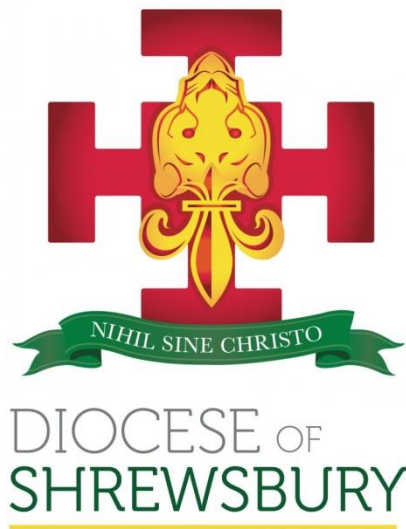


Diocese of Shrewsbury

Department of Education



RE and CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER

Summer Term 2022 No.1

Dear Colleague

1. INTRODUCTION



We hope you have enjoyed a holy and blessed Easter holiday and return to school full of the joys of the risen Christ, for we are an Easter people.

The psalm for Easter Sunday, Psalm 117 (118) can be a daily reminder to us of God's great plan of salvation, summed up for us in John 3:16, *'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life'*.

This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say;
'His love has no end'

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raise me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord.
a marvel in our eyes.
(From Psalm 117)

May we share the joy of the risen Christ with those we meet each day, knowing that God is with us in our vocation, his Spirit guiding and strengthening us in our mission as Catholic educators.

2. THE IDENTITY OF A CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The Congregation for Catholic Education have shared an instruction for educational institutions entitled, *The Identity of the Catholic School for a Culture of Dialogue* in response to conflicts over the interpretation of the concept of 'Catholic identity' in Catholic school settings.

This is a document of great interest that affirms the need for a clear Catholic identity. Drawing on *Gravissimum educationis* (Vatican II's Declaration on Christian Education), it states that our Catholic schools aim "to help youth grow according to the new creatures they were made through baptism as they develop their own personalities" and "to order the whole of human culture to the news of salvation so that the knowledge the students gradually acquire of the world, life and man is illumined by faith." In this way, the Catholic school prepares pupils to exercise their freedom responsibly, forming an attitude of openness and solidarity' (Identity of the Catholic School - 16).

As an Easter people, we are charged daily with sharing the Good News of God's love for us. This document challenges us to reflect on our schools and their distinctive Catholic identity as communities where this Good News is proclaimed.

You can read the full instruction from the Congregation for Catholic Education [here](#).

3. HOW TO CULTIVATE A "SPIRITUALITY OF SYNODALITY" WITH FR. JAMES HANVEY, SJ BY AMDG: A JESUIT PODCAST

AMDG, a Jesuit podcast series from the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States, meet with Fr James Hanvey, a Jesuit theologian who, amongst other things, is a member of the Spirituality Commission for Synodality.

He talks to the host about his understanding of the meaning of synodality, which you may find interesting and helpful in supporting your own understanding of this current process within the Church. You can listen to the whole podcast here [Soundcloud.com: how to cultivate a spirituality of synodality](#) though listen from 14 minutes in if you wish to miss the introduction.

4. 'WALKING WITH JESUS'

Many thanks again to all the schools, pupils and staff who contributed in some way to our Liturgical prayer for Lent. It was a most prayerful and holy hour that gave us an opportunity to pause and reflect on Jesus' Passion and Resurrection. We are very blessed to have such gifts and talents within our diocese.

Any schools who were unable to join us on the day and would like to view the recording can do so by clicking this link <https://youtu.be/q3yb5oEoStI>

5. SPIRITUAL PRAYER AND REFLECTION FOR SENIOR LEADERS

At the request of Heads at the most recent CPDF review, along with our diocesan liturgical prayers and Academic Mass, we will be offering an opportunity for senior leaders in schools to join us for a short time of prayer and reflection to provide you with a moment of spiritual calm in what can often be 'stormy seas'. Whenever we gather in prayer, Jesus is present with us. We can call on the Lord to support us in our mission as leaders in Catholic education and strengthen and nourish us in our daily endeavours.

These opportunities for prayer and reflection will take place in the first, third and fifth half terms. The first of these is on **17th May 4.00-4.30pm**. A Zoom link will be shared nearer the time. Please join us if you can, to spend some time together with the Lord.

6. THANK YOU FROM CAFOD

Thank you, you're amazing!

Thank you so much for supporting our **Walk Against Hunger** this Lent! Together we walked four times around the world! Please share our thank you film with your pupils and students.

[Thank you for your school fundraising! | CAFOD](#)

7. SVP: 'TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY TURNING OUR CONCERN INTO ACTION'

Many of our Secondary schools have Youth SVP groups and many of our Primary schools have Mini Vinnies groups. Both the Youth SVP and Mini Vinnies are Young Vincentian Programmes that support the St Vincent de Paul Society in their work for social justice.

We have in the diocese a number of representatives who look after these programmes within our schools. If you are interested in finding out more about the SVP or about forming a Youth SVP or Mini Vinnie's group in your own school, follow this [link](#) (*link to SVP PDF*) to read more and contact the appropriate representative listed on the document for your phase and/or geographical area.

8. MARY'S MEALS

[Mary's Meals](#) is a global feeding charity, established in 2002, serving nutritious school meals to over 2 million children living in some of the world's poorest countries. The promise of a good meal attracts these hungry children into the classroom, giving them the energy to learn and hope for a better future. Since our humble beginnings, Mary's Meals, named after Mary the Mother of Jesus, has been built on a foundation of prayer and the many little acts of love from those who support us.

Throughout the month of May they are inviting schools to pray with them as part of their [Pray in May](#) campaign, that their work continues to flourish and grow, and that more children throughout the world will see their lives transformed by receiving a daily meal in a place of education. Mary's Meals offer other resources for schools too which can be found [here](#) and are more than happy to support schools in the delivery of assemblies and other activities.

You can contact your local Supporter Engagement Officer [here](#).

9. RE CURRICULUM DIRECTORY 2022

Hopefully you have all received the draft copies of the EYFS, Y1-6 and Y7-9 RE Curriculum directory. Remember, you have until 20th May to respond to the consultation should you wish to.

You can submit a response here:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SSQzRY2fT0OpJmB_Xy63KARXYGCW_SuFNusGynRFWkvxURUtKWFg1RDIXUFJKWVhBSUFPNkVCQIU1Ny4u

PRIMARY

10. EYFS RECD 2022

A reminder there is an online briefing on the EYFS element of the RECD 2022 for all interested parties on **Tuesday 3rd May at 3.45pm**

This will be an opportunity to hear from Julie Rourke, Primary Adviser for the Archdiocese of Liverpool, who is both an EYFS specialist and one of the drafters of the EYFS content.

To book on to the briefing and receive the Zoom link please follow this [link](#)

SECONDARY

11. CAFOD CAMPAIGN: *Step up to the plate*

We all need food to eat, and our world has more than enough food to feed everyone. But 1 in 10 people in our global family is going hungry. Our global food system - the way we grow and share food - is broken.

Together we can make a difference. Will you join CAFOD's new campaign, calling on the UK government to Step up to the plate and change how food is grown and shared around the world? Read CAFOD's [guide](#) to find out how your school can get involved.

CAFOD have lots of resources to support schools with the campaign, which can be accessed by following this link: [Step up to the plate campaign for young people | CAFOD](#)

A reminder too that CAFOD have a new film and activity sheet to help Y10-11 revise poverty, sustainability and the work of CAFOD, whatever exam board your school uses [CAFOD homework help | CAFOD](#)

12. GLOBAL COMPACT ON EDUCATION

On 12 September 2019, Pope Francis launched an *"invitation to dialogue on how we are shaping the future of our planet and the need to employ the talents of all, since all change requires an educational process aimed at developing a new universal solidarity and a more welcoming society"*. To this end, he endorsed a Global Compact on Education *"to rekindle our dedication for and with young people, renewing our passion for a more open and inclusive education, including patient listening, constructive dialogue and better mutual understanding"*. He said that we must *"unite our efforts in a broad educational alliance, to form mature individuals capable of overcoming division and antagonism, and to restore the fabric of relationships for the sake of a more fraternal humanity"*.

Since that launch, a handbook has been produced for implementation of the Compact on Education for educators to support them in guiding our children and young people in the building of our common home: [vademecum-english.pdf \(educationglobalcompact.org\)](#). A quick guide for schools has also been produced [GUIDE COMPACT ingles.pdf \(oiecinational.com\)](#)

To hear more from Pope Francis on global compact click [here](#).

13. CPDF OPPORTUNITES THIS TERM

It is planned that courses this term will be a blend of virtual and face to face sessions and these are bookable through the Diocesan website by following the link below:

<http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/education/courses/book-a-cpdf-course>

28 April	Primary ECTs – Quality First Teaching in RE (virtual)
3 May	RECD 2022 EYFS Briefing (virtual)
5 May	COAST
6 May	School Support For Inspection Under The New National Framework
11 May	SHORE Drop-in Session (virtual)

13 May	RE & Catholic Life – A Course for Primary Practitioners: Session 1
16 May	Primary Curriculum Working Party
17 May	Primary DADAH (option of 2 sessions)
17 May	Prayer and reflection for senior leaders in schools (virtual)
18 May	RE Co-ordinator Drop-in Session (virtual)
25 May	Secondary RSE Leads

And finally...

For a simple reminder of the Good News of the risen Christ, listen to Fr James Martin SJ offer a short reflection on the Easter season here:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=pLu9WI0Q8Jo&t=31s&pp=2AEfkAIB>

May the joy of the risen Christ be with you this term as you juggle accompanying our children and young people on their journey, learning and teaching, SATs, examinations, school trips and sports days!

God bless, Julia and Cath