



Chaplaincy Newsletter September 2019

Welcome back. I hope you had a restful break and spent at least some of the time relaxing. In October we begin the Extraordinary Month of Mission. In a world which seems increasingly fragmented we are called to bring people together and to witness to the Good News of the Gospel which brings hope to all. When Pope Francis wrote to young people in his apostolic exhortation *Christus Vivit* he wanted to remind them of the core of the Gospel message. That which brings us hope even in the midst of the darkness around us.

The very first truth I would tell each of you is this: “God loves you”. It makes no difference whether you have already heard it or not. I want to remind you of it. God loves you. Never doubt this, whatever may happen to you in life. At every moment, you are infinitely loved. Perhaps your experience of fatherhood has not been the best. Your earthly father may have been distant or absent, or harsh and domineering. Or maybe he was just not the father you needed. I don’t know. But what I can tell you, with absolute certainty, is that you can find security in the embrace of your heavenly Father, of the God who first gave you life and continues to give it to you at every moment. He will be your firm support, but you will also realize that he fully respects your freedom.

In God’s word, we find many expressions of his love. It is as if he tried to find different ways of showing that love, so that, with one of them at least, he could touch your heart. For example, there are times when God speaks of himself as an affectionate father who plays with his children: “I led them with cords of compassion, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks” (Hos 11:4).

At other times, he speaks of himself as filled with the love of a mother whose love for her children makes it impossible for her to neglect or abandon them: “Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you” (Is 49:15).

He even compares himself to a lover who goes so far as to write his beloved on the palm of his hands, to keep her face always before him: “See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands!” (Is 49:6). For him, you have worth; you are not insignificant. You are important to him, for you are the work of his hands. That is why he is concerned about you

This is a packed year. There are a number of different events and programmes taking place.

Firstly, just a quick reminder of **Education Sunday**.

This occurs on September 8th. Because it is so close to the beginning of term I realise it is

difficult to organise any events for this but if you want to explore the resources please go to <https://www.cte.org.uk/> The Churches together in England Website and follow the links

The Canonisation of Cardinal Newman October 13th 2019

There is a PPT available on the Chaplaincy section of our website for use in assembly. Please note the last slide contains a link to a YouTube clip which would need to be downloaded.

The God who Speaks.

The year 2020 will be the 10th anniversary of *Verbum Domini* – Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord' and the 1,600 anniversary of St Jerome's death. These dates have motivated the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to make 2020 a year of focus on The God Who Speaks. In advance of the major events for 2020 this is being launched on the feast of St Jerome this year (2019) which takes place on September 30th. **There is a PowerPoint to use in an assembly** on this day which is available from the Chaplaincy section of the Website. Please consider as part of your support for this initiative which focuses on understanding scripture encouraging your staff to attend at least the first two modules of the CCRS which will focus on the Old and New Testament. On March 19th and 20th there will be a major event for pupils which Bishop Declan will be taking part in. More details will follow shortly.

The Extraordinary Month of Mission: October 2019

This special month of prayer and action calls us all to renew our missionary commitment. To be good news for all. The month has 4 main purposes:

1. A personal encounter with Jesus Christ living in his Church.
2. The witness of missionary saints and martyrs.
3. Missionary charity as a commitment to support the Church's missionary activity and communities too poor to support themselves, through Missio.
4. Biblical, catechetical, spiritual and theological formation for mission.

More details and resources for the month as a whole can be found on

<https://missio.org.uk/emm/> However we have a number of events going on to support the themes within this month. They are as follows:

- **Saturday 5th October. A session for Link Governors for RE.** This day will consider the role and responsibility of the link governor and will consider new developments in both RE and Relationship Education. The session runs from 10am until 12pm and will take place at Alexander House, 160 Pennywell Road, Bristol.
- **October 13th The Canonisation of Cardinal Newman.** In the Chaplaincy section of the website there is a power point available to use as a basis for an assembly on that day. This is aimed at primary but would also work for the younger end of Secondary.
- **October 17th A Day of formation.** This day is for **all Coordinators and chaplains** and will take place in St John's Parish Centre, Trowbridge. In the morning everyone will be together for the Key note talks. **Bishop Declan** will be talking about his own faith journey and then **Fr Andrew Pinsent** on science and faith and his own response to this debate. Fr Andrew is Research Director of the Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion at Oxford University, a Research Fellow of Harris Manchester College and a member of the Faculty of Theology and Religion at Oxford. He is also a priest of the diocese of Arundel and Brighton in England.

- In the afternoon there will be two different sessions: one of which will be on current developments in RE led by **Philip Robinson** who is the national RE adviser. Chaplains will be with **Fr Tim Byron SJ**. Fr Tim is the current chaplain to the Universities of Manchester, serving approximately 85,000 students in his role, which comprises the largest in Western Europe. He supports students to engage in an inspiring range of voluntary activities, from soup runs, to running the first student-run foodbank in the country. Fr Byron has travelled extensively throughout his career, from working in the shanty towns in Peru in his student days, to spending time in prisons, schools living with gypsies, and travelling in Madrid and the Philippines as part of his Jesuit formation. He is at present working with Fr Adrian Porter to develop school chaplaincy. Please try to support this day.
- **October 22nd Education Mass 7pm Clifton Cathedral**
This year the Mass, in celebration of The Year of Prayer, will focus on the work of schools during this Year and we will be joined by members of the **Missio Executive Team and parish representatives of Missio**. We hope that all schools will be represented and will be able to bring with them either a cheque for the money they have raised for Missio or, a reminder of the work they did in support of Missio (Mission Together for Primary). We will also be welcoming back into the Cathedral our pilgrimage cross which will have completed its journey around the Diocese.
- During the Mass there will be an opportunity for all governors, staff and chaplains to renew their commitment to Catholic Education. Refreshments will be available in the Apostles room after the Mass. All members of the school community including parents and pupils are invited to attend. I realise that this is a difficult journey for many of you, but I really would appreciate it if we all come together to celebrate.

Please note the following:

1. All schools need to bring their banners and ideally 2 people should carry it
2. You will need **one adult** representative to collect our symbol for the Year of Communion, at the end of Mass
3. Please bring either a cheque for the money you have raised for Missio or if you have already sent it on the template attached as a reminder of what you did
4. There will be refreshments afterwards in the Apostle Room.
5. I would like to thank in advance all those schools who have volunteered to take part

The Year of Communion

During this year our ongoing theme will be 'Together we are Stronger'. Bishop Declan had this to say about The Year of Communion

Our parishes and communities
should be places
where Christ is celebrated,
shared,
proclaimed and lived,
where everyone is welcomed
and valued
and all have a sense of responsibility
for the life of the community and the world.

When thinking about our focus for this year therefore we will be asking schools to consider the following things:

- Vocations: How are you following on from our focus last year and our vocations exhibition?
- How are we developing the understanding of our pupils about Catholic Social Teaching?
- How are we supporting Cafod's work and connecting with other schools across the world?
- How are we working in partnership with other schools?
- Throughout the whole of the people of Hope programme, prayer is an underlying theme and we are continually called to ensure that our liturgies help reveal Christ, and bring a message of hope

More information on this will be available in the next newsletter.

Chaplaincy Training

If any partnership would like me to do training with their groups, please contact me as soon as possible. I have 2 areas in my diary at present. Updated materials will be on the website in November if you would like to use them yourself.

For Secondary Chaplains there is a sixth form conference on November 27th on Women in Faith. Full details of this are in the Secondary Newsletter, but if you could encourage your school to take part, I would be grateful. This is an excellent opportunity to bring sixth formers from across the diocese together to explore the role of women in faith across 3 different religions. (Christianity, Islam and Judaism). Our speakers are all women.

Section 48

There will be a new national Framework introduced which will apply to all Diocese in England and Wales. The proposed date is September 2020. At present the document is available for consultation. The diocesan inspectors have already responded in detail to the consultation and a summary of their feedback would be:

- Too many criteria especially in the Catholic Life Section
- Inspectors are being asked to make very subjective decisions especially in the outstanding/good boundary. The language of the grade descriptors is often confusing.
- As it stands it would seem incredibly difficult for a school to receive an outstanding grade
- Some of things being asked of schools are outside of their remit.
- We believe schools would lose faith in any judgements and would struggle to write a SEF or produce evidence

Although you may feel this does not apply to you as Chaplains there is a section on chaplaincy within the framework and much of the Catholic Life section is about the work you do. Please look at the proposed framework and make your own comments

The draft framework can be downloaded here:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1j7rzaM1kJW-nkMmJAB1-mpj-Ruzi-9z2>

The views of school leaders and teachers are a vital part of this consultation which will inform the final shape of the framework. To participate in the consultation, please submit your responses using the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfFVhIpAlFsUVvqvpNeLxfSnEp0ZXn9571_FvQgjHhlzpaRbw/viewform?usp=sf_link

A pdf of the questions is available by clicking on the link below. This will allow you to read the questions and consider your responses before submitting the response electronically. Please only submit responses using the google form and not via e-mail attachment.

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Qb0IGEYp6Ez55J0oKl3_XVLYhHAGZhBS

The consultation remains open until September 20th.

Key Dates for your diary in the next few weeks.

- 8th September: Education Sunday
- 9th September: Meeting for all section 48 inspectors
- 18th September: Introduction for New Heads and deputies
- 20th September: NQT Day
- 21st/23rd September: CCRS
- 5th October: Training for Link Governors in RE (10-12)
- 17th October: Day of Formation for all coordinators and chaplains
- 22nd October Education Mass

Advance Notice: Primary school masses take place on the 17th and 18th June

For full details of all courses and their costs please look in our course booklet.

Resources:

- Fr Adrian Porter has develop a new ecumenical centre for chaplaincy the website is <https://centreforchaplaincyineducation.co.uk> and resources will be created and uploaded there.
- Looking at Cafod's work to support Global Learning more information can be found at www.cafod.org.uk/connectingclassrooms
- For the Canonisation of Newman one site is <https://www.newmancanonisation.com/> however this material would need to be heavily adapted even for Secondary. For Primary there is a book called Heart Speaks to Heart by Daniel Seward that presents the story very simply. Both redemptorist press <https://www.rpbooks.co.uk> and St Pauls <https://stpauls.org.uk/> have a selection of materials connected with Newman.

Enjoy the term!

Thank you for all you do

Ann Fowler