



NORES NEWS

June 2019 – The month dedicated to the 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*

PENTECOST [9 June] ends the Easter season for this year. We are asked to reflect how we understand the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives, personally, as a school, parish and as Church. We look to the Spirit as inspiration especially for the **election of a new bishop to succeed Bishop Peter**, and to be with Bishop Peter as he continues his generous ministry amongst us. Prayer cards were given to everyone in the parish, and we have sent some to schools. More will be made available soon, but we realise that the text may not be age appropriate for all, so please adapt it as you will. The most important thing is to keep praying for God's Spirit at this moment of our diocesan life.

Many of our young people and families will have celebrated in these weeks, and so their appreciation of the Spirit and their faith is to be celebrated. Equally many too will be moving or leaving school, and we pray that the Spirit will be with them in transition, examinations, and important choices they have to make for their future.

It is the Spirit, says St Paul, who enables us to call God "Abba", "Father", so our prayer life needs to encompass all of these elements in the life of our communities :

For the election of a new bishop for us :

*Lord God,
you are our eternal shepherd and guide.
In your mercy grant your Church of Northampton
a shepherd who will walk in your ways
and whose watchful care will bring us your blessing.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

For examinations [Veritas]

*Lord, pour out your Spirit of wisdom on these students:
help them to remain calm,
to attend carefully to the questions asked,
to think clearly, to remember accurately
and to express themselves well.
Grant that they may reflect the best of the work they have done
and the best of the teaching they have received.
Accept their best efforts in these examinations
and in the great test of life on earth.
May your love be upon them, O Lord,
as they place all their trust in you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

For choices in life [CCCB]

*Heavenly Father, we praise you for your glory
and thank you for your goodness to us.
Look on our young people and bless them as
they leave this school to move forward in life.
May your Spirit give them many talents and skills
and help them to use them for your glory
and for the good of all people.
Loving father we ask this grace through Christ our Lord. Amen*

JUNE is also a very rich month for us in our Catholic tradition.

The month is dedicated to the Sacred Heart, a theme simply reminding us of the love of God shown to us in the person of Jesus, whom we are called to imitate in our love for God and for others. It is a chance to reflect on how we show that love actively in our schools and communities.

Relatively new feasts are

10 June – Mary, Mother of the Church

13 June - Our Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal priest

Then we continue the month with

Sunday 16 – Trinity Sunday

Sunday 23 – Corpus Christi

Friday 28 – Sacred Heart of Jesus

Sunday 30 – SS Peter and Paul

Many in our schools will not always be at church or part of our tradition. These feasts are moments first of all of celebration. It is so true, however, that often really good celebrations nourish our faith and our understanding. So planning well and putting effort into keep these feasts can have such great value for the future, as well as for the present moment.

CCRS News

Steve O'Brien

'CCRS Twenty Five Years On'. The recent publication of Ros Stuart-Buttle's report on the impact of CCRS over the last twenty five years paints a very positive picture of the course's value to individual participants and on its contribution to improving the level of theological literacy within our schools and parishes. The report affirms the current CCRS model and attests to the high regard in which it is held by the Catholic community across the dioceses of England and Wales. The report makes fourteen recommendations and considers how the role of CCRS might be usefully developed in the future. You can read the report on line by visiting www.brs-ccrs.org.uk > downloads.

Endings and Beginnings. The CCRS course in Bedford has recently come to an end. Congratulations to those who completed their studies and will be certificated in due course. Thanks also to the staff of St Joseph's and St Gregory's who hosted the course. Milton Keynes is now in full swing with tutors reporting great enthusiasm from participants. Keep up the good work!

Provisional dates are now in place for *our next CCRS course which will begin in Slough in the autumn*. Further details will be published shortly. If you are interested in joining this course please contact me at obrien@nores.org.uk and I will reserve a place for you.

Foundation Governor Appointments

- At the recent Governors' Court the following were made
St Mary Primary, Aston le Walls : *Fr James Evans*
St Paul Secondary, Milton Keynes : *Mr Paul Herbert*,
St Joseph Primary, Luton : *Mr Andrew McCann*

From the DIRECTOR of SCHOOL

DEVELOPMENT

Collette Curtis

Stronger together, working in collaboration – next steps This month the focus for discussion in schools around the Diocese is lines of accountability and responsibility within the structure of the two Regional MATs to be formed in January 2020. Meetings are planned across the Diocese in the Autumn term to share the vision of the schools in working together to promote the mission of the church. We are very grateful for the hours of work provided by volunteers across the Diocese as Directors and governors in our schools. We have been delighted by the very positive response to the appeal for additional volunteers to support governance in this move to regional MATs. If you have any questions please contact me on curtis@nores.org.uk

Developing Catholic Leaders- Dioceses working together The first of a suite of courses aimed at developing Catholic Leaders sharing consistent training across the Dioceses of Brentwood, Westminster, East Anglia, Arundel and Brighton, Portsmouth, Southwark and Northampton will run from the Advent term 2019. The first course will be for aspiring head teachers looking for an appointment in the next 2/3 years. The course will include formation, practical leadership within the context of a Catholic school, mentoring, a short placement and access to an app for "snatched learning" to accompany the face to face sessions. For more details please see the advert sent out to all schools or contact me at curtis@nores.org.uk

Recruiting staff The DfE has launched the *Teaching Vacancies* website, a free service to advertise teaching vacancies. The Secretary of State for Education has called on all state funded schools to sign up to the Teaching Vacancies service to cut down on up to £75 million schools spend every year to advertise teaching jobs. We would ask all dioceses to publicise this service and encourage their schools to make full use of it. The website can be accessed here: <https://teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk/>

Reducing workload Workload Reduction Toolkit – various updates have been issued to the teacher workload reduction toolkit. We would encourage all heads and governing bodies to look at the toolkit with a view to determining whether their school is doing all that it can to reduce teacher workload. The toolkits focus on the following areas:

- Communications;
- Curriculum planning and resources;
- Data management;
- Feedback and marking;
- Managing change;
- Behaviour Management; and
- Supporting early career teachers.

The toolkit can be accessed by following this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/workload-reduction-toolkit>

GOVERNANCE APPOINTMENTS

Debbie Main

If you're preparing your new pupil packs ready for September, don't forget to include a School Building Fund leaflet. VA schools are still required to fund 10% of the cost of all capital projects, this is not supposed to come from LA funding, but schools can fundraise and ask families for voluntary contributions. We have a stock of leaflets that include a form for a regular monthly payment and Gift Aid declaration. Contributions are paid into your schools dedicated buildings fund and held by the diocese. VA schools are entitled to enough to cover the new intake (i.e. 30 per form in your entry year R, 3 or 7) for free (you only pay the postage) and if you'd like more there is a small charge. Schools across the diocese use the voluntary scheme to bolster their 10% contributions. If your school would like a few sample forms or to order larger quantities contact Debbie Main on 01582 723312 or email main@nores.org.uk

PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

PRAYER INTENTIONS – *ask the school to pray with the Pope for his intentions for June.* That priests, through the modesty and humility of their lives, commit themselves actively to a solidarity with those who are most poor.

FEAST DAYS

13 June	St Anthony Primary, Slough
18 June	St John Rigby Primary, Bedford
20 June	Bishop Parker Primary, Milton Keynes (St Alban's Day)
22 June	St Thomas More Primary, Kettering, St Thomas More Teaching School, Bedford
26 June	St Louis Primary Aylesbury (Feast Day 25th August)
29 June	St Peter's Primary Marlow
29 June	St Paul's, Milton Keynes

DATES for YOUR DIARIES 2019

7 June Chaplaincy & RE Conference
11 June RE in the Early Years
27 June Come & See Day

Book your courses now! admin@nores.org.uk

CALENDAR 2019/20 is out and in your schools now. Please think about checking it as you begin planning for the next academic year! Remember especially
Staff New to diocese – 27 September
Diocesan Schools Week – 7-13 October
Heads Conference – 12-13 March 2020
Deputies Conference – 20-22 November 2019

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

Pray for our new colleagues in these posts and others as they begin their ministry of service to our schools.

PRIMARY RE

Anne Marie McIntosh

Early Years Day This is a day for early years practitioners across the diocese. We will have three presentations from outstanding teachers and there will be plenty of opportunity to share thoughts and ideas. This is a new venture for us so please come along and share your thoughts. If you haven't booked a place yet please email Jackie admin@nores.org.uk

The next **Come and See** day, with Fr Kevin and myself, will take place on Thursday 27th June, 2019 here at NoRES, this will focus on preparing for the Advent Term. If you would like to come along please email Jackie admin@nores.org.uk

New Standards in RE The new standards in RE are now being rolled out across the Diocese. Hopefully you all have copies of the Come and See topics with the new standards (in red) inserted for each learning focus. If you haven't please let me know and I will email them to you. The 'Greater Depth' **tasks** (in purple) are being added. These will be sent out as soon as all the tasks are complete.

School Visits for this term are almost all confirmed. I am looking forward to visiting you and celebrating all the good things going on in our schools.

Our **Year of Missio** continues with a 'Day of Many Colours' assembly for a celebration of St Peter and St Paul on 29 June. The case study is a school in India where Mission Together purchased Braille typewriters for the children.

RE Subject Leaders Day Our next day together is a joint day with our Secondary Heads of RE and Chaplains on Friday 7 June, 2019. We are delighted to have CJM music coming to lead this day for us.

Just a thought As you are probably in the middle of the Reconciliation topic remember to 'Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same' (Col.3.13) **And Finally** If you have any queries about anything please don't hesitate to contact me.

SECONDARY RE AND THEOLOGY

Paul McHugh

I hope all is well with you and your schools in this busy season. **Some dates for diaries:**

June 7 Primary, Secondary and Chaplaincy Conference Day at NORES

June 13 Catholic Basics: Prayer at NORES

July 4 Faith in Action Day at St Paul's Milton Keynes
In these weeks, the mood of the Church's Year is a good corrective to the preoccupation and worry than can easily dominate days in which we feel so much depends on *performance* - ours and our exam students'. Of course, we obviously want to prepare them well and for them to do well. During the Easter season, the Church particularly calls us to contemplate the Paschal Mystery and the fruits of redemption dispensed in the liturgy and sacraments of the Church. As Pope St Leo preached: 'what was visible in our Saviour has passed over into his mysteries'. From Pentecost, we ascend to that Mystery which the Church calls the 'most fundamental and essential teaching in the "hierarchy of the truths of faith"'. This is the Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. As a class exercise, it might be interesting to use Andrei Rublev's famous icon of *The Trinity*, using its details to help bring out a deeper contemplation of this Mystery. It recalls the visit of three mysterious guests to Abraham at Mamre (hence its other name *The Hospitality of Abraham*). The guests are arranged so as to form part of a circle around a table. Two guests bless the central cup. The guests are all of equal position at table and yet two slightly bow to the third.

There is a house, tree and mountain dimly in the background and a gap in the table in the foreground. The dominant garment colours, though faded after the centuries, are blue and gold for one figure, blue and brown for the second, and blue and green for the third. We might ask: what is this icon trying to convey?

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS & CHAPLAINCY Alex Heath

Scripture Day -Saturday 13 July 2019 is a day for anyone interested in growing in their understanding of Scripture, 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 to 4pm and will include Mass and a presentation by Fleur Dorrell on the *Year of the Word 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 is St Gregory the Great Church, Northampton. Please contact the NORES office for a copy of the poster or to book.

CJM Music leading our Joint RE & Chaplaincy Conference

Friday 7 June 2019 from

9.30am-3pm at NORES. CJM

Music will be bringing liturgy to



life for us at our joint RE & Chaplaincy Conference.

Jo Boyce is a Catholic musician, worship leader, liturgist and songwriter and the director and co-founder of CJM MUSIC, based in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. The mission of CJM MUSIC (www.cjmmusic.com) is to inspire, support and resource all those involved in music and liturgy. Over the years, Jo Boyce has been a regular face on BBC Songs of Praise, and a familiar voice on many Sunday Radio programmes which play the music of 'Boyce & Stanley'. Jo is probably best-known as the co-writer of the popular Communion song 'Bread of Life, Truth Eternal'. During the day there will be plenty of singing of hymns old and new, and resources to help to inspire and equip for animating the life of prayer and worship in your school.

Pentecost Novena & Pentecost Celebration

After we celebrate the Ascension to help us prepare for a greater openness to the Holy Spirit in our lives and communities the Pentecost Novena is once again available. We have resources to help schools, parishes, families and individuals take part in the 9 days of prayer leading up to Pentecost (which this year run from Friday 31 May- Saturday 8 June). There is also a link for the ecumenical *Thy Kingdom Come* initiative on our webpage. Go to www.northamptondiocese.org/FAITH/EVANGELISATION and select 'Pentecost Novena' (with the Holy Spirit dove logo) to view and download the free resources.



On Sunday 9 June 2019, Pentecost Sunday, Trafalgar Square, one of the most iconic public spaces in the UK, will be set apart for Christians to pray for & wait on the empowering of the Holy Spirit. The Square will be transformed into a joyful family festival & service where there will be live music with The Kingdom Choir, food, prayer workshops, children's activities, dance, praise & worship with Matt Redman. Many denominations will gather to pray, listen, learn & praise. It is a free event – a ticket is not required. This is special event for Christians of all denominations. See <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/trafalgarsquare> for more information and to register your interest.

The God Who Speaks: 2020 A Year of the Word

*celebrating, living and sharing
God's word*



[http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Special-Events/The-God-Who-Speaks/\(language\)/eng-GB](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Special-Events/The-God-Who-Speaks/(language)/eng-GB)

2020 - Year of the Bible

*The God Who Speaks:
A Year of the Word.*

This is advance notice about a Year of the Bible to be held in the Church in England and Wales next year. The year 2020 is the tenth anniversary of **Verbum Domini** – Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord' and the 1,600th anniversary of St Jerome's death. These dates have motivated the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to make 2020 a year of focus on *The God Who Speaks*.

In 2020 we will be celebrating, living and sharing God's word with an exciting new initiative. It will be an opportunity to enrich current practice and to develop and explore new ways of responding to *The God who Speaks*. Throughout the year, there will be a range of events, activities and creative resources to participate in all around the country. The public launch of *The God who Speaks* will be on the Memorial of St. Jerome, 30th September 2019.

We need to think how we will celebrate the Year in our diocese. A wide-ranging group met in late April and over the months will offer resources and ideas for parishes and schools. It will be a chance to give new energy to the Ministry of Lector/Reader and encourage us all to study in greater depth the Word of God in the holy scriptures.

In schools this will be especially powerful through the way we use scripture in our worship and in the RE curriculum.

If you have any ideas about what we can do or what you need please email Fr Kevin.

GET STARTED NOW

by engaging with this initiative.

Ask everyone who can to respond!

Have you done our

Bible and You survey yet?

If not, please do - it's really quick and easy.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LDGRCYM>

CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

This term may seem to be exhausting, ensuring our students are well prepared for their exams. Then suddenly it will all be over for another year! In the midst of all this CAFOD offers some refreshment and peace, even renewal, with its call to "**Care for our Common Home**". Our focus this term is the Holy Father's call to look after the world we were gifted so freely by God, to reflect on what we do, and how much more we can still do to protect and steward our planet for future generations. The education team have created some **AMAZING** resources for use in school by your local volunteer; resources that will both educate and entertain your pupils from KS2 upwards. They are workshops set in Chile (Peru). For younger members of school "**Zero Hero**" investigates how we have spoiled our world but also how we can make changes to make it beautiful once more. The activities encourage the classes to develop a positive "can do" attitude-who knows, they may take the lead in making your school a greener place! The work fits well with KS2 science and there are many ways in which the workshop can extended in school. The resources for older students engage and challenge with the use of Augmented Reality. Downloading the "Zappar" app will bring to life the poster-based resources to see what these young Peruvian students are doing to improve their environment. A real wow! Not too late to book a visit. As we approach Pentecost, we reflect on the prayer to the Holy Spirit - "**Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created, and You will renew the face of the earth**"

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

MISSIO NEWS

Fr Wayne Coughlin

MISSIO

As I recently prepared a homily and pondered St John seeing into the new heaven and the new earth (Apoc 21:1-5), I was reminded of a phenomenon known as "**sustained inattentional blindness**", where we see only those things we want to see and everything else fades unnoticed into the background. We often miss what is in front of our eyes; we do not see it because our attention is elsewhere. At Mass this can manifest itself in our (my) inability to see Jesus in the Sacred Scriptures and the Blessed Sacrament. In the secular world advertisers must find inventive ways of reaching us with their message and are often very successful. I recently found myself responding to a friend's rejection that we eat in the Presbytery (rather than go out for supper) with: "Oh I haven't got just food; **it's M&S food**". Sadly, rather than inhabit the new heaven and the new earth which St John has seen, we (I) often belong to a world of our own creation. In this insular world we can be blind to those around us. Perhaps that's why the Psalmist cries out "**Lord, open my eyes that I may see**" (Psalm 119:18). **Our task is to see Jesus in the Sacred Scriptures and the Blessed Sacrament, but we must also see Him in each other and particularly in those who are need.**

This month Missio is asking that we pray for the work of the "Vijaya Mary Integrated School for the Blind" in India where 85% of the pupils are blind or partially sighted. Hopefully you will have all received the diocesan "Year of Missio" resources for June which has details of this marvellous school as well as ways to observe the Solemnity of Ss Peter and Paul and its annual "**Day of Many Colours**". You might also consider inviting myself or one of our volunteers to come and visit your school!

Fr Wayne – parishpriestbedford@gmail.com

