



NORES NEWS

March 2019 – The month dedicated to St Joseph

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

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

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From the Episcopal Vicar *Mgr Kevin*

This edition of NORES NEWS reaches you as Lent begins. The Church offers this image for Lent : *The annual observance of Lent is the special occasion for the ascent to the holy mountain of Easter. [CB]* It's good to see this as our motif for all that we do in Lent, but then when we reach the summit we must be ready to rejoice because the journey has led us to the glory of the Resurrection, the heart of our Christian faith.

That's why we begin Lent by laying aside the ALLELUIA. That great triumphant cry of glory is silenced until we hear the resurrection gospel of the Easter Vigil. We actually have a tradition of burying the Alleluia before Ash Wednesday.



The picture suggests preparing a scroll with the word *ALLELUIA* on it, richly decorated. Then hide it away in a box until Easter. Then you bring the scroll out joyfully and display it as part of your Easter garden.

Burning last year's palms to make ashes for Ash Wednesday is another powerful tradition. It hints at how the word *Hosanna*, shouted by the crowd on the first Palm Sunday, turned into ashes in people's mouths when they cried *Crucify him* on Good Friday. Giving up something for Lent is very Catholic! Yet it needs always to be seen as leading to what is good for others. How will what we give up benefit others? Will money saved be directed to others' needs? This year CAFOD Lent Fast day coincides with Red Nose Day – so there will be a bit of competition perhaps? Lent is more than just one day so seeing what we can do across the whole season is something to think about and plan well.

We include **Bishop Peter's Pastoral Letter for Lent** and **Pope Francis' Message for Lent** for 2019 with this edition of NORES NEWS. They are for your reflection. Please share them with as many as you can.

Lent calls us to repentance so that we can be ready for Easter when we renew the promises of our baptism, of our life in Christ. That is the life we are called to live at all times. We are all aware of our own weakness and sinfulness, and how that affects the holiness of the Church. The recent Vatican summit on the protection of minors brings home the failures within the Church at many levels to care for the young and the vulnerable.

Pope Francis at the closing of the meeting said : *"The brutality of this worldwide phenomenon becomes all the more grave and scandalous in the Church, for it is utterly incompatible with her moral authority and ethical credibility. Consecrated persons, chosen by God to guide souls to salvation, let themselves be dominated by their human frailty or sickness and thus become tools of Satan. In abuse, we see the hand of the evil that does not spare even the innocence of children. No explanations suffice for these abuses involving children. We need to recognize with humility and courage that we stand face to face with the mystery of evil, which strikes most violently against the most vulnerable, for they are an image of Jesus."*

May we be deeply conscious of all who have suffered and continue to suffer, of the support they need and should be given, and may our earnest prayer be for an end to all abuse.

FEASTING in LENT – times to celebrate!

There are a few breaks to the severity of Lent :

March 1 – **St David** – to pray for Wales

March 17 [18] – **St Patrick** – to pray for Ireland

March 19 – **St Joseph** – to pray for the universal Church & Pope Francis, the sixth anniversary of his installation

March 25 – **The Annunciation of the Lord**

March 31 – Fourth Sunday of Lent – **Laetare Sunday** – **Mothering Sunday**

[Because of the late Easter this year **St George's Feast Day** will be kept on Tuesday 30 April.]

BREXIT is planned for 29 March 2019, which will be Friday of the third week of Lent, like all Fridays a day of abstinence. In the gospel for that day, Mark 12:28-34. Christ dialogues with one of the scribes. They both reiterate the Golden Rule, love of God with all your soul, mind and strength and love of neighbour as yourself. There can be no better context for our prayer for the Brexit process than that text – that the outcome is shaped by what is the best for all. Ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit for all involved.

A prayer from the Roman Missal may help:

O God, who arrange all things according to a wonderful design, graciously receive the prayers we pour out to you for our countries that, through the wisdom of its leaders and the integrity of its citizens, harmony and justice may be assured and lasting prosperity come with peace.

PRIMARY RE

Anne Marie McIntosh

The next **Come and See** day will take place on **Thursday 27 June, 2019** here at NORES and will focus on preparing for the Advent Term.

New Standards in RE Please download the Come and See topics from the NoRES website (rather than the Come and See website) as these have the age-related standards for each year group added in red for every learning focus. You will still need to access the Come and See website for any additional resources you may need eg. PowerPoints and scripture readings.

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. If you haven't booked a place yet please email Jackie admin@nores.org.uk

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 Lent as a focus for the month of March. The Missio Lenten calendar and the 'Changing Lives' assembly will be sent out shortly. As Red Nose Day falls in March you may want to join any fundraising elements together.

RE Subject Leaders Day Our next day together is on **Thursday 21 March 2019**. Look out for the flyer and booking form coming soon. We will then have a joint day with our Secondary Heads of RE and Chaplains in the Pentecost Term on **Friday 7 June, 2019**.

Just a thought Life is a journey. When we stop things don't go right. (Pope Francis)

And Finally If you have any queries about anything please don't hesitate to contact me.

SECONDARY RE AND THEOLOGY

Paul McHugh

I hope you have had a chance for a breather before the second half of this academic year begins apace. Some dates for diaries:

March 8	Heads of RE Meeting
March 18	A-level Conference
April 11	Catholic Basics II: Church

Lent is nigh. The readings for weekday Mass in Lent draw from the Law of Moses, the Prophets and from the Wisdom writings. In them, we are reminded about a covenant established and repeatedly broken, about the urgent need to repent with humble and contrite heart. We hear about Joseph being sold into slavery, of how Moses raised the bronze serpent for the healing of a rebellious people, of Jonah's mission to the Ninevites, about Queen Esther's prayer in her people's peril. We have extensive passages from the Book of Daniel which recall the sorry state of a people unfaithful to God and yet beseeching his mercy. We listen to the story of the Susannah, virtuous though falsely accused, and of the three friends of Daniel, faithful to God come what may.

Running through these stories like a watermark are the constancy of God's love and the power of his redemption. All of this comes into supreme focus in the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ. As a class exercise, it might be interesting to examine the iconography in various representations of the crucifixion. Why is the wound most often depicted on Christ's right side (clue: Tuesday's reading for Lent Week 4)? Why are a skull and bones often shown at the base of the cross? Why do we sometimes see Christ's nailed hand shaped in the form of benediction? In these and more symbols, our Christian forebears depicted and prayed their belief in the power of Christ's redemptive sacrifice.

God seeks you, even if you do not seek him. God loves you, even if you have forgotten about him. God glimpses beauty in you, even if you think you have squandered all your talents in vain. Pope Francis

DIOCESAN E LETTER –

Go to northamptondiocese.org and sign up for the diocesan monthly email newsletter.

It is where you can let people know about events that you want to publicise and news that you want to share.

THE VINE is always looking for news so please send photographs and articles to Neil Roseman, who is responsible for diocesan communications - neil@nymo.org

DATES for YOUR DIARIES 2019

8 March – Secondary Heads of RE – NORES
13 March – Inspectors – NORES
15 March – Deputy Heads' Association – NORES
21 March – RE Subject Leaders' Day – NORES

GOVERNANCE APPOINTMENTS

FOUNDATION DIRECTORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

St Luke Academies Trust, North Northants:

Directors:

Mr Robert Hill, Mrs Anna Kilsby, Mr Dermot Lally.

Foundation Representatives: \

Mr Norbert Keany, Mrs Anne Latter, Mrs Mary Markham, Mrs Maxine Smith.

St Thomas of Canterbury Academy Trust, Northampton:

Director: Mrs Jane Tucker.

FOUNDATION GOVERNORS

St Edward's Junior School, Aylesbury: Mr Karl Grexhammer

St Joseph's Primary School, Luton: Mrs Lena Cole

St Paul's School, Milton Keynes: Fr Francis Higgins

THE REAL EASTER EGG

The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has an Easter story book in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and



supports charitable projects.

Direct from The Meaningful Chocolate Company,
Redemptorist Publications, ASDA etc

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

CJM Music Leading our Joint RE & Chaplaincy Conference



Bringing Liturgy to Life

On Friday 7 June 2019 from 9.30am-3pm at the RE Centre CJM Music will be bringing liturgy to life for us at our joint RE & Chaplaincy Conference. This follows on from our last Chaplaincy Day led by Missio last month. Jo Boyce of CJM Music is a Catholic musician, worship leader, liturgist and songwriter. She is 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 this training day there will be plenty of singing of hymns old and new, and resources to help to inspire and equip you with new ideas for animating the life of prayer and worship in your school. Booking via the NORES office.

YOUCAT for Kids Sessions A wonderful new resource aimed at younger children, YOUCAT for Kids is now available. This is a great new tool for catechists, and for parents and carers as they pass on the faith to children. YOUCAT for Kids sessions will take place in each of the following Pastoral Areas below over the coming months. During these 90 minute sessions there will be the opportunity to: *browse the YOUCAT for Kids, be guided through a method of using the YOUCAT for Kids, have the opportunity to purchase a copy of the YOUCAT for Kids at the reduced price of £10 (please bring £10 cash or a cheque made payable to R.E. Service) & hear about support and training for catechists.*

There is no charge for the event itself. Booking however is essential as capacity is limited at some of the venues and to help us with ordering sufficient numbers of YOUCAT for Kids books. Please book early to secure your place via the NORES office on admin@nores.org.uk.

Due to the snow at the beginning of February the sessions at St Aidan's RC Church hall, Little Chalfont (SOUTH-EAST BUCKS) and Our Lady of Grace RC Church hall (SOUTH BUCKS) were postponed and will be rescheduled. These will be advertised locally with new dates along with other remaining sessions.

Full addresses of venues can be found on the Church finder www.northamptondiocese.org

Breathe Day Conference Breathe is a day of affirmation and blessing to support faith-filled people working in or with schools. It takes place at St Aloysius Church, London, on 30 March 2019, between 9.30 and 4.30 and is being organised by Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

The day features well known educators such as David Wells. Tickets are available from <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/breathe-ccr-educators-tickets-51215583188>

MISSIO NEWS

Fr Wayne Coughlin



*Greetings from Rome!

I normally write these articles from my study overlooking the Church of Sts Philip and James in Bedford. On this occasion I did so from my room in the International Centre for Missionary Animation (CIAM) which overlooks St Peter's Basilica! CIAM serves the Church by reawakening a missionary spirit and a personal quest for holiness within all the Baptised. The work of CIAM stems directly from the directives of Vatican II and Pope Paul VI's apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi*. The location of CIAM, overlooking the great basilica, reminds visitors of the very catholicity and universal nature of the Church. Its bells are also a wonderful alarm clock!

My trip to Rome was as part of the delegation from *Missio* in preparation for the Extraordinary Missionary Month (EMM) in October called by the Holy Father. The Pope himself chose the theme *Baptised and sent: the Church of Christ on mission in the world*. The aim of the EMM is to bring a renewed enthusiasm to the Church for her mission in the world: to bring people to faith in Jesus. The Pope has reminded us all that the joy that stems from our Catholic Faith should serve as an inspiration to share this with other people.

Wonderful resources continue to be produced by *Missio* to help us spiritually prepare and observe the EMM. There is even a competition for young people to compose the official hymn that will be used at EMM celebrations across the world! If your school is interested in this competition please contact me:

parishpriestbedford@gmail.com

You might also like to invite a *Missio* representative to your school to talk about the EMM, to lead a school assembly about our pastoral work in Jordon, etc!

Please be assured that I prayed for your school community (its pupils, Lay Chaplains, staff, parents/guardians and visitors) whilst visiting the holy sites in Rome. Can I please ask that you pray for God's blessing on the EMM and the work of Missio in our Diocese?

*Well probably Bedford when you read this!

From the DIRECTOR of SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

Collette Curtis

Important news from Bishop Peter and the Trustees in relation to the future of Catholic education in the Diocese

Bishop Peter and the Trustees of the Diocese have approved the strategic decision to form two Regional MATs. One in the North of the Diocese, Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academy Trust and one in the South of the Diocese, St Thomas Catholic Academy Trust. A letter from Bishop Peter has been sent to all head teachers and chairs of schools in the Diocese:

"We are at our best when we work together, for each other, in service of the common good, embracing both solidarity and subsidiarity. This is essential in all decisions undertaken by our Catholic schools." *Letter from Bishop Peter to all heads and chairs February 2019*

We now start the exciting work of implementing the proposals looking to strengthen our provision by using the expertise and highly effective practice we have in all areas of school life across the Diocese. Over the coming months we will be recruiting practising Catholics with a range of expertise in business, HR, the law, finance, school improvement and marketing/communication to positions as Directors on the shadow boards of these new Trusts so that we have strategic governance of their development as we work towards a deadline of forming two new Trusts from existing Academies in January 2020. An advert will be placed in all parishes in the next few weeks. If you would like more information on this role or know contacts who may be able to provide this level of expertise on behalf of Catholic education in the Diocese please contact Debbie Main (main@nores.org.uk)

Developing Catholic Leadership at all levels - an update on leadership development, Governor training and recruitment and retention across the South East hub of Dioceses (Southwark, Westminster, Portsmouth, Arundel and Brighton, East Anglia, Brentwood and Northampton). Last month we had a very productive meeting with Directors of School Commissions from our partner Dioceses and representatives of teaching schools delivering specific training for Catholic leadership in each of the Dioceses in the South East hub. At that meeting it was agreed that we are looking to develop/commission training programmes for 10 stages of teacher career development. For each stage there is a requirement that the programme will consist of the following elements:

- Formation
- Catholic faith threaded throughout
- Opportunities for mentoring
- An accredited and non-accredited route
- Opportunities for a placement/project to develop practice
- Training underlining the practical elements of Catholic leadership

- A mechanism to deliver the training in each of the Diocese with online/remote access available
- For September 2019 we are looking to start with a course for aspiring head teachers which is accredited through St Mary's University



towards the MA in Catholic leadership. More details will be provided as this is finalised.

In the Pentecost term the online governor training modules will be available.

CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield



"NO ONE BEYOND REACH"

This is CAFOD's new ambition and we'd like to think that it offers schools a wealth of opportunities to think about, engage with and pray for a variety of communities around the world. Of course, if you want to fundraise that would be great too!

To help ensure that "No one is beyond reach" has your school committed to the "Give it up challenge"? Lent is synonymous with giving up stuff, but our campaign adds an extra dimension. Give up something and use its value/cost to purchase a resource for those in need. How about aiming to buy some ducks, or rice that grows in salt water for a family in Bangladesh? Our website has loads of ideas for you. You can also find online Prayer Resources for Lent (like our Lenten calendar) which can enrich prayer time and assemblies this term.

Children and young people often have questions about stories they hear in the news. CAFOD's website has some really useful responses to world issues. You can read clear, faith focused responses to the crisis in Yemen, the ongoing situation in Syria and the current political crisis in Venezuela. There are also videos and interviews which you might find useful in class or in an assembly.

It's award season in the world of film, TV and music. Would you consider an award for your school? CAFOD offer the "Live Simply" award for schools which ties in with "Laudate Si". This award can really make a difference to your school as it is more than just a certificate for the wall! The award encourages school, perhaps led by your team of Young Leaders or School Council, to consider its use of natural resources. There are a number of projects you could do which appeal to children and young people and is an active response to the Pope's exhortation to Live Simply.

Did you know that CAFOD also offer CPD for schools? You might like to consider a session for your staff.

Get in touch or check out our website for more information on all the above. Jane Trott – CAFOD education volunteer coordinator - jtrott@cafod.org.uk, 01494 863 777

PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

PRAYER INTENTIONS – *ask the school to pray with the Pope for his intentions for February*

For a generous welcome of the victims of human trafficking, of enforced prostitution, and of violence.

FEAST DAYS

pray for the schools who celebrate their feast day–

- 17 March St Patrick's Primary, Corby
- 19 March St Joseph's Infant, Aylesbury,
St Joseph's & St Gregory's Bedford,
St Joseph's Primary Luton,
St Joseph's Primary, Chalfont St Peter,
St Joseph's High, Slough