



NORES NEWS

DECEMBER 2017 – The Coming of Christ (The Immaculate Conception)

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

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

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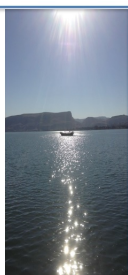


Diocese of Northampton

YEAR of PRAYER

and **VOCATION**

2017/2018



From the Episcopal Vicar

Mgr Kevin

ADVENT has begun and it is just the right time for Bishop Peter to launch a Year of Prayer and Vocation [YoPaV] for us in the diocese.

We hope it will be a constant thread throughout the year. The two words – prayer and vocation – remind us that our life is a continuous experience of a conversation with our God in which we respond as best we can to the call he makes to us. Our baptism sets us out on a journey of call and response. In the community that is a Catholic school there will be a rich variety of individuals of differing faith backgrounds and none. By being part of a Catholic school we hope that everyone will be able to enter into this Year of Prayer and Vocation as a shared experience. Every human being, we believe, is called to find their fulfilment through living the best life that they can. Our schools are places where indeed we believe opportunities for prayer allow all to reflect on who they are and their personal faith. Our schools too are places where we believe we offer opportunities to develop their full potential. This we do in the light of the One whose coming we celebrate throughout Advent – the four Sundays offer us this approach this year as the One who will come to judge, as the One for whom John prepares the way as the One whom John identifies in our midst as the One whose birth is entrusted to Mary.

Bishop Peter invites you all to engage with the year in the DVD he has already sent to you to share in school. We hope that his message can gently run through everything in the life of the school for the next twelve months. The prayer bookmarks are a simple reminder for everyone. The prayer of St Richard could be a regular prayer in your school's life, and we hope to suggest soon musical versions of the prayer that you might like to use.

Perhaps even the logo above could be on your literature and emails. Banners for inside and outside the buildings

are available, and I think it is the first time for a diocesan fridge magnet! Everyone goes to the fridge so often in a day – so it is a simple domestic reminder of the Year of Prayer and Vocation. [Someone has suggested they would be good stocking fillers too!!] *Banners and fridge magnets can still be ordered through the NORES Office.* Resources for parishes and schools will be on the diocesan and NORES website very soon. We are providing one A4 sheet for each month, and the Calendar of Intentions.

The theme of the Schools' Mass this year, "Called and Chosen", was very appropriate to begin our thinking in this way. The Prayer Batons obviously can be a great reminder of that and of the theme of the Year. We would welcome any suggestions of anything you do in your school to mark the year, and please let The Vine know of how you are celebrating this special year.

THE ANGELUS

In this special Year of Prayer and Vocation the Angelus can be another important moment. It is a prayer of deep scriptural roots and also expresses Mary's response to her call to be the Mother of the Saviour.

The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary
AND SHE CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT
Hail Mary

Behold the handmaid of the Lord
BE IT DONE UNTO ME ACCORDING TO THY WORD
Hail Mary.....

The Word was made flesh
AND DWELT AMONGST US
Hail Mary

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God
**THAT WE MAY BE MADE WORTHY
OF THE PROMISES OF CHRIST**

Let us pray
Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may, by his Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through Christ our Lord.

SCHOOLS' COMMISSION

Collette Curtis

School & Academy Building & IT Projects – New Forms

All schools have recently received a copy of the new Diocesan Protocols which includes the procedure for gaining approval for school and academy building and IT projects. Schools have long been using the School Project Request Form which is signed off by NORES and then the Diocesan Finance Office. We have now finished the Academy Project Request Form which has been sent by email to all MAT CEO's and Chief Financial Officers – there are soft copies of both on the NORES website, however NORES only accept hard copy, hand signed forms. As of 1 January 2018, NORES will only consider MAT requests if they are submitted in hard copy using the Academy Project Request Form. Any incorrectly completed or incomplete forms will not be authorised and will be returned to the school or academy.

Voluntary Parental Contribution Scheme – your schools' 10%

The VPC scheme is available for all schools and academies to use. Leaflets are available from the NORES office for you to send out to parents to enable them to contribute to school funds. Schools and academies are entitled to free forms for your new pupil intake. Additional forms can be provided at 19p per form plus postage. A sample form has been sent to all Head Teachers with a full explanation of the scheme. Many schools use this scheme very well and find it makes a great contribution to school funds. For more information or to order your forms, contact Debbie Main on main@nores.org.uk or 01582 723312

Ofsted's new corporate strategy says that it will be looking at new ways to 'scrutinise' MATs. What areas of a MAT will Ofsted want to look at in the future?

"Over the last few years we've been reviewing MATs and their effectiveness through inspection of a sample of their schools. Although they aren't given an overall judgement, I don't think anyone who reads our reviews is in any doubt as to whether we think they're doing a good job or if we've got clear concerns. We also published our [review of 7 effective MATs](#), setting out what we thought was going well in those MATs and where they'd been successful. In the future, we will be working with MAT leaders, the DfE and other bodies to make sure that we are evaluating the right areas in MATs. The key is ensuring we are inspecting at the right level of responsibility and accountability. In developing this work, we will make sure that we look at the things we can reliably make judgements on. Part of this is about a MAT's capacity for school improvement, but also asking whether it provides a decent standard of education for the pupils in its schools. We'll also look closely at governance and the work of trustees. What we are doing now is working out whether MAT reviews should look broadly the same as they do now or if they should change. We want to hear from the sector to help us get the methodology right." *Sean Harford, National Director for Education at Ofsted (November 2017)*

Leadership development:

The regional meeting of Dioceses, Catholic Teaching schools, the CES and Catholic Higher Education Institutions at St Mary's University Twickenham was a very positive first meeting. The key priorities are:

- Recruitment and retention of teachers to our Catholic schools and in particular practising Catholics

- Initial teacher training and the development of teachers within our schools

- Developing potential leaders and sustaining current head teachers noting the specific training required to retain the unique identity of Catholic Education

- Providing training for governors, Directors of Multi Academy Trusts and Executive head teachers/ CEOs

The key focus was to develop the good practice we have within the teaching schools and work with other regions in the country who are already using accredited pathways in these areas. The issue of travelling to centres for training on specific aspects of Catholic leadership or governance was raised and any training offer will need to include an online element and a development of training by current leaders in our schools in venues across the Diocese.

I have been speaking to Head Teachers, Deputy Head Teachers and Senior leaders in our schools about the practical considerations of making this happen. At the Senior Leaders' conference in November we had two sessions on Catholic leadership run by Alan Murphy, a former lecturer on the MA for Catholic Leadership at St Mary's University. The first session was on Catholic leadership and the Gospel values, how is this carried out day to day? The second session was on Leadership styles based on examples from the Gospel. Senior Leaders at the conference were asked to take part in a pilot to run a session for staff in school and feedback on line to evaluate the impact of the sessions as Alan sets up his online platform for the materials used. If you would like to see the site which is currently under development you will find it at www.cpdf.co.uk.

Pause for thought:

At the Head teacher's association meeting I raised the discussion point of how we can support and sustain Head teachers. I have asked representatives to discuss this with local head teacher groups. If you would like to be put in touch with a spiritual director to support your own faith and spirituality as you develop and support so many others, please let me know or discuss with your local head teacher group. If you would like to be paired with a Head teacher from another area in a similar school to yours so that you can have a colleague who is not involved in your day to day decisions or school community again, please let me know.

Working for the common good:

At the Dun Scotus meeting, there was agreement that we would look at collaborating across all schools in the Diocese to force down the cost of energy bills. This will be done through ChurchMarketPlace who have made significant savings for parishes across the country by consolidating contracts and negotiating rates across groups of parishes. Parishes are now able to maintain these savings and use green energy sources. A spreadsheet will be sent out to all schools to request the information on contract dates for energy this week with a deadline for completion by the end of this term. Please note the spreadsheet includes the facility to consolidate all key contracts for a school which can be used across a Multi Academy Trust or group of schools however the Diocese will only require the energy contracts in the first instance.

OUR HEAD TEACHER CONFERENCE: Advance notice March 1,2 – 2018 at Hothorpe Hall. Booking forms and information out NOW!!!

GOVERNANCE APPOINTMENTS

Our thanks to all who have accepted this ministry and service

Duns Scotus Trust

Messrs Peter Teague and Alan McLoughlin

Foundation Governors:

St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Marlow

Dr Sarah Horsley and Mr Timothy Nicholson

St Paul's Catholic School, Milton Keynes

Mr Christopher Sayles

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Luton

Mrs Katarzyna Wysocka

Foundation Representatives

St Luke Academy Trust, North Northants

Dr Paul Neeson

SECONDARY RE AND THEOLOGY

Paul McHugh

Thank you all for a stimulating Heads of RE Day. One thing that came out of the day is how important it is that we find efficient and low-maintenance ways to cooperate over common challenges, especially those associated with the new GCSE specifications. Hopefully, we will be able to facilitate this in due course. In addition, you have all had a chance now to consider the CES's proposed Assessment Standards Grid. It is entirely up to schools whether to pilot this in the Spring. If you still wish to express an interest, please let me know. The full Assessment Standards Grid is available in a more readable form on the NORES site. Finally, the process of formulating some A-level resources to help enhance teaching and learning is underway. The topic areas are common to all your specification options at A-level. In due course, I hope to share these with you and get your feedback on them.

As you all know, we are as a Diocese beginning the new Church Year under the banner of a Year of Prayer and Vocation. For each month there is a specific prayer focus under this general theme. Schools will be supported with monthly prayer and reflection suggestions.

PRIMARY RE

Anne-Marie McIntosh

I am sure you will all be glad to get to the end of a long and eventful term. I hope you have a happy and peace filled Christmas and return to school relaxed and refreshed.

Prayer Batons The Schools' Mass maybe a distant memory by now but I hear the prayers from the prayer batons continue! It's great to hear that schools are still displaying the prayer batons and are using them in assemblies. Some schools have made contact with each other to share what they have done. Well done!

New Standards in RE New end of phase standards have now been completed in draft form and have been given to your subject leader for RE. The material can be

piloted between January and Easter. Please speak with you RE subject leader to see if your school is taking part in the pilot. If you are not taking part then its business as usual with the Attainment Targets, levels and end of topic assessment. If you are taking part in the pilot please let me know as I have to submit a list of schools to the Catholic Education Service. Thank you.

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

RE Subject Leaders Day Thank you to everyone who came along to the RE day last week when we unpacked the new standards in RE. Despite the difficulties with the content it was a great day. Thank you for your willingness to engage with the process. Our next 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 and Chaplains, in the Pentecost Term, will take place on Friday 22 June, 2018. This will be led by Fr David O'Malley sdb.

Inservice The second *Come and See* day was received very well. The third day will take place on Monday 12 March 2018. **[NOTE CHANGE OF DATE]** These are stand alone days so if you missed the first two you are still welcome to come along to the third one.

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 and colour – the revised topics have a green line down the side. God's Story 3 has been updated and is available on CD Rom.

Mission Together is the Pope's official children's charity for overseas mission. Previously known as Holy Childhood, Mission Together has been working in Catholic schools and parishes worldwide since 1843, encouraging children to pray, fundraise and become missionaries themselves - children helping children. Have a look at their website

<https://missiontogether.org.uk/> there's loads of ideas for Advent – lessons, assemblies and an Advent calendar.

Just a thought.....Let's get ready! Look with new eyes! Let's get organised, prepare our hearts.

Let's not waste any time. Get ready: Jesus is coming.

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

COURSE NEWS - forms out soon!

Preparing for Senior Leadership – 28 February 2018

Venue: NORES, Luton. This ran very successfully in 2017 and is a one day course helping people see what it means to move into senior leadership in a Catholic school

Head teacher conference: March 1, 2, 2018. Venue: Hothorpe Hall. With Dr Anna Rowlands and Canon Luiz Ruscillo.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

School Chaplaincy Training Days

On Wednesday 7 February Rachel Warwick will help us explore what's possible in developing creative and innovative Prayer Spaces in Schools and on Friday 22 June Fr David O' Malley the well known Salesian priest who will be leading 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.

1061 Walsingham Programme

We have been asked to let you know of a retreat programme being run at Walsingham which may be of interest to younger adults in the diocese who are looking to further their formation in faith. The programme of residential weekend retreats - called '1061' after the year Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham was established - is a collaboration between the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady and Youth 2000 and is aimed at young adults aged 18-35. There are three parts to the programme but all are 'stand-alone' and participants can join in one, two or all three.

- Part I - Abide in Me - Prayer & The Sacraments
- Part II - Built on Rock - Scripture & Tradition
- Part III - According to Your Will - Radical Generosity

More information is available on the Youth 2000 website (<http://www.youth2000.org/1061>) and in a video available on the Youth 2000 YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aT2hTJv-Nys>).

The programme was first run earlier this year and proved a positive experience for those who took part:

- "Great resource for those working in real world who need understanding how to relate to colleagues and how to actively live in Christ in the modern day."
- "Beautiful house and perfect place to relax into a great study weekend."

They also have a presence on Facebook (@10sixty1) and Twitter (@1061Walsingham)

Passing on the Faith-Evangelisation & Catechesis Day

On Saturday 17 March 2018 (10am-4pm) David Wills from the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton will help us explore some new resources to help us in our mission of passing on the faith. This day will take place in Beaconsfield. All are welcome especially catechists, members of Bible Timeline groups and those interested in evangelisation. More information and booking details to follow in early 2018.

PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

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

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

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

8 December : Immaculate Conception

St Mary's Primary, Caddington,
St Mary's Primary, Aston le Walls,
Our Lady's Primary, Amersham

Last week of Advent :

Thomas Becket, Northampton (29 December)

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

21-26 AUGUST 2018 in DUBLIN

www.worldmeeting2018.ie

Bishop Peter as chair of the Bishops' Conference Committee for Marriage and Family Life will lead the contingent from England and Wales to this great gathering with the Holy Father, NYMO are organising a group to be there too. Their website is a great resource not just for the occasion but also for materials in general for Catholic understanding of marriage and family life.

CHRISTMAS comes at the end of this month ... so it is important to keep **ADVENT** well. *We also need to ensure that we provide our young people and families with the wherewithal to keep Christmas in the best way.*

Hopefully we model this in our schools.

Here are just two things to offer :

BLESSING THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation:
the sun, the moon and the stars of the night.

We praise you for the light of Israel:

the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures.

We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son:

he is Emmanuel, God with us, the prince of Peace,
who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Lord God,

let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree.

May the light and cheer it gives

be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.

May all who delight in this tree

come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN

BLESSING the CRIB 2016 –

St Francis began the tradition of the crib so that we could marvel at the mystery of God taking on our human flesh. So pray this way:

God of every nation and people, from the beginning of creation you have made manifest your love. When our need for a Saviour was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger.

May it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Saviour of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. AMEN