



Primary 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. This is the prayer for children for the Extraordinary Month of Mission.

God our Father,
Your son, Jesus, told us to make your love known to everyone.
May the Holy Spirit help us always to bring your light and love to the whole world
so that everyone may know the love and mercy of Jesus, our friend.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

This is a packed year. There are a number of different events going on and a lot of details are in the Chaplaincy Newsletter but please note the following:

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 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

There are more details of this in the Chaplaincy newsletter, but we have several events going on to support this. They are:

- **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, BS5 0TX.
- **October 13th The Canonisation of Cardinal Newman.** In the Chaplaincy section of the website there is a PowerPoint available to use as a basis for an assembly on that day.
- **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. 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. All details are in the Chaplaincy newsletter.

The New Outcomes in RE

When I met with a group of coordinators at the end of term to discuss how people felt the new outcomes in RE were developing in schools, St Peter's primary Gloucester shared their planning. Those present indicated that they felt that a lesson by lesson approach might be helpful for them to look at. St Peter's very kindly shared their planning for the creation unit with those present and I have now done the Saints Prayers and Feasts unit on a lesson by lesson basis for those of you who might find it helpful. Please note the following: the assumption is that lessons are between 50 minutes and an hour. There are some additional resources added so even if you don't want the planning you may want to look at the resources. **You do not have to use this - it is just an example.** If, however people find it helpful I will do the Advent unit. Please let me know.

I am trying to prepare a portfolio of marked work, but I do not have enough examples from years 3, 4 and 6. If anyone would like to send me examples of work for these year groups, I would be grateful.

Relationship Education

As you are aware the new DfE guidelines come into force from September 2020. Our new guidance document is already in place. The Ten Ten theatre company have developed resources for primary. I have attached some details of this to the end of the newsletter. The material could be useful, but it will not cover all the requirements.

The CCRS (Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies)

If you want to know more about aspects of faith and wish to acquire a qualification, then the CCRS may be for you. The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) is managed and awarded by the Board of Religious Studies on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The course consists of 8 modules in total. Six core modules and two specialist modules. The core modules are: Old Testament, New Testament, the Person of Jesus, the Church, Sacramental Life, and Moral Understanding. Each module requires 10 hours contact time with a written assignment of 1500 words. **You may of course choose to do the modules out of interest and not complete the written assignment;** however, you will not be awarded a CCRS certificate unless you complete the written assignments. Once you begin the course you have 5 years to complete it. If you want further details, please consult the course booklet.

Section 48

There will be a new national Framework introduced which will apply to all Dioceses 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.

Please look at the proposed framework and make your own comments.

The draft evaluation and grade descriptors are being made available for consultation. They 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:

- If you go to <http://education.dublindioocese.ie/opening-of-the-school-year-mass-resources/> where there are several different examples of opening liturgies for schools.

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- The Stapleford Centre has many useful ideas including 40 ideas for creative RE. These are method led rather than content driven so can be adapted to suit your syllabus. Go to www.stapleford-centre.org
- A lot of the material for the canonisation of Cardinal Newman is aimed at adults but one book specifically for primary children is Heart speaks to Heart by Daniel Seward. This is published by St Pauls
- For ‘ The God who Speaks’ try <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/> and also look on our own website for more updates.

Enjoy the term!

Thank you for all you do

Ann Fowler

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