



NORES NEWS

JUNE 2015 – The Month dedicated to Sacred Heart of Jesus

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

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

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From the Episcopal Vicar

Mgr Kevin



June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. While the image of an exposed heart is not always the easiest to use, the concept of celebrating the love of Jesus for us is at the heart of our relationship with him. It flows easily into the Year of Mercy that Pope Francis has called from December 8, which we will use as a major focus in

our thinking for schools over the next academic year. It is because God loves us so much in Christ that we know we can turn to him with confidence for his mercy.

One project that helps develop this relationship with Christ is our **PRAYER BAG for HOME** which we launch on June 22 from 2-4pm here at NORES. We have unashamedly “pinched” the idea from Birmingham



Diocese where it has run very successfully. {They happily gave us permission!} It provides one Prayer Bag Project each class in every primary school in the diocese as a resource about and for prayer in the home. Each child in each class can take the bag home for a week at a time and invite her/his family to share in a moment of prayer each day. There are four different bags reflecting different age ranges. As it develops we hope that each school will adapt it to reflect your own life of prayer, your patron saint, your own valuable traditions.

Those who have already seen it have endorsed it fully. We know that not every home will use it to the full, but it will offer parents and carers an insight into what we do at the heart of our school life. Where families are not church goers or religious in any way it will be a way of helping them see what we are about in a practical way. It will always be an open invitation to share as you can.

It has been financed in the main by the *Together in Faith* programme in the diocese as part of their contribution to adult education, Bishop Peter warmly encourages its promotion. At the launch we will explain how the project works and each school will then collect the necessary number of prayer bags for its classes. So it is essential that every school is represented without exception!

Pope Francis has called A HOLY YEAR OF MERCY from 8 December 2015 until 20 November 2016
see – iubilaeummisericordiae.va. for details and the logo etc [left]



Over the coming months we will offer various resources to help us engage with this great opportunity to celebrate God's mercy and forgiveness. The Pope calls us all to exercise mercy in whatever role we have. One of the questions that the late Paddy Purnell put in his seminal work *Our Faith Story* (1985) was – **“where in the school do you find forgiveness?”**. Not a bad question to ask today and a challenge to

respond to!

How will we celebrate God's love and mercy in our schools and any catechetical groups? The Liturgy Commission is hoping to develop resources for use in parishes and schools for **Reconciliation Services**. These will offer opportunities to reflect on the theme of forgiveness in as many aspects as possible. We already celebrate forgiveness in the prayers of the mass and other sacraments. This is something we need to reflect on more.



The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** should never be seen just as part of First Communion preparation. The American Bishops have said this : “Catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is to precede First Communion and must be kept

distinct by a clear and unhurried separation. This is to be done so that the specific identity of each sacrament is apparent and so that, before receiving First Communion, the child will be familiar with the revised Rite of Reconciliation and will be at ease with the reception of the sacrament.”

[quoted in M. Searle *The Church speaks about sacraments with children* LTP 1990 p.47] Our preferred pattern is for preparation for Reconciliation to begin in September of Year 3 and the sacrament to be celebrated in Advent. This allows preparation for First Eucharist to begin in January after a distinct break. During that preparation families can come to Reconciliation as part of their ordinary parish life, and not as just linked to First Communion. We will offer more thoughts on this in the coming months. Now is the time to start planning dates for September, and to think this through.

CALENDAR 2015/16 is NOW OUT – check your dates

Also please make sure all the events below have serious priority in your diaries!!!

FINANCE DAY – Monday 8 June 2015 – 2-4.30pm at NORES. This is a meeting for heads, bursars, chairs (and others) to discuss with the Finance Office, NORES, and diocesan officers various issues that are emerging as the educational landscape changes. Details out soon.

PRIMARY RE CONFERENCE – 17 June 2015 10am – 3pm at NORES. David Quinn, the primary RE adviser in Nottingham, will join us to give a day on *Come and See* especially using the website and to give help with resources. He will be able to address any questions or problems you have. Lunch will be provided and the cost is £50. Contact the office to book.

PRAYER BAG LAUNCH – 22 June 2-4pm at NORES
Details of the project are on the front page. It is essential that every school is represented to engage with the project and also to collect the bags your schools needs.

NORES LECTURE – Friday 3 July 2015 – 7.30pm at NORES
The 22nd Annual NORES lecture will be given by Sister Raymunda Jordan op. Celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life she will take the following for her subject: *Celebrate the past with joy, live the present with passion and look to the future with hope.* The lecture is followed by evening prayer and refreshments. All are welcome.

Sister AIDAN retirement – Thanksgiving Mass
Monday 6 July at 7pm here at NORES in the Holy Ghost Church with Bishop Peter.

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
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.

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.

POPE FRANCIS in June 2015 asks you to pray for

Universal: Immigrants and refugees

That immigrants and refugees may find welcome and respect in the countries to which they come.

Evangelization: Vocations

That the personal encounter with Jesus may arouse in many young people the desire to offer their own lives in priesthood or consecrated life.

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

12 June Sacred Heart Primary, Luton

13 June St Anthony Primary, Slough

20 June Bishop Parker Primary, Milton Keynes
(St Alban's Day)

21 June St John Rigby Primary, Bedford

22 June St Thomas More Primary, Kettering, St Thomas More Upper, Bedford

26 June St Louis Primary Aylesbury
(Feast Day 25th August)

29 June St Peter's Primary Marlow

29 June St Paul's Comprehensive, Milton Keynes

AND PARTNERSHIP FEAST DAYS

Luton – St Alban – 20 June

Buckinghamshire – SS John Fisher & Thomas More – 22 June

Slough – St Peter – 29 June

Milton Keynes – St Paul – 29 June

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

NEWS AROUND THE DIOCESE

HEAD TEACHER INDUCTION – 7pm at the school

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

Thornton College – Jo Storey – Thursday 17 September

Kirsty Yuen - St Mary's Aston-le-Walls - tba

Martin Lowe – The Good Shepherd, Northampton - tba

Simon Detre- St Teresa's Princes Risborough - tba



HOLY DOOR and the Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has called for a Holy Door in all cathedrals for the Jubilee Year. We were wondering could we do something similar for our parishes, schools and homes? Most places will

not have a new door or a door not used much. So could we decorate in a special way, say the door to the assembly hall – mark it out in a religious way – think too of holy water as we come in and go out? What ideas have you or other suggestions? Let us know.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

Summer School 2015

Firstly an invitation and encouragement to come and join us at the Summer School this year where our speakers; Fr Chris Thomas, Sister Hyacinthe Defos du Rau OP and Edmund Adamus will lead us in reflections on poverty, obedience and chastity in our following of Jesus Christ. The Summer School will take place at the RE Centre from 23-25 July 2015. Booking forms with full details and posters have been sent to all parishes and to catechists and are also available from the NORES office and website. We look forward to seeing you there. It would really help us to know soon if you are planning to come. Thank you.

Pentecost Novena 2015

A huge big thank you to all who took part in the Pentecost Novena in many and various ways. As well as prayer in various parts of our Diocese we had word from other parts of the country where the resources were used to facilitate prayer over the 9 days. There was an article in the Universe Catholic newspaper on Ascension Sunday profiling the work of the Diocesan Evangelisation Team, including the Pentecost Novena, and to promote the Proclaim '15 initiative. Thanks also go to Hannah Vaughan-Spruce author of the Transformed in Christ Confirmation programme who generously provided a Confirmation/ Youth resource to complement our other resources as well as to Brin Dunsire for all his work getting the resources on our evangelisation pages over a period of a few weeks.

BCC Meeting & Being a Catechist Training Course

Firstly a reminder that our next meeting of the Bishops Council for Catechesis will be at 7.45pm (for 8pm start) on Wednesday 24 June 2015 at Sacred Heart RC Church Hall, 5 Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1HZ.

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 being run for the Slough Pastoral Area over one Monday evening and a Saturday in the summer term and for the Northampton North & East Pastoral Area over 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 June, July 7, 14 July

Slough-THE NARTHEX, HOLY FAMILY RC CHURCH, 226 TRELAWNEY AVENUE, SLOUGH, SL3 7UD

Monday 13 July from 7.30-9.30pm, Saturday 18 July =from 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.**

NYMO NEWS

Alex Hindmarsh

Dates for your diary

Lux Teachings 11-18 years old

Tuesday 9 June, 7pm – 9pm, Holy Cross, Bedford

Fri 10 July, 7pm – 9pm, St. Francis of Assisi, Shefford

21– 28 August - Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. 16- 30yrs

22 July–1 August 2016 World Youth Day Krakow- 16- 30yrs

Contact us.... Northampton Youth Ministry Office, 33

Westbourne Rd, Luton LU4 8JD - Twitter & Facebook

Neil Roseman – Director of Youth Ministry Neil@nymo.org

Steve Harris- Parish Youth Liaison worker Steve@nymo.org

Alex Hindmarsh, Youth worker for outreach Alex@nymo.org

Fiona Murphy- Administrator Fiona@nymo.org

Summer Camp

This Summer holds an exciting opportunity to join the NYMO team for an experience you will never forget.

Loads of fun will be had as we travel and stay in an actual

castle in Staffordshire for 5 days AND visit Alton Towers

theme park. When: 24-28 July Cost: £250 pp but we ask for a

minimum donation of £165

www.nymo.org. Contact Neil@nymo.org

Salt & Light Project

is NYMO Young Leaders' Programme. It is for 16 - 18 year olds who wish to take on 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. 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. To find out more email steve@nymo.org.

SCHOOLS' COMMISSION

Frances Image

Catholic Education in England and Wales

This document, which was approved at the Bishops' Conference Plenary meeting in May, outlines the distinctive nature of Catholic education. It also explains the way in which Catholic schools work in partnership with the Government to provide outstanding academic standards, a diverse education and a cohesive and welcoming environment for all. It is available as a pdf document from the CES website <<http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/>>

LCVAP

The deadline for Local Authorities to submit a list of projects to DfE was 29 May. This means that in some LAs the lists are still being finalised until just before half-term. Schools will be informed when this has been done, but if you are concerned about a particular urgent project please get in touch with NORES to discuss the situation.

Reconstitution of Governing Bodies

Most schools have now completed the process. If you have not yet done so, please consult the Guidance on the NORES website. This will explain the process guide you through the all the steps of the procedure. If you have any questions, please get in touch with NORES as soon as possible.

NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY CORNER

Sister Aidan

Throughout the Bible and throughout our lives the Holy Spirit is always present. We don't read much about the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, but he is a presence which is always there. He was a hidden presence, but at work. The Spirit is the creating force in creation, "The Spirit of God breathed over the waters..." [Genesis 1:1.] He is still a creating force – this time, in our lives. I call the Holy Spirit "the everyday person of the Blessed Trinity." The feast of Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit, and there he remains for the rest of the time we call Ordinary Time – we use the colour green for life. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit our faith is first awakened through the sacrament of baptism. He communicates to us the gift of new life so that we can know the Father and the one whom he has sent – Jesus Christ. Together with the Father and the Son they are to be worshipped and glorified. We do this whenever we make the sign of the cross. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church we read, "The Spirit "who has spoken through the prophets" makes us hear the Father's Word but we do not hear the Spirit himself. We know him only in the movement by which he reveals the Word to us and disposes us to welcome him in faith." We can come to know the Spirit of God through and in the Church:

- ✚ through the Scriptures which he inspired;
- ✚ in the Tradition of the Church – things and times which we hold special within the Church
- ✚ in the Church's teaching
- ✚ in the sacramental liturgy, all those words and symbols which we associate with the sacraments
- ✚ in prayer, where he intercedes for us, and in us, and with us
- ✚ in the ministries which build up the Church
- ✚ in the signs of apostolic and missionary life
- ✚ in the witness of the saints.

St John tells us, "God is love," [1 John 13:1,17:1]. God's first gift containing all others. "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." [Romans 5:5]. May this be love be in your hearts and through you, in the hearts of those you teach.

SECONDARY RE AND INSPECTION

Stephen O'Brien

GCSE/A level reform The National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers [NBRIA] and the Catholic Education service [CES] have joined forces to offer a number of training days for Secondary RE colleagues at HEI venues across the country. The purpose is to provide opportunities to learn more about the reforms and the new specifications for Religious Education in order to be prepared for their introduction and teaching in 2016. Bishop Peter has 'strongly encouraged' all schools to send representation to one of these meetings. The meetings will be held at St Mary's University, Twickenham on 22 June, Leeds Trinity University on 29 June, Liverpool Hope University on 9 July

and Newman University, Birmingham on 10 July. I will be writing to all schools with further detail and timings.

New GCSE grade boundary transition The following chart highlights the percentages of GCSE pupils achieving the existing A*- U grades against the expected grade under the new 1 -9 system. Notice that only 65% of pupils who formally achieved grade A* will achieve the new GCSE highest grade 9.

Grade Comparisons										
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
U	100									
G		100								
F		50	50							
E			100							
D				100						
C					67	33				
B						33	67			
A								70	30	
A*									35	65

Meeting of Inspection team The summer inspection team meeting takes place at the RE Centre in Luton on 4 July 2015. All members are welcome. The agenda and minutes will follow.

LEVELS OF ATTAINMENT FOR RE (NBRIA)

After an important recent meeting, plans are beginning to emerge that should lead to developments in the way our national RE Levels of Attainment are presented. There are many good features to the current levels, not least the fact that they have brought both rigour and a common understanding to the levelling of RE that simply did not exist in the past. As a result, the Catholic community nationally has had a standard that diocese have been able to adapt and use locally, in many cases to good effect. However, especially at secondary phase, the levels have not always been easy to apply and have sometimes either appeared out of step with levelling in other subject areas or required some sort of 'currency conversion' for reporting to parents and governors. This has the effect of somewhat devaluing the worth of system as a whole.

The proposal that seems to be emerging is for something that attunes with the Emerging, Secure, Exceeding approach offering age related 'Milestone Statements' for each year group and significantly more detailed progress 'steps' that guide teachers towards the milestones and offer better opportunities to advise learners on their next steps. The system would also be likely to apply the 'mastery and depth' approach, expanding and deepening knowledge in each year rather than always seeking to move pupils on to a higher level.

These are early days and it will take time for the new approach to emerge but I think all will welcome a development that makes the current system more robust and effective.

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.

