

Primary Newsletter April 2019

Happy Easter Christ is Risen!

As I write the death toll in Sri Lanka has risen to over 300. It seems to take away from the joy of Easter, but Pope Francis, as he prayed for those who died, reminded us that nothing can separate us from God. *“Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world. Everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to*



be alive! He is in you, he is with you and he never abandons you. However far you may wander, he is always there, the Risen One. He calls you and he waits for you to return to him and start over again. When you feel you are growing old out of sorrow, resentment or fear, doubt or failure, he will always be there to restore your strength and your hope Before the many sufferings of our time, may the Lord of life not find us cold and indifferent. May he make us builders of bridges, not walls. May the One who gives us his peace end the roar of arms, both in areas of conflict and in our cities, and inspire the leaders of nations to work for an end to the arms race and the troubling spread of weaponry, especially in the economically more advanced countries. May the Risen Christ, who flung open the doors of the tomb, open our hearts to the needs of the disadvantaged, the vulnerable, the poor, the unemployed, the marginalized, and all those who knock at our door in search of bread, refuge, and the recognition of their dignity. Dear brothers and sisters, Christ is alive! He is hope and youth for each of us and for the entire world. May we let ourselves be renewed by him! Happy Easter!”

New Outcomes in RE

Thank you to all those schools who contributed work on the Advent module.

There were a few general conclusions: Firstly, the focus was largely on AT1 with a few examples of AT2. AT3 was hardly touched. This is not unexpected, but I think it is something we need to develop. Secondly there were examples where work had been submitted as working towards and age related where I felt the judgements could have been reversed. This is because people were marking from an English and not an RE perspective. Thirdly there were very few genuine examples of greater depth work. Again, I think this is to be expected in the first term but to be encouraged as the work progresses. By September the aim is to have the



beginnings of a portfolio of exemplar work.

I will be asking for work on the Pentecost module from years 3 and 5 next.

For those of you doing 'Come and See' outcomes for the Pentecost module are on the website now and Reconciliation will soon follow.

My thanks to those who sent pictures of their Hunger Cloths. The small prize is shared between St Francis Nailsea and St John's Trowbridge.

Early Years

There are free resources for Early Years available from Warwick University

The free access website and the two series of books 'Exploring Why' and 'Exploring Our World' were developed by staff at the University of Warwick in collaboration with the St Mary's Centre, Wales. Each story in both the 'Exploring Why' and 'Exploring Our World' series has five different formats of resources associated with it (a short story; an extended story; a pictures only book; a key questions book; and activity sheets and ideas for further learning).

The curriculum materials can be directly accessed at: www.warwick.ac.uk/aledandsian

Further information on the wider research and the project team can be accessed at:

www.warwick.ac.uk/forschools

Whilst these materials are not written from a Catholic perspective they do introduce young children to signs, symbols, and the importance of faith to people. They look at a variety of faiths and the materials are differentiated. This is well worth taking a look at. They have one set of work on the Cross which might be nice for Easter.

Primary Leavers Masses 12th and 13th June

All schools are expected to attend this event and please try to make this a priority over other events that may occur on the same date. Please ensure you have the correct date for your school (see courses booklet on our website on the link below)

<https://schools.cliftondiocese.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Booklet-of-Courses-2018-19.pdf>

Please remember

- a) You need two pupils to carry your banner
- b) **Our theme this year will be: Prayer.**
For **the offertory** schools should write a one sentence explanation of how they have developed the prayer life of their school and **make a symbol** of this work that pupils can bring up at the offertory. In thinking about this theme, you could for example bring up a school prayer book, a model of your prayer garden if you have one, pictures of your day with our pilgrimage cross, etc. Normally that means two pupils to carry the symbol in the offertory procession.
- c) Coaches cannot park at the Cathedral just drop pupils off
- d) Please try to be in place at least 15 minutes before Mass starts so we can rehearse the music and sort the banners and offertory out

- e) The Mass booklet will be sent to the school please remember to print this off on the day.

Mission Together

Please remember that our charity for the Year of Prayer is 'Mission Together'. We are asking each school to see if they can do one event that will raise the equivalent of 50p per pupil. Unless you have already sent your money to the charity please bring your cheque with you to the Education Mass in October. In order to try and do my bit to support this **I am taking part in the Cotswold Way Challenge**. Tony (my husband) and I are aiming to do 50K in approximately 14 hours. This will take place on 29th June. If you feel like supporting me I now have a Just Giving Page. It is <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Ann-FowlerClifton>

Tony has stupidly agreed to do this with me and he is doing his walk to raise money for St Rose's Special School in Stroud. If you are in the Gloucester Partnership would you consider supporting him. His face book page is <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/TonyHickeyStRoses>

On the day you will be able to follow our progress on line on the Cotswold Way Challenge site <https://www.cotswoldwaychallenge.com/>

The CCRS (Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies)

You are welcome to join in this course at any point. Our next module will be on Saturday 18th May and **Monday 3rd June. (this is a change from the publicised date)** This will be on the topic of Faith and Science.

Vocations Exhibitions

Bishop Declan in his letter to all Headteachers wrote:

"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.”

These vocation days also enable us to fulfil part of Pope Francis’ desire to provide examples of witness to young people. There will be representatives from the Religious orders, those training for the priesthood and the Marriage and Family life department present. Each venue is the parish hall, not the school. Parking is available in all venues. We will be open from 9.30 am until 3pm. We anticipate a visit might take up to an hour and a half. We hope you will be able to bring a small group of pupils to these days. It is aimed at Year 4 and above. We will be providing refreshments for staff (tea/coffee and biscuits). There will be sweets available for pupils, so we would appreciate it if you are aware of any allergy information or dietary requirements. We hope to take photographs on the days and publish on the main Clifton website so could you either ensure you have permission for this or make us aware if we cannot take photographs of certain groups. Please let Graham know the date and time you are planning to attend together with approximate numbers in your group. Materials will be provided on the day so that your team can use these to lead an assembly on the exhibition.

CREDO Conference July 3rd Newman University

This conference is convened by Philip Robinson (CES), NBRIA & University Personnel for Primary and Secondary Practitioners of RE. It will cover The New RE Curriculum Directory and using the Bible in Schools. There will be workshops and an opportunity to engage in discussion with colleagues from other dioceses. It is really important that your voice is heard. These discussions will help shape the future of the Curriculum Directory. You need to book directly with Newman College itself on <https://estore.newman.ac.uk/product-catalogue/conferences-seminars-and-workshops/workshops/newman-credo-day-3rd-july-2019>

The cost is £50, and lunch is provided.

I realise not everyone will be able to go to this day but it would help if at the primary phase your partnership is represented.

New Guidance on Relationship and Sex Education

The DfE guidance comes into force in September 2020. In view of this there will be a half a day session to discuss the new guidance and how it might impact on our schools. This will take place on Wednesday, 19 June 2019 at St Augustine’s Parish Centre, Boscombe Crescent, Downend, BS16 6QR. There will be two sessions.

Session A from 10.00am till 11.30am

Session B from 1.00pm till 2.30pm

If you would like to come to this training session, please contact Graham and indicate which session (morning or afternoon) you would like to attend.

This is also open to governors.

There will be a cost of £5 to cover the hire of the hall.

Ideas for Liturgy between Easter and Pentecost

- **Stations of the Resurrection**

The **Stations of the Resurrection**, also known by the Latin name *Via Lucis* (Way of Light), encourage people to think about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, some of the Resurrection appearances and the life of the early church. They try to ask the question “what do these things mean to us”. An artist called Zan Stevenson has designed 14 stations of the Resurrection which were on display at St Thomas More, Seaford, East Sussex if you go to

http://www.zanstevensonsart.co.uk/gallery_687737.html you will see her pictures.

These are very child friendly and can be downloaded.

- **Alternatively if you look at**

http://www.stgregoryspreston.org.uk/_webedit/uploaded-files/All%20Files/Stations%20of%20the%20Resurrection.pdf you will find more information about these stations. This site is not suitable for pupils to use directly but does provide information for teachers.

- **Assembly**

When you design or have the pupils design the focal point, remember that the colour is white, and the focus should be on new beginnings. The Resurrection is not meant to be a past event we believe that Jesus is risen and with us now. Each of the resurrection accounts are about personal encounters, how people’s lives were changed by meeting Jesus. As we look at resurrection accounts ask what do they think it meant to those people? How did they change? Where do we meet Jesus today? (In each other so the way we treat each other matters etc.). Look at Cafod’s page on children’s liturgy for some good ideas. There is an assembly idea attached to the end of the newsletter which is aimed at KS2.

- **Ascension Day: This year it is in the May half term**

The following sites have suggestions for celebrating the Ascension with pupils. They need adapting but might give you ideas:

1. <http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/ascension-day-a-whole-school-assembly-presentation/>
2. <http://www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/1656/ascension-day-jesus-says-goodbye>

- **Pentecost**

1. <http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/education/our-school-services/re/pause-days/pentecost-pause-day> This is an Anglican site and may need adapting but has some interesting material from reception through to top KS2. This is from 2013 so the date they give is not correct.

2. Try <http://www.sharingthelight.co.uk/Pentecost.htm> again this needs adapting but it has a lot of ideas.

Canonisation of John Henry Newman

The actual date of the canonisation has not yet been announced but it is worthwhile preparing for this. Blessed John Henry Newman was a 19th-century theologian, poet, Catholic priest and cardinal. Originally an Anglican priest, he converted to Catholicism in 1845, and his writings are considered among some of the most important church writings in recent centuries.

Ordained a Catholic priest in 1847, he was made a cardinal by Pope Leo XIII in 1879, although he was not a bishop. Newman spent a lot of his life in Birmingham and was also particularly dedicated to education and founded two schools for boys. Although no date has yet been confirmed there is a suggestion that this might take place in October. I will be sending out a PowerPoint to use as the basis for an assembly and I would encourage all partnerships but particularly the **Newman partnership** to think about how they might celebrate this event.

Important Future Dates for your Diary

The schools Department is organising a series of ‘briefings’ around the Diocese. They take place on:

Date	Time	Partnership	Location
Monday 13 th May	7 – 8:30pm	Samuel	Holy Family, Swindon
Wednesday 22 nd May	7 – 8:30pm	Camino	St Gregory’s College, Bath
Thursday 13 th June	6.15-7.45pm	Emmaus	St George School, Warminster
Wednesday 19 th June	7 – 8:30pm	Dunstan	St Joseph’s, Bridgwater
Wednesday 26 th June	7 – 8:30pm	Newman	St Bede’s College, Bristol
Wednesday 3 rd July	7 – 8:30pm	Gloucestershire	St Mary’s Primary, Churchdown
Wednesday 10 th July	7 – 8:30pm	Aquinas	St Brendan’s College, Bristol

Although these are intended primarily for governors you are welcome to attend.

A Day of Formation for all Chaplains, RE Coordinators and Heads of RE on October 17th

This day, which will take place at the St John’s Parish Centre in Trowbridge, is designed not only to help our own formation but to promote conversation between people from both chaplaincy and RE and across the primary and secondary phase. Confirmed speakers so far include: Bishop Declan Lang, Philip Robinson, (the National Re Adviser,) Andrew Pinsent, (Research Director of the Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion at the Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford), Tim Byron SJ, (Tim is a Jesuit Priest from Liverpool. He is currently working in Wimbledon as part of the Jesuit

Institute. He is a teacher. He has been a Chaplain to schools and Universities in Manchester. A wilderness seeker, amateur Astronomer and a lifelong LFC supporter.)

Education Mass October 22nd Clifton Cathedral

This is the completion of the pilgrimage of our Lampedusa Cross, which will also celebrate the Extraordinary Mission Month called by Pope Francis and our work for Missio during this Year of Prayer. Please note the date and try to support this.

Many thanks for all you do

Ann Fowler
Deputy Director