Cafod Live Simply Challenge and we invite you, as staff, governors, parents / carers and children in our schools to join in too.

This monthly challenge encourages us to look at our personal responsibility for making choices that will enable us to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor.

Each month through story, discussion and reflection we will be given an opportunity to think globally and make a decision to take simple steps to bring about change for the better.

By now you will have received the support material, in the post and via email. In a nutshell 'During the month of September I will live simply by saving energy. I promise to turn the lights off when I leave a room and not leave things on standby.'

School Visits

School visits for the first half of this term are all confirmed. Thank you. If there is anything in particular you would like to cover on the day please e-mail me. If you're not due an 'annual visit' but would like me to come into school, for whatever reason, then please don't hesitate to contact me.

RE Subject Leader Meetings

Thank you to those of you who have sent me your dates for this academic year. I shall make every effort to attend these meetings as they are vital to the continuity and development of RE in our schools. It has been great for me to be a part of these groups, to work alongside you and struggle with you on the issues at hand. If any other groups have dates set, in advance, please let me know. The earlier I can get them in my diary the more chance I have of being able to attend. Thank you.

Just a thought.....

"We are so obsessed with DOING that we have no time and no imagination left for BEING. As a result, people are valued not for WHAT they are but for what they DO or for what they HAVE – for their usefulness" (Thomas Merton)

Inset

If you need any inset on any topic at all please don't hesitate to ask.

And finally

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

SECONDARY RE AND INSPECTION

Stephen O'Brien

Exam changes This month marks the beginning of another very busy academic year for Secondary RE colleagues with the implementation of so much that is new at both GCSE and Advanced Level. I know that departments have put an enormous amount of energy into preparing for these changes over several months and are looking forward to the challenge ahead. The new courses, especially the GCSE, do genuinely offer opportunities for students that will enhance both their learning and experience.

SEF-RE Part 'A' All schools are reminded that the Self-Evaluation Form for Religious Education [SEF-RE] Part A needs to be completed in September as is the case each academic year. This is the area of the SEF that asks for school information and data. For the most part this is an update of the school's existing SEF-A information but this year the request for Primary data on the form has been modified to allow for the new approach by the DfE. Schools will need to download the new version of the SER-RE from the NORES website to facilitate this changed requirement. May I take this opportunity to wish all teaching, inspection and governor colleagues a happy and successful new academic year? How time flies!

SCHOOL NEWS - THIS YEAR

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

Universal: Centrality of the Human Person

That each may contribute to the common good and to the building of a society that places the human person at the centre.

Evangelisation: Mission to Evangelise

That by participating in the Sacraments and meditating on Scripture, Christians may become more aware of their mission to evangelise.

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

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| 3 September | St Gregory's Middle, Bedford; St Gregory's Primary, Northampton |
| 8 September | St Mary's Primary, Northampton; Our Lady's Primary Wellingborough |
| 24 September | Our Lady of Walsingham Primary, Corby |
| 27 September | St Vincent's Primary, Dunstable |
| 29 September | St Michael's, High Wycombe |

HEAD TEACHER INDUCTIONS

Jo Anne Hoarty as Head of St Paul's, Milton Keynes
7pm at the school, Monday 10 October.

Anthony Noble as Executive Principal of St Francis of Assisi Academies Trust,

7pm Tuesday 11 October at St Gregory's Middle School

HEAD TEACHER APPOINTMENTS - Interim

Daria Hass (Acting Head) - St Vincent's Primary, Houghton Regis. **Jon Davis** (Acting Head) Thomas Becket, Northampton. **Niamh Rolphe** (Acting Head) – St Gregory's Primary, Northampton. **Fiona Maynard** (Acting Head) - St Ethelbert's Primary, Slough