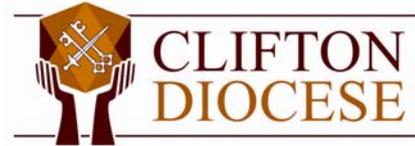




A FUTURE  
FULL OF HOPE



## Primary Newsletter September 2018

Welcome back. I hope you had a restful break and spent at least some of the time relaxing. As we begin our new school year with all the joys and challenges ahead it might be time to pause and reflect on the words of Pope Francis: (He was speaking to teachers from Jesuit schools around the world)

*I would like to address directly the educators, the teachers. Do not be disheartened in the face of the difficulties that the educational challenge presents! Educating is not a profession but an attitude, a way of being.*

*In order to educate it is necessary to step out of ourselves and be among young people, to accompany them in the stages of their growth and to set ourselves beside them. **Give them hope and optimism for their journey in the world.** Teach them to see the beauty and goodness of creation and of people who always retains the Creator's hallmark.*

*But above all with your life be witnesses of what you communicate. Educators pass on knowledge and values with their words; but their words will be meaningful only if they are accompanied by their witness, their consistent way of life.*

*Remember the Lord is always close to you, he picks you up when you fall and impels you to develop and grow*

As always, this term promises to be a really busy one with lots going on. Almost as soon as we are back we have Education Sunday, this year on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

The theme this year is 'Faith and Works' which

explores the notion of equality. Go to [www.cte.org.uk/educationsunday2018](http://www.cte.org.uk/educationsunday2018) to see the resources. The introduction is mainly aimed at those who work in universities or colleges of higher education but there is a primary collective worship and a commissioning prayer which may be useful. Bishop Declan has written a pastoral letter for Education Sunday.



### Assessment in RE

From September onwards, we are no longer using the old attainment levels in RE. Instead everyone should now be using the new outcomes in RE. A slightly revised version of these statements are on our

website. For those of you using God Matters you will find the 'Creation' unit and the 'Prayers, Saints and Feasts' unit on the website. Jenny is adding the other units which are now complete. For those of you with mixed age group please also look at the mixed age planning. For those of you using 'Come and See' outcome statements are on the website for the first two units. When using 'Come and See' in the text books there are a variety of tasks to choose from however, especially for the older year groups, not all of these tasks will enable pupils to fulfil the outcomes. Please ensure you make a careful choice.

### **On 10<sup>th</sup> September at the Dunstan Centre Keynsham**

there will be a conference for all primary coordinators. The first part of the day will be led by Fr Nicholas King and will look at scripture. Fr King is an excellent speaker and will bring this subject to life and explore how we use this in school. In the afternoon we will be considering **the outcomes and their implications for schools. It is important that all schools attend.** Please confirm your attendance by e mailing Graham on [Graham.tiley@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:Graham.tiley@cliftondiocese.com) Those of you who have been to the Dunstan centre before are aware that after about 30 cars the parking becomes difficult. Please try to share cars if possible or come by train.

### **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.

#### **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.

If you want further details, please consult the course booklet

## **So, what do you need to know about RE?**

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> October

**Time:** 10 to 12 (Tea/Coffee available beforehand)

**Venue:** Alexander House

This is a short course for **link governors in RE**

This will look at recent changes in RE both in terms of curriculum and assessment. It will consider how governors fulfil their role and the evidence they need to have for section 48 inspections. We will try to respond to any questions governors may have and also take a brief look at chaplaincy. Please try to encourage your link governor to come to this.

Please book a place by contacting Graham on [graham.tiley@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:graham.tiley@cliftondiocese.com)

## **Sex and Relationship Education**

Please note a revised copy of the document in ‘**Made in God’s Image Challenging homophobic and biphobic bullying in Catholic Schools**’ has now been produced. A copy has been sent directly to all head teachers but extra copies can be downloaded from the CES website. You need to click on ‘about us,’ then go to ‘publications.’ The beginning sections outline Catholic teaching and are useful to guide and inform policies. **The lesson plans themselves cannot be used in primary** as these are for Year 9 and above.

## **A Future Full of Hope**

In Advent this year we enter into the ‘Year of Prayer’ we have a lot going on for this year please consult the Chaplaincy newsletter for more details. You need to note however that our **theme for the primary leavers masses next year will be prayer. Each school, for the offertory procession will need to bring either a poster containing images of all the different prayer activities the pupils have undertaken during the year or a symbol representing the prayer life of the school.** Further details will be in subsequent newsletters, but this is the main theme.

## **Key Dates for your diary in the next few weeks.**

- 9<sup>th</sup> September: Education Sunday
- 10<sup>th</sup> September: Scripture and New Assessment measures in RE
- 19<sup>th</sup> September: Introduction for New Heads
- 21<sup>st</sup> September: NQT Day
- 22<sup>nd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> September: CCRS
- 6<sup>th</sup> October: Training for Link Governors in RE
- 15<sup>th</sup> October: Heads Conference Cheltenham Chase Hotel
- 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October Assisi Visit
- 30<sup>th</sup> November Chaplaincy commissioning

## Advance Notice: Primary school Masses take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019

For full details of all courses and their costs please look in our course booklet, available on the website.

### Resources:

- If you go to last year's newsletter (September 2017) you will find a possible liturgy for the opening of term however try <http://education.dublindiocese.ie/opening-of-the-school-year-mass-resources/> where there are several different examples.
- 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](http://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/>
- <https://missiontogether.org.uk/> Please note we are hoping to do a lot of work for Mission Together, the primary arm of Missio. They were founded in 1843 which makes this their 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They also have a number of resources for Advent on their site. Please consult the Chaplaincy newsletter for more details but also use the website for information and resources.

### Some Liturgical dates for this term

Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Feast of St. Teresa of Calcutta
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Education Sunday
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Home Mission Day
<b>Sun 30<sup>th</sup> Sept - Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Little Way Week (see Chaplaincy newsletter)</b>
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Memorial of The Holy Guardian Angels
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Memorial of St Francis of Assisi
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Cafod Harvest Fast Day
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	World Mission Day
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November</b>	<b>All Saints Day (Holy Day of Obligation)</b>
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	All Souls' Day
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	First Sunday in Advent

Enjoy the term!

Thank you for all you do

Ann Fowler  
Deputy Director