



CLIFTON DIOCESE

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Dear Head Teacher

As you know at the beginning of Advent I invited all the diocese, including our schools, to enter into the Year of Prayer. I would like to thank you for all you are doing to support our young people in the development of their spirituality.

One of the ways in which this has been done is through the journey of the pilgrimage cross around the diocese. Chaplaincy teams on behalf of their schools have welcomed the Cross in a creative and meaningful way. I look forward to the completion of this pilgrimage at our Education Mass on October 22nd in the Cathedral, which will also celebrate the Extraordinary Mission Month called by Pope Francis and for which Missio are providing resources for schools.

In my Lent Pastoral Letter, I spoke about prayer not as an escapism from life but a way to broaden the horizons of our minds and hearts. Prayer helps us understand our mission more fully and helps us to realise that we share in the mission of Jesus. Prayer helps us discover our identity, who we are and who we are called to be. Within our schools we try to develop a culture of vocation that enables young people to discover what the dream of God is for each one of them.

Father Matt Anscombe, together with the Schools' Department, has organised a series of exhibitions on the theme of 'Vocation'. They are taking place in 6 areas of the diocese.

- St Bernadette, Bristol - Friday 17 May
- St Peter's, Swindon - Monday 20 May
- Corpus Christi, Weston-Super-Mare - Tuesday 21 May
- St Dunstan's, Keynsham - Wednesday 22 May
- St John's, Trowbridge - Thursday 23 May
- St Thomas More, Cheltenham - Friday 24 May

I hope that you will be able to support these days by bringing a small group of pupils to one of the venues. Practical details are available from the Department for Schools and Colleges.

May I also remind you of two further dates. A Day of Formation for all Chaplains, RE Coordinators and Heads of RE on October 17th, and a retreat day for all Heads and Deputies on November 8th. I hope to be present at both of these occasions.

Once again thank you for all you do.

With my best wishes and prayers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Declan Lang', written in a cursive style.

Rt Rev Declan Lang
Bishop of Clifton
Friday 15th March 2019