



CLIFTON DIOCESE

Primary Newsletter September 2017

Welcome back. I hope you had a restful break and spent at least some of the time relaxing.

Lord God,
At the beginning of this new term teach us to
be your hands and feet where we are,
At the beginning of this new term teach us to
love as you love us
At the beginning of this new term teach us to
pray for those in need
Teach us to place our hope in you
Amen

By Annie Barnsdale

As always this term promises to be a really busy one with lots going on. Education Sunday this year is September 10th. The theme is gathered in my name. This is taken from the text of the Gospel on that day.

As schools we do gather in God's name, we believe that in our communities Christ is present with and calls us to reach out to others. If you go to:

<http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/schools/school-resources/item/1002985-education-sunday-2016> you will find resources to support this day. (I know the address has 2016 in but the resources really are for this year!)

The day is an opportunity both to celebrate Catholic Education and for schools and parishes to come together



Called to be a People of Hope

At the start of this year Bishop Declan reminded us that: "we are called to be a reflective people – a people of prayer. In our prayer we need to have Jesus at the centre, teaching us how to be truly human in our relationship with one another and the wider world.

Through prayer we can recognise the presence of God in everyday life and see where God is leading us and what God is asking us to change." He asked us to ask ourselves: "what is it to be the Church for our day and our culture?" After collecting in the responses to his questions and reflecting on them Bishop Declan would like to call representatives of parishes and schools together on **Saturday 28th October at St Brendan's College** to discuss the way forward, the way to become a People of Hope. All schools are invited to send a representative. The day will run from 10am to 3 pm. All schools should try to be represented on the day. If you are able to come please email



Richard Williams on Richard.williams@cliftondiocese.com Saying which school you represent. On the 29th November there will a liturgy in the Cathedral at 7pm to celebrate 'The Year of Mission'

Attainment Levels:

At present RE as you are aware RE is still using the levels of attainment. However nationally there will be a new framework brought in based not on levels but on end of Key Stage Outcomes. With the help of the primary working group this has been adapted for our diocese. There will be a pilot scheme in operation for this academic year. The new system will be introduced on **21st September at the St Dunstan's Parish in Keynsham, (BS31 2BQ)**. This day will run from 10.30 am (tea/coffee available from 10 am) until 2.45 pm. Lunch is provided. It is **important that all primary schools are represented**. The day will look at the national changes and the reasons for them; outline how this has been interpreted in our diocese and look at the support material available and how schools should proceed. Please confirm your attendance by e-mailing Graham on Graham.tiley@cliftondiocese.com Please note there will be a review of the Curriculum Directory beginning in September as a part of this process. For this reason you are strongly advised not to change syllabus or to make a major investment in new resources until this review has been carried out.

The CCRS (Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies)

If you want to know more about aspects of faith and wish to acquire a qualification, then the CCRS may be for you.

- The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) is managed and awarded by the Board of Religious Studies on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. It was introduced in 1991 to replace its predecessors, The Catholic Teachers' Certificate and the Certificate in Religious Education. **Any teacher** who is, or who wishes to be, involved in Catholic Education may apply for the course. Please note that our course is specifically set up for teachers. The course consists of 8 modules in total. Six core modules and two specialist modules. The core modules are: Old Testament, New Testament, the Person of Jesus, the Church, Sacramental Life, and Moral Understanding. Each module requires 10 hours contact time with a written assignment of 1500 words. **You may of course choose to do the modules out of interest and not complete the written assignment;** however, you will not be awarded a CCRS certificate unless you complete the written assignments. Once you begin the course you have 5 years to complete it.

Practical details

- **Timing:** The certificate is normally awarded over two years with a maximum of 5 years to complete the course. The diocese will offer four modules a year on a two-year cycle. Each year will consist of three core modules and a specialist module. You may choose to do four modules in one year to complete the course in two years; or you may space it out over a longer period if you wish. Once you begin the first module you must

- complete within five years. Each module will require two days. Four of the days will be in school time and there will be four Saturdays.
- **Assessment:** Full attendance for each module and successful completion of an assignment. This year our first module is 'The Old Testament' this takes place on 30th September and 2nd October at Alexander House. Our aim is to introduce people to the Old Testament, offer some background and understanding of different aspects, and consider how to teach specific areas. Anyone who wants to come just for this module is welcome. The course will be at Alexander House. The Saturday will be from 10am to 2pm and the Monday from 9.30am until 3pm
 - If you want to find out more details, please consult the course booklet.

Section 48

There will be a new framework introduced in the Spring term. This will not be radically different from the old one but RE will now become a separate heading. There will be an opportunity to receive information on the new framework on 15th November. If you wish to attend, please book a place with Graham (graham.tiley@cliftondiocese.com). Full details of venue and timings are in the course booklet.

Key Dates for your diary in the next few weeks.

- 10th September Education Sunday
- 21st September New Assessment measures in RE
- 23rd/25th September CCRS 'Old Testament'
- 29th September NQT Day
- 13th October Heads Conference
- 28th October People of Hope launch
- 15th November training on new Section 48 Framework
- 22nd November Primary Chaplains meeting
- Sunday 3rd December First Sunday of Advent

Advance Notice: Primary school masses take place on the 13th and 14th June

For full details of all courses and their costs please look in our course booklet.

Resources:

- The Stapleford Centre has many useful ideas including 40 ideas for creative RE. These are method led rather than content driven so can be adapted to suit your syllabus. Go to www.stapleford-centre.org
- Cafod has increased the number of resources for primary RE particularly with reference to 'Come and See'
- Catholic Teacher Resources. This is an American site and therefore we do not use the same syllabus but some of the things are interesting and although not everything is

free they do have some free samples that might be worth a look. Go to <https://www.catholicteacherresources.com/>

There is a prayer service attached for you to use at the start of term if you wish. The PowerPoint for this is on the schools' website. Go to the section marked Chaplaincy and check staff resources. You will need to download the music for this which is 'Sometimes he calms the Storm' by Scott Krippayne. The music is available from iTunes

Enjoy the term!

Thank you for all you do

Ann Fowler

Beginnings

As we place ourselves into God's presence we ask for the help of God's Spirit during this School Year

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,
 And kindle in them the fire of your love**

Reader: When we are dis-spirited and tired

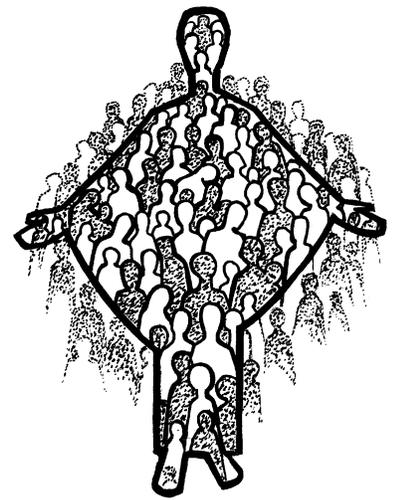
**All: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,
 And kindle in them the fire of your love**

Reader: When we are overcome with a spirit of failure

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,
 And kindle in them the fire of your love**

Reader: When we try to take the easy path

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,
 And kindle in them the fire of your love**



When we look to another year, we don't know what's in store, will it be a happy year, a difficult one? The gospel is a story of trusting in the presence of Jesus as he was present in the apostles' rough times, so he is present with us.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

With the coming of evening that same day, Jesus said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind they took him, just as he was, in the boat; and there were other boats with him. Then it began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped.

But he was in the stern, his head on a cushion, asleep. They woke him and said to him, "Master do you not care? We are going down!" And he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Quiet now! Be calm!" And the wind dropped, and all was calm again. Then he said to them, "Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?" They were filled with awe and said to one another: "Who can this be? Even the wind and sea obey him".

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection: Sea of Faith

Lord, at the start of the new term
we remember the love of our families
and the companionship and support
of colleagues.

We rejoice that you have entrusted us
with the education and care
of young people,
and have called us to help others to grow
in your image and likeness.

Empower us to bring out the best in others
and express appreciation
to all who encourage us
and bring us new life.

Inspire us to be positive in attitude,
encouraging in words,
and loving in actions. Amen.

(La Sallian Prayers)

We each light a small candle in turn, and pray for, name a group or an individual that we wish to pray for, or a situation that we find difficult to deal with on our own.

Final Prayer:

We say together:

*Lord Jesus,
I give my hands to do your work.
I give my feet to go your way.
I give my eyes to see as you do.
I give my tongue to speak your words.
I give my mind that you may think in me.
I give my spirit that you may pray in me.
Above all I give my heart that you may love in me
Your Father and all humankind.
I give you my whole self that you may grow in me,
So that it is you, Lord Jesus, who lives and works and prays in me.*