



NORES NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2015 – The month dedicated to 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

If you were asked what is the opposite to faith, most people answer immediately with "doubt". Yet in a discussion this summer someone argued very powerfully that the opposite to faith is certainty. An American writer, Brené Brown, has also said: "Faith minus vulnerability and mystery equals extremism." This made me ask questions about how we set out our stall in Catholic education and catechesis, and whether we are being overtaken by another agenda to our own. We need, yes, always to be the best professionally in our education and catechesis – standards, resources, pedagogy etc. But we do not subscribe to a world view that is absolute in itself. We do not have all the answers. Faith is not certainty, but rather faith is always seeking to enter further into the mystery that is our God in Jesus Christ. We know we have the truth of faith, but there is still so much to be revealed, ultimately when we meet God face to face, and see him as he really is (1 John 3:2). That is why we find problems with fundamentalism in our own or any belief system so threatening, because it relies on human certainty. Our hope as teachers and catechists must be to foster faith in our young people. This will allow questions and challenges, but also will depend on our own witness of faith. As Pope Paul VI said so powerfully: "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses." Our Education Week and celebration this year provides us an opportunity to think again about how we foster the faith of our young people and their families. It is very important for us to begin now in September to make sure people are aware of the Week in our schools and parishes. How will we use the week to let the people of the parishes know the work of our schools and their place in the mission of the Church of our diocese. Elsewhere you will see news about Proclaim 15 the evangelisation initiative of our bishops. The work of our schools and catechists is an integral and essential part of this mission.

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

You may have seen the advertisement for this post recently. It is to find someone who will continue the work of Frances Image as Schools' Commissioner, with a specific focus on how we will move our schools forward in the current educational landscape. In August the prime minister spoke about his expectation that all schools will become academies. We must be very aware of this political agenda within which we have to work and ensure that we maximise all the possibilities open to us.

CONGRATULATIONS to

St Alban Catholic Academy Trust, established on September 1, for three Luton schools – St Martin de Porres, St Margaret of Scotland, Cardinal Newman. and to **St Luke Academy Trust** (Corby/Kettering) which has been joined by St Brendan's Primary School.

One project that helps develop our relationship with Christ is our

CLASS PRAYER BAG. We

launched this on June 22 here at NORES. It was very well received and we would welcome any comments and suggestions for further developments. Several schools spoke about "personalising" the bags with items that reflect their own situation. It would be good to know what you do so that we can share it with others.



NEWS AROUND THE DIOCESE

HEAD TEACHER INDUCTIONS – 7pm at the school
Thornton College – Jo Storey – Thursday 17 September
Simon Detre- St Teresa's Princes Risborough -29 September
Martin Lowe – The Good Shepherd, Northampton – 30 September
Kirsty Yuen - St Mary's Aston-le-Walls - 1 October
PARTNERSHIP ACADEMIC MASSES in EDUCATION WEEK
Bedford – 4.15pm, 5 October 2015
Northampton – 6.30pm, 6 October 2015 – Good Shepherd
North Northants – 5.30pm, 7 October 2015 – St Edward's
Slough – 5pm, 8 October 2015 – Holy Family Church

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

Proclaim '15

Following the Proclaim '15 National Conference that was held on 11th July in Birmingham I'd like to let you know about some of the future possibilities and opportunities. The focus of Proclaim '15 is building missionary parishes and as a legacy to the national conference we hope to do all that we can to assist parishes in developing evangelisation initiatives moving forward by sharing some of the fruits and resources from the national conference.

There are two Diocesan Proclaim '15 events being held in our Diocese in the autumn. Dates and venues are:

- Saturday 19 September 2015, 10am-3pm, at St Gregory the Great RC Church Hall, 22 Park Avenue North, Northampton, NN3 2HS
- Saturday 17 October 2015, 10am-3pm, at Immaculate Heart of Mary RC Church Hall High Street, Great Missenden HP16 9AA

Participants can book a *free place by contacting us at the RE & Pastoral Centre, NORES, Parish Centre, Holy Ghost Catholic Church, Westbourne Road, Luton, LU4 8JD, 01582 7233312 (Ext 6) or via admin@nores.org.uk*

The Proclaim '15 webpages carry a whole host of background information and resources and will soon also have post conference resources available. There will also be more resources made available on Home Missions Sunday this September. Please see <http://catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Special-Events/Proclaim-15-Building-Missionary-Parishes> for more details from the Home Missions Desk.

Being a Catechist Training Course

Some catechists will already be aware that 'Being a Catechist- Basic Training for the Ministry of Catechesis' is a course which is available for anyone who would like to know more about what is involved in being a catechist or to support those who already are involved in the vital ministry of catechesis. Drawing on Scripture and Church documents the course will cover some basic principles of catechesis, helping us to grow in confidence as we seek to share the precious gift of faith in Jesus Christ with others. The course will include times of sharing, reflection and prayer. *The course is available on request for your parish or pastoral area, please contact the NORES Office for more details.*

School Chaplaincy Training Day

Please note the NEW TIMINGS FOR OUR CHAPLAINCY TRAINING DAYS (9.30am-3pm) which will give us more time for networking and sharing ideas, resources and good practice. As always lunch is

provided as well as opportunity for prayer. We look forward to welcoming Chaplaincy Co-ordinators and members of staff who are part of Chaplaincy Teams. The first of our days this academic year will be held on **Thursday 22 October 2015, 9.30am- 3pm at the RE Centre and is entitled 'Planning and Delivering Collective Acts of Worship'.**

During this session Alex Heath will be making available a training session which has already been delivered in two Diocesan schools on planning and delivering Collective Acts of Worship. The session will offer planning tools and resources as well as exploring some important principles for leading assemblies. Participants are also encouraged to bring along examples of good practice from their schools to share.

CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield



One Climate One World campaign

Lots of resources, films, activities and reflections on a climate theme online for children and young people.

People of God - New website with resources to accompany the *People of God* framework for Catholic Religious Education for 11-14 year olds

New Confirmation resources - New resources called 'Be revolutionary' for catechists to fit any programme

Laudato Si'

Prayer resources to inspire our supporters to pray and reflect on the themes of the encyclical can be found <http://www.cafod.org.uk/Pray/Encyclical>. You can find

- A power point reflection bringing together quotes from the encyclical with the voices of communities overseas
- A **new prayer** inspired by Laudato Si' - **Praised Be**
- Pope Francis' **two prayers** : *A prayer for our earth* and *A Christian prayer in union with creation*
- Prayers, ideas for action and resources for children and young people:

MAKING OURSELVES KNOWN!

Please make sure you are constantly letting the world know the good things about your schools and parish. Here are some of the links you need to use -

- editorial@catholicherald.co.uk
- joseph.kelly@thecatholicuniverse.com
- kevin.flaherty@thecatholicuniverse.com
- thetablet@thetablet.co.uk
- vineo1@btopenworld.com
- your local paper????

NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY CORNER

Anne Marie McIntosh

Originally from Teesside I had always wanted to be a teacher.

I trained at Trinity and All Saints' in Leeds and started my career in Leeds before moving back, closer to my roots, to continue my teaching career in Seaham Harbour on the North East coast.

Following this I moved to Devon to take up the role of RE Adviser for the Diocese of Plymouth. From there I became a Head Teacher of two Catholic Primary Schools in Devon.

I have always valued personal study and keeping abreast of changes in education. To this end I have, over the years, completed an MA in RE and Catechesis with Maryvale and an MEd in the Leadership and Management of a Catholic School with St Mary's Twickenham.

My interests include running and cycling and I have recently walked coast to coast along Hadrian's Wall. I am delighted to have been appointed as RE Adviser for the Diocese of Northampton. I am looking forward to visiting schools, meeting and working alongside you in the near future.

Fr Kevin writes - We warmly welcome Anne Marie to the NORES team and to the diocese. Over the coming months she will be beginning to get to know the diocese through visiting our schools and being involved in the many various meetings and courses. Please do feel free to ask her for help and assistance with primary RE issues. Contact her through the office and at mcintosh@nores.org.uk

SECONDARY RE AND INSPECTION

Stephen O'Brien

Inspection. 2014/15 has been an interesting year in which the Ofsted Section 48 process has settled to a new pattern after a time of change and during which we have begun to implement the Interim Monitoring Visit [IMV] process. The number of both will pick up somewhat during the year ahead. Schools that have experienced IMVs seem to have found them both useful and a positive experience. Our inspection team meetings during the coming year will be on 15 October 2015, 15 March 2016 and 15 July 2016. There is no special significance in this occurrence of dates! All team members are most welcome. Please place these dates in your diary. Thank you.

Bishops' Statement/Guidance on GCSE RE. From September 2015 schools will be making their choice of exam board and specifications for GCSE RE. Exam boards have now produced draft specifications following the DfE criteria and we can now see what

specific options will be available. Colleagues will be reviewing these in order to decide which board and specification to use from September 2016 and to prepare for teaching in the following year. It is clear that, in order for our Catholic schools to teach a GCSE which serves the purposes of Catholic Religious Education and meets the requirements of the Religious Education Curriculum Directory, only a small range of options from the choices available would be appropriate. Schools in the diocese should select from those specifications which allow:

1. A study of Catholic Christianity as Religion 1
2. A 50% study of Catholic Christianity, covering all four topics:
 - Beliefs and teachings
 - Practices
 - Sources of Wisdom and Authority
 - Forms of Expression and Ways of Life
3. A study of Judaism as Religion 2

The reformed RE GCSE is a great improvement on the existing GCSE examination, and represents an unprecedented opportunity to make a real difference to the quality of Religious Education as it is offered in our Catholic secondary schools.

Secondary Religious Education. May I take this opportunity to offer all secondary colleagues every good wish for the new academic year and to congratulate departments on what has been another very good year for GCSE and A level results in Religious Education in our schools. RE subject leader meetings for the next year are on 23 October 2015 and 11 March 2016. The annual RE conference is on 17 June 2016. This will be much more geared to secondary colleagues in 2016. More details will follow! Please note these dates in your diary and do your best to meet with colleagues on these occasions.

Remember that we keep the Year of Consecrated Life until 2 February 2016. Pray for all the religious sisters and brothers who have served our Catholic schools, and for vocations to the religious life. Try to list any who served in your school



CALENDAR 2015/16 is NOW OUT – check your dates

PROVINCE CELEBRATION for heads and chairs of our five dioceses - 24 September 2015 - with Francis Campbell, Vice Chancellor of St Mary's Catholic University, Twickenham. We need to strengthen all possible links with Catholic colleges to develop RE teachers and Catholic leaders. Mass at 10.30am in Westminster Cathedral with Bishop Nicholas Hudson. Contact the office to book.

EDUCATION WEEK 2015 – October 5-11

Please think about what you will do as a school and partnership. It would also be very helpful if you could talk with local clergy now and see how together you can celebrate **Education Sunday on October 11**.

A major event will be - 50th anniversary Lecture of **GRAVISSIMUM EDUCATIONIS - the Vatican II Document on Christian Education** by Adrian Porter sj, Delegate for Education for the British Jesuit province Friday 9 October, 7.30pm, at NORES.

DEPUTY & SENIOR LEADERS' CONFERENCE

9-11 November 2015 at Sarum College, which is within the precincts of Salisbury Cathedral. Details will be sent out soon – please book by the end of term.

HEADS' CONFERENCE – Note date change

At our recent conference it was decided to hold the conference on Thursday and Friday. This means that next year's conference at Poole will be on **10 and 11 March 2016**, beginning on Thursday morning. It will be possible to arrive on Wednesday evening.

RE CONFERENCE - for Primary and Secondary – 17 June 2016 led by David Wells, Plymouth Diocese

POPE FRANCIS in September 2015 asks you to pray with him for

Universal: That opportunities for education and employment may increase for all young people.

Evangelization: That catechists may give witness by living in a way consistent with the faith they proclaim.

FEAST DAYS and PRAYER INTENTIONS - Do try to remember these intentions and ask the school to pray with the Pope's intentions (above), the intentions set by our bishops, and for the schools who celebrate their feast days

3 September - St Gregory's Middle Bedford and St Gregory's Primary Northampton

8 September - Our Lady's Wellingborough and St Mary's Primary Northampton;

24 Sept. - Our Lady of Walsingham Primary Corby;

27 Sept - St Vincent's Primary Houghton Regis,

29 Sept, St Michael's High Wycombe,

1 October St Teresa's Independent, Princes Risborough

Pray also for Bishop Peter who will attend the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in September and then the Synod on Family Life in Rome in October.

SCHOOLS' COMMISSION

Frances Image

NCTL Scholarships for governor programmes and workshops

The CES and dioceses are encouraging governors in Catholic schools to take advantage of the training courses and workshops currently offered or licensed by the NCTL. There will be many new governors starting a term of office in September there and a number of people would find them extremely useful. The courses are as follows.

Chairs' of Governors Leadership Development

Programme for aspiring chairs of governors, new chairs or existing chairs who would like to develop their skills further. The programme is delivered through workshops, school-based activities and includes the support of a mentor. It focuses on the role of the chair, leading the governing body and leading change and continuous improvement – all of which can help governing bodies build capacity and support succession planning. The RRP for the programme is £399 and it is delivered through NCTL approved licensees. However, scholarships are available of £320 for small schools and £200 for all other maintained schools towards the cost of the programme.

Workshops: NCTL has also developed workshops for governors on RAISEonline, performance-related pay and financial efficiencies, which are 3 hour sessions that governors can book onto, free of charge.

Clerks: This programme is aimed at new and experienced clerks wanting to develop their skills. Scholarships are also available for this programme. Additional information about the programmes and workshops and how to book a place can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/school-governors-professional-development>. If you have any questions, please e-mail governors@education.gsi.gov.uk.

GOVERNORS' FORUM

We are offering these sessions, 7-9pm in different locations around the diocese in the next academic year. They are for all governors, especially Foundation Governors and Directors. 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.

2015 10 Oct 10am-1pm - Diocesan Conference

2016 7-9pm at local venues:

27 January - NORES, Luton

8 February - St Thomas Aquinas, Milton Keynes

14 March - St Michael's High Wycombe, Bucks

16 March - St Ethelbert's Slough

18 March - St Edward's Kettering, Northants

TBA - Bedford