



Welcome Back

As we begin a new academic year, I wanted to express my thanks for last year. In another ever-changing year you helped to create a place of support when it was needed in your schools. You offered your time to encourage understanding not only of the Catholic life and prayer life of the school but to help children and students find their way in the world around them. You were there to help resolve conflict, to enable reconciliation and healing. Your creativity was shown in the online services and Masses you produced to keep faith alive within your schools and colleges. Chaplaincy is where the dignity and uniqueness of each person is recognised and celebrated, where we walk alongside Christ. Thank you for everything you do to enrich the lives of the children and students in Clifton Diocese.

The Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is an annual celebration that unites Christians in praying for our common home. It was endorsed by Pope Francis in 2015 and is celebrated from the 1st September to the 4th October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. There are resources available on the Clifton Diocese Website which includes a timetable of prayers, reflections and a Mass Bishop Declan will celebrate for green recovery. You will also find the 10 Green Commandments which can be used as a starting point for students to write their own. The resources can be accessed through this link

<https://cliftondiocese.com/laudato-si/>

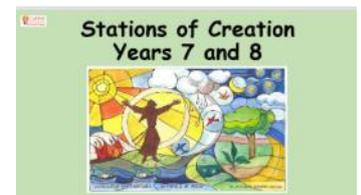
There are free resources on the Season of Creation website <https://seasonofcreation.org/> CAFOD have Laudato Si resources for young people which can be accessed through this link

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Laudato-Si-resources>

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Laudato-Si-for-children>

There are Collective Worship ppts available on the Clifton Diocese Schools and Colleges Website. <https://schools.cliftondiocese.com/season-of-creation#:~:text=The%20Season%20of%20Creation%20is,by%20Pope%20Francis%20in%202015.>

There are ppts for Nursery and Pre-school, Reception and Year 1, Year 2 and Lower KS2, Upper KS2 and Years 7 and 8. Please feel free to adapt them in any way you wish.



Education Sunday

Education Sunday will take place on the 12th September. The theme this year is 'A Word in Season.' A word in season is taken from Isaiah and explains that the one who was to come would be an anointed teacher. The theme was chosen as an acknowledgement of the weariness that may have affected the education sector with the disruption of Covid and to keep in mind the strength that will enable us to open up to the possibilities that lie ahead.

The Bible passages are:

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 116:1-8

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

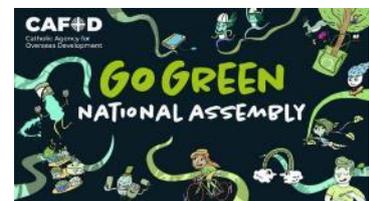
There are secondary resources available on the website www.cte.org.uk/educationsunday2021

There are primary resources available on the website including a Primary Collective Worship.

<https://www.cte.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=293134>

CAFOD

CAFOD are encouraging schools and colleges to 'Go Green' for this harvest. The appeal will support the communities protecting the Amazon and to stand up for people dealing with climate crisis. The Harvest Family Fast Day is on 1st October. A 10-minute national assembly will be available from 1st September for Secondary and the National Assembly for Primary Schools will go live on Thursday 16th September. A fundraising pack including posters and stickers are



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available to order online. <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources>
<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Harvest-resources-young-people>



Pupil-led collective worship

CAFOD have created resources to support collective worship in schools. Resources include a simple planning template and guide, ideas for children to plan their own collective worship, and a weekly liturgy based on the Sunday Gospel. Please follow this link

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Collective-worship-primary>

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Secondary-collective-worship>

[secondary-collective-worship](https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Secondary-collective-worship)

CAFOD Chaplain's Coffee catch up

If you would like to be part of the popular coffee catch up group then please email schools@cafod.org.uk or [Chaplains sign up form | CAFOD](#) and ask to be part of the monthly chaplains' coffee catch up group.

The God Who Speaks



Noah Day

The Bible Society are launching a 'National Noah Day' for schools, colleges and parishes on the 1st September. This is to promote deeper biblical understanding and environmental awareness through the focus of Noah. It will also enrich our knowledge of Noah beyond the Ark/animals theme to include ideas around baptism and salvation through his wider mission/symbolism. The resources are available on the 'God Who Speaks' website. The prayer stations for secondary were written by Kevin Loud, the Lay Chaplain at St Bernadette's Secondary School and St Bede's Catholic College, Bristol.

godwhospeaks.uk/noah-and-creation-care **Noah Day -** godwhospeaks.uk/run-your-own-noah-day

Education Mass

The Education Mass will take place on the 9th November at Clifton Cathedral. This will be the first time we have been able to gather together in person for over a year. It will also be an opportunity to pay thanks to former heads and the department personnel who, owing to Covid, were not able to be thanked in the usual way. All members of the school community including parents and pupils are invited to attend.

Chaplaincy Commissioning Services

This year there will be a separate service for Secondary student chaplains on the 5th November at Clifton Cathedral. The service for the Primary student chaplains will take place on 12th November at Clifton Cathedral. Though many restrictions have been lifted **I will not** be encouraging the children to mix at the beginning of the service. Please confirm your attendance with Jenny Fitzgerald as soon as possible.

Chaplaincy Training

Secondary Chaplains

The first training day will take place at Alexander House on Wednesday 29th of September. John Manix will be leading the day and has written a letter that I have emailed to you. If you wish to make any suggestions, then please contact John or myself as soon as possible.

The Advent and Lent retreats will take place at the Ammerdown Retreat Centre on the 26th of November and the 15th of February. Father Colin will be leading the retreat and we will celebrate Mass at the end of the day.

Primary Chaplains

The first training day will take place at St Dunstan's Parish Hall on the 30th of September. I have arranged some virtual resource meetings to take place in Advent, Lent and the summer so we can share good practice. There will be a mental health talk at the training in the spring for both Primary and Secondary Chaplains.

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Pope Francis Prayer Intentions

Pope Francis gives us a different prayer intention for each month of the year

September for an Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle

October for Missionary Disciples

November for People Who Suffer from Depression

December for Catechists

The God Who Speaks

There are free resources available to download on 'The God Who Speaks' website. Resources for Secondary include Chat-echesis, resources to encourage conversation and Scripture Soundbites, 2-minute reflections on the Sunday Gospels and the Bible of Sacraments. Primary resources include Collective worship. <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/education/>



SVP

Not to be confused with the beauty products who are asking for a million acts of kindness, the SVP, Saint Vincent de Paul Society, are issuing a call for more members and volunteers to join their mission to tackle poverty in all its forms through a million gestures of kindness. <https://www.svp.org.uk/help-svp> provides more details.



Little Way Week

The Little Way Week 2021 begins on Monday 27 September. The feast of St Thérèse of Lisieux takes place on Friday 1 October. Resources are available for primary on the Mission together website <https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/little-way-week/>

and for secondary on the Missio Website

<https://missio.org.uk/schools-general-resources/little-way-week-secondary-assembly-notes/>



Beholding God

On the Clifton Diocese website there is a prayer resource for adults which could lead you to a deeper understanding of prayer and enrich your spiritual life. It celebrates different ways of praying and there are many resources. <https://cliftondiocese.com/beholding-god/>



Love Christmas

I know it is months away, but if you are looking for a way for your school or college to spread love, hope and kindness in your community this Christmas, Love Christmas is a national initiative to do just this. They are mobilising volunteers through local churches to sponsor and deliver a million Christmas Boxes to the most vulnerable and isolated. By partnering together, you will be joining thousands of churches, schools and colleges from across the UK. It is easy to take part and it is an effective way of reaching out to those around us. Join the Love Christmas webinar on Wednesday 6 October, 11am – 12pm to hear more and to find out how to get involved. Sign up here:

<https://www.tfaforms.com/4917266>

YOUTUBE ADVERT - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IK1oYuuUts&t=12s>

More Key Dates

- World Mission Sunday 24th October 2021
- National Youth Sunday TBC
- Advent Virtual Resource Meeting 10th November 2021
- Lent Virtual Resource Meeting 17th February 2022
- Summer Virtual Resource Meeting 27th April 2022
- Advent National Assembly – CAFOD 2nd December 2021

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Please remember the Primary Leavers' Mass

Schools from the Aquinas, Dunstan, Emmaus and Samuel Partnerships are requested to attend on Wednesday 22nd June 2022.

Schools from the Camino, Little Way and Newman Partnerships are requested to attend on Thursday 23rd June 2022.

The theme for the offertory will be Fratelli Tutti, more information will follow.



Prayer

O God,
may there be peace within us.
May we trust God that we are exactly where we are meant to be.
May we not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.
May we use the gifts that we have received,
and pass on the love that has been given to us.
May we be confident knowing that we are children of God.
Let this presence settle into our bones,
and allow our souls the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.
It is there for each and every one of us.
Amen.

(Adapted from a quotation of St Teresa of Ávila)

Our Lady, Woman of Hope,
pray for us.
St Peter, Rock of Hope,
pray for us.
St Paul, Apostle of Hope,
pray for us.

Louise White
Diocesan RE Lead Adviser

A FUTURE
FULL OF HOPE
CLIFTON DIOCESE