

Chaplaincy Newsletter April 2018

This is an extract from Pope Francis's homily at the Easter Vigil Service. It is about the power of the resurrection to bring hope. These words are worth reflecting on

We began this celebration outside, plunged in the darkness of the night and the cold.It is the silent night of the disciples who remained numb, paralyzed and uncertain of what to do amid so many painful and disheartening situations. It is also that of today's disciples, speechless in the face of situations we cannot control, that make us feel and, even worse, believe that nothing can be done to reverse all the injustices that our brothers and sisters are experiencing in their flesh. Amid our silence, our overpowering silence, the stones begin to cry out (cf. Lk 19:40 and to clear the way for the greatest message that history has ever heard: "He is not here, for he has been raised" (Mt 28:6).



...

Today, we are invited to contemplate the empty tomb and to hear the words of the angel: "Do not be afraid... for he has been raised" (Mt 28:5-6). Those words should affect our deepest convictions and certainties, the ways we judge and deal with the events of our daily lives, especially the ways we relate to others. The empty tomb should challenge us and rally our spirits. It should make us think, but above all it should encourage us to trust and believe that God "happens" in every situation and every person, and that his light can shine in the least expected and most hidden corners of our lives. He rose from the dead...and now he waits for us – as he did the women – to enable us to share in his saving work. On this basis and with this strength, we Christians place our lives and our energy, our intelligence, our affections and our will, at the service of discovering, and above all creating, paths of dignity.

Christ is risen, and with him he makes our hope and creativity rise, so that we can face our present problems in the knowledge that we are not alone.

To celebrate Easter is to believe once more that God constantly breaks into our personal histories, challenging our "conventions", those fixed ways of thinking and acting that end up paralyzing us. To celebrate Easter is to allow Jesus to triumph over the craven fear that so often assails us and tries to bury every kind of hope.

Chaplaincy Day: 21st June with Bishop Declan

If you have not yet confirmed your attendance at this please do so as soon as possible. This day is for all chaplains primary and secondary. (The venue has not yet been confirmed as we need to know our final numbers first but it will most likely be in the Bristol area).

This day, which will begin at 10am with tea and coffee for a 10.15 am start, will look at three areas:

1. The Eucharistic Congress which will take place in September and how we might develop this in our schools
2. The Pope's new encyclical 'Gaudete et Exsultate'
3. Moving forward into the year of Prayer.

Please try to see your school is represented on this day. Please confirm your attendance directly with Graham.

Share the Journey

Cafod is asking everyone to take action on the refugee crisis and show support for people forced to flee their homes. The following is an extract from Cafod:

“We cannot cross by on the other side while our neighbours are struggling. We can share the journey, we can share our hope.” As Pope Francis says, “Christ asks us to welcome our brother and sister migrants and refugees with arms wide open.” The Church has been at the forefront of reaching out to refugees and migrants. But so far world leaders are not meeting the challenge. Alongside Catholics around the world, we must call on them to step up.

This year, the Holy Father urges us to reach out to our brothers and sisters who are forced to flee their homes. This new campaign is called Share the Journey. You can Share the Journey by joining us on a walk. This is not just any walk, this is a walk around the world.

Schools, parishes, and local communities across England and Wales, including our own, will be walking to show solidarity with people on the move. Together, we are aiming for 24,900 miles – the distance around the whole world. CAFOD will use this shared journey to deliver a powerful message to world leaders, who meet in September and December 2018 to agree two global agreements on refugees and migration. These agreements must ensure refugees and migrants can live with dignity.

If you are organising a walk please remember to do the following things:

1. Download the information and the resources from Cafod. There is a special version for primary. There is also an organisers guide;
2. Let your parish know what you are doing and if possible invite them to join in. (you would need to download the adult version for members of the parish);
3. Ensure that your pupils understand the reasons for the walk;
4. Let Cafod know.

There are three set walks for schools. They are:

- **June 20th at Priknash Abbey**
- **June 22nd at Glastonbury (going up the Tor)**
- **June 27th on Bristol Downs.**

Education Mass

As a diocese we would like to both celebrate the work of our schools in supporting Catholic Education and remind everyone we still need to keep driving forward the cause of Catholic Education. You will be aware of the pressures surrounding Education at present. **This is our Year of Mission** and it would be good to show and celebrate our commitment to our mission so on **Tuesday 26th June at 7pm we are holding a Mass in Clifton Cathedral** to celebrate and give thanks for Catholic Education. Bishop Declan will be the main celebrant. At the Mass we will be asking everyone to renew their commitment to the cause of Catholic Education. Tea and Coffee will be available afterwards in the Apostle's Room. Pupils are very welcome. We would be grateful if you could publicise this event in your school and encourage as many as possible including parents to attend. We already have a school which has volunteered to lead our music but I would ask schools to volunteer to do a) the readings b) the bidding prayers and c) a thanksgiving (perhaps dance) after communion. If you are able to help please let me know. **Each school will need to bring their banner and have people to carry this in procession.**

The Primary Schools' Leavers Masses

Details of these are in the Primary newsletter.

Stations of the Resurrection

Inspired by an ancient inscription found on a wall of the San Callisto Catacombs on the Appian Way in Rome, a Salesian priest named Father Sabino helped develop the idea to create a set of Stations of the Resurrection in the 1990s. The new stations combine the events mentioned in the Saint Callistus inscription with other post-Resurrection events to create 14 stations, thus paralleling the Stations of the Cross. The fourteen Stations of the Resurrection begin with the appearance of the Risen Lord and end with Pentecost. The Stations of the Resurrection emphasize the hopeful aspect of the Christian story and (just as the Stations of the Cross help deepen our Lenten experience) can serve to deepen our appreciation of this Easter Season. In school we are often so focused on Lent that we forget about the fifty days of the Easter Season. This reinforces the impression many people hold that Easter ends of Easter Sunday. (This is the point where Easter eggs disappear!) It would be good if we could actually spend some time focusing on the Easter season in a prayerful way. This is one way.

Generally, the stations are taken to be:

Station 1	Jesus rises from the dead (Matthew 28:5-6).
Station 2	Women find the empty tomb (Matthew 28:1-6).
Station 3	The risen Lord appears to Mary Magdalene (John 20:16).
Station 4	Mary Magdalene proclaims the Resurrection to the apostles (John 20:18).
Station 5	The risen Lord appears on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-27).
Station 6	The risen Lord is recognized in the breaking of the bread (Luke 24:28-32).
Station 7	The risen Lord appears to the disciples in Jerusalem (Luke 24:36-39).
Station 8	The risen Lord gives the disciples the power to forgive (John 20:22-23).
Station 9	The risen Lord strengthens the faith of Thomas (John 20:24-29).
Station 10	The risen Lord says to Peter, "Feed my sheep" (John 21:15-17).
Station 11	The risen Lord sends the disciples into the whole world (Matthew 28:16-20).
Station 12	The risen Lord ascends into heaven (Acts 1:9-11).
Station 13	Waiting with Mary in the Upper Room (Acts 1:12-14).
Station 14	The risen Lord sends the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2)

If you go to <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/resources/liturgy/easter-season/via-lucis-way-of-the-light/> you will find an example of the stations of the Resurrection

<http://www.zanstevenson.co.uk/stations/thumb.html> The artist Zan Stevenson designed fourteen stations of the Resurrection these are displayed here.

Important Dates for your Diary

24 th April	2 nd NQT Day: Clifton Cathedral.
19 th & 21 st May	CCRS: Alexander House
10 th May	Ascension Day (Please note this is a Holy Day of Obligation)
20 th May	Pentecost Sunday
13 th & 14 th June	Primary Leavers Mass (Please ensure you know which one you are allocated to.)
26 th June	Education Mass: Clifton Cathedral 7pm
30 th June	Diocesan Family Day at St Brendan's College (Organised by Adult Education)

The schools Department is organising a series of ‘briefings’ around the Diocese. They take place on:

Date	Time	Partnership	Location
Monday 14 May	7 – 8:30pm	DUNSTAN	St George Parish Centre (Taunton)
Monday 21 May	7 – 8:30pm	SAMUEL	Holy Family (Swindon)
Thursday 24 May	7 – 8:30pm	WCSP	St George School (Warminster)
Monday 11 June	7 – 8:30pm	GCSP	St Peter’s High (Gloucester)
Wednesday 20 June	7 – 8:30pm	NEWMAN	St Bede’s College (Bristol)
Thursday 21 June	7 – 8:30pm	AQUINAS	St Bernadette’s Primary (Bristol)
Monday 25 June	7 – 8:30pm	CAMINO	St Gregory’s College (Bath)

Although these are intended primarily for governors you are welcome to attend. The focus is twofold: First an update on the Educational Landscape and secondly an update on Relationship Education.

Thank you for all you do. Please try to come to the chaplaincy day and the Education Mass.

Ann Fowler
Deputy Director