



NORES NEWS

MAY 2017 – The month dedicated to MARY

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

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

33 Westbourne Road, Luton, LU4 8JD Telephone: 01582 723312

admin@nores.org.uk www.nores.org.uk www.northamptondiocese.org

From the Episcopal Vicar

Mgr Kevin

EASTERTIME – we continue to celebrate Christ's Resurrection over the seven weeks of Eastertime until we come to Pentecost, which this year is 4 June. So May needs to be marked by our Easter style – as Augustine tells us – *We are an Easter People and ALLELUIA is our song*. How are we keeping Easter this year, or has it slightly petered out, especially as this half term is marked by many secular demands to the curriculum and assessment?

At the heart of the Easter Vigil is the great story of Exodus, of the people marching through the Red Sea to freedom, towards the Promised Land, while those who have held them in slavery are overpowered by God. It is the one Old Testament reading in the Easter Vigil that cannot be omitted, so much does it encapsulate the theology of Christ setting us free from sin through the waters of Baptism.

Then I came across [in schoolsimprovement.net]

EXODUS from teaching – an article by Yvonne Williams on 2 May. It relates how people are leaving the teaching profession because they feel enslaved by so many of the pressures which have increased significantly in the last decade. Those demands have made people wonder if they should be teaching in England under such demands. The article concludes :

"Teaching was once a collegiate profession which meant parity of esteem and close connections with other professionals through subject associations, local authority courses and, for the lucky few, a chance to return to university for a quick, invigorating injection of their favourite subject. It is time we returned to that land of lost content."

While those issues are so important I wonder whether we, as a Catholic community, have something significant to offer in our understanding of education as a vocation. One of the most powerful descriptions of teaching comes in a Vatican document preparing for the third millennium :

"Teaching has an extraordinary moral depth and is one of our most excellent and creative activities, for the teacher does not write on inanimate material but on the very spirits of human beings." (n.19) *The Catholic School on the threshold of the third millennium* (Rome 1998)

While in no way avoiding the need to challenge the imposition of unreasonable demands on the profession,

acknowledging that teaching is a great privilege is so important. We need to rediscover the deep sense of vocation which is at the heart of the best of education. That sense of call is not just about the skill of teaching, however, and what we impart, but it is also about the way in which teaching and leading in Catholic education fulfills our baptismal vocation. It is our way of living and proclaiming the gospel of the Risen Christ. **Bishop Peter has sent a pastoral letter** on vocations to the priesthood and religious life this month, [a copy is enclosed] and he concludes with these words –

May all of us who form the flock of Christ be granted a lively and active faith in this Easter season.

How will we live that out in the school, classroom, parish? Well known words of a great pope can provoke our response.

"Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses." *Blessed Pope Paul VI*

NORES Lecture Sunday 21 May, 3-4.30pm.

Do you need theology to live a Christian life?

Fr Tom O'Loughlin, Professor of Historical Theology at Nottingham University. ALL VERY WELCOME.

Strawberry Tea to follow!!!!

NORES KALENDAR 2017-2018 - The team have established dates for all the main events and meetings for the next academic year. Copies are enclosed, and we ask you to please make sure you take note of this in your planning for the year ahead.

St Michael's, High Wycombe – was the subject of a school focus article in *The Tablet* recently. They came across very well, and it sets the rest of us the challenge to make sure we get good publicity for the sake of the gospel.

From September Stephen O'Brien is retiring as Secondary RE Adviser, but keeping on his role as S48 Inspection Manager for 2017/18. He is a very valued member of the team and very much appreciated by our schools and all who work with him. We wish him well, and are glad that he will still be part of the NORES scene.

NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY CORNER

Anne-Marie McIntosh

Happy Easter! Welcome back to the new term. I hope you had a great Easter break and have returned to school feeling re-energised.

School Visits for this term are nearly all confirmed. If you are on the list and have not chosen a date please email me. Thank you.

Come and See The new / tweaked activities and tasks, in the Reveal section, for all year groups have now been completed on the Come and See website. Having completed the review of each topic across the year groups, the next step for the writers group is to check the religious themes as they go across the year groups to ensure that each one builds on the previous one. Please print off the topics from the website rather than use your Come and See books. Please make sure you have your own login for the website.

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

RE Conference Our next day together is on **Thursday 22 June, 2017**. We will be joined by our Secondary Heads of RE colleagues. We will explore Catholic Social Teaching in both its theology and practice. You may remember we did some work on this with Angela Warren from CAFOD. During the day we will be inspired as to how our schools can continue to contribute to building a more just and peaceful world. Our guest speaker is Dr Anna Rowlands from the University of Durham.

Inset Fr Kevin and I are running three inset days, across the year, for anyone who teaches RE in a Primary School. During each day we will explore the underlying themes of **Come and See** in order to help increase your knowledge and confidence when teaching the topics.

The first day will take place on 21 June and will be in preparation for the Advent term RE curriculum. It doesn't have to be the same member of staff who attends each day! Look out for the flier and booking form which will be arriving in schools very soon.

The whole school inset '**The Changing Shape of Catholic Education**' has been well received around the Diocese. For those schools who not yet received this, the idea is that it replaces your staff meeting for that week. Northampton – 25 May; South Bucks – 14 June; Luton 12 June and Milton Keynes 21 June.

Live Simply Thank you for taking part in the 'Live Simply' Challenge so far. During the month of May I will live simply by '**Walking and cycling more**'. I promise to walk or cycle to school more often than I go by car. I promise to make the effort to get to know new people and remember to tell old friends how much I like them.

Inspection Following a national review of Section 48 Inspection the framework has been changed. The SEF will also then be changed to mirror the new framework.

Just a thought.....Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go!

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

SCHOOLS' COMMISSION

Collette Curtis

Working together to recruit and develop leaders

Headstrong programme The first cohort of the headstrong programme delivered by Thomas More Teaching School has been received very well. The final session for this cohort is on July 3rd. Funding is available for 2 years to develop Catholic leadership and the second cohort is being recruited currently. The sessions next year will be based in St Michael's High Wycombe. The cost of the course of 6 sessions is £100 to cover expenses. For more information, If you are interested in joining the next cohort or recommending a member of your staff for this cohort please contact Susanne Combe at Thomas More Teaching School scombe@stm.beds.sch.uk

Potential leader database Following a very successful day for 50 potential Catholic leaders across the Westminster province a number of colleagues have identified themselves to be alerted to a variety of leadership vacancies within the Diocese. If you are considering a move into leadership or are looking for opportunities for further development contact Debbie Main, School's Officer main@nores.org who will add you to this list.

School Funding Just a reminder in case you have not picked this up already that Government agencies including the Department for Education go into a period of purdah following the calling of a general election. This means that their work is restricted by tight rules so that decisions and actions do not influence the outcome of the election. As a consequence, the DfE are currently unable to reply to the consultation on school funding.

Guidance on Modern Slavery Statements (CES) Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which came into force on 29th October 2015, places a duty on larger organisations to publicly report the steps that they have taken to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in its own operations and in its supply chains. This duty applies to all qualifying businesses with financial year-ends from 31st March 2016. Educational institutions may fall into the definition of 'qualifying businesses'. A 'qualifying business' is defined as a commercial organisation which supplies goods or services and has a minimum turnover of £36million. Larger Multi-Academy Trusts may fall into this category. Currently there are no large MATs within the Diocese but if you would like to access the guidance we have put the full guidance onto the NORES website.

General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR) Please note that the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR) came into force on 24 May 2016 and will apply in all Member States of the EU from

25 May 2018. In the UK it will replace the Data Protection Act 1998. Schools and academies and other organisations in your control are very likely to be recognised as UK Data Controllers and will therefore need to have a practical understanding of the implications and legal requirements of the GDPR in readiness for 25 May 2018. The CES therefore strongly recommends that specialist advice is sought to ensure compliance if appropriate.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. What started out as an invitation from the Archbishops' of Canterbury and York in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. The hope is that: people will commit to pray with God's world-wide family - as a church, individually or as a family; churches will hold prayer events, prayer stations and prayer walks, across the UK and in other parts of the world; people will be empowered through prayer by the Holy Spirit, finding new confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ. More information and resources are available from: www.thykingdomcome.global

This resonates very much with our own Diocesan initiative, now in its 7th year, promoting the Pentecost Novena. The Pentecost Novena of course itself is an ancient tradition that goes back to the early Church when the Apostles prayed for the coming of the Spirit as recorded in Acts of the Apostles (chapters 1 & 2).

We would like to encourage all our parishes and schools to make use of these resources to support prayer in our communities in preparation for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit for a new evangelisation.

We have produced free prayer cards, prayer leaflets, various service sheets, an ecumenical prayer service as well as some ready to use resources for Acts of Worship in Schools. The Diocesan Pentecost Novena resources are produced by the Northampton Diocesan Evangelisation Team and are all available for free from the Diocesan website: www.northamptondiocese.org (then select FAITH and EVANGELISATION).

Unlike previous years we will not be coordinating a schedule of prayer over the 9 days but leave communities, households and individuals free to pray as and when they can over the 9 days, whether that's one special event or more regular prayer over the nine days. Alex Heath, Chair of the Diocesan Evangelisation Team can be contacted via the NORES office to give support and answer any questions.



Book a CAFOD School visits this summer

We have a variety of fun and interactive sessions available for all age groups. An **assembly** which volunteers can lead in support of CAFOD's latest campaign "Power to Be" on securing access to clean renewable energy for the 1 in 6 people globally who do not have access to electricity. The themes can be developed further into **workshops** for Years 5 and 6. Volunteers can also offer **workshop** sessions in both Key Stages 1 and 2, based on Pope Francis' letter **Laudato Si'**. **Book now!**

General election 2017: Our common future

Pope Francis reminds us that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and calls us to join a new dialogue about the future. Britain has a proud record in looking outwards, and in working with others to tackle climate change and poverty. This election, CAFOD is asking you to stand up for the common good, and to encourage your candidates to do the same. Find out more and email your candidates at

cafod.org.uk/election

CAFOD volunteer Centre – dpurfield@cafod.org.uk,
01844 274 723

SCHOOL NEWS -

Appointments – from Easter

Jane Zamora as Head of St Bernadette's, Milton Keynes
Induction – 7pm Monday 22 May

from September

Caroline Lovegrove as Head of St Joseph's, Gerrards Cross
Induction – 7pm Wednesday 27 September
Paul Kassapian as Head of St Bernard's Grammar, Slough
Induction – 7pm Thursday 28 September

Governors / Directors appointments

Please note that for all new appointments and for those who have completed their term of office and are seeking reappointment the sooner applications are made to NOIRES the better, as getting the required references is taking longer and longer!!!!

Building Project Request Forms –

It is still essential that all our schools [academy and voluntary aided] submit the appropriate request form to NORES for approval. All buildings are the property of the Diocesan Trustee and only the Trustee can agree to any changes. Please make sure you are all well represented at the Finance and Buildings meeting on June 7.

MAY is MARY's MONTH. Make sure we encourage a understanding of the place of Mary in our faith story and of our devotion to her.

WESTMINSTER PROVINCE CELEBRATION DAY

A theology of Hope for Catholic Education

Speaker – Mike Ion

21 September 2017 for Heads, Chairs of Directors and Trusts begins with 10.30 Mass in the Cathedral with Bishop Peter, Bishop John Sherrington, and others.

Programme :

10.30 Mass in the Cathedral

11.30 Coffee/Registration in Cathedral Hall

A session before and after lunch, finishing by 3pm

Caterers – *Spoilt for Choice* – again!!!

Booking forms will be out soon

SECONDARY RE AND INSPECTION

Stephen O'Brien

RE Reform Initiative 2017-2022 CREDO (Catholic Religious Education Development Opportunities) has launched a nationwide research project which will track the effects of the 2016 RE Reform in Catholic Schools. It is hoped that at least two schools in every diocese will participate so that the results are truly national and the data robust. The first phase of the project to be completed **during Summer Term 2017** will be quantitative and involve the distribution of a questionnaire for pupils at KS4 and KS5 to be conducted by RE staff and at the same time, an online survey of teachers and school leaders will also take place. Ethical requirements demand that the pupil survey respect school safeguarding procedures and all submissions will be anonymized and confidential.

The second phase to be completed by Summer Term 2018 will be qualitative and involve focus groups and structured interviews held by the research team across a range of schools chosen in consultation with NBRIA (National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisors). The information yielded by these surveys will help CREDO monitor curriculum, resource and CPD issues as well as acquiring information regarding student religious literacy and teacher resilience. All of this will serve better to direct the efforts of the Catholic Education Service and NBRIA to support our hardworking practitioners in the demanding tasks that they have. If you are interested in being one of the Northampton schools, please let me know and I will make the necessary arrangements with CREDO.

RE Conference 22 June, 2017 This year's RE conference will explore Catholic Social Teaching in both its theology and practice. Our guest speaker is Dr Anna Rowlands from the University of Durham. The day will offer some excellent theological background to our work in school and would be very useful for members of our secondary |RE departments. Please contact Jackie ay Nores for places. Lunch and refreshments will be included in the £50 cost.

Diocesan Inspection Team Meeting Our next meeting will be on 14 July 2017. There will have been a good number of inspections and IMVs by July and, along with

the now complete new inspection Guidelines, plenty to discuss. I look forward to seeing you here in Luton on that day. Lunch and refreshments will be provided as usual.

NATIONAL RE GCSE RESULTS 2016 & BY DIOCESE

Diocese	% entered	A* - A	A* - C
ARUNDEL	94.4%	41.3%	79.3%
BIRMINGHAM	97.2%	27.4%	71.8%
BRENTWOOD	95.8%	27.5%	71.7%
CARDIFF	100.0%	32.2%	79.5%
CLIFTON	86.2%	31.1%	66.7%
EAST ANGLIA	97.5%	30.5%	72.0%
HALLAM	94.4%	29.6%	68.8%
HEXHAM	97.3%	30.3%	75.3%
LANCASTER	96.3%	23.1%	64.3%
LEEDS	95.2%	23.8%	66.2%
LIVERPOOL	95.4%	22.3%	64.9%
MIDDLESBRO'	96.7%	30.7%	75.1%
NORTHAMPTON	98.6%	28.5%	71.5%
NOTTINGHAM	96.1%	26.5%	67.7%
PLYMOUTH	93.1%	15.6%	59.5%
PORTSMOUTH	96.4%	37.9%	77.3%
SALFORD	94.0%	23.2%	67.0%
SHREWSBURY	95.8%	29.2%	69.9%
SOUTHWARK	96.2%	29.8%	70.4%
WESTMINSTER	97.1%	38.3%	79.4%
NATIONAL	95.8%	29.2%	71.2%

PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

PRAYER INTENTIONS – *ask the school to pray with the Pope for his intentions for April - That Christians in Africa*, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice, and peace.

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

Good Shepherd Northampton – 4th Sunday of Easter
(Monday following)

1st May Holy Family Primary, Langley
3rd May St Monica's Primary, Milton Keynes
(Feast Day 27th August)

16th May St Brendan's Primary, Corby

REMEMBER that in Eastertime we replace the Angelus by the REGINA CAELI to celebrate the Resurrection.

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

The Son whom you merited to bear, alleluia.

Has risen, as He said, alleluia.

Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, who through the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ gave rejoicing to the world grant, we pray, that through his Mother, the Virgin Mary, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

