



A LIFE LIVED IN COMMUNION

## Chaplaincy Newsletter December 2019

As we enter the season of Advent Pope Francis reminds us that this is a season of Hope. Speaking in 2013 he said:

**“The time of Advent that we begin again today returns us to the horizon of hope, a hope that does not disappoint because it is founded on the Word of God. A hope that does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful!... It is the Lord himself who guides our journey, the “pilgrimage of all of the People of God; and by its light even the other peoples can walk towards the Kingdom of justice, towards the Kingdom of peace.**

**What a great day it will be, when the weapons will be dismantled in order to be transformed into instruments of work!**

**And this is possible! We bet on hope, on the hope of peace, and it will be possible. The journey is never finished,”** advised Pope Francis. **“Just as in each of our own lives, there is always a need to restart, to rise again, to recover a sense of the goal of one’s own existence.”**

**Mary serves as a “model of this spiritual attitude, to this way of being and of journeying in life.**

**Although she was just a “simple girl,” she “carried in her heart the hope of God,”**

It seems more than ever we have need of hope in our world. I realise how difficult it is in school to try to keep Advent as a season in its own right and not anticipate Christmas but let’s do what we can to keep alive the season so that we too can carry within us the hope of God.

### 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.**

If schools were not able to collect their documentation from the Cathedral, we have some copies for schools. There is a booklet for Governors and School Leaders with suggestions for reviewing the school in the light of the diocesan pastoral plan. You will find this in the **Governors' section of the Schools & Colleges website** under the Heading 'The Year of Communion'. Please look at this and draw it to the attention of your governors. There are some resources to support this already in place and more will be added as the Year of Communion progresses.

## **Pupil Chaplaincy**

Thank you to all of you who made the journey to the Cathedral for the Chaplaincy Commissioning. It was fantastic to see the Cathedral so full. A special thanks go to the Newman Partnership who led our music so beautifully. This year we gave time for the secondary pupils to engage on their own with Bishop Declan and he wishes to thank those pupils who contributed to the discussion. At the commissioning he thanked pupils and staff for their support of Missio last year. We raised over £13,000 which is amazing. This coming year he has asked schools to support '**The Apostleship of the Sea**'. **As before we are asking each school to take part in one fundraising event to support them and to try to make their work more widely known.** Recognising and responding to the needs of seafarers is part of the Apostleship of the Sea's pastoral care. These days the charity has to deal with cases of severe abuse and mistreatment of seafarers and fishermen, modern slavery and trafficking and cases where crew have simply been abandoned thousands of miles from home with no means of support. Many who go to sea do so because going to sea is often the only way to earn enough money to support their families, who are often in poorer parts of the world, such as the Philippines, India, or Ukraine. Once there though they endure isolation and loneliness. Exploring the real situations people face through RE would help develop pupils' awareness of the various unjust situations people face and the response of the church. If you go to their website, you will find a lot of resources to help explain the work of the Charity. In particular look under the section headed Sea Sunday. A letter about their work from the Vatican is attached to the end of the newsletter. <https://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/>

## **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'. There is a section of the website in **Governance** now entitled 'The God who Speaks'. Any resources from the Diocese will be placed there. At present you will find questions and reflections on the Bible for use with staff. Work for pupils in both primary and secondary will also be placed there. There is also a national website [www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks) which contains resources. We are holding an event for this on March 19<sup>th</sup> /20<sup>th</sup> (schools select one day to come). Bishop Declan will be attending. Further details of this will follow.

## **Chaplaincy Training**

Updated materials are now available on the website. The Training refers to 'The Year of Communion'

## Key Dates for your diary in the next few weeks.

Advance Notice: Primary school masses take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June. The day a school attends is based on partnership areas.

- **The CCRS** for teachers takes place on January 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. This will be on the **New Testament**. Everyone is welcome to attend even if just for this Module. Since this is 'The Year of the Word' it might be an appropriate course to consider.
- **The Cross Phase Modular course begins on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February**. All primary RE Coordinators are required to have attended this course or hold an equivalent qualification
- **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February RE conference at St Mary's Twickenham**. Please see details attached to the end of the newsletter
- The next Chaplaincy day will be with Fr Tim Byron SJ who spoke to us at the Formation Day. It is possible we may have to change dates to suit Fr Tim's schedule. As soon as this is confirmed you will be notified by e-mail.
- Lent begins on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February
- March 5<sup>th</sup> a course on Hinduism. This is open to all coordinators and Chaplains.
- 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> March 'God who Speaks' event with Bishop Declan

For full details of all courses and their costs please look in our course booklet which is on our website <https://schools.cliftodiocese.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Booklet-of-Courses-2019-20.pdf>

## 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](http://www.cafod.org.uk/connectingclassrooms)
- There are some nice resources for Advent on <http://www.vision4life.org.uk/index.php/bible-year/seasonal-selection/advent-resources/> These will need adapting for younger pupils
- Mission Together has resources for Advent for Primary pupils on <https://missiontogether.org.uk/advent/>

Thank you for all you do. I hope you have a happy and Holy Christmas.

Ann Fowler  
Deputy Director

# Saturday 8th February

## St Mary's University

**NEXT Friday 29th November is the next cut off point for early booking on to the [ATCRE National Conference](#) for just £45. The cost in December goes up to £50.**

**This conference is likely to sell out** and is generating a lot of national and even international interest. We currently have people travelling from all over the UK to attend, and while we appreciate the travel, we do feel that it will be worthwhile for all those involved in Catholic RE.

*It is pleasing that Catholic schools are paying for staff tickets, travel and, in some cases, accommodation to attend. We do believe this represents good value for money.*

Our speaker list confirms some of the best speakers on Catholic Religious Education in what will be one of the **biggest and best Catholic Education conference ever hosted in England and Wales.**

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### **SPEAKERS INCLUDE:**

#### **Bishop Alan Williams SM - Bishop of Brentwood**

**Mary Myatt** - Educational Consultant and former RE teacher. Her recent books include: [The Curriculum: Gallimaufry to Coherence](#); [High Challenge, Low Threat](#) and [Hopeful Schools](#).

**Michael Merrick** - Catholic writer, speaker and primary headteacher at St Ninian Catholic Federation, Carlisle. He has featured on BBC Radio 4 and in a number of Catholic publications.

**Edmund Adamus** - The renowned Theology of the Body expert running a session on ToB & RSE

**Matt Boniecki** - The insightful Catholic RE teacher leading on 6th Form RE: "*Catholic Theology through A Level RS and Core RE*"

**Ann Clucas** - Author of [How To Teach Everybody: Strategies for Effective Differentiation](#) as well as recent work books for [Edexcel and AQA GCSE RS](#) will be running a session on RE and SEND.

**Dawn Cox** - Head of RE and SLE, one of most highly regarded RE teachers in the country on [Twitter](#) and for [her blog](#). Dawn will lead a session on curriculum design and teaching techniques to ensure students not only understand, but also remember content.

**Sr Marcellina Cooney** - Author of *The Way, The Truth and The Life* shares the work and Mission of the Teacher's Enterprise in RE.

**Julia Cunningham & Andy Lewis** - The Shrewsbury Diocese RE Coordinator (JC) and [Catholic textbook author](#) (AL) present "*How to Lead RE in the Catholic School*"

**Matthew Dell** - Senior Lecturer on the PGCE RE and MA Education at St Mary's ([Profile](#)) uses 25 years of classroom experience to share "*The Power of Storytelling*"

**Rev. Dr. Stephen Fawcett** - Lecturer in moral theology at St Mary's College, Oscott, will present a vision for a Catholic RSE curriculum

**Claire Fernandes** - An associate lecturer in Primary RE, she has written for *The Pastoral Review* journal as well as TenTen Theatre online resources. She will lead a session on Primary Catholic RE.

**Dr Leonard Franchi** - Lecturer in Pedagogy, Praxis & Faith at the University of Glasgow ([Profile](#)) and author of [Shared Mission: RE in the Catholic Tradition](#) will share his wisdom and insight

**Susan Kambalu** - The CAFOD Inset Coordinator will demonstrate the new and upcoming CAFOD resources to help improve Catholic RE in the classroom

**Fr Eamonn Mulcahy** - The Holy Ghost Father from Manchester will share his insights on

leadership in Catholic RE

**Prof Richard Rymrz** - Head of Religious Education and Director of Research at BBI – The Australian Institute of Theological Education ([Profile](#)) will share his global insights on Catholic RE  
**Dr Sean Whittle** - Experienced RE teacher, academic ([Profile](#)) and author of [A Theory of Catholic Education](#) will lead a session on his various areas of expertise.

*NB - All speakers and sessions subject to change and adaptation*

*To book a place go to:*

<https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/events/2020/02/atcre-national-re-conference-2020>