

Primary Newsletter April 2018

Happy Easter Christ is Risen!

This is an extract from the sermon Bishop Declan gave at the Chrism Mass.

“We are called to bear witness to Christ, to bear witness to the Gospel. I recently was talking to a young man who was brought up as an agnostic – he’s in his twenties – and he was saying to me that he needs something to believe, someone to believe if he is to have quality of life. And he met some people who were Catholics and saw within their lives the joy of the Gospel and he is attracted to the Gospel; he’s still looking – he has yet still to commit himself. But his story illustrates for us that **unless we have the joy of the Gospel in our lives, the Gospel will not be attractive to others.** There must be a sense of joy and peace within our own lives if we are to bring that joy and peace into the lives of others. And it is in the ordinary things of life, in the ordinary places we find ourselves, as Jesus found himself in the Gospel today. He went to the synagogue *as he usually did*, the places where we usually live, we usually work, where we usually recreate – these are the places into which we are called to bring the goodness of God; these are the places where we are called to be an attractive people because we have allowed the joy of the Gospel, the joy of Christ, to penetrate our lives.



What is the Good News? The Good News is what we sang of in the psalm: *I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; of your faithfulness for ever.* We proclaim, we live, because God loves us. God is faithful to us. *Love God and do what you will.* **That is the message that we bring to our world, to our society, to the places in which we live and work, that every person created by God, in the image and likeness of God, is loved by God. The God who is love comes to visit the lives of all of us.** We as a Church are called to be a Sacrament, a sign of the presence of God’s love in our world today. So as we celebrate this Triduum that we are approaching, it is a time for us to stop, to pause and to open ourselves more to the mystery of the God who loves us, to God who went to the cross and refused to come down, because the God we believe in is a God who is not violent; a God of healing, a God of love, a God who anoints us to be proclaimers of the Gospel; a God who in proclaiming the Gospel enables us to be a people of joy. We are a people, as our diocesan ‘theme’ goes for the next few years, we are people with *a future that is full of hope*, and our hope is not in ourselves; our hope is in the God who loves us and is faithful to us.”

I realise this is a long extract but I was at the Chrism mass and I found this to be really thought provoking. As we begin the Easter term could I ask you to reflect with your school community on

- a) How do we show the joy of the Gospel in our lives?
- b) How do we bring that joy and hope into school?
- c) How do we show the pupils in our schools that they are loved by God?
- d) Do we see ourselves as Sacrament? Signs of God's love?

New Outcomes in RE

Thank you to all those schools who have been piloting the new outcomes. The Sacraments module is now on line. The working group will meet on 23rd April and their focus will be on assessment. The outcomes will be used by everyone from September 2018. Please remember that the 'God Matters' units on the website attempt to make the general outcomes content specific for each module. The work provided illustrates tasks that might fulfil these outcomes. You do not have to use my tasks they are there as exemplars only. If you are doing 'Come and See' please ensure that you rework the outcomes for each unit in the light of the new outcomes. **There will be a meeting for all schools using 'Come and See' on JULY 10th where we can work together to look at this.**

Please try to moderate work with other schools

Primary Leavers Masses 13th and 14th June

All schools are expected to attend this event and please try to make this a priority over other events that may occur on the same date.

Please note the following: In order to balance numbers and conform with Health and Safety requirements, schools from Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire are expected to attend on 13th June 2018. Schools from Bristol, Bath, North Somerset, Swindon and South Gloucestershire are expected to attend on 14th June 2018. If you have a concern about this please contact the department as soon as possible

Please remember

- a) You need two pupils to carry your banner
- b) **Our theme this year will be: 'Building the Kingdom of God'.** This is to support the Diocesan theme of Mission. **For the offertory schools should write a one sentence explanation of how they have supported this theme during the year and make a symbol of this that pupils can bring up at the offertory.** In thinking about this theme schools could mention: any charity work they have done, any work to support justice - for example supporting refugees or any work they may have done to promote peace in our society. Normally that means two pupils for the offertory
- c) Coaches can only drop pupils off at the Cathedral – they cannot park there
- d) Please try to be in place 15 minutes before Mass starts so we can rehearse the music and sort the banners and offertory out
- e) The Mass booklet will be sent to the school please remember to print this off before the day.

The CCRS (Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies)

You are welcome to join in this course at any point. Our next module will be on 19th and 21st May. This will be on the theology of inclusion.

Education Mass: Tuesday 26th June at 7pm

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.

Ideas for Liturgy between Easter and Pentecost

- **Stations of the Resurrection**

The **Stations of the Resurrection**, also known by the Latin name *Via Lucis* (Way of Light), encourage people to think about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, some of the Resurrection appearances and the life of the early church. They try to ask the question "what do these things mean to us". An artist called Zan Stevenson has designed 14 stations of the Resurrection which were on display at St Thomas More, Seaford, East Sussex. If you go to: http://www.zanstevensonsart.co.uk/gallery_687737.html you will see her pictures.

- **Alternatively if you look at**

<http://www.stgregoryspreston.org.uk/webedit/uploaded-files/All%20Files/Stations%20of%20the%20Resurrection.pdf> you will find more information about these stations

- **Assembly**

When you design, or have the pupils design, the focal point remember that the colour is white and the focus should be on new beginnings. The Resurrection is not meant to be a past event we believe that Jesus is risen and with us now. Each of the resurrection accounts are about personal encounters, how people's lives were changed by meeting Jesus. As we look at resurrection accounts ask what do they think it meant to those people? How did they change? Where do we meet Jesus today? (In each other so the way we treat each other matters etc.). Look at

Cafod's page on children's liturgy for some good ideas. There is an assembly idea attached to the end of the newsletter which is aimed at KS2.

- **Ascension Day: please remember that this is a Holy Day of Obligation**

The following sites have suggestions for celebrating the Ascension with pupils. They need adapting but might give you ideas:

1. <http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/ascension-day-a-whole-school-assembly-presentation/>
2. <http://www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/1656/ascension-day-jesus-says-goodbye>

- **Pentecost**

1. <http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/education/our-school-services/re/pause-days/pentecost-pause-day> This is an Anglican site and may need adapting but has some interesting material from reception through to top KS2. This is from 2013 so the date they give is not correct.
2. Try <http://www.sharingthelight.co.uk/Pentecost.htm> again, this needs adapting but it has a lot of ideas.

Assisi: 2018- Saturday 27th to Tuesday 30th October

This trip is definitely going ahead but there is still time to join in.

Assisi, the birth place of St Francis, is a truly beautiful and peaceful town. Most people who visit Assisi find themselves wanting to return.

In our visit to Assisi we will have the opportunity to:

- Explore the rich Franciscan heritage and reflect on how Franciscan spirituality can contribute to our mission;
- Pray together;
- Share our stories and learn from each other;
- Explore the local area with its narrow picturesque lanes, faded fresco, stunning views and hidden olive groves

The cost is £300 per person excluding flights. (If you wish to bring your partner then there is a reduced cost for partners of £200)

This cost includes:

1. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast including wine with Dinner
2. Transport to and from Rome Fiumicino
3. A guided tour of the main Basilica
4. Our guide for the trip

5. All handouts etc.

Flights are available with easyJet from Bristol to Rome.

To confirm your place on the trip you must register with Jenny Fitzgerald jenny.fitzgerald@cliftondiocese.com by Friday, 27th April and we require a deposit of £100 per person.

Important Dates for your Diary

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

Many thanks for all you do.

Ann Fowler
Deputy Director