



NORES NEWS

September 2019 – 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*

Our bishops, following Pope Francis' call keep 1 September as a day of prayer for Creation offers us this prayer, which could be used at any time near that date :

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation - 1st September

Father, Lord of all creation, we praise you with all your creatures and the whole universe that comes forth from the work of Your hands.

We acknowledge the privilege and responsibility that You give us as stewards of Your creation.

In our ignorance we have done damage to our common home and our brothers and sisters are suffering.

Through faithfully following your Son guide and direct us to prepare for a better future.

Teach us to contemplate You in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of You.

Give us the grace to recognise, respect and protect all You have created, using wisely all that you have entrusted to us.

Holy Spirit, who first hovered over the dawn of creation and drew order out of the chaos help us to build your kingdom of justice, love, peace and beauty where the poor of the earth are crying out.

You, who live and reign, world without end, Amen.

Pope Francis calls for October to be an Extraordinary Month of Mission.

He writes in his document on the Youth Synod, *Christ Vivit – Christ is Alive*, challenging our young people to have a deep sense of mission : *God is the giver of youth and he is at work in the life of each young person. Youth is a blessed time for the young and a grace for the Church and for the world. It is joy, a song of hope and a blessing. Making the most of our youthful years entails seeing this season of life as worthwhile in itself, and not simply as a brief prelude to adulthood.*

Sometime ago, a friend asked me what I see in a young person. My response was that "I see someone who is searching for his own path, who wants to fly on his two feet, who faces the world and looks at the horizon with eyes full of the future, full of hope as well as illusions. A young person stands on two feet as adults do, but unlike adults, whose feet are parallel, he always has one foot forward, ready to set out, to spring ahead. Always racing onward. To talk about young people is to talk about promise and to talk about joy. Young people have so much strength; they are able to look ahead with hope. A young person is a promise of life that implies a certain degree of tenacity. He is foolish enough to delude himself, and resilient enough to recover from that delusion"

Dear young people, make the most of these years of your youth. Don't observe life from a balcony. Don't confuse happiness with an armchair or live your life behind a screen. Whatever you do, do not become the sorry sight of an abandoned vehicle! Don't be parked cars but dream freely and

make good decisions. Take risks, even if it means making mistakes. Don't go through life anesthetized or approach the world like tourists. Make a ruckus! Cast out the fears that paralyze you, so that you don't become young mummies. Live! Give yourselves over to the best of life! Open the door of the cage, go out and fly! Please, don't take an early retirement.

OUR NEW ENGLISH SAINT!

Blessed John Henry

Newman will be canonized on

October 13 in Rome. It is our Schools' Sunday this year, and

happily coincides with this

important event, for Newman

was a great educator himself.

He had a deep sense of mission

to the people of England and this

inspired his work and writings. We will be sending

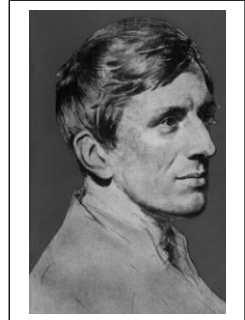
materials for you to use about Saint John Henry, especially linking to our Schools' Mass in October which

is linked to the extraordinary month of Mission called

by Pope Francis. At a time of much uncertainty

politically and in the Church we do well to share

Newman's faith and convictions about the Church



ACADEMIC MASSES 2019/2020

Buckinghamshire – at St Michael, Aylesbury -

5pm - Wednesday 25 September

Milton Keynes – at St Mary Magdalene

4.30pm - Tuesday 1 October

Luton – at St Martin de Porres

4.30pm - Wednesday 13 November

Other partnership dates to be arranged

LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

Headteachers

- St Joseph Primary, Luton

Maureen Murphy - Induction – 5 September 7pm

- St Louis, Aylesbury

Catherine Machin - Induction- 16 September 2019 -7pm.

- Cardinal Newman Secondary, Luton

Andrew Bull - Induction - 17 September 2019 - 7pm.

- St Mary and St Gregory Primaries, Northampton

Kirsty Yuen - Induction- 26 September 2019 - 7pm

- St Anthony Primary, Slough

Siobhan Ope - Induction- 1 October 2019 - 7pm

- The Good Shepherd Primary, Northampton

Carmel Dodds - Induction- 3 October 2019 - 7pm

- St Mary, Aston Primary le Walls.

Laura Concannon – Induction – 9 October – 7pm

Pray for our new colleagues in these posts and others as they begin their ministry of service to our schools.

PRIMARY RE

Anne Marie McIntosh

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.

School Visits have all been arranged for the first half term. These are mainly focussing on either Subject Leaders who are new to the role or follow up visits after a section 48 inspection.

RE Subject Leaders We welcome ten new RE Subject Leaders this year. I'm sure that those of you who have been around for a while will offer them support and encouragement in their new role. There will be no RE Subject Leader meeting this term as 14 of us are going to Rome. The next day that we are altogether will be **Thursday 19 March, 2020**. That seems ages away. I hope to see you before then in your local partnership meetings. Please let me have the dates for these as soon as you have them. Thank you.

The first **Come and See** inset day, for this year, will take place on **Wednesday 25 September 2019**. We will focus on preparing for the Lent Term. If you haven't already booked a place and would like to come please email Jackie admin@nores.org.uk. Next term the Come and See day will be on **Thursday 6 February, 2020** here at Nores, this will be preparing for the Pentecost Term.

Year of Missio Our Year of Missio continues with Liturgy for the World Day of the Sick for September. The year will culminate in a Missio themed Schools' Mass on **Friday 11th October 2019**. Please look out for a separate letter with the details of this.

SEF RE and Data Please note the data collection part of the SEF, in Section A, has changed from previous years. Please send your completed SEFRE into Jackie admin@nores.org.uk

New Standards in RE and Greater Depth The new age-related standards for each year group have been added, in red text, to every learning focus of the Come and See topics. The greater depth tasks have also been added and these are in purple text. The greater depth tasks have not been tried and tested yet. Please have a go at them and feedback to your RE Subject Leader so that we can make any necessary adjustments and changes. Thank you. These are not available on the Come and See website. Each RE Subject Leader has received a hard copy.

Just a thought.....'I have come that you may have life and have it to the full' (Jn. 10.10)

And Finally if there is anything I can do to support you in your work please don't hesitate to contact me.

SECONDARY RE AND THEOLOGY

Paul McHugh

Welcome back and I hope you all had a refreshing summer. As we look ahead to the Year of the Word, it is well to remember that September 21 is the feast day of St Matthew whose Gospel is the basis for the Sunday Gospel reading for Year A, to which we come in the

next Church year. St Matthew is a saint with a past. Hated for his livelihood by the people about him, he was called to newness of life by Jesus. His life and gospel are enduring testimony to the transformative power of Christ. The new school year is good time for renewal and starting afresh. Perhaps it's also a time to compose a class prayer that helps each one of us embrace that call that God has for us.

Dear Lord, I can spend a lifetime yearning for the gifts I do not have.

I can go through fruitless years failing to develop the gifts you have given me.

Help me today to change.

Help me to realise that you have called me into being for a purpose that no other can fulfil.

Help me to become the person you had in mind for me from before the Creation of the World.

Help me to do my best for you. In Christ Jesus, Amen

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS & CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

Year of the Word The lead up to 'The God Who Speaks' initiative in 2020 starts in earnest very soon with the official launch on the Feast of St Jerome- Monday 30 September 2019 and then on **1 December**, the First Sunday of Advent – there is the beginning of the campaign year.

I have written a hymn that can be used for the Year of the Word entitled PRAISE TO YOU ETERNAL WORD which can be used by our parishes and schools and other groups. It can be sung to the tune of Praise my Soul the King of Heaven (or any other tune with the same metre). For copies of the words please contact me via the e mail address below, I will also send it round via our usual mailing lists. Please do keep an eye on Diocesan communications for what will be on offer in 2020 in our Diocese and keep up to date with the very latest from 'The God Who Speaks' Scripture initiative via the national website <http://godwhospeaks.uk>

Catechist Training & Gatherings The next offering of the training for the Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis Level 1 will take place in Luton over 5 Thursday evenings starting on Thursday 7 November 2019 (7.30-9.30pm). Publicity has been sent to the parishes in the Luton Pastoral Area and we look forward to welcome catechists both new and more experienced. For copies of the booking form or to book a course for your parish/ Pastoral Area please contact me via heath@nores.org.uk. This term is also the time for Pastoral Areas to have a conversation for catechists building on the conversations that took place during the Pentecost Term at Parish level. These conversations will inform the AGM which will take place during the Lent Term where we will be able to hear about current catechetical issues from around the Diocese, more information about this meeting will follow in the coming weeks.

School Chaplaincy Training Days We have a strong focus on the Year of the Word during the Lent and

Pentecost terms but begin on **Wednesday 2 October 2019 when we welcome Barry & Margaret Mizzen for a 'A Talk for Change'**. As part of their ministry with 'For Jimmy' they visit schools and other places to challenge young people to reflect on the consequences of their actions and they inspire them to use their own power for positive change within their school and wider community. Forgiveness has been a powerful force in bringing good from what happened to their family and they share the lessons they have learned.

On 4 February 2020 we welcome Martha Flavell who has been instrumental in helping to offer Open the Book to Catholic schools. Open the Book (OtB) is a project which offers primary school children an opportunity to hear key Bible stories, from a team of Christians from local churches, who present the stories during assemblies/acts of Collective Worship.

Our Joint RE & School Chaplaincy Conference for 2020 will take place on Friday 5 June 2020 where we will welcome Fr Eamonn Mulcahy and Wintershall Education. During the morning session Fr Eamonn Mulcahy will help us explore the theme 'The God Who Speaks'. Fr. Eamonn Mulcahy is a Spiritan or Holy Ghost Father Missionary originally from Manchester. In the afternoon bringing the Word of God to life we have the fantastic team from Wintershall Education.

Included in this afternoon session is an overview of their work in Biblical drama including an overview of the resources and opportunities they offer to schools such as: Actor-led Assemblies, the Life of Christ production, Character Education material, Themed Workshops and Online Resources. For more information on their work please see: www.wintershall-education.com Please see the booking form which is now available from the NORES office for full details and to book places for your members of staff.

GOVERNANCE APPOINTMENTS

Debbie Main

Foundation Representatives:

St Anthony School, Slough: Mrs Maria Porter

Foundation Governors:

St Edward Aylesbury: Mrs Fiona Taylor

St Louis Aylesbury: Mrs Annie Kapunga

St Peter Marlow: Mrs Kamella Hudson

Shadow Foundation Directors:

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust:

Mr Jerzy Brzyski

St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust:

Miss Catherine Leong and Mr Bill Nelson

A request from Bishop Peter: We need people who, in the midst of all changes to education policy will keep Christ at the centre of everything they do. Do you have experience in Education or HR? I would like you to consider whether you are someone who could serve our children as they grow in faith by volunteering as a Director for Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust (OLICAT). OLICAT will be formed in January 2020 by the merger of our existing Trusts in Bedford, Northants and Northampton. For more details, including training offered, contact Debbie Main on main@nores.org.uk or 01582 723312 or have a look at our

website www.NORES.org.uk (School Leadership - Diocesan Regional MATs)

From the DIRECTOR of SCHOOL

DEVELOPMENT

Collette Curtis

Welcome back to the start of term and in particular to the 7 new head teachers within schools in the Diocese. Colleagues have told us how useful they have found having an experienced head teacher in the Diocese as an informal mentor. I will be in touch in the next few weeks to broker these partnerships and wish everyone a great start to the new school year.

New Ofsted Specification for Inspection (Sections 5 and 8)

I am sure that you will have spent time over the Pentecost term and summer preparing and reading up on the new Ofsted handbook for September 2019. The research behind the moves was an interesting read but very reassuring. The focus on the intent, implementation and impact of the curriculum has been driven by the narrowing of the curriculum in many schools and the game playing of exam entries at KS 4. This has not been an issue for our schools who have always focused on the wider education of the child. The focus on behaviour management and in many cases the use of practices resulting at times in the illegal removal of disruptive children. This has been a practice some of our schools are very familiar with taking place in neighbouring schools.

Stronger together In September 2018 the National Association of Head teachers published a report "Improving School Accountability". In this they stated their vision for the future of education in this country. We need school leaders to raise expectations and drive system-wide school improvement by:

- Setting a new vision for school leadership
- Establishing a way of identifying excellent practice
- Providing robust peer- to- peer challenge

Our moves towards establishing two regional MATs in the Diocese has involved using our existing networks to work towards these aims. Leaders across the Diocese are working towards the vision that all schools whether an Academy currently or not, really get to know each others schools, sharing strengths, walking together and learning together. As Bishop Peter has said "we are at our best when we work together, for each other, in service of the common good, embracing both solidarity and subsidiarity. This is essential in all decisions undertaken by our Catholic schools."

Free Leadership training We have access to free Nationally accredited leadership training for all schools in the Diocese delivered by our serving Heads to provide a structure for developing strong Catholic leadership at middle leader level. All head teachers have been provided with the information to sign up nominated staff in schools by September 16th. If you have any questions please contact me on curtis@nores.org.uk

Changes to LCVAP allocation from September 2020 In order to prepare for the changes to the allocation of LCVAP from September 2020 we have collated the allocations over the last 5 years to individual schools and are reviewing the most recent condition surveys carried out by the DfE and by our own surveyors. We are conscious that some of these surveys were carried out some time ago so during the course of the year we will be contacting schools to update the status of the actions to key recommendations made since the time of the survey and to provide schools with an opportunity to update us on other issues which have arisen.

DATES for YOUR DIARIES 2019

25 September Come and See Training Day
– *preparing for the Lent Term*
27 September Staff New to Diocese
– *for anyone joining our schools in September*
OCTOBER – a special month of Mission reflection
2 October Chaplaincy Training
Margaret and Barry Mizzen – A time for Change
7 October NORES Lecture
Fleur Dorrell – The Year of the Word
7-13 October EDUCATION WEEK in our DIOCESE
11 October Schools' Mass
13 October Schools' Sunday in the parish
and in Rome the canonisation of Cardinal Newman!

PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

PRAYER INTENTIONS – *ask the school to pray with the Pope for his intentions for September..* That politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans.

FEAST DAYS

September 3 St Gregory's Primary, Northampton
September 8 St Mary's Primary, Northampton,
Our Lady's Primary Wellingborough
September 24 Our Lady of Walsingham Primary, Corby
September 27 St Vincent's Primary, Dunstable
September 29 St Michael's, High Wycombe/Aylesbury
October 1 St Teresa's, Princes Risborough



CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield

All of us at CAFOD hope you have had a restful and restorative holiday and feel renewed and ready to start another school year. This coming term you can access so many resources from our website, or for an interactive, hands-on experience, book a visit from your local school volunteer. Our Harvest Appeal is on **Friday 4 October** so why not invite your volunteer in to share our super new assembly to kick start your own fund raising?

Our theme for the coming term remains "Care for our Common Home" with a specific focus on water. For older students there is a vivid, thought provoking presentation telling the story of water shortages in Peru and how young people are leading the way on combatting the issue. For younger classes there is an exploration of waste in general under the fun title of "Zero Hero" which invites the children to become Zero Heroes in their own communities.

Our action workshop on the theme of "Life without taps", from year 3 upwards, and is always well received.

Supporters Day All are invited to our inspiring days from 10:15 – 1:30 (followed by a shared lunch):

Saturday 7 Sept - St Mary's Hall, Aspley Hill, Woburn Sands MK17 8NN

Saturday 21 Sept – St Teresa's, 40 Warwick Road, Beaconsfield HP9 2PL

Get in touch for more information -

northampton@cafod.org.uk 01494 863 777

MISSIO NEWS

Fr Wayne Coughlin



The month of July was the most peripatetic of my whole priestly ministry! Having a Priest from Sri Lanka resident at my Presbytery allowed me to focus on my work for *Missio* by visiting several of our diocesan schools and a number of parishes. I described this as my "Missio Grand Tour"! This wonderful opportunity allowed me to visit schools in places as far apart as Burnham and Kettering, Farnham Royal and Corby! It proved to be a joyous experience to encounter so many young people; indeed, many of whom had been fundraising for Missio and were well aware of the charities work on behalf of Pope Francis. Well done them!

As a result of my "Missio Grand Tour" I started writing this article whilst enjoying a cup of coffee in a garden centre in Milton Keynes and finished it sat in the new Presbytery flat back in Bedford. In between these two points I managed to fit in a quick visit to Cardiff, to the land of my fathers, for a few days rest!

What has been the constant element, to what might have otherwise have been a disorientating experience, was the daily Mass. I thus found myself in Wales on the Feast of SS Philip Evans and John Lloyd. These two heroic martyrs gave their lives in defence of the Catholic Faith as they sought to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to the people of Wales. Their executions took place in Pwllhalog (Cardiff) on 22 July AD 1679. Plaques mark the site at what is now the junction of two major roads in the capital city but which colloquially is still known to this day as "Death Junction".

However you spent the summer holiday I hope it was a time of spiritual renewal at the Sunday Mass. Please do consider inviting me or one of our volunteers to visit your school in the new term!

SS Philip Evans and John Lloyd: **Pray for Missio!**

SS Philip Evans and John Lloyd: **Pray for our Catholic Schools!**

MORE ABOUT CARDINAL NEWMAN

... do you know any of his hymns ?

- Praise to the holiest in the height
- Firmly I believe and truly
- Lead kindly light

... the Opening Prayer for his Mass

O God, who bestowed on the Priest Blessed John Henry Newman the grace to follow your kindly light and find peace in your Church; graciously grant that, through his intercession and example, we may be led out of shadows and images into the fullness of your truth.

... use this prayer he wrote

*May He support us all the day long,
till the shades lengthen and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.
Then in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging,
and a holy rest and peace at the last.*