



Secondary Newsletter May 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you and your families are all well and you are coping with what has to be the strangest of times. We pray:

**When we are unsure oh Lord help us to be calm
When information comes from all sides accurate and false, help us to discern
When fear makes it hard to breathe
and anxiety seems to be the order of the day
Slow us down o Lord
Help us to reach out with our hearts when we can't touch with our hands
Help us to be socially connected when we have to be physically distant
Help us to love as perfectly as we can
knowing that perfect love casts out all fear
For the doctors we pray, for the nurses we pray
For those in our care homes we pray
For the technicians and the caretakers,
for the cleaners and the care givers we pray
For researchers and epidemiologists, for those trying to develop a vaccine
For those who are sick, for those who are grieving, we pray
For all who are affected all around the world
We pray for safety, for health, for wholeness
May we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty
Clothe the naked and house those without homes
May we walk with those who feel they are alone
May we do all that we can to heal the sick
in spite of the epidemic, in spite of the fear
Help us oh lord that we might help one another**

As I write, the situation regarding Secondary Schools and reopening is not clear but, I would just like to update you on a couple of ongoing projects.

When we eventually return to something like normality the diocese will resume inspections in line with OFSTED. **The new inspection framework however has been delayed.** Probably by year so, I believe the earliest it will be in place will be September 2022 with training provided during the academic year Sept 21 - July 22. Whenever inspections/monitoring visits do restart please be aware that there will be a ‘catching up’ period.

The reforms for the new Curriculum Directory however are taking place. This is not just for primary schools - it will initially affect KS3 and 6th form general RE. KS4 is at present tied into the GCSE. The new outcomes in RE will be tied into the framework. The shape of the CD is now largely fixed for early years to the end of KS3, (Note KS3 here is regarded as a 3-year course) with 6 modules and other faiths running as a separate unit. The headings for the 6 modules are as follows:

- **In the Beginning** – this includes concepts like the nature of God, ‘The Fall’ arguments for existence of God, belief and unbelief, science and faith, creation accounts etc.
- **Called and Chosen** – This will include Old Testament, Prophet, Covenant, discipleship
- **Galilee to Jerusalem** – This is basically Jesus’ ministry and meaning for today
- **Desert to Garden** – Jesus’ passion, death, resurrection and associated topics
- **To the Ends of the Earth**—Spirit, Pentecost, mission, Church, relationship with other faiths etc.
- **Life to the Full**- Living well (or badly) last things etc.

To note

- Sacraments are not a separate topic; they need to be integrated into the modules as does the Church’s liturgical year. However, it is not necessary to do topics in every single year group. Advent for example for primary might be included in the ‘Called and Chosen’ section but in secondary might be covered through the prayer life of the school.
- The intention is that it will be both sequential and progressive
- I think it is possible to be creative with the topic headings so that they become wider than the heading might initially suggest.

I would welcome your (positive) thoughts on topics to be included in each section. If you have ideas, please could you send your thoughts to me as soon as possible. The team is currently meeting every couple of weeks.

At present there is a secondary heads of RE meeting down on the calendar for 22nd September. This will be with Philip Robinson, national RE Adviser, who is overseeing the new Curriculum Directory. **At present I have no idea if this will take place as an actual meeting however, I**

would ask you to book and keep the date because if we cannot actually meet we will do this virtually.

There are some tentative revised dates including the **Education Mass which will now take place on 4th November at 7pm in the Cathedral.**

The CCRS dates will be revised if necessary but, I would ask you to encourage colleagues to sign up for this course especially if they are non-specialists teaching RE or hold a leadership role in the school.

During the Coronavirus crisis the Catholic Children's Society have collaborated with the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) to develop a series of videos on meditation which children and young people can participate in, whether in school or at home. Each consists of a phase-appropriate introduction leading to a period of meditation. The Primary series are released each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The Secondary series are released on Thursdays. The videos can be accessed at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6Cb5LrAIU7_MPTRDMUBcvQ?view_as=subscriber

or through the Catholic Children's Society website at

<https://www.cathchild.org.uk/meditation-with-children-young-people/>

I officially finish on 31st May, so I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all your work over the years. I was hoping to visit most of you before I left, since that is not possible, I would just like to say it has been a privilege and a pleasure. What you do makes a difference to the lives of young people.

Many thanks.

Take care,

Ann

Ann Fowler
Deputy Director