



**CLIFTON  
DIOCESE**

## **Secondary Schools Newsletter January 2018**

Happy New Year. I hope you all had a happy and peaceful break.

This prayer by Karen Oberst reflects the need to see Christmas as a time of transformation.

*Jesus Light of the World  
As we celebrate your birth  
May we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us  
As you chose the lowly, the outcasts and the poor to receive the news of your birth  
May we always remember those who have less than ourselves*

### **A Future Full of Hope**

The Bishop shared his pastoral guidelines for the Diocese at the beginning of Advent. You are invited to review your school in the light of these guidelines and to take part in the various events organised by the Schools Department for the Year of Mission. Our documentation is now on the website under the heading 'A Future Full of Hope'.

In order to support this programme please take note of the following events:

#### **CCRS**

**The next session is on January 13<sup>th</sup> and January 15<sup>th</sup> and is on the New**

#### **Testament**

In this session, we will be considering how we both develop our understanding of the New Testament and help our pupils develop their understanding. Because this is the Year of Mission there will be a focus on Mark's Gospel.

You can join in at any point and are welcome just to attend the course even if you don't want to do the written work for the qualification. In that case we will provide a certificate of attendance. This is a good opportunity to both increase your knowledge and discuss your work with other teachers. The aim is to make this relevant to teaching. Full details are in the course booklet.

*A Year with St Mark*



### **Assisi: October 2018 - Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>**

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 easy jet from Bristol to Rome.

To confirm your place on the trip you must register with Jenny Fitzgerald

([jenny.fitzgerald@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:jenny.fitzgerald@cliftondiocese.com)) by January 26th and we require a deposit of £100 per person.

## Heads of RE Meetings

In order to support the national scene there will **be no meeting this term. Instead I hope that at least some of you will be able to attend the national RE Conference being organised at Heythrop. This conference (9<sup>th</sup> March 2018 – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018) is on the place of RE in Catholic Schools.** Although a two-day conference it is possible to book for one day only. The conference costs either £65 per day (which includes lunch/materials) or £120 for both days. This conference will give attention to many of the questions and issues currently facing RE in Catholic schools, including:

- What is or ought to be the relationship between RE, catechesis and faith formation in Catholic schools and colleges?
- What ought to be the aims and goals of RE in Catholic schools? Who should decide what they are?
- How central is RE to the success of ‘Catholic education’?
- What ought to be the place of RE within a Catholic curriculum?
- How much curriculum time ought to be dedicated to RE in Catholic schools?
- What are the distinctive characteristics of RE in Catholic schools?
- What can RE teachers in Catholic schools and colleges learn from RE in other school and educational settings?
- Public examinations and RE in Catholic schools – can they really be a force for good?
- How are we to ensure the future supply of RE teachers for Catholic schools?
- How ought RE be taught in Catholic schools?
- Should compulsory philosophy lessons be introduced alongside RE in Catholic schools?
- What ought to be the place of scripture in RE in Catholic schools?
- What are the best ways to educate and form RE teachers for Catholic schools?

Many of you have expressed strong views on some of these issues and this is a unique opportunity to contribute to the debate. To book a place **you must book directly with Heythrop College.** Please go to <http://www.heythrop.ac.uk/events/religious-education-catholic-schools>

## Sixth Form General RE

You **MUST** ensure that this is taking place, receives sufficient curriculum time and is fulfilling the curriculum directory. **ALL courses must be submitted to the diocese by the end of January.** Bishops' Conference regulations are quite clear about the importance of this. If pastoral staff are delivering this course through tutor time you will be asked at your next inspection or monitoring visit how they are being prepared to teach this course.

## Liturgical Dates 2018

### Please Note:

**The early date for Lent.**

**The fact that Ascension Day is a Holy Day this year**

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	This is when the feast of Epiphany will be celebrated
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Feast of Baptism of the Lord
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Feast of Presentation of the Lord/Candlemas
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Feast of St David
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Feast of St Patrick
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Feast of St Joseph (This is transferred from the 19 <sup>th</sup> )
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Palm Sunday
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	The Chrism Mass in the Cathedral
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Holy Thursday
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Good Friday
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Feast of St George
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Feast of St Joseph the Worker
<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>The Ascension</b>
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Pentecost</b>

## Holocaust Memorial Day: 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018

### Theme: The Power of Words

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on 27<sup>th</sup> January each year. It's a time for everyone to pause to remember the millions of people who have been murdered or whose lives have been changed beyond recognition during the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. The 27<sup>th</sup> January marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. The aim is to use the materials to inform pupils about the issues so that they are aware of the past and can consider issues today.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust has a wealth of school material on its website <http://hmd.org.uk/content/for-educators> including assemblies, one-off lesson plans and ideas for longer projects. This year's theme is 'The Power of Words' and resources include:

- Key Stage 2 Assembly
- Secondary School Assembly
- KS2 Lesson Plan for Postcard Project
- KS 3 & 4 Lesson Plan for the Postcard Project
- Collection of 11 Life Stories, including that of Anne Frank
- Four Easy to Read Life Stories, including Anne Frank
- KS 3,4 & 5 Lesson Plan on Discrimination
- KS 3 & 4 Drama Lesson Plan
- KS 3 & 4 Poetry Lesson Plan
- ‘Exploring Through Songs’ Lesson Plan providing 4 songs with song sheets exploring music created during the Holocaust and other genocides.

### **Standards in Religious Education – Pilot 2017/18**

In the summer term of 2016, the Catholic Education Service (CES) and National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers (NBRIA) sent out a questionnaire to all schools, seeking their views on the document Levels of Attainment in Religious Education and on the future of assessment of Religious Education in Catholic schools. The NBRIA Curriculum and Development Working Group have developed an ‘End of Phase Expectations Grid’ as a first draft response to the views expressed in the questionnaire. The CES are asking a selection of Catholic schools across the country to pilot the use of this grid, in the Autumn and Spring term of 2017-18 and the feedback from this pilot will inform the final shape of this standards grid and the larger document of which it will become a part. This draft document was sent out to you but if you need another copy please let me know.

Many thanks for all your work.

Ann Fowler