



NORES NEWS

July 2019 – The month dedicated to The Precious Blood

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

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

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From the Episcopal Vicar

Mgr Kevin

Writing on the feast of Saints Peter and Paul reminds me of our historic tradition as an apostolic Church. Without men and women of those times proclaiming Christ's gospel we would not have heard of him, nor would we have the gospel to share with those who will come after us. Many of the ways Pope Francis has directed the Church by action and word have been to emphasise the need for us to be an evangelising church, for us to be evangelising by our lives. The term can be off putting to many who think immediately of the way some traditions go door to door "cold-calling" with religion or preaching on the streets. We can also feel we are not worthy or fit for the task.

The men and women of the gospel were not the first you would think of for the apostolic mission. Peter was a fisherman, and while Paul had some training he was a tentmaker by profession. Peter denies Christ three times. So after the resurrection Jesus challenges him three times with the question "Do you love me?" Only when Peter answers "Yes" three times, does Jesus say for the second time "Follow me". Paul sets out to destroy the church until he encounters Christ and is converted. That didn't go down too well with many of the faithful for some time.

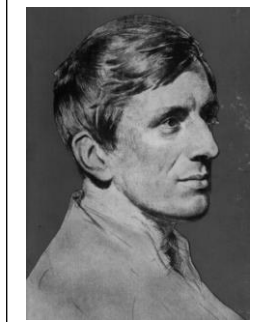
So proclaiming the gospel does not come with any definite career path. Rather it is about a way of life, living the gospel where we are and in our time – the here and now. While it is important that we all continue to learn about our faith throughout our lives, it is how we live it that matters. Our schools and communities need to be places where we teach the gospel but it will be how it is put into practice that makes sense of it.

This is the call to virtue, and to the virtuous life – at a time when we look at a world that seems very confused. We face a difficult political situation at home, war, poverty and disease are the lot of so many, and an uncertain future concerns so many for the planet. Into this we need to speak the gospel truth with our young people

We do need people to assume this charge in different ways and so it is important that parish's and schools encourage our young people to think about a vocation to the priesthood or the religious life, to teaching in our schools, to working for agencies promoted by the Church for the good to the world, and to so many other paths that put into practice the virtues of the gospel. This is the great theme of Pope Francis in his document on the Youth Synod, *Christ Vivit – Christ is Alive*.

NEW ENGLISH SAINT!

We have just heard the good news that 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 introduced the notion of pastoral care as a tutor at



Oxford University, cared so much for the children of his parish as an Anglican priest, and founded two major schools in his time as Superior of Birmingham Oratory. We circulated much material in 2010, the year that Pope Benedict XVI beatified the Cardinal during his visit to the UK. Building on this we will be sending you resources to celebrate the first canonisation of a British saint who lived since the 17th century! On hearing the news Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, said: *"This is a moment of great pride. On Friday it was the feast of the Sacred Heart and we held a mass for the priests of England and Wales. Foremost in our minds was the declaration of a saint who was a priest here. John Henry Newman is known for many great qualities, but we remember him particularly for the kindness and compassion of his ministry to the people of Birmingham. At his death, they turned out in their thousands to salute a much-loved priest on his funeral procession through the streets of Birmingham."*

Newman is a fitting figure for our Schools' Mass in October which is linked to the extraordinary month of Mission called by Pope Francis. The Catholic Church was seen to be foreign and alien even after the Emancipation of 1828. By the time of his death had helped the Catholic Church find its feet and be accepted once again in this land, for he had gained the respect and confidence of the country.,

ACADEMIC MASSES 2019/2020

Buckinghamshire – at St Michael, Aylesbury - 5pm - Wednesday 25 September

Milton Keynes – at St Mary Magdalene

4.30pm - Tuesday 1 October – SMMPMK

Luton – at St Martin de Porres

4.30pm - Wednesday 13 November

Other partnership dates to be arranged

PRIMARY RE

Anne Marie McIntosh

We had a fantastic **Early Years Day** at the beginning of June. There was a real buzz in the room and that was before we had even started! Many thanks to Liz-Ann, Hayley and Stacey for their amazing input. 'Really worthwhile', 'extremely useful', 'inspiring' and 'reassuring' were just some of the comments made by the participants. Watch this space for another day next year.

The RE Subject Leaders are off to Rome in October with Fr Kevin and myself so there will not be a RE day here in the Advent term. **Thursday 19 March, 2020** will be the next time we get together here at NORES. So please put the date in your diary now!

Come and See Inset The Come and See Days will run again next year in order that different staff can attend. The next Come and See day will take place on **Thursday 25 September, 2019** here at NORES, this will focus on preparing for the Lent Term. Day 2 will take place on **Thursday 6 February 2020**, preparing for the Pentecost term and Day 3 on **Thursday 25 June 2020** preparing for the Advent term. Please email Jackie: admin@nores.org.uk to book a place. Thank you.

New Standards in RE The age-related standards for each year group have been added, in red, for every learning focus for each topic of Come and See. These have now been rolled out across the diocese. You will still need to access the Come and See website for any additional resources you may need e.g. PowerPoints and scripture readings. Hopefully, before you break up for the summer holidays, you will also have the greater depth tasks, in purple, one task for each topic. These have not been tried and tested yet so any feedback on them will be gratefully accepted.

School Visits I am looking forward to the school visits in the Advent Term and celebrating all the good things going on in our schools.

The Year of Missio continues in July with 'Prayer' and the case study from the Philippines. **Missio**

Competition Children, aged 5 to 14, are invited to design a postcard for Pope Francis' Extraordinary Mission Month in October. The winning designs will be printed as postcards, to be handed out to children across the country at Masses and Liturgies during the Extraordinary Month of Mission. More information can be found on the Mission Together website: <https://missiontogether.org.uk/>

Just a thought.....As we break for the summer holidays it is good to remember that **'God blesses his people even while they sleep'**(Psalm 127.2)

May God bless you during this time of rest and refreshment. Thank you for everything you do for the children in your care. I hope you all have a great holiday and a well-deserved rest.

SECONDARY RE AND THEOLOGY

Paul McHugh

I hope the examination season passed without too much duress. The first NORES-based delivery of the full *Catholic Basics* course concluded with Part IV: Prayer on June 13. It was well-received. Next year, we hope to work with our schools to provide *Catholic Basics* through various models of delivery. We will keep you posted.

As we enter the month of July, we are well into the second and greater period of Ordinary Time in the Church's Year, an 'ordered time' in which we celebrate the Mystery of Christ in all its aspects. It is a time which takes us right up to Advent. July opens and closes with feast days of an apostle, St Thomas and St James respectively. It is also notable for the feasts of two Europe's six patron saints, St Benedict (480-547) and St Bridget of Sweden (1303-1373). St Benedict, the founder of western monasticism, lived in a chaotic time between the world of Roman antiquity and a medieval age yet to be born. In this time, lives like St Benedict's shone all the more brightly. His wise rule for communal religious life is with us yet. English Christianity owes much to the second wave of evangelization brought to our shores by St Augustine, a Benedictine monk sent by Pope St Gregory. St Bridget of Sweden was declared Co-Patroness of Europe at the turn of this millennium. She too lived in a tumultuous time, the time of the Avignon Papacy and the Black Death. Married for 28 years and then widowed in 1344, she devoted herself to prayer and caring for the poor and the afflicted. Eventually, she received permission to establish her own religious community, the Order of the Most Holy Saviour, more commonly known as the Bridgettines. Their foundations are still with us today, including the Bridgettine Guest House at Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire. In her lifetime, she yearned for the restoration of the Papacy to Rome. Pope Benedict XVI wrote of her: 'In declaring her Co-Patroness of Europe, Pope John Paul II hoped that St Bridget — who lived in the 14th century when Western Christianity had not yet been wounded by division — may intercede effectively with God to obtain the grace of full Christian unity so deeply longed for'. In a time of increasing divisions, perhaps it might be a good end of year research topic to explore the life of one of the six patrons of Europe, who remind us of the Christian roots of our continent and inspire us to be faithful in our own day.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS & CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

Scripture Day On Saturday 13 July 2019 there will be a day for anyone interested in growing in their understanding of Scripture. This will be for anyone involved in a Bible Timeline Scripture study group or other Bible Study groups or indeed for anyone who is interested in starting a group, or simply interested in Scripture.



The day will run from 10am (arrivals) for a 10.30am start through to 4pm and will include Mass and a

presentation by Fleur Dorrell on a Year of the Word initiative for 2020 'The God Who Speaks' by the Catholic Bishops' Conference in partnership with the Bible Society. There will also be an introduction to various courses and resources by parishioners who have used them. Our venue will be St Gregory the Great RC Church, Northampton. Please contact the NORES office for a copy of the poster or to book.

School Chaplaincy Training Days

Please make a note of the dates of our School Chaplaincy days for next year, our speakers are booked and we have a strong focus on the Year of the Word during the Lent and Pentecost terms.

On Wednesday 2 October 2019 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 Tuesday 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, a 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.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a restful and refreshing summer break and we look forward to seeing you next academic year.

From the DIRECTOR of SCHOOL

DEVELOPMENT

Collette Curtis

"We are at our best when we work together, for each other, in service of the common good, embracing both solidarity and subsidiarity" – Right Reverend Peter Doyle, Bishop of Northampton.

A big thank you to the many parishioners across the Diocese who responded to the request by Bishop Peter by expressing an interest in governance within the new Regional MATs. This is to support and compliment the hard work and dedication of the many governors and Directors working across our schools and MATs already. Meetings will take place during the next couple of weeks to find out more and a further window for application will open in July.

The focus this month is how we can maximise the effectiveness of school improvement partnership between schools and how we can nurture and develop our future leaders.

Thank you and the very best for a well earned rest

As the end of the school year looms it is time to say a huge thank you and goodbye to many of our colleagues working in school and governance who are retiring or leaving governance after 12 years service. We are aware that these colleagues are being celebrated by their local communities across the Diocese and can only add our thanks for all of the years of self sacrifice and dedication to the children you have given over the years in our schools. Although I am not naming you all here but please do know that we will remember you with thanks in our prayers and wish you all the very best in the future.

Asbestos Management Action Plan If you need to access the website for Asbestos management reporting and have not received or have lost the access code for the school, please email asbestos.amap@education.gov.uk and they should be able to resend this to you. We found last year that many of the codes had been sent to incorrect email addresses.

Free training for eligible schools: Teaching and Learning Innovation Fund Just a reminder that free training for teachers, governors and leaders is available through the Teaching and Learning Innovation Fund for eligible schools. Further information can be found on the DfE website.

GOVERNANCE APPOINTMENTS

Debbie Main

Foundation Governors:

St Bernadette's Primary School, Milton Keynes: *Dr Chibuzor Edordu, Dr Sandro Lanzon-Miller and Mr Brian Plunkett*

St Louis Primary School, Aylesbury: *Mr David Payne*

Bletchley Schools Federation: *Mrs Lynfa Lanzon-Miller*

Foundation Representatives

St Luke Academies Trust: *Miss Catherine Hayes*

St Alban Catholic Academy Trust: *Miss Dee Drennan*

We hear so much about the current crisis of our beautiful planet that it is easy to switch off and treat it all as background chatter. We hear different opinions about its severity or its reality it's hard sometimes to know what is real and what is not.

Spending some time in Toulon (south east France) at present I have been struck by responses to the current situation. I saw hordes of young people with adults alongside marching with banners and singing, sharing their message about the need to stop climate change. They went on to sit down in the main road and listen to speeches from their members whilst shoppers and police looked on and cheered. It was awe inspiring! These people are the future! Then at Mass on Sunday (EU Election day) the priest spoke passionately about the state of Europe and how our leaders seem unable to work together for a common goal. His message was that we should look to "l'esperance" (the hope) that comes from belief in the Risen Lord and that we should pray for "la sagesse" (the gift of Wisdom and Discernment) as we look to the teachings of the Church for our inspiration. Powerful stuff! Our young people, like those in Toulon, are working with hope for the future with a clear vision for our planet. We were delighted that St Margaret of Scotland managed to take some pupils to the mass lobby in London on the 26 June which offered students an opportunity to learn more about climate change, and have their voice heard by their MP and other Parliamentary figures.

Retiring? For those retiring soon, we invite you to consider volunteering with CAFOD in schools when you feel ready. Your skills and talents will be really greatly appreciated! Please get in touch.

Jane Trott – CAFOD education volunteer coordinator - northampton@cafod.org.uk 01494 863 777

MISSION NEWS

Fr Wayne Coughlin



It is an enormous privilege to be part of a community where people gather each day for Morning Prayer and Mass; to start the 'working day' like this brings many blessings, not least of which is to receive Jesus Christ in the Sacred Scriptures and supremely in Holy Communion. I am acutely aware of the benefit of such prayer when I find myself away from the parish; it is good to know that in my absence there is dedicated group of people who continue to meet and thus soak the churches of the parish in prayer! Likewise, I find it inspiring to hear of communities elsewhere in the world, who often lacking a Priest, still gather for prayer; in this months "Year of Missio" resources you will read about a group of missionary Sisters in the Philippines who gather children together to pray the Holy Rosary; they also find time to offer them dance lessons! Reading the story of life on the island of Natandol made me realise anew how truly blessed I am. As the school year begins to wind down and you look forward to the summer, perhaps in these final weeks you can find new opportunities to gather the pupils together for prayer? You might consider using Pope Francis' "Five Finger Prayer" – it is such a simple but powerful way to pray! You might like to encourage the pupils to continue to use this prayer method over the summer holidays. I conclude with a request: in your school, parish and private routines please pray for the work of Missio across the world.

PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

PRAYER INTENTIONS – *ask the school to pray with the Pope for his intentions for July.* That those who administer justice may work with integrity, and that the injustice which prevails in the world may not have the last word.

FEAST DAYS

11th July St Bernard's Preparatory, Slough (St Benedict)
22nd July St Mary Magdalene Primary, Milton Keynes

DATES for YOUR DIARIES 2019

8 July Celebrating Bishop Peter's anniversary as our bishop and priestly jubilees
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

CONGRATULATIONS, THANKS and PRAYERS to schools celebrating anniversaries. Any more?

Cardinal Newman, Luton – 50th
St Martin de Porres, Luton – 50th
St Paul's, Milton Keynes – 30th

LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

Headteachers

- St Louis, Aylesbury
Catherine Machin - Induction- 16 September 2019 -7pm.
- Cardinal Newman Secondary, Luton
Andrew Bull - Induction - 17 September 2019 - 7pm.
- St Gregory and St Mary 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 tba
- St Joseph Primary, Luton
Maureen Murphy - Induction tba
- New MAT Strategic Executive Leads –
Joe Richardson, Tony Bishop
Pray for our new colleagues in these posts and others as they begin their ministry of service to our schools.

THANKS to all leaving leadership service in the diocese, and all who have worked for our schools : including – there are so many more!

Nicola Vaughan, Debbie Rainer, Margaret Louisy.
May God bless and strengthen them as they begin a new period in their lives.