



## Chaplaincy Newsletter September 2020

We are all adapting to a new way of worship as we return to schools and colleges. Though we will not be able to gather together in large numbers for masses and assemblies our prayers are needed more than ever. I know that chaplains will continue to provide worship and spiritual guidance to the children and young people in our schools. In this newsletter there are some ideas for prayer, reflection and assemblies.

In his prayer intention for September 2020, Pope Francis asks that we learn to respect the planet's resources. He describes the earth as an orange that we are squeezing till all its goodness is gone. Pope Francis encourages us to share the earth's resources in a respectful manner. He describes the industries and countries in the Global North enriching themselves by exploiting the natural resources in the South. Pope Francis reminds us that it is today not tomorrow that we must care for creation responsibly.

Missio is the Pope's charity for world mission. They have ideas for you to support Pope Francis' prayer intention for September.

- Pray Pope Francis' intention every day, but especially on Fridays.
- Maybe you could find a quiet spot outside in a garden or park to pray and reflect.
- Join the Online Mission Animation to explore *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home* on 12 and 15 September. Click on the website to find out more, <https://missio.org.uk/pope-francis-prayer-intention-september/>
- Plant spring bulbs this month for new life in your garden next year.
- Become more conscious of what we use and what we waste. Could you save water or electricity this month? Perhaps money saved can be donated to charity.



### **Laudato Si**

It is the special anniversary year of Laudato Si which will be celebrated till 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021. We would like to recognise this important encyclical in our schools and colleges. Pope Francis calls on us to consider how we use the planet's resources so we can transform our relationships and live in harmony with God, nature and one another. I am calling on you to do something special to mark this anniversary. This could be creating a prayer space or garden, planning a special celebration with your parish or becoming a livesimply award community with CAFOD. There are some ideas on the Caritas Scotland website for secondary schools which includes making your own stations of Laudato Si or animation.

<https://www.sciaf.org.uk/resources/514-laudato-si-schools-resources>



## Covid 19

On 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020 Pope Francis asked how we can prepare for the future after the global pandemic. In response the Columbans, youth workers and chaplains across the Dioceses of Plymouth, Southwark, Leeds, Northampton, Arundel and Brighton have created a resource called Prepare the Future. It is a twelve-unit resource **aimed at young people aged between 13 and 18**. It includes liturgies and reflections that can be adapted. The first eight units are available to download <https://millionminutes.org/future>

There are prayers on the CAFOD website <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Coronavirus-prayers> that can be used in assemblies, collective worships and daily prayers.

Ten Ten have created '**Assemblies in the Classroom**' a resource that will enable schools to continue delivering weekly Gospel-rooted assemblies in classroom and bubble groups, whilst maintaining social distancing measures in school. Collective Worship will need to play an important part in children's spirituality as they access the recovery curriculum. You may also consider using your school chaplains to record assemblies for other children in the school.



## Mary

Last year I attended the 'Building the Kingdom' course led by Sister Judith Rossi. She encouraged the teachers and governors who attended the course to use Mary as a starting point to discuss how women influence us in our lives. Mary shaped Jesus' life while he was on earth. She was with him at the beginning of his life and the end. Mary has been a strong influence in the life of Pope Francis who prayed to 'Mary undoer of knots' during his darkest time. I witnessed pupils from Holy Family Primary School who spoke eloquently about how they saw Mary in a new perspective, women who had influenced them and collective worship they took part in after their teacher was inspired by the course. There are many feasts of Mary during September and October you may wish to celebrate:

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September - Nativity of Mary

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September - Our Lady of Sorrows

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September - Our Lady of Walsingham

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October - Our Lady of the Rosary

October is the month of the Rosary; chaplains could help to lead Rosary groups.

Perhaps you could create prayer stations in school using pictures and titles of Mary.

Perhaps you could arrange a socially distanced Marian procession outside.



## Year of Communion

Covid 19 affected the way we worshipped and the Year of Communion theme 'Together we are Stronger' wasn't always possible to accomplish this year. I would encourage schools and colleges to consider the following things:

- How well do you work in partnership with other schools?
- Is Catholic Social Teaching embedded in your curriculum?
- How has the People of Hope programme developed in your schools/colleges?

- Do you support global charities?
- How are you developing your parish/school/college links?

Resources are available on the Clifton Diocese website <https://cliftondiocese.com/communion/>

### **The God who speaks**

Scripture is at the very centre of our church and should be a part of our everyday lives. The bible shows us how to understand our world and live in harmony together. Due to Covid 19 some scripture-based events that were planned did not take place. There are 'Year of the Word' resources available for primary collective worship on 'The God who speaks' website [http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/education/primary-schools/primary-collective-worship-resources/?fbclid=IwAR1qsFeKO\\_rON7GAGhCnEk23wNyhzhI3l\\_AKfq-YNIQhFCbeJdiQyO6ceqI](http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/education/primary-schools/primary-collective-worship-resources/?fbclid=IwAR1qsFeKO_rON7GAGhCnEk23wNyhzhI3l_AKfq-YNIQhFCbeJdiQyO6ceqI)



Please let me know any events that you plan and send in photographs.

### **Education Sunday**

Education Sunday is on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The theme for this year is 'A learning people in a time of change'. Many children learning from home and staff have had to adapt to a different way of teaching during the last few months. This encourages us to reflect on what we have learnt about ourselves and our relationship with God. There are resources available on [www.cte.org.uk/EducationSunday2020](http://www.cte.org.uk/EducationSunday2020)

### **Pope Francis Prayer Intentions for October**

#### **The Laity's Mission in the Church**

The prayer intention for October is to pray that laity will embrace and live out their mission to the church. That women may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church. Resources will soon be available on the Missio website.

### **Commissioning of Chaplaincy Teams**

The commissioning of the chaplaincy teams on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at Clifton Cathedral will not be celebrated in the usual way. This will be a recorded or virtual event and I will notify you of the final plans in the next newsletter. We will be asking for a cost for the badges which will be sent out to schools before the event. Please let me know if any partnership would like me to do chaplaincy training.

### **Education Mass**

It is important that we celebrate the wonderful work the schools and colleges have done in the past year. The Education Mass on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 will also be a virtual or recorded mass but it will give us a chance to reflect and spiritually prepare ourselves for the year ahead. I will notify you of the final plans in the next newsletter.

### **Chaplaincy Day**

Day 1 is on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 and will be virtual.

### **More Key Dates**

CCRS unit on The Church - Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September and Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September

Religious Education Link Governors - 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Aspiring Leaders course Day 1 - 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Governor Induction Training - 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Cross Phase Modular Course Day 1 - 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020 - World Mission Sunday

22<sup>nd</sup> November is National Youth Sunday, there will be resources available on the Clifton Diocese website

### **Future Dates**

### **Please remember the Primary Leavers Mass**

Schools from the Aquinas, Dunstan, Emmaus and Samuel Partnerships are requested to attend on Wednesday 16th June 2021. Schools from the Camino, Gloucestershire and Newman Partnerships are requested to attend on Thursday 17th June 2021.

I hope and pray that you all stay safe during the year. I thank you for the spiritual guidance you give to others.

Father,  
you call us together at the beginning of this new school year.  
We ask you to send your spirit upon us that,  
as the days and terms unfold,  
we may be always mindful of your presence  
and alert to opportunities to see and serve you in those around us.  
We pray that we may teach well by the example of our own lives,  
by our knowledge and love of learning,  
by our gentleness and care of the pupils entrusted to us.  
In all that we do and say,  
we pray that, in building up the community of our school,  
we may contribute to a better society.  
Amen.

***Louise White***  
***Diocesan RE Lead***