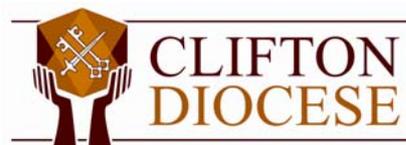




A FUTURE  
FULL OF HOPE



## Chaplaincy Newsletter September 2018

**Welcome Back.** I hope you had a restful break and didn't spend all the time working.

The following extract is from Fr Jeremy Rigden's homily on the occasion of his 40th anniversary to the priesthood. This is just a passage relating to prayer and service reproduced with his permission. The whole homily would be useful for those of you wishing to talk about vocation with pupils and will be available together with suggested questions and activities on the chaplaincy day.

*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:9-12*

The reading from St John's Gospel comes from Jesus' discourse at the Last Supper. He speaks of the relationship of deepest love between his father and himself. He says that his disciples, and that includes ourselves, are called to be a part of that love. We are to remain in his love; and we will do so if we keep his commandments, if we try to we love one another as he has loved us. He calls us into friendship, into the closest possible intimacy with him. And for me this means, among other things, the life of prayer. It is prayer which underpins the Christian life, in whatever form it is lived out, including the pastoral ministry. Without him, we can do nothing. So here I would like to pay tribute to all who have taught me about prayer, who have been people of prayer, people who are close to God and who pray for us constantly.

How do we as chaplains help our pupils develop a life of prayer that will enable them to know the depth of God's love? How do we strengthen our own prayer life?

### A Reminder

expectations for chaplaincy include the following:

- Each school, both primary and secondary, should have a **pupil chaplaincy team** in place. There should be someone who coordinates, supports and develops this team. The diocese should have the contact details of this person;
- Coordinators should attend regular diocesan training;
- The pupils should receive training on being members of the chaplaincy team. This training should be, if possible, with other pupils in their partnership area;
- Each team needs a development plan showing how they will implement the diocesan theme for the year. (You can of course add to this);

- The team needs to evaluate their work;
- **For the remainder of the Year of Mission we are trying to support the work of Missio (Mission Together) it is the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Each chaplaincy team should undertake one project for Mission Together between now and the commissioning in November. At the commissioning they need to bring with them pictures of the work they did, a cheque for the amount they raised during that project. Cheques need to be payable to *Mission Together*.**

**On 30<sup>th</sup> November Bishop Declan** will again be commissioning pupils who are Chaplaincy team leaders. **Please note the date!**

Please prioritise new members of your chaplaincy team if you cannot bring all the team members.

**Only new members will receive badges and certificates. You MUST let Graham know names and numbers by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November** (the names are those new members for whom you require certificates). The event takes place between 11am and 1pm. The format will be similar to last year.

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

In Advent this year we enter into the second year of our pastoral guidelines with the focus on ‘A Year of Prayer.’ In schools we want to raise the profile of both Prayer and our work to create a Culture of Vocation. **The Chaplaincy Day which is on November 15<sup>th</sup> at Keynsham** will focus on ‘Creating a Culture of Vocation’. The day will begin at 10.30 with tea and coffee from 10am. We will be exploring Church teaching and a practical response from schools. We will also be looking in more detail at the Year of Prayer and our response to this. This is for both primary and secondary chaplains and all schools should try to have a representative at the day.

### **The Journey of the Cross**

Last term pupils from St Edwards school in Sherfield English designed and made a special cross which was blessed by Bishop Declan at our Education Mass. This cross will travel round the diocese from school to school to be the focus of prayer. Each partnership area needs to take responsibility for seeing the cross reaches all the schools of the partnership. (How partnerships do this is up to you - if schools are near each other they may for example want to put on a joint event.) The timings are as follows: **Each school needs to take responsibility at the end of their day for transporting the cross to the next venue. Possible dates are as follows:**

1 <sup>st</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Wiltshire Partnership:
15 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Samuel Partnership:
6 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Dunstan Partnership
18 <sup>th</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Aquinas Partnership
28 <sup>th</sup> March to 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Newman Partnership (please note this includes a break for the school holidays)
29 <sup>th</sup> April to 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Camino Partnership
13 <sup>th</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Gloucestershire Partnership

### **Education Sunday**

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.

### **Little Way Week**

This will be in October this year. Little Way Week is inspired by St Thérèse of Lisieux, patron of mission. As a child St Thérèse dreamed of being a missionary. With age she understood that very few of us are called to make big and radical gestures, but that through small, loving actions we too can deliver God's love to the world every day. It is designed to strengthen the link between home, school and parish. Resources are available for primary schools on the Mission Together website <http://www.missiontogether.org.uk/> and for Secondary schools from the main Missio site <http://www.missio.org.uk>. Both of these sites have lots of extra resources on them and practical ways in which pupils can bring hope to others.

### **Celebrating the Feast of St Francis 4<sup>th</sup> October**

#### *Some ideas*

#### **Have pupils:**

- Be Environmentally Conscious: Look at ways of improving the environment around your school.
- Be Charitable: pupils could select things you don't need and organise a sale with the money going to charity
- Live Simply: select ways of living in a simpler fashion.
- Care for all God's creation: organise a liturgy where pupils pets are blessed. (Ok this might be a little difficult with real live animals but if you organised it with your parish it might be a way of bringing parents and parish together. Probably better if it was held outside and you might need to check what animals people are bringing. You would need a clear risk assessment. **Alternatively**, and easier have everyone bring in a photo of their pet; this is much easier to organise. There are several liturgies on line for the blessing of animals which would easily work with pupils holding photos of their pets. You could for example try <http://www.letallcreationpraise.org/worship-services/blessing-of-the-animals> . This is an American site so read through first you may need to adapt. Please check with your priest for an appropriate liturgy. As part of the service you could bring in supplies to donate to animal charities or other charities.
- Pray: explore the role of prayer in the life of St Francis

### **Romero canonisation**

On 14<sup>th</sup> October, the whole Church will be celebrating the canonisation of Oscar Romero. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the life of a great saint who was such an inspiration. CAFOD have produced resources to support moments of learning, reflection and prayer on this special day.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Romero>

These resources include an assembly for his canonisation as well as films and classroom activities. This is especially suitable for older pupils.

### **And Finally**

If you have pictures of your chaplaincy team at work or even better interviews with them about their role, could you send them to me directly.

### ***Key Dates for your diary in this term***

- 9<sup>th</sup> September Education Sunday
- 10<sup>th</sup> September Scripture and New Assessment measures in RE (RE coordinators)
- 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 begins
- 6<sup>th</sup> October Training for Link Governors in RE
- 15<sup>th</sup> October Heads Conference Cheltenham Chase Hotel
- **15<sup>th</sup> November Day for Chaplains at Keynsham**
- 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October Assisi Visit
- **30<sup>th</sup> November Chaplaincy commissioning**

### **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>Thurs 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

Thank you for all you do and the commitment you make in supporting our pupils.

Ann Fowler  
Deputy Director