



# **Diocese of Shrewsbury**

## **Department of Education**



# **RE and CATHOLIC LIFE**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**Summer Term 2022 No.2**

Dear Colleague

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome back for the final half term of this academic year which, whilst in many ways has seen the return of some 'normal' routines and pre-pandemic practice, has still been a year of great challenge in our schools. We are truly grateful for your continued devotion and commitment to your vocation as educators of the children and young people in our Diocese.

Having celebrated the feast of Pentecost on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June, may we always walk in God's Spirit knowing we can call on the gifts the Spirit gives to us, which will in turn bear fruit in the building of God's Kingdom here on earth. This beautiful prayer from St Augustine of Hippo reminds us of the great gift of the Spirit Jesus gave to us when he returned to his Father in heaven:

### *Prayer of St. Augustine*

*Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit  
That my thoughts  
may all be holy.*

*Move in me, O Holy Spirit  
That my work, too,  
may be holy.*

*Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit  
That I may love  
only what is holy.*

*Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit  
That I may defend  
all that is holy*

*Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit  
That I may always be holy.  
Amen.*

## 2. LISTEN!

As you will know, the Church is in the midst of a synodal journey, moving towards a synodal Church. This Synod began in 2021 and is due to end next year. The whole Church has been invited “to listen to one another and to embark on a discernment of the times in which we are living” (address of his Holiness, Pope Francis, for the opening of the Synod). Pope Francis says the three key words of the Synod are *communion, participation and mission*. He encourages us to “*experience this moment of encounter, listening and reflection as a season of grace*”. Key to this synodal process is listening to the Spirit; how the Spirit is speaking to us and where the Spirit is asking us to go. Also emphasised is the need to listen to each other.

Much is said and reflected on about listening. A phrase often shared with young children focuses on the number of ears to the number of mouths we have – to listen to others twice as much as we speak to them. It is perhaps too easy to make ourselves heard through social media platforms without having to really listen to others, especially those with a viewpoint that differs from our own.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May was World Communications Day. It marked the 56<sup>th</sup> World Day of Social Communications. The Vatican announced the theme for this day as *Listen!* In his message for World Communications Day, Pope Francis spoke of the need for “*listening with the ear of the heart*”. To listen, he said, was a “*condition for genuine dialogue*”. He talks about God, out of love for us, inclining his ear towards us. Are we listening to God? Are we listening to each other?

Pope Francis uses the analogy of a choir to illustrate the beauty of communion when people are truly attentive to each other:

*“A synodal process has just been launched. Let us pray that it will be a great opportunity to listen to one another. Communion, in fact, is not the result of strategies and programmes, but is built in mutual listening between brothers and sisters. As in a choir, unity does not require uniformity, monotony, but the plurality and variety of voices, polyphony. At the same time, each voice in the choir sings while listening to the other voices and in relation to the harmony of the whole. This harmony is conceived by the composer, but its realisation depends on the symphony of each and every voice.”*

How can we encourage more listening in our own communities? How can we encourage moments of stillness and quiet in our prayer life in school for example, to hear the still small voice of God as Elijah did? For Elijah, God was not in the wind, or the flames or the earthquake, but in the gentle breeze. Moments of silence to sit with our hearts open to hearing God’s voice allow us to have a closer relationship with God and help us to find inner peace.

You can read the full text of Pope Francis’s message for World Communications Day [here](#).

The official Synod website releases a regular newsletter with updates about the synodal process around the world. May’s edition also focuses on listening and discernment, reflecting on Mary as a model of one who “*kept all these things, pondering them in her heart*”. You can read the newsletter [here](#) and catch up on previous and future Synod newsletters from the link.

## 3. SACRE (STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION) MEMBERSHIP

SACRE is an independent body in the UK that considers the provision of religious education in the area under the jurisdiction of its Local Authority. The SACRE advises and is empowered to require a review of the locally agreed syllabus for Religious Education.

**Catholic representation on SACRE boards is important** for a number of reasons, particularly when noting the constant challenge facing faith schools from certain quarters.

We would welcome interest from headteachers, deputy headteachers and RE Leads/Heads of RE who feel they could **support our Diocese on their local SACRE**. Further information about what that might entail, support and training will be offered. To indicate your interest, please email [julia.cunningham@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:julia.cunningham@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

#### 4. RELICS OF ST BERNADETTE

The sacred relics of St Bernadette come to the United Kingdom this year and will be made available for veneration at various places throughout England, Scotland, and Wales.

These holy relics will be in Shrewsbury Diocese on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of September. The relics are scheduled to be at the Cathedral on the Tuesday and St Werburgh's, Chester on the Wednesday.

Further details about the tour and opportunities for veneration will be shared in due course, however in the meantime, this may be an opportunity to revisit the beautiful story of Our Lady's appearances to Bernadette Soubirous within your school community, and where appropriate, to explore the tradition of the veneration of sacred relics within our Catholic tradition.

#### 5. HOLY MEN AND WOMEN RECOGNISED BY POPE FRANCIS

On 15<sup>th</sup> May Pope Francis recognised 10 new saints of the Catholic Church during a canonisation Mass in St Peter's Square. 909 saints have now been canonised during Pope Francis's papacy.

During his homily on May 15, Pope Francis said, "holiness does not consist of a few heroic gestures, but of many small acts of daily love" - inspiring words to share with our children and young people, encouraging them to strive for holiness in little ways each day.

Pope Francis named Blessed Titus Brandsma, Lazarus known as Devasahayam, César de Bus, Luigi Maria Palazzolo, Giustino Maria Russolillo, Charles de Foucauld, Marie Rivier, Maria Francesca di Gesu Rubatto, Maria di Gesù Santocanale, and Maria Domenica Mantovani as saints, to be enrolled among the saints to be venerated by the whole Church. Perhaps you could explore the lives of these newly canonised saints and be inspired by their witness, for example, the life of Marie Rivier, who in a time of great religious persecution in France, held secret prayer services when there was no priest to say Mass, or Charles de Foucauld who is considered to be one of the pioneers of interreligious dialogue.

#### 6. 'AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS': Podcast from CBCEW (Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales)

'At the Foot of the Cross' is a monthly podcast from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Rev Canon Christopher Thomas gives us an update on the work that has taken place at the conference over the last month and there is a special feature on the dignity of Human Life. Listen to it at [Dignity of Human Life | Episode 3 - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](https://www.cbcew.org.uk/dignity-of-human-life-episode-3)

#### 7. 'GOD WHO SPEAKS' – SCRIPTURE RESOURCES FROM THE BIBLE SOCIETY

This month the **Focus** is on **Pentecost Wonder** – <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/pentecost/>

Resources include:

**The Holy Spirit in Art** - Fleur Dorrell looks at how the Holy Spirit is presented in the Bible and three different paintings -

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-holy-spirit-in-art/>

**In Between Times: from Easter to Pentecost** [poster](#)

**Daily Reflections for Pentecost** - <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/resources/the-pentecost-reflection/>

Enjoy our new **Bible Heroines school posters** - <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/posters-for-schools/>

In our **Good Work series**, David McLoughlin looks at our 24/7 culture as a new form of slavery – <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/tuesday-is-our-24-7-culture-the-new-slavery/>

In our **Meaning of Life series**, Bishop David Evans explores how Jesus and the philosopher Blaise Pascal consider paradox through the lens of children and the widow's mite. <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-meaning-of-life-part-5-paradox/>

**Reflecting on the Psalms** - the Bishops' Conference Spirituality Committee continues its Psalm project. Click [here](#) to view.

Take a psalm - pray, reflect and journal with it using the helpful prompts provided.

**Job vacancy – Catholic Scripture Engagement Officer -**

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/about-us/jobs/catholic-scripture-engagement-officer/>

## 8. RETREAT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THEIR 20S AND 30S

The Jesuit Institute, Ignatian spirituality networks and St Beuno's are running a retreat for young adults in their 20s and 30s based in the UK and Ireland in late July.

This retreat may be of interest to the younger members of staff in school who are looking for a restorative few days at the end of term, so do **please share**.

It is available online or in person at the beautiful St Bueno's centre in Wales. If you have any questions, click on the link or email Maria Neal [mneal@jesuit.org.uk](mailto:mneal@jesuit.org.uk)

*We invite you to set out on a journey with us, to see your life with new eyes, and to consider how your life may be transformed. Join us for a young adult retreat, online or in person.*

Online 27<sup>th</sup> July- 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022

St Beuno's -Residential 28<sup>th</sup> July-1<sup>st</sup> August 2022

*We'd love young adults based in the UK and Ireland in their 20s and 30s to come and join us to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conversion of St Ignatius of Loyola!*

<https://www.jesuit.org.uk/events/see-all-things-new-a-retreat-for-young-adults-in-their-20s-and-30s>

## PRIMARY

### 9. MARK 10 MISSION LITURGICAL PRAYERS

Many of you have turned to Mark 10 Mission over the last couple of years to help with planning prayer in school. Please see this message from them below:

**On Friday 24th June, The Solemnity of The Sacred Heart of Jesus, The Mark 10 Mission needs your help. We are asking all of the schools who enjoy our liturgies to consider fundraising for our mission.** For two years, our team of volunteers have given their time and energy to create amazing, free weekly liturgies for schools to share. We love making this content and God has been so gracious in the way he has led our project! We have big plans for the future! In the coming months, we hope to become a charity, create loads more videos and help children to encounter Jesus in their classrooms.

We will always keep our main liturgies free to schools because we want as many children to experience them as possible. With the help of our amazing schools, we hope to raise the funds we need to grow, make our liturgies even better and visit schools in person!

To celebrate the day, we will be hosting an hour-long **live event on YouTube at 11am** and everyone is invited. We will share our favourite worship songs, welcome some special guests and have lots of interactive fun!

Please see their [flyer](#) which you may wish to use in your schools.

### **10. A LITTLE BOOK OF BRITISH SAINTS by Roy Peachey**

The author says this book is “aimed at younger readers with lovely illustrations by Michelle Pitt. This is a book of stories about remarkable saints who want to be your friends in heaven. Here you will find a peace-loving Viking and a saint who was captured by pirates. You will meet a horse dealer who was really a priest and a queen who became a nun. You can even read about a young saint who had lots of pets and played games on his computer.” More details including how to purchase can be found at <https://www.isaiahbooks.co.uk/product-page/a-little-book-of-british-saints>

### **11. IMRAN KOTWAL: ISLAM RESOURCES**

Imran Kotwal would like to invite you to his next Islam CPD webinar for Primary Schools: **Teaching & Learning about Hajj / Pilgrimage to Mecca and Eid-ul-Adha.**

Training Dates: **Mon 13 June** (4-5 pm) OR **Thu 7 July** (4-5 pm)

Location: Zoom Live Webinar

Cost: ONE FREE place for schools that have subscribed to IslamResources.co.uk.

£25 per person for non-members

Includes all training materials.

To book your place on the webinar click [HERE](#) or copy this link into your browser <https://zfrmz.com/QO0GcTb3rI5EsBHsRBs2>

If your school isn't a member of [IslamResources.co.uk](https://www.islamresources.co.uk) and you would like to attend this and future webinars for FREE as well as access all my Islam Teaching & Learning resources...Please complete the subscription form [HERE](#) or copy this link into your browser <https://zfrmz.com/FCROfodagi7iuFeyPfTO>

## **SECONDARY**

### **12. KS5 CORE RE RECD 2022 DRAFT**

Schools have now received the KS5 core RE component of RECD 2022 for consideration. The consultation is open and closes on the 27<sup>th</sup> June. Responses to the draft content can be made via this link <https://forms.gle/8foNK5VytqUgatin6>

Dr Nancy Wallbank, Education Adviser for the CES, will be presenting the process and rationale behind the KS5 core RE element on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 4-5pm and there is an opportunity for Heads of RE and/or KS5 core RE Leads to meet on 6<sup>th</sup> July to discuss expectations and begin collaboration. Further details about both events can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Full compliance for the core RE element is as the KS3 element, namely September 2025.

### 13. THEOS THINK TANK: 'Science and Religion' Moving away from the shallow end

The Theos team have produced a report on attitudes to science and religion which is the culmination of a three-year project researching public and elite attitudes to science and religion in the UK today (2022)

They say:

“For too long, the conversation has fixed on a limited number of (scientific) topics – evolution, Big Bang, neuroscience – and often on the loudest voices there. The result has frequently turned conversation into debate, and debate into argument. One of the consequences of this is that when you ask people about the relationship between ‘science and religion’, opinions are largely negative.

However, when you ask the same people about specific sciences and religion, or about science and specific religions, their views are more complicated. And when you look at expert scientific and philosophical opinion on the matter – even among the non-religious people and atheists – views are not only more nuanced but also more positive. In short, the ‘science and religion’ conversation is needlessly shallow and needlessly noisy.”

You can download the report, which may be of particular interest to your students, here: [‘Science and Religion’ Moving away from the shallow end - Theos Think Tank - Understanding faith. Enriching society.](#)

### 14. CAFOD

#### **Step up to the plate campaign:**

CAFOD’s new campaign, **Step up to the plate**, looks at the broken global food system. There is enough food for everyone, yet 1 person in 10 is hungry. Help young people to understand how the global food system - the way we grow and share food around the world - is broken.

Learn more, tell others, act now! <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Step-up-to-the-plate-secondary>

If you have ten minutes, watch their animation, and complete their tem‘plate’ action:

- Animation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5j15uflxa4g>
- Template: [CAFOD step up to the plate template](#)

If you have ten minutes: use their assembly, then complete the template in form time.

If you have 45 minutes: use their workshop.

#### **Secondary CPD for schools:**

Book now for the new academic year. Contact [skambalu@cafod.org.uk](mailto:skambalu@cafod.org.uk) or [schools@cafod.org.uk](mailto:schools@cafod.org.uk) to book CPD for your school, or your partnership of schools. A donation towards their work is appreciated. CAFOD are currently offering the following sessions:

- Bring the world into your RE classroom – supporting the new RECD (*face to face*)
- Introduction to CAFOD, our schools programme and Catholic Social Teaching, for teachers new to Catholic schools
- CPD to support schools applying for the LiveSimply Award (*can be online*)
- Everything is connected: Enrich school life through global learning (*can be face to face or online*)

#### **CAFOD communications and CPD for chaplains:**

CAFOD have regular online gatherings for school chaplains. This is an opportunity for chaplains to be inspired and encouraged, through sharing with each other, hearing from “behind the scenes” at CAFOD, and learning about timely resources.

Chaplains can register for regular communications, including invitations to their gatherings, at [cafod.org.uk/chaplains](http://cafod.org.uk/chaplains)

The next meeting for chaplains is **Tuesday 5 July, 2:30pm to 4pm**

You can find the links and the animation for the campaign all in one place in this [presentation](#)

## 15. MRS BENSON RE VISION

For your Y13 students, this link may come a little late, but it may be of help to your Y12 students if you haven't come across [Mrs Benson's RE Vision](#) YouTube site before. A little cheesy, but for those who find it easier to learn with melodies, her songs could support revision of key topics at A level.

## 16. ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY, TWICKENHAM, THEOLOGY ESSAY COMPETITION

St Mary's University have launched their annual theology essay competition for Y12 students. This is an excellent enrichment opportunity with this year's competition essay entitled, 'The existence of God can be known through reason alone.' Discuss. The deadline for entries is 5pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July. The winning entry will be awarded £250. Find out more [here](#).

## 17. CPDF OPPORTUNITIES

There are a number of virtual and face to face sessions this half term bookable through the Diocesan website by following the link below:

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

**13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> June and 4<sup>th</sup> July**

### RE Hub meetings

These are virtual sessions 9.30am to 12.00pm **except 14<sup>th</sup> Jun**, which is 1.00pm to 3.30pm.

If you are unable to attend your own hub's scheduled meeting do please book on to another.

14<sup>th</sup> June

COAST (virtual)

15<sup>th</sup> June

ECT Session 3: Supporting Catholic life in school (virtual)

21<sup>st</sup> June

Secondary DADAH: Catholic life and mission at All Saints in Dukinfield

### NB: change of date

**21<sup>st</sup> June**

**Core RE NW Hub meeting.** This one virtual meeting 4.00-5.00pm will replace the two meetings calendared for 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June and is open to 6<sup>th</sup> form colleges and 11-18 schools/colleges.

Dr Nancy Wallbank from the CES is our speaker on the KS5 core RE element of RECD 2022.

28<sup>th</sup> June

Primary DADAH (virtual)

29<sup>th</sup> June

SHORE KS3 focus at Chester Catholic High School

1<sup>st</sup> July Session 2: RE and Catholic life course for primary practitioners at St Hugh's, Timperley

6<sup>th</sup> July **SHORE KS5 core RE focus: to be held at Aquinas College, Stockport from 9.30am. Arrivals from 9.00am.**

### 18. REMINDERS FOR YOUR DIARY

6<sup>th</sup> July The celebration of Holy Mass to give thanks for this academic year at Christ the King, Bromborough. Bishop Mark will be presiding. All colleagues are welcome

8<sup>th</sup> July The celebration of Holy Mass and Mini-DASH with our secondary schools at St Columba's, Chester (schools to contact Cath Duffy for more information [cath.duffy@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:cath.duffy@dioceseofshrewsbury.org))

And finally...

If you need a reminder of the fruits of the Spirit that come from living each day in holiness through small acts of love, take a look at this clip [The fruits of the Spirit](#)

Enjoy! 😊

God bless, Julia and Cath