



NORES NEWS

APRIL 2016 – The month dedicated to 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*



(Luke 6:36)

The Jubilee Year of Mercy continues until 20 November. *Thanks to all who have sent in pictures of your Holy Door (8 to date), and we look forward to the rest!* Let us continue with this initiative from Pope Francis and see how we can continue to build on what has caught people's imagination in so many ways. Pope Francis has asked each diocese to

commit to a work of mercy – so perhaps we can think the same for each school.

AMORIS LAETITIA – The Joy of Love

As I write the PostSynodal Exhortation on Marriage and Family Life has just been published, There will be much discussion about its application to our lives, but just to give a flavour here is the last paragraph and a closing prayer you may wish to use with staff and students:
n.325 The teaching of the Master (cf. Mt 22:30) and Saint Paul (cf. 1 Cor 7:29-31) on marriage is set – and not by chance – in the context of the ultimate and definitive dimension of our human existence. We urgently need to rediscover the richness of this teaching. By heeding it, married couples will come to see the deeper meaning of their journey through life. As this Exhortation has often noted, no family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love. This is a never-ending vocation born of the full communion of the Trinity, the profound unity between Christ and his Church, the loving community which is the Holy Family of Nazareth, and the pure fraternity existing among the saints of heaven. Our contemplation of the fulfilment which we have yet to attain also allows us to see in proper perspective the historical journey which we make as families, and in this way to stop demanding of our interpersonal relationships a perfection, a purity of intentions and a consistency which we will only encounter in the Kingdom to come. It also keeps us from judging

harshly those who live in situations of frailty. All of us are called to keep striving towards something greater than ourselves and our families, and every family must feel this constant impulse. Let us make this journey as families, let us keep walking together. What we have been promised is greater than we can imagine. May we never lose heart because of our limitations, or ever stop seeking that fullness of love and communion which God holds out before us.

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too may be
places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel
and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again experience
violence, rejection and division;
may all who have been hurt or scandalized
find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
make us once more mindful
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,
and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer. AMEN

For full details go to cbcew/amoris-laetitia. Our bishops' conference website offers the full text, a summary and the Vatican's own 4 page Q&A document.



CONGRATULATIONS

to **OUR LADY OF PEACE PRIMARY SCHOOL**, Burnham, Slough - our newest school on April 1 bringing together Our Lady of Peace Infant and Nursery and Our Lady of Peace Junior Schools.

to **ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC ACADEMIES TRUST, Northampton** – which from April 1 brings together the previous Federation as a MAT of Good Shepherd Primary, St Gregory Primary St Mary Primary and Thomas Becket Schools.

to **JO ANNE HOARTY** who has been appointed Head of St Paul's, Milton Keynes from September 2016

and **THANKS to Alan Lee** who leaves the St Francis of Assisi Academy Trust for all he has given over the years, and our prayers and best wishes for his future.

SCHOOLS COMMISSION NOTES

Firstly a very warm welcome to Collette Curtis who joins NORES as director of School Development from 1 September 2016. Some will already know her from her work with Northamptonshire over the years. We hope she will soon be able to get round and visit all our schools and begin her work.

RESERVED POSTS - Just a reminder that the diocese has established that reserved posts in all Catholic schools in the diocese include the following: Head Teacher / Principal or equivalent,(or Executive) Deputy Head Teacher, Head of RE/RE Coordinator (or whoever is designated responsible for RE), Lay Chaplain/Chaplaincy Coordinator or equivalent. (Other dioceses insist the same for Assistant Heads). On any resignation or creation of a post please inform NORES immediately. Guidance for the appointment process is on our website. A member of NORES will assist in the planning of the recruitment process. Advertisement, job description and person specification must be consulted with NORES prior to publication. A member of NORES needs to be present for shortlisting (or have sight of the papers) and must be present at all interviews.

EASTER HOLIDAYS 2017 – LGA suggest 3-18 April. This means having two weeks off before Easter and coming back to school on Easter Tuesday. This again is for a partnership to discuss as to the value of being in school during Holy Week. Coming back soon after Easter allows the more direct celebration of the Resurrection.

TERM TITLES – many years ago we agreed to name our terms respecting the liturgical year – i.e. Advent, Lent and Pentecost terms. It is to a degree "counter cultural" but also more accurate. (*How many people call Holy Saturday by the name Easter Saturday!*) I hope we can all return to this agreed nomenclature.

GOVERNANCE APPOINTMENTS

VA SCHOOLS - Foundation Governors:

St Mary's, Aston le Walls - Stephen Tarry, Rebecca Iley,
St Monica's, Milton Keynes - Siobhan Smith,
St Mary Magdalene, Milton Keynes - Don Gallagher,
St Bernadette's, Milton Keynes - Mary McGowan,
St Mary's Caddington - Pauline Cotton, Julie O'Regan,
Bletchley Catholic Federation - Gillian McIntyre,
St Michael's, High Wycombe - Henry Opilola
Sacred Heart, Luton – Clare Wood

ACADEMIES - Foundation Directors:

St Francis of Assisi Trust - Julia Brady, Ann Knought,
St Alban Catholic Trust - Warren Edwards,
St Thomas of Canterbury – Susan Fitzgerald

ACADEMIES - Foundation Representatives:

St Thomas of Canterbury Trust - Jason Osborn, Hugh Williams
St Alban Catholic Trust - Joseph Borg, Noeleen McLoughlin.
St Luke Catholic Trust – James Byrne

GOVERNORS' FORUM

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

2016 7-9pm at local venues:

14 April - St Michael's High Wycombe

19 April - St Edward's Kettering

26 April - St Ethelbert's Slough

TBA – Bedford

ACADEMY ISSUES

- the CEs and DfE have signed off a Memorandum of Understanding about schools in categories and the issue of academy conversion. All discussions must be had through the dioceses and the Regional Schools Commissioner for the area
- The protocol for all contact between RSC and any of our schools is that this must take place through NORES. Please let us know of any infringements.
- there are serious and involved discussions taking place between the dioceses and the CES about the shape of Catholic academies for the future. We need to ensure from the outset that our unique character is preserved, that we provide the best Catholic education we can but always to build up the Kingdom – this is our unique role. Issues are being raised about funding, structure, leadership, and size of MATs. There is no "one size fits all" but sharing the experience across our dioceses will be very important.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

Events for Catechists in the Year of Mercy

A reminder that there is a **Retreat for Catechists** taking place this month 10am – 3pm, **Saturday 9 April 2016** at the Monastery of Christ Our Saviour, Turvey Mews, Turvey, Beds MK43 8DH Cost: £12 per person (places are limited to 35). Please bring a packed lunch. Tea and Coffee will be provided. Please book via the NORES Office.

To coincide with the Jubilee celebrations for Catechists in Rome we are also running an event for catechists on the afternoon of **SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2016** in Gerrards Cross. Please save the date and we will send more details soon. A final reminder that the 5-session training course **Being a Catechist** will begin on 12 April 2016 in Beaconsfield and run over 5 consecutive Tuesday evenings. For more information and to book please contact the NORES office. This course can also be run for your parish or pastoral area on request. The Year of Mercy is also an opportunity for us to explore and revisit the place and value of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in our lives. The course **Anchoring you in Happiness** is a 6-session course exploring the theme of mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). This has been run in Northampton and Luton already this year. If you would like to explore having this course for your parish or pastoral area as part of your celebrations for the Year of Mercy please contact the NORES office to enquire about available dates and times.

Pentecost Novena 2016

As Easter is quite early this year we have compiled the resources for the Pentecost Novena in good time and they are now available via the Diocesan website www.northamptondiocese.org (then select 'Faith' and then 'Evangelisation').

These simple resources are offered to encourage and facilitate prayer for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit for a New Evangelisation. On the webpages you will find a range of resources, including templates for Prayer Services, prayer cards, music, a poster and a Guidance document, that are freely available for those who would like to use them. The dates for this year's Pentecost Novena are: **FRIDAY 6 MAY-SATURDAY 14 MAY 2016** inclusive.

The aim is that on each of the nine days of the novena there will be at least one group praying somewhere in the Diocese of Northampton and further afield, using these resources. In this way the novena is prayed collectively over the nine days. These services can be prayed before or after Mass or other liturgies, in prayer meetings, as part of other meetings or at home. They are suitable for use by Churches, prayer groups,

families and individuals for their personal prayer. They can also be adapted for use in schools e.g. staff prayer. This year we are inviting parishes and prayer groups to link up in prayer with twin parishes or contacts through family and friends in other parts of the world to celebrate the global family of the Church. In addition an Act of Worship will also be sent to schools to help them with their preparations for Pentecost. A number of the resources are suitable for use across parishes and schools and can be used flexibly to enable communities to prayerfully prepare for Pentecost. If you are organising a Pentecost prayer service please let us know so we can add yours to the schedule of prayer for the 9 days of the novena.

PRAYER INTENTIONS – ask the school to pray with the Pope's intentions for April

Universal: That **small farmers** may receive a just reward for their precious labor.

Evangelization: That **Christians in Africa** may give witness to love and faith in Jesus Christ amid political-religious conflicts.

FEAST DAYS - pray for the schools who celebrate their feast days this month.

16 April St Bernadette's Primary, Milton Keynes

Academic Masses for 2015/16 have been celebrated in most of our partnerships and are great occasions for staff, governors, clergy and all connected to our schools to come together Buckinghamshire – 7pm 22 June 2016 at St Edward's Aylesbury, their partnership patronal feast.

DID YOU READ ? In the FINAL REPORT of the SYNOD of BISHOPS to the HOLY FATHER, POPE FRANCIS - Vatican City 24 October 2015

68. Catholic schools play a vital role in assisting parents in their duty to raise their children. Catholic education promotes the role of the family, ensures good preparation and provides education in the virtues and values as well as instruction in Church teaching. Catholic schools should be encouraged in their mission to help pupils grow into mature adults, who can view the world with the love of Jesus and who can understand life as a call to serve God. In this way, Catholic schools are important in the Church's evangelizing mission. In many parts of the world, Catholic schools are the only schools to provide genuine opportunities for the children of poor families, especially for young people, offering them an alternative to poverty and a way to make a real contribution to society. Catholic schools should be encouraged to pursue their activity in the poorest communities by serving the less fortunate and most vulnerable members of our society.

NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY

CORNER

Anne-Marie McIntosh

What a short term!

School Visits

These continue to go well. If you were on the list of suggested dates and haven't already done so, please email me to confirm the date and time. Thank you.

Year of Mercy

It's great to see what schools are doing for the Year of Mercy. The art work around the schools I have visited has been amazing. Thank you for sending in your photographs of your Doors of Mercy. If you haven't sent a photo of yours in then please do so. Thank you.

Heads' Conference

The Head Teachers' Conference in Poole was fantastic. We had three excellent speakers who gave us much food for thought.

It was a great opportunity to get together, share experiences and relax. If you weren't able to join us this year we missed you and hope that you will be able to come along next year. The PowerPoint slides from the two speakers will be on the NORES website soon.

There were two challenges which stood out for me: to listen to each other with humility and to have the courage to always remain faithful to the Catholic Vision for education in spite of external pressures. Hope you have a Happy Easter and that you return to school refreshed.

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

SECONDARY RE AND INSPECTION

Stephen O'Brien

Subject Leaders Meeting Thank you to those colleagues able to attend our meeting on 11 March. You will see from the meeting notes those present held some useful discussion on a range of issues. In particular, three things were highlighted for action. These concerned Chaplaincy, A Level teaching and preparation for the new GCSE.

Stemming from discussion on the Holy Year of Mercy, colleagues felt that a meeting of secondary school chaplains might be beneficial since this group have a particular view of the world and could provide each other with support and resourcing pertinent to the secondary setting. As a result of this, and in consultation with some chaplaincy colleagues, NORES will facilitate an initial meeting for secondary colleagues in the Pentecost term 2016. The date for this will be set in due course and all colleagues informed well in advance.

Advanced Level In preparation for the introduction of new specs A Level teaching in September 2016, subject leaders felt that a self-help study session for colleagues would be useful on the implementation and resourcing of the new requirements. It was agreed to set up a meeting at NORES on Wednesday 22 June from 12 to

3.30. The meeting would start with a short lunch and follow an agenda agreed by HOD colleagues. I will write to all asking you to confirm attendance. Please place this date in your diary.

GCSE Having identified a need for whole-department staff inset on Judaism [which requires teaching at greater depth than many departments have experienced in the past] it was agreed that NORES would ask Ruth Weiner, a Jewish education specialist, to offer a one day inset for those who will teach GCSE Judaism from September 2016. Ruth has offered this day elsewhere to great acclaim. It is important that departments can attend as a team and receive this training first-hand. The inset will be offered on either 6 or 7 July 2016. Further details to follow. HODs please discuss with your line manager and diary for your team when date confirmed.

Inspection Team Meeting Apologies to team members for the late change of date. I do hope you will be able to attend on **Wednesday 13 April 2016**. We will run the meeting as usual, starting at 10 am and ending with lunch at about 1 o'clock. This will be an interesting meeting as there is a lot to review and discuss.

OUR NORES CALENDAR FOR 2016/2017

is enclosed with this newsletter.

- please make sure you put all the dates that apply to you in your diary now, and make sure the school calendar takes account of them in your planning
- members of the Head Teachers' Association and Deputy Heads' Association are asked to ensure that they make their meetings a PRIORITY
- RE Coordinators/Heads of RE/Chaplains – please ensure that you also make your meetings and the conferences a priority in all your work

HEADS' CONFERENCE – was a great success. Our thanks to all who participated, to Anne Marie as Chaplain, and the speakers David Wells, Fr Adrian Porter SJ and Bishop Peter.

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

NORES LECTURE 2016 – Friday 8 July 7.30pm
Canon John Udris – *'Mercy through the Eyes of the Mystics'*.

DEPUTY HEADS/SENIOR LEADERS' CONFERENCE

Dates - 16-18 November 2016

Venue - Hothorpe Hall, Leicestershire

Theme - *"Justice and mercy have met"* (Psalm 85)

Booking forms out very soon!!!!

EDUCATION WEEK 2016 – October 10-16

Have you begun thinking about this?

Have you contacted the local parishes to see how you can be involved?