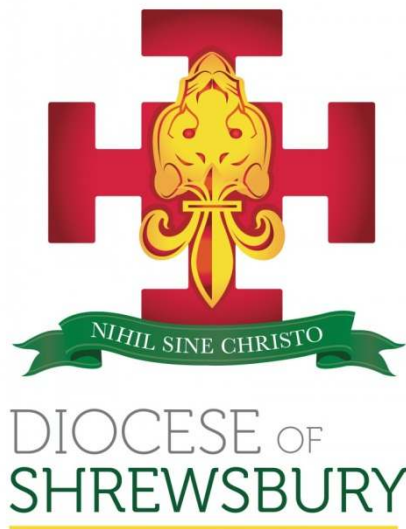




Diocese of Shrewsbury

Department of Education



RE and CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2022 No.1

Dear Colleague

1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome back after the summer holidays. We hope you are well rested and feel renewed and rejuvenated for the new school year ahead.

However you may have spent the last five or six weeks, whether at home or abroad, there is often a little trepidation on the return to school - perhaps you are starting at a new school or have a different role, or maybe it is simply the thought of all those early starts!

As you begin this academic year, I wish to share with you this lovely reflection from an unknown author that is catalogued in a wonderfully inspiring book called, *Releasing the Angel: Saluting all who strive to teach*, by Christopher Gleeson SJ. May it be a reminder of your giftedness in this most important of vocations:

“God loves Teachers

On the sixth day, God rested – not so much to recuperate but rather to prepare Himself for the work He would do on the eighth day.

For it was on that day that God created the first Teacher. This teacher, though taken from among women and men had several modifications. In general, God made the teacher more durable than other women and men.

God made the teacher tough – but gentle too.

God poured a generous amount of patience into the teacher.

*God gave the teacher a heart slightly bigger than the average human heart.
God gave the teacher an abundant supply of hope.*

When God finished creating the teacher, He stepped back and admired His work. And God saw that the teacher was good, very good. And God smiled, for when He looked at the teacher, He saw into the future. He knew that the future is in the hands of each teacher.”

2. THE SEASON OF CREATION

The first of this month marked the beginning of the **Season of Creation** and the **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**. With the extreme temperatures and lack of rain we have experienced this summer contrasted with the recent flooding in Pakistan it is more urgent than ever that we ‘hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor’ (Laudato Si)

The Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales shared a lovely prayer for the 1st of September that could be one prayed throughout the season. You can find the prayer here along

with links to the background to this season and Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

[World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](http://cbcew.org.uk)

3. MASS TO CELEBRATE THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Mass to celebrate the start of the school year will take place in two venues in the Diocese:

Monday 19th September St Peter's RC Church, Hazel Grove 4.30pm

Thursday 22nd September Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Ellesmere Port 4.30pm

We very much look forward to seeing you there in person, though if you are unable to travel, Mass will also be livestreamed.

Refreshments will be available after Mass so please join us to continue the celebration.

4. EDUCATION SUNDAY

Education Sunday is marked this year on 11th September. The theme for this year is 'enlightening the mind' and is based on the Gospel acclamation for that day: *"May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us"* (Ephesians 1:17,18).

Churches Together in England (CTE) describes both teaching and studying as "demanding and privileged callings". Education Sunday gives all of us the opportunity to give thanks to God for all who teach and all who study, and for all who continually find the right words and deliver them with enthusiasm and graciousness.

The Bishops of England and Wales have said, *"on 11 September, we pray that God will fortify those working to make our schools places of learning and sanctuary – not just teachers and leaders but all the support staff whose tireless work sometimes goes unnoticed. We pray for all our primary and secondary pupils – particularly school leavers who have had such a difficult journey in recent times – not to mention students in higher education and vocational training"*.

For prayers and resources for Education Sunday, including a lovely prayer card for teachers that you may wish to distribute, and the message from Rt Rev Marcus Stock, Bishop of Leeds and Chair of the CES (Catholic Education Service) click [here](#).

5. PILGRIMAGE OF THE RELICS OF ST BERNADETTE

In September and October this year, the relics of St Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage from Lourdes to England, Scotland, and Wales for the very first time. This very special once in a lifetime event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes. Bishop Mark states, *"We go to Lourdes as Pilgrims. This year, Lourdes is coming to us in the relics of St Bernadette"*.

St Bernadette's relics will be in our own Diocese on 13th and 14th September, first at the Cathedral then at St Werburgh's in Chester. A letter was sent to schools before the summer break providing an overview of the activities and formation offered to schools on both days.

Resources have been distributed to parishes from the Diocese, and an assembly and suggested activities for schools were distributed via email from Maggie on behalf of Canon Chris Matthews.

Further information can be found [here](#) and [here](#). The latter website offers information on the importance of relics for Catholics and specific information on the relics of St Bernadette that will be journeying to our Diocese.

6. 'GOOD NEWS'

A reminder to celebrate your good news with us. If you have any pictures, video clips or examples of pupil work celebrating our Catholic ethos and mission, Religious Education, prayer and liturgy, then do please share them with us throughout the year so they can be shared with our wider diocesan family on our website.

Please contact Maggie (malgorzata.kowalska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) for details of how to upload/send your 'Good News'.

7. LITURGICAL THEMES

Cath Duffy has again produced a calendar for this academic year of suggested liturgical themes to support schools in their planning of prayer, liturgical prayer and liturgy throughout the year.

You can download the calendar [here](#)

8. CAFOD

CAFOD continue to grow and develop their resources for schools. They have listed some key dates for the academic and liturgical year on their website to help with planning, and if you don't have one already in school, you can download a liturgical wall planner too (available for primary and secondary).

[Dates for the academic and liturgical year | CAFOD](#)

9. TAKING STOCK

Taking Stock is an interesting website I have recently been made aware of that could be used with children and young people in RE. [Taking Stock - Catholic Churches of England and Wales \(taking-stock.org.uk\)](http://Taking Stock - Catholic Churches of England and Wales (taking-stock.org.uk)) is an architectural and historical review of Catholic churches and chapels in England and Wales. The project is a partnership between the Patrimony Committee of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, individual dioceses, and Historic England.

It is possible to search churches by diocese or by name. Images of the different church buildings are offered and often accompanied by some interesting information about the history and architecture of the building.

PRIMARY

10. CHRIST AT THE CENTRE

The course for primary practitioners that began last year now has its official title – **Christ at the Centre**. The course support teachers in their nurturing of "*religiously literate and engaged children who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life*" (RE Curriculum Directory 2012, P6)

The course will provide a sound foundation for the teaching of RE by exploring core Catholic beliefs, teachings and practices, so teachers can place the content they are teaching within the foundations of our Catholic faith, *and* it will explore how to deliver RE through the three Ways of Knowing. The course will also explore what it means to work in a Catholic school and the unique nature of teaching within Catholic education. It will provide support for teachers in the provision of prayer and liturgy too.

The course is open to all primary practitioners and comprises of modules run over four days. Delegates are expected to attend all four days to complete the course.

For more details, please refer to the CPDF booklet and the website [Book a CPDF course](#)

11. GOD WHO SPEAKS

God Who Speaks in collaboration with Bible Society continue to produce some excellent resources. Their free downloadable posters now include Bible heroines. You can access the posters [here](#).

Bible Society have also produced a 'Gospels in Schools' downloadable resource containing forty-two well-known Gospel passages, explanatory notes and suggested questions for reflection and discussion. This resource may support teachers in understanding the *literal* sense of scripture. The resource can be downloaded from this website [Gospels in Schools - Bible Society](#)

12. DISCERN activities

We began to look at the *Discern* Way of Knowing during the summer hub meetings online. A number of discern activities that could be used by staff were produced by the Primary Curriculum Working Party and can be found in the Resources section of the website (password: *Education*).

Discerning in RE encourages our children and young people to engage creatively and critically with their learning and is a key area for development this year.

RE Coordinator Guidance for 2022-2023 was also shared before the summer. However, for ease of access you can find it [here](#)

SECONDARY

13. KEY STAGE 5 CORE RE

As a result of the consultation this part of the RED will be put on hold, instead with a 14-19 section to be developed this academic year. In the meantime, brief, summative guidance for sixth form core RE will be shared early in the Autumn term which will be in line with the National Framework.

14. SYMT (Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team) NEWS

Flame 2023

Tickets are now available for **Flame 2023** – Saturday 4th March 2022, which will be held once again at Wembley Arena with an extensive line up of guest speakers.

This year there are two ticket options:

£25 – Ticket only

£85 – Ticket and Coach travel (Departure times TBC)

Places are limited this year so please book quickly.

Click [here](#) for the flyer and if you are interested in booking tickets or would like any more information, please email sophie.reed@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

World Youth Day 2023 – Lisbon

World Youth Day is the largest international gathering of young people in the Catholic Church. It is held every 3 years and was established by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1985.

In 2023 the Diocese of Shrewsbury will travel with the other Dioceses of England and Wales to Lisbon to take part in World Youth Day Lisbon. In Lisbon we will be joined by young Catholics from around the world for a weeklong event with catechesis, prayer, reflection and ultimately Mass and an encounter with Pope Francis. Click [here](#) for the flyer.

Dates: 31st July - 5th of August 2023

Cost: £1200 – all inclusive, meals, travel, accommodation, and world youth day passes.

Age: 18 to 35

Places are extremely limited and will be done on an application basis.

If you want more information, have any questions, or want an application form please email clare.williams@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

15. CAFOD resources

CAFOD has been producing resources to support the content of the RED (RE Directory). They have resources for KS3 and KS4. The KS4 resources are tailored to the different examination boards.

To support their CST in 3 Minutes video, they are producing videos that focus on specific principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Currently they have videos on Solidarity and Subsidiarity.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/RE-curriculum-Catholic-schools>

16. YMCA Refugee Teaching Pack

Pope Francis has said *'Our world is facing a refugee crisis of a magnitude not seen since the Second World War. This presents us with great challenges and many hard decisions.'* Our young people are born into a world where the numbers of refugees are the highest they have ever been and with no sign of reducing. In fact, the numbers of refugees are likely to increase. Our young people face this challenge and are forming their moral values. What information do they use to develop these values and attitudes?

The YMCA in Crewe also face this challenge but from a different perspective to education. With a growing concern about society's attitudes and misunderstandings they set about producing a pack of information and definitions of various vocabulary being used in reference to refugees. The aim was to present accurate information, in a non-political manner, which young people could easily access and thus develop an understanding and empathy with refugees and migrants.

The 'YMCA Refugee Teaching Pack' contains facts and information, real case studies, tasks, worksheets and lesson plans to aid the teaching of this topic to young people in the age range 11-16. The pack can be used to deliver individual lessons, a sequence of lessons, as a focus for a year group study or as the content for a themed day of activities.

The pack is free, but the YMCA would like to support schools in their use of the pack either by supplying information or by the delivery of some of the material. If you are interested in receiving the 'YMCA Refugee Teaching Pack' or would like more information please contact Donna Brown using the following email address, donna.brown54@btopenworld.com.

17. SCHOOLS MEDIA COMPETITION 2023

The **Columban Missionaries** have launched their media competition for 2023. This year's theme is *'Building Peaceful Futures'*. They are looking for students (aged 13-18 inclusive) to submit an original piece of writing or an original image on this theme exploring such questions as *Is conflict inevitable? Where and how is peacebuilding taking place? What role can faith play in peacemaking?*

Competition entry opens on 21st September and closes on 10th February next year. For more information, including the prizes on offer, click here: [Columban Competition](#)

WORLD RELIGIONS

18. RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS

In the spirit of interreligious dialogue, the Bishops' Conference have published a calendar of religious festivals marking important dates across multiple religions. The calendar can be found on their website: [Religious Festivals 2022 - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](https://www.cbcew.org.uk)

19. INTER FAITH WEEK

A key feature of the model curriculum featured in the RED (RE Directory) is Encounter and Dialogue in Branch Six. Dialogue with our wider Christian family, world religions and other world views is very important.

Inter Faith Week is an annual event that this year runs from 13th to 20th November. Their website offers a variety of resources and ideas to mark the event: [Activity ideas - Resources - Inter Faith Week](#)

CPDF

Our CPDF offer for this year will be sent to all schools as a pdf from Sue Jenkinson at the Curial Offices. We have a wealth of sessions on offer for your continuing professional development and formation. It is certainly worth having a look at the document and signing up in the usual way via the website: [Book a CPDF course](#)

Upcoming CPDF:

Welcome to the Diocese of Shrewsbury (Primary) – Virtual (15 Sept)
PCWP – St John Henry Newman Parish, Latchford (21 Sept)
New RE Co-ordinators' Induction St John Henry Newman Parish, Latchford (23 Sept)
Christ At The Centre: Day 1 - Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Ellesmere Port (27 Sept)
COAST – Ellesmere Port Catholic High School (30 Sept)
Support for schools with CSI (Catholic Schools Inspection) – Our Lady, Star of the Sea (30 Sept)
RE Coordinator Hub meetings – Virtual (29 Sept, 3 Oct, 4 Oct, 5 Oct)
Welcome to the Diocese of Shrewsbury (Secondary) – Virtual (3 Oct)
SHORE – (12 Oct)
ECT Primary Y1: Prayer and Liturgy - Virtual (13 Oct)
Launch of Primary DADAH – The Park Royal Hotel (14 Oct)
NW Diocesan Core RE meeting – Virtual (2 Nov)
Secondary DADAH Catholic life and Mission – Aquinas College (3 Nov)
Christ At The Centre: Day 2 - Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Ellesmere Port (8 Nov)
SHORE KS5 RE – venue TBC (9 Nov)
COAST – Virtual (10 Nov)
ECT Secondary – Virtual (16 Nov)
Day of Spiritual Reflection for Senior Leaders – The Park Royal Hotel (17 Nov)
ECT Primary Y2: Ways of Knowing – Virtual (22 Nov)
RSE Leads Secondary – St Paul's Catholic High School (30 Nov)
RE Coordinator Briefing – Virtual (6 Dec)

CCRS:

CCRS courses are being held at St Anthony's Parish Centre, Wythenshawe on Thursday mornings, 8.45am-12.30pm. The course runs three consecutive Thursdays per module, with two modules offered before Christmas and two after. Please click [here](#) for this year's schedule.

Online delivery has been paused for present time.

Please book directly through ccrs@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

And finally,

As many of you returned to work on the 5th or having returned earlier welcomed our children and young people on this day, the prayer and intercessions for Morning Prayer (Lauds) this day were apt to mark the start of this new academic year. They also offer a chance to pause and reflect on the great life of service of Queen Elizabeth II, may she rest in peace. Amen

*In the life of his incarnate Son, God has shown us the dignity of man's labour.
With this in mind we pray:*

– Lord, bless our work.

*We bless you, Lord, for bringing us to this day;
we thank you for protecting our lives and giving us what we need.*

– Lord, bless our work.

*Be with us, Lord, as we take up our daily tasks;
and help us to remember that it is in your world we live and work.*

– Lord, bless our work.

*You have called us to serve you responsibly in the world:
help us to build a just and Christian society.*

– Lord, bless our work.

*Stay with us and with everyone we meet this day:
let us give your joy and your peace to the world.*

– Lord, bless our work.

God bless,

Julia