



NORES NEWS

APRIL 2015 – The Month dedicated The BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

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From the Episcopal Vicar

Mgr Kevin

POPE FRANCIS - A HOLY YEAR OF MERCY 8 DECEMBER 2015 until 20 NOVEMBER 2016

Every 25 years the Popes call a Jubilee Year, inviting people on pilgrimage to Rome. It originates in the Jewish tradition of a year of forgiveness of debt. Pope Francis has called an extraordinary Jubilee Year dedicated to his constant theme of mercy.

"I am convinced that the whole church -- that has much need to receive mercy because we are sinners -- will find in this jubilee the joy to rediscover and render fruitful the mercy of God, with which we are all called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time,"

Let us not forget that God pardons and God pardons always. "Let us never tire of asking for forgiveness."

From the beginning Pope Francis has emphasised the need for the Church to be God's mercy to the world. He has witnessed to this himself in many of his own actions towards the poor and the needy, washing the feet of prisoners on Holy Thursday, reaching out to the sick wherever he goes. We are looking to find ways of celebrating this Year in the diocese, especially in our schools. One thought for you is that at the beginning of the year the Pope will open the Holy Door in St Peter's, a door that is otherwise always sealed up. It becomes the door for pilgrims to enter the basilica. Is there in our schools or parishes a doorway or entrance that could be set apart as a special place for the year, so that every time people move through it they are reminded of God's mercy to them and the mercy they need to show to others? We welcome suggestions to share!

WITNESSING TO OUR FAITH

This year has seen so many Christians killed for their faith in different parts of the world. Many of the young people and families of our schools and parishes have links to those situations in Pakistan, India, Kenya, Nigeria and elsewhere. Firstly we must find every way possible of being solidarity through prayer and support for those communities, especially in the Middle East, Christ's own countries. Secondly it asks us to take seriously how we witness to Christ in this land where we have such freedom in comparison. Many question whether as Christians we are too timid to stand up for our beliefs here. This is something we need to help our young people understand and respond too positively.

SISTER AIDAN is retiring from her work as Primary RE Adviser from the end of this academic year, although she will still be willing and available to help in different ways wherever she can. We want to celebrate her generous service to the diocese as a member of the NORES team for so many years, and before her work teaching in our schools. Bishop Peter will celebrate a thanksgiving mass on Monday 6 July at 7pm here with NORES in the Holy Ghost Church. It will be a lovely occasion and a chance for us all to gather together to celebrate what we value in religious education. I hope as many as possible will book the date now and try to be there. More details will follow in due course.

WELCOME to Anne-Marie McIntosh

who will become the diocesan Primary RE Adviser from September. Anne-Marie has been working in Plymouth diocese and in schools there, and I am sure we will give her a warm welcome as she finds her way around our diocese.

CALENDAR 2015/16

Our dates for the coming academic year are now finalised. A copy is included with this newsletter. Please consult them in your planning for your school dates. In that way we can ensure we all are able to take part in the different opportunities available to us.

SYNOD ON MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE – October 2015

Pope Francis has asked us for "A prayer full of love for the family and for life. A prayer that knows how to rejoice with those who rejoice, and to suffer with those who suffer". He asks "to ensure that your prayer is not lacking.... We need this, not chatter! I encourage even those who feel distant to pray too, and those who are not used to doing so. This prayer for the Synod on the family is for the good of all of us."

Please make this prayer or similar part of your school prayer life, prayer book, send it to your parents.

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

in you we contemplate the splendour of true love.

We turn to you with confidence, Holy Family of Nazareth.

Make our families, also, places of communion and cenacles of prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel, and little domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth may our families never more experience violence, isolation, and division.

May anyone who was wounded or scandalised rapidly experience consolation and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may the upcoming Synod of Bishops re-awaken in all an awareness of the sacred character and inviolability of the family, its beauty in the project of God.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, hear and answer our prayer. Amen".

NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY CORNER

Sister Aidan

Rise heart; thy Lord is risen.
Sing his praise without delays,
Who takes thee by the hand,
that thou likewise with him mayst rise.

From "Easter" by George Herbert

"We bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, this day he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus." (Acts 13:32,33) The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community; handed on as fundamental by tradition; established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Paschal mystery along with the cross (CCC 638). Jesus really did rise from the dead as we read in the New Testament, and "I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins..... and that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures" (1 Cor. 15:3-4) and that he appeared to the disciples. It is significant for us women that the first to acknowledge the resurrection were the women who went to anoint Jesus' body. They were followed by Peter and John. John arrived first as he could run faster than Peter, but he didn't go in before Peter arrived, acknowledging Peter as being superior to himself. Once John saw the linen cloths lying there, "he saw and he believed" (Jn. 20:2). On a number of occasions Jesus actually appeared, not only to the Apostles but, at one time to more than five hundred persons. The disciples had received such a great shock at the crucifixion that it was difficult for them to believe in the resurrection to start with. We see this in the account of the disciples who took a walk away from Jerusalem to think things over and express to each other their hopes and dreams. So what does this all mean for us? Do we too believe that Jesus rose again? That he gave us all a new life? That he died for our sins and the sins of the world? Do we have hopes and dreams for our own future? Let us look at our world and, seeing all the newness of life around us, rejoice in the newness we have received, and with the children, give thanks and praise to God our Father.



2015 has been dedicated to the Consecrated Life by Pope Francis. We hope that schools are continuing to think about this and pray with thanks for all those women and men religious who have

given their lives for Catholic education as well as so many other ministries in the Church over the centuries. Many of our schools were established by religious orders and more also staffed by them until recent times. It would be very good if we could gather together in the next months information about all the religious who have worked in our schools over the years. Some will be very obvious where the order ran the school, but in many places sisters worked in the diocesan schools. We also have the situation of schools which have closed. So look up your history and let us know!

CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield



Thank you to all who supported CAFOD's work over the Lenten period.

CAFOD Day of Reflection on Saturday 18 April at the parish centre Sacred Heart, 5 Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard LU7 1HZ. The day will be given by Brian Purfield (Mount Street Jesuit Centre). The day is from 10:30am – 3pm (10am coffee/tea). If transport is a problem, please get in touch as we may be able to help. **To book a place** : 01844 274 723 or northampton@cafod.org.uk

GENERAL ELECTIONS

The general election on 7 May 2015 is a chance for us to engage with -and challenge -our future leaders on the issues we care most about. You can use the following questions to ask your parliamentary candidate about what their party is doing about poverty .

Q1 : What will you do to make work pay?

Q2 : What will you do to guarantee access to a genuinely affordable home?

Q3 : What will you do to speak out for the poorest and most vulnerable people around the world?

Q4 : What will you do to make tackling climate change a priority and to prevent it pushing people deeper into poverty overseas?

These questions are available on cards. Please get in touch to request them.

NYMO NEWS

Alex Hindmarsh

Salt & Light Project

is NYMO Young Leaders' Programme, for 16 - 18 year olds who wish to take on a leadership role within the school, parish or local community, alongside work or study. Each young person plans their own project, which could be a one off event day or an on-going project in one of these three settings. They reflect upon their skills and as they prepare in a structured way and with the help of an adult mentor. Reflective practice is an invaluable way for young people to look at their work and initiate improvements: a valuable skill in the eyes of employers and educators.

After the projects are complete the team meet with Bishop Peter, to talk about their projects. The Bishop presents the leader with a certificate and a letter to highlight the value of the course. If you would like to know more about the Salt & Light Project email steve@nymo.org

Summer Camp 2015 @ Alton Castle

Why not come and join the NYMO team for an experience you will never forget! Loads of fun will be had as we travel to stay in an actual castle and enjoy a whole day at Alton Towers!

When: 24/07/2015- 28/07/2015

Cost: £250 pp but we ask for a minimum donation of £165

Where: Alton Castle, Staffordshire.

Contact us Info@nymo.org www.nymo.org 01582 720627

SECONDARY RE AND INSPECTION

Stephen O'Brien

RE Subject Leaders' meeting

Despite a full agenda I had to cancel this term's RE Subject leaders' meeting because so few colleagues were able to attend. With so many developments in the local and national RE world, I would like to establish a new date for this meeting after the Easter break. I will be writing to colleagues shortly with this in mind. I know time is very precious, but would encourage colleagues to do their best to attend since time together provides a valuable opportunity for the exchange of ideas and experience.

People of God – Called to Serve. Year 7 of the new Framework for Religious Education in Catholic schools will be published on-line by Matthew James in early May 2015 and will be available on subscription for only £300x for the first three years. The package will include a growing number of teaching resources to support the units of study and the introduction of the framework for Years 8 and 9 over the coming year. Since it is likely that Northampton and many other dioceses will adopt this as the basis for teaching in KS3, I would recommend that all schools subscribe and have access to *People of God – Called to Serve* from an early date.

Cafod and People of God – Called to Serve The Cafod Secondary writing team has been closely involved in the writing of the new KS3 Framework for Religious Education. As well as contributing to the soon-to-be-published Year 7 materials, they have written Year 8 unit 6 [on the challenge to live justly] which will go on-line this May along with the Year 7 framework and resources. The People of God – Called to Serve website will link to the Cafod website where subscribers will be able to find a wealth of resources to support teaching. Cafod resources will be found throughout the Framework where appropriate.

PARTNERSHIP ACADEMIC MASSES – diary these now!

Buckinghamshire – 4.30pm 18 June, Princes Risborough

NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR – in EDUCATION WEEK

Bedford – 4.15pm, 5 October 2015

Northampton Town – 6.30pm, 6 October 2015

North Northants – 5.30pm, 7 October 2015

Slough – 5pm, 8 October 2015

POPE FRANCIS in April 2015 asks you to pray for

Universal: Creation - That people may learn to respect creation and care for it as a gift of God.

Evangelization: Persecuted Christians - That persecuted Christians may feel the consoling presence of the Risen Lord and the solidarity of all the Church.

FEAST DAYS and PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

16 April St Bernadette's Primary, Milton Keynes

23 April St George, Patron of England

SCHOOLS' COMMISSION

Frances Image

Catholic Values and 'British Values'

The Catholic Education Service has prepared two documents for schools on the subject: *The background to the debate on 'British values'* and *Catholic Values and 'British Values': Practical Advice from the Catholic Education Service*. We recommend that all schools should familiarise themselves with these documents and put into practice the advice provided. Both documents are available on: <http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/british-values>

PACT

The recent Diocesan Schools' Commissioners' Conference highlighted the work of PACT, a national charity that provides practical and emotional support to children affected by the imprisonment of a family member, and to their families. PACT is a member of the Caritas Social Action Network and its President is Cardinal Vincent Nichols. PACT has just published a Charter for Children and Young People with a Family Member in Prison. It has also produced a Practical Toolkit for Catholic Schools and parish communities on meeting the educational and pastoral care/welfare needs of children who are affected by the imprisonment of a family member, as well as useful books and other resources on this topic.

Further information is available from the PACT website at www.prisonadvice.org.uk

Universal infant free school meals (UIFSM): funding allocations 2015 to 2016

Please see below a copy of a communication received from the Department for Education.

'The department has today published the details and calculator for the universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) provisional and final allocations for the 2015-2016 UIFSM grant to schools. For the academic year 2015 to 2016, a provisional allocation of UIFSM grant to schools will be based on the final allocation for academic year 2014 to 2015. A final allocation for academic year 2015 to 2016 will be calculated in June 2016, based on take-up recorded in the October 2015 and January 2016 School Censuses. The conditions of grant also confirms that the rate per meal will remain at £2.30 for the 2015-16 academic year.

In addition to the main allocations above, schools with 150 or fewer pupils on roll (including nursery classes), as recorded on the January 2015 School Census will receive an extra flat payment of £2,300, in recognition of the additional costs that small schools incur.

The conditions of grant and calculator can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-infant-free-school-meals-uifsm-funding-allocations-2015-to-2016

VACANCIES IN OUR SCHOOLS –

In response to requests we are making a page available on the NORES website for vacancies in our schools. Staffing is a real challenge in all schools, and we hope this may be a small way of helping. Details have been circulated already and we welcome comments on how it can be of service to you.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

Pentecost Novena 2015

The Diocesan Evangelisation Team, in partnership with others, is again seeking to encourage simple prayer services around the Diocese during the nine days leading up to Pentecost. On each of the nine days of the novena the aim is that there will be at least one group praying this novena somewhere in the Diocese of Northampton in our parishes, schools, prayer groups, homes and elsewhere. For schools there will be a Poetry Competition for Key Stages 2 and 3 creatively expressing Pentecost with book tokens, prizes and assembly ideas.

There will be a range of resources available for Parishes/ Prayer groups/ families from the FAITH (Evangelisation) section of the Northampton Diocesan website including templates for shorter and longer Pentecost Novena prayer services that can be used in various settings. We are also adapting some of the resources so that they can be used ecumenically.

The Novena begins on Friday of the 6th Week of Easter, 15 May until Saturday 23 May 2015. Full information including a template for an order of service (which is given to help any parishes or prayer groups that would like to organise a prayer service as part of this Pentecost novena) will be available from NORES or the Diocesan website. Please contact Alex Heath, Chair of the Diocesan Evangelisation Team for more information. Tel: 01582 723312

Retreat for Catechists

From 10am – 3pm on Saturday 25 April at the Monastery of Christ Our Saviour, Turvey Mews, Turvey, Beds MK43 8DH there will be a retreat for catechists. **The retreat will include:**

Times of guided reflection led by Alex Heath (NORES) and other members of the Bishop's Council for Catechesis, Eucharist, Opportunity to meet other catechists and enjoy the beautiful and prayerful setting at Turvey, -Opportunity for personal prayer.

The cost is £10 per person (places are limited to 35)

Please bring a packed lunch. Tea and Coffee will be provided.

Parking: Cars are expected to park on the monks' side of the Turvey site, entry is via the first drive on the left in Jack's Lane (speed camera on the corner). Parking space limited to a maximum of 15 cars.

Pre- booking is essential. To book your place please send a non-refundable cheque payment of £10 made payable to R.E. Service along with your name, phone number and e mail address to: CATECHIST RETREAT 2015 via the NORES Office. For general enquiries- Tel: 01582 723312 (extension 6), Email: admin@nores.org.uk

Being a Catechist Training Course-Basic Training for the Ministry of Catechesis

is a course is 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 will run for the Slough Pastoral Area on one Monday evening and a Saturday in the summer term and for the Northampton North & East Pastoral Area on 5 Tuesday evenings in the summer term and is led by Alex Heath.

Venues & Dates:

Northampton-ST GREGORY THE GREAT RC PARISH, 22 PARK AVENUE NORTH, NORTHAMPTON, NN3 2HS on Tuesday evenings 7.30pm-9.30pm on the following dates: June 9, 23, 30 & July 7, 14.

Slough-THE NARTHEX, HOLY FAMILY RC CHURCH, 226 TRELAWNEY AVENUE, LANGLEY, SLOUGH, SL3 7UD Monday 13 July, 7.30-9.30pm Saturday 18th July 10am-4pm (please bring a packed lunch for the Saturday session.)

Booking forms are available from the NORES Office. *The course is available on request for your parish or pastoral area.*

LITURGY IN SCHOOL 25 March 2015

This was a very good day and very well received. Over half the schools of the diocese were represented, and it offered an opportunity for serious reflection on how we pray and celebrate liturgy in the school context. Through various presentations we formulated a common approach to celebrating the eucharist in school and a lot of useful resources were made available. There are still many questions to be resolved, and many issues which have to be determined locally because of particular circumstances. It was a valuable time for exchange of good practice and enriching conversations. We will look forward to a further day developing some of the themes and exploring new.

Those schools that were not there will need at some stage to avail of the materials or find time for some discussion as a common diocesan policy emerges.

NEWS AROUND THE DIOCESE

Academy orders have been granted to:

ST LUKE ACADEMY TRUST – SLAT - (North Northants) St Edward's Primary, Kettering, St Thomas More Primary, Kettering, Our Lady of Walsingham, Corby, St Brendan Primary School, Corby.

ST ALBAN CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST – SACAT- (Luton and Dunstable) St Margaret of Scotland Primary, St Martin de Porres Primary, Cardinal Newman Secondary.

APPOINTMENTS:

DIOCESAN PRIMARY RE ADVISER - Anne-Marie McIntosh
HEAD at St Mary's Aston-le-Walls - Kirstie Yuen

INDUCTIONS: 7pm at the school

Julia Rutherford-Bate –
St Thomas More Primary, Kettering – Thursday 14 May

Garret Fay –
St Michael's, High Wycombe – Wednesday 8 July

Thornton College – tba