



Primary Newsletter December 2019

As we enter the Season of Advent, we focus on the hope that Christ brings. Looking at the world around us and seeing the disillusionment of people, the fragmentation, the rise in anger and the exploitation of the environment. It is clear that more than ever we need to offer a vision to the world based on hope. This advent prayer from CAFOD captures that feeling:

**Come Lord, come again
Come Lord, your wounded world is yearning
for you to come again.
Come Lord, your weary world is crying out
for you to lift us up
out of our despair, our hunger,
our thirst for something better,
our need for the food that will last.
Come Lord, come again,
we need to begin again.**

Sue Allerton/CAFOD

The Year of Communion

If schools were not able to collect their documentation from the Cathedral, we have some copies for those 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

<https://schools.cliftondiocese.com/governance> 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.

The Advent Module for God Matters

Following on from Prayers Saints and Feasts, the Advent unit now has an example of lesson by lesson planning on. In order to facilitate this, I have created a few extra resources which you will find under the respective year groups. You are not required to follow this or use the tasks; they are exemplars only however, please try to follow the outcomes for Advent. The Christmas season begins on December 25th so please do not begin this short module till you return after Christmas. Remember there is no set work for this module.

The Revised Curriculum Directory

Work is proceeding on revising the Curriculum Directory. At present it seems this will take a modular approach very similar to the way you work at present. All Syllabi will require changes after this document comes into being so please do not change your syllabus till this happens. The likely date is September 2021. Those of you who were at the Formation Day received an update and I **will be giving further updates on 5th March** which is our next coordinators day. Please try to attend.

Work is also proceeding on the new national **Framework for Inspection**. The hope is that this will be trialled from Sept 2021. As soon as there is some concrete information, we will be running training days for schools

The New Outcomes in RE

Reviewing different pieces of work in various schools I would first like to thank you for all the work you are doing in trying to implement these outcomes. Some common issues that appear are:

1. Retell can be in any form (written/oral/art etc.) but you do need to evidence in some way. Using floor books or adding notes to pupils' books to record an oral contribution works well;
2. Occasionally there is a mis-match between Outcome and Task. If the Outcome is to understand or to make a link, the task cannot simply be a retell;
3. At present AT3 is not well done. This is not unexpected since introducing a new attainment target takes time to embed however, if you are setting AT3 tasks please help your pupils by scaffolding the task;
4. Teacher knowledge still remains an issue. Please encourage your colleagues to look at the notes on line, to ask questions and ensure you introduce each module so staff can clarify any uncertainties;
5. This is just a reminder that **All RE Coordinators need to have attended the 3-day modular course or hold an equivalent qualification.**

Early Years

I am very conscious that we need to do more work in this area. This is an invitation to all early years' specialists to become part of a working group. **The first meeting will be on 3rd February at Alexander House** beginning at 10.30 and ending at 2.30. Subsequent meetings will be arranged then and are likely to be shorter. Please inform Graham if you are planning to come to this meeting.

A day for All Co-ordinators 5th March 2020

This will be held in the Dunstan centre Keynsham. The morning will be on Hinduism. Our speaker will be Narayani Devi Dasi. Narayani is a teacher and consultant for ISKCON Educational Services. ISKON educational services were set up to raise awareness about Hinduism and specialise in presentations that are highly interactive using a range of resources and artefacts. It is hoped that this day will both increase your knowledge about Hinduism and present you with a range of creative approaches to its delivery. In the afternoon we will be looking at the Revised Curriculum Directory and what shape this is likely to take along with the new outcomes in RE. Please book using the online booking form <https://schools.cliftondiocese.com/courses>

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 now a section of the Website under Leadership & Governance called The God who Speaks** where you will find resources to help you begin thinking about this. Some of the resources there for secondary pupils, may also be useful for staff.

Relationship Education

As you are aware the new DfE guidelines come into force from September 2020. Our new guidance document is already in place. At the end of the document there is a section on forming your own policy. You should be preparing for the changes. Ideally schools will work in partnership areas to ensure consistency in approach and to ensure parents are receiving the same information from all schools. I have been asked to prepare a booklet giving answers to some common questions staff might face from pupils with regard to the Catholic approach to this topic. In order to do this, **I Need Questions! Please could you send them to me directly either as an individual or preferably as a group of schools. The closing date for questions is 14th February.**

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.

Key Dates for your diary in the next few weeks.

- **The CCRS** for teachers takes place on 25th and 27th January. 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 5th February.** All primary RE Coordinators are required to have attended this course or hold an equivalent qualification

- **Saturday 8th February. RE conference at St Mary's Twickenham.** Please see details attached to the end of the newsletter
- Lent begins on Wednesday 26th February
- 5th March - A Day for all coordinators
- 19th & 20th March 'The God who Speaks' event with Bishop Declan
- 27th March - Head Teachers' Conference at Bath Spa University (details will be sent later)

Advance Notice: **Primary School Year 6 Leavers' Masses** take place on the 17th and 18th June 2020 – details of which date relates to your school (partnership) can be found in our courses booklet. The booking forms are on the website:

For full details of all courses and their costs please look in our course booklet <https://schools.cliftondiocese.com/courses>

Resources:

- 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
- Mission Together has resources for Advent for Primary pupils on <https://missiontogether.org.uk/advent/> as do Cafod on their website
- 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.

Thank you for all you do I wish you a peaceful and a 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.**

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>