



# CLIFTON DIOCESE

## Chaplaincy Newsletter November 2018

A FUTURE  
FULL OF HOPE  
CLIFTON DIOCESE

A Year of Prayer

Psalm 23 (adapted by the De La Salle Brothers)

*Lord, you are like a shepherd to me, and so I have all that I need.*

*You give me rest in meadows of green grass,  
and you lead me to water where I gain new life and strength.*

*You guide me along the way that is best for me.*

*Even when I walk in darkness and everything around seems like death,  
you are there, walking with me, and the promise of your love and faithfulness helps to  
conquer my fear.*

*In the sight of those who do me down, you invite me to sit at table with you.  
There you offer me even more than I need, and you remind me that I am significant and  
special.*

*You call me to goodness and kindness every day of my life,  
and your house will be my home my whole life long.*

The Year of Prayer begins in Advent this year. The Bishop will be presenting documents to parishes and schools on November 27<sup>th</sup> in the Cathedral. This is organised by Adult Education and further details are available from the main Clifton Website. For us in schools we will be exploring how we can develop the prayer of our schools and I have been running chaplaincy training for pupils to support this. There will also be a focus on both Vocations and Prayer linked to action. Our journey of the Cross begins in Advent as well. All of this will be discussed at the Chaplaincy day on November 15<sup>th</sup> at Keynsham parish centre. Please try to attend or to send a representative. The day begins at 10am with tea and coffee. Please be aware that after about 30 cars the parking becomes difficult. The train station is just 5 minutes from the hall. If you are attending the day, please ensure that you have let Graham know so we can get the lunches correct.

### November Prayers

In November traditionally, we take the time to remember those who have died. Try to celebrate the Month of November in school. You could do some of the following things:

- Invite parents to a mass or liturgy to celebrate the lives of those in our own families who have died.
- Create a Remembrance Wall. On this place images of those throughout the world who are dying unnecessarily because of the actions of others. (Mark the top of the wall with the phrase '**You are not forgotten**' and the bottom of the wall with the phrase '**We will try to make a difference**'. Commit to helping one group on the wall. This could extend into Advent as we invite both parents and pupils to give up one present for themselves in order to make a difference to the lives of others.
- Hold a penitential service.
- Explore Pope Francis' words during November. Link them to Gospel passages which remind us of the hope of Christ
- For Remembrance Day/remembering those who have died; there are PowerPoints on the chaplaincy section of the website.
- Explore why we use light to remember those who have died. Make cut out candles and on each of them write the name of a group or individual we want to remember. Create a display of these.

## **Chaplaincy Commissioning Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

### **This year we are back in the Cathedral**

Bishop Declan is looking forward to meeting the pupils. Please note the following arrangements:

1. The service begins at 11am. Please try to be at the Cathedral before 10.45am. We will finish **no later than** 1pm.
2. All coaches cannot park at the Cathedral
3. There will be two sets of toilets for pupils. One upstairs in the car park area and one block downstairs inside the Cathedral. Staff should supervise pupils and please be aware that the stairs down to the toilets inside the Cathedral are narrow.
4. As usual new chaplains will receive their badges from the Bishop. All Chaplaincy team members will be recommissioned.
5. We asked schools if possible to do a **fund-raising activity for Missio and bring with them a cheque** for the money they raised by doing this activity. Cheques should be brought up by pupils being commissioned. If it hasn't been possible to do a fund-raising activity, then I have attached a **Prayer Promise Sheet** that the children can use instead and bring this to the Bishop. Please will you aim to do a fund-raising activity for Missio during this year.
6. **Service booklets will be sent out shortly for you to print for your pupils.**
7. You will need **your school banner** and two pupils to carry this
8. Our music is being led by the pupils from St Thomas More school but if there are musicians who would like to join the group please let me know.

### **Please could you help us by doing the following:**

9. If you have not already done so, please confirm with Graham:
  - a) total numbers of pupils and staff attending the service,
  - b) the numbers of the new team members who will be receiving their badges from the Bishop
  - c) the names of those pupils being commissioned for the first time for their certificates of commissioning.

Thank you for your co-operation. we are doing all we can to make it a joyous celebration for pupils. The Bishop really values the opportunity to interact with team members.

### **Holy Days**

the Holydays of Obligations for England are:

- Every Sunday
- Nativity of the Lord (25 December)
- Epiphany of the Lord (6 January\*)
- Ascension of the Lord (Thursday after 6th Sunday of Easter)
- St Peter & St Paul (29 June)
- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (15 August)
- All Saints (1 November)

\* According to a decision of the Bishops' Conference (1984) Holydays which fall on **Saturday or Monday are transferred to the Sunday.**

### **Resources**

- **For Liturgy**

There are a series of books called '**Celebrating the Lectionary - Supplementary Lectionary Based Resource**'. The books are aimed at different age groups and look at the Sunday liturgy. They include Gospel reflections and activities. These could be a very useful bank of information and ideas. You may want to note however that they are expensive. Each book retails at about £25. To cover the whole Lectionary Cycle you would need to buy 3 different years. Oddly they take the school year not the liturgical year as their basis. They are American and occasionally the language reflects this. The books also reflect the American school system -ages are slightly different so you would need to check which ones you need. If you wish to see them first they, along with other resources, will be available to look at on the chaplaincy days. They are available from <http://www.mccrimmons.com> (If only buying one make sure you get 2017-2018 this takes you to the end of the summer term. You would then need to buy 2018-2019)

#### **For November**

- <https://re-worship.blogspot.co.uk/2011/10/prayer-for-remembrance-day.html>

This site has services on for Remembrance Day. Mainly aimed at older students

- <http://www.icf-online.org/downloadpdfs/Remembrance.pdf> Also

Remembrance Day material

- <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources> The Cafod website has material for both November and December for all age groups.

**For Advent**

**Please make an effort to celebrate Advent and not anticipate Christmas**

- Resources for Chaplains for Advent are on our website. These include prayer stations based around the O Antiphons
- Mission Together has produced a whole set of resources for primary pupils for Advent. These are available from their website.

**Please check the Primary and secondary newsletters for additional resources.**

Many thanks for all the work you do

*Ann Fowler*

*Deputy Director*

*Department for Schools & Colleges*

# Our Mission Together

# Prayer Promise



We, the children of

.....  
..... school

Promise to pray The Mission Together Prayer

Every ..... [day/week] Until ..... [date]

For children living in poverty overseas.

Signed .....

Mission Together Prayer  
May all children  
In the world  
Share love  
Share friendship and live  
In the peace  
Of God's love  
Now and forever. Amen



Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio, the Pope's official charity for overseas mission

## **A Service for November**

After this I have included a more meditative approach based on the prayer station idea but this would probably only work with KS2 children and above. Please invite parents or parishioners to join you for this.

### **Before the service starts:**

**Pupils and families need to know this will be a service to pray for and remember those who have died. You will need small candles for everyone who wishes to remember someone and either people bring a picture of the person they are remembering or write their name on a piece of card. This is meant for a class group not a whole school event.**

### **Hymn**

**A large candle is lit and placed on the floor where it is surrounded by unlit small candles. (If younger children – it would be safer to use the small electronic candles). As it is being lit the leader says:**

#### **Leader:**

Neither death nor life,  
nothing that exists, nothing still to come  
nor any created thing  
can ever come between us and the love of God  
made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
May this risen Lord be always with you.

#### **All: and with your Spirit**

**(Leader explains why we are gathered)**

#### **We read from the book of Wisdom the following passage**

*“The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and the going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace”.*

The reading is then placed on the floor next to the large candle (a little raised up if possible) The pupils are then asked if they wish to remember someone to come and light a small candle (or switch it on if electric) which are then placed around or below the reading. We could sing the Taize chant Jesus remember me at this point.

At the end of this the Leader says the following prayer:

#### **Leader:**

Lord of the living,  
we believe that you are a God of a love

Love is stronger than death  
we believe that Jesus rose from the dead  
And that death is not an end.  
We remember all those that have died  
Knowing that they are safe in your love  
We pray for all our family and friends who have died  
Asking that they find peace with you  
We remember too those who have no one to pray for them  
Help us to be better people  
To try to stay close to you and to help others  
We ask you this through Christ our Lord.

We sing: The lords my Shepherd

Then the pupils and or adults bring either their photographs or the names of the people they wish to pray for the names or photos are placed in the shape of a cross. This should be done slowly one or two people at a time

### **Different Readers:**

We believe that no one is forgotten, that death is not an end

We are confident that our friends and family are with God

We ask for God's help to live in the way God wants us too

Help us always to try to help others

Help us to remember that no matter what happens God is always with us.

### **Final Hymn**

## **Prayer station for All Souls (or any time during November)**

### **Before you begin:**

You need to set this out in a specific room. 4 of the stations are around the outside of the room. If possible, the room itself should be conducive to a reflective atmosphere. Each prayer station needs specific resources. However, all of them would need a candle. This is a small group activity and pupils should be encouraged to move around the stations in a prayerful manner. The order they move round the stations doesn't really matter but the resurrection station should be in the middle of the room and all the group should gather around this at the same time for the final part.

**Station 1: Our World Today** (You will need a table or a board with images of people who have died in acts of terrorism or natural disasters over the last 12 months. These images should be suitable for the age of the pupils. Beside each a caption, just highlighting the event and those who died. You will also need prompt cards for pupils. In the middle of the images place the paper cross.

**Station 2: War.** (During November we have Remembrance Day) You need a poppy cross, and a prompt sheet for pupils. This station also requires a power point projector to play the remembrance power point. You will need to restart this as each group of pupils reach the station. You will also need small pieces of card and pens for pupils to write with. The power point is called remembrance and is on the chaplaincy section of our website. We cannot put music on for copyright reasons, but I suggest you use Barber's adagio for strings for the first part and the second part is set to the Townsend version of the Lord's my Shepherd (note the timing for the first part is automatic for the second part you need to do this manually.

**Station 3: Peace.** You need a long sheet of paper with the words PEACE in large letters on. A prompt sheet for pupils and coloured pens.

**Station 4: My Family.** For this station pupils need to bring in images if possible of those members of their own families who have died. You need a prompt sheet for pupils, small candles that pupils can light and a board or table to place their own photographs on. The centre piece should be the following quote from scripture. ***“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8: 38-39***

**Station 5: The Resurrection.** If possible the focus for this should be a cross (not a crucifix) with a white sheet draped over it surrounded by small candles. You need small paper cups with soil in and small seeds. You need a copy this account from Mark.

***“Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices, so they could anoint Jesus’ body. Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. On the way they were asking each other, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?”<sup>4</sup> But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside. When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked,<sup>6</sup> but the angel said, “Don’t be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead”***

For this Station a leader needs to read this account slowly and prayerful. We then pause and say something like this;

No one can explain exactly what happened at the resurrection, but the disciples believed that Jesus was with them. They believed he rose from the dead and was present in their lives. They were ready to change their whole life because of this belief. The question for us is do we believe that Jesus is with us still? Do we believe that death is not an end to our lives but a new beginning?