



Diocese of Shrewsbury

Department of Education



RE and CATHOLIC LIFE

NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 2024 No.2

Dear Colleague

1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome back to a rather short term as Easter will be soon upon us. It is appropriate that in this period of synodality that the Church is in, we hear from St Mark the account of the Transfiguration on this Second Sunday of Lent –the Father’s voice is heard from heaven saying, “Listen to him”. In this season of Lent, are we open to God’s voice? Do we seek out the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

We know, of course, that the three pillars of our Lenten journey are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. How is your Lenten journey going? What have you given up? If you’re struggling to think of something to fast from, perhaps the infographic below from Catholic Link might give you an idea!



2. YEAR OF PRAYER

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) have created a prayer book for this year of prayer published by CTS entitled *Deliver us from Evil*. It costs £9.95 and can be purchased direct from the [CTS website](#).

Further resources for this year of prayer from CBCEW can be found here [The Year of Prayer - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](#)

3. THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTORY (RED): SEND Guidance

The CES has published guidance for pupils who use the Engagement Model (2020) to access curriculum learning, to support them in accessing the content outlined in the RED model curriculum. You can find the guidance [here](#)

NB the guidance is not intended for all SEND pupils, only those whose needs preclude them from accessing the national curriculum. This should be a relatively small number of pupils, though many schools may have no pupils whose needs require such adaptation. Please discuss use of these guidelines with me prior to implementation.

4. THE GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL: CARITAS SHREWSBURY

Schools have received a letter from Bishop Mark regarding this year's Good Shepherd Appeal organised by Caritas Shrewsbury. Bishop Mark is encouraging schools to support the essential work of Caritas Shrewsbury this Lent through your charity and almsgiving. We acknowledge that there are many charitable causes supported by our schools, but perhaps funds raised could be distributed between more than one charity - Caritas Shrewsbury and CAFOD, for example.

5. PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust)

One in 15 pupils will experience a parent being imprisoned, and to support teachers a toolkit has been developed by the Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT) national Catholic prisons charity.

The toolkit's resources are curriculum-linked for both England and Wales, and also provided in Welsh. They include an animated short film; PSHE lessons plans from 3 to 16 years; a jigsaw and board game; jargon buster, and more.

[Find out more](#)

6. CAFOD 'THE BIG LENT WALK'

It has been lovely to see on Twitter those schools who have signed up for CAFOD's Big Lent Walk. I'm having a go myself this year, though it's challenging to find the time to fit in a daily walk. I hope your school efforts are successful and you reach the 200km target.

To sign up to the Big Lent Walk, or for further resources for use during Lent see [CAFOD primary teaching resources](#) or [CAFOD secondary and youth resources](#)

7. THE PRAYER AND LITURGY DIRECTORY (PLD)

We have arranged for an event to take place at the Warrington Park Royal Hotel on Wednesday 1st May to launch the new Prayer and Liturgy Directory which Headteachers, Chairs of Governors, Clergy, RE Leads and Chaplains are invited to attend. It would be wonderful if all schools could be represented with a delegate.

We welcome you all to join us on this day to begin our journey of unpacking and exploring the new directory together. We are delighted that we will be joined by Father Peter McGrail, co-author of the directory, to share his insight into its creation and significance for schools.

The day will mark the first opportunity for formation in prayer and liturgy in the Diocese since the publication of the directory, with further formation planned for subsequent CPDF sessions. The cost for the event will be £75 per delegate.

NB: this a very popular event and there are limited places remaining.

Please book a place by using the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScu55ofdp4HnPS_nHjLQzMhAzSrHw_2_cotMFGT-GGfKBPdZA/viewform

8. THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Also known as the Office Internationale de l'Enseignement Catholique (OIEC), this Rome-based organisation promotes Catholic educational projects on a global stage. The OIEC produces research on the contribution of Catholic schools to education and the way it responds to different cultural contexts. Representing the Catholic education of 68million pupils in 110 countries, across 210,000 schools in 150,000 cities, towns and villages, the OIEC also ensures that Catholic sector is adequately represented in international bodies.

[Find out more](#)

9. CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network) DO JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

Do Justice is a campaign led by Caritas Social Action Network, an agency of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, to encourage schools and parishes to deepen their commitment to the works of justice in their local community, inspired by the love of God. CSAN have produced a worksheet for schools that has been drawn up in collaboration with the Oscar Romero Award. It is intended to help school and multi academy trust governors and leaders to embed Catholic Social Teaching, the aim of which is a just world, in every aspect of the life of the school.

To access the worksheet, click [here](#)

10. MINI VINNIES AND YOUTH SVP

It is always wonderful to see the work of our Mini Vinnies and our Youth SVP on Twitter. To see the children and young people put their faith into action in so many and varied ways is humbling.

To find out more about what our schools have been doing and/or find out who to contact to set up your own group in school have a look at their Spring newsletter [here](#)

11. MISSIO

MISSIO are the Pope's charity for World Mission. Support for their work is collected at school and parish level through donations placed in their red boxes. Find out about their vital work on their website <https://missio.org.uk/>

In addition, you can read their latest news in their February newsletter [Why does Bishop Paul have a Red Box? \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

12. MUSTARD SEEDS VIDEOS

Mustard Seeds are growing their offer of videos to support teachers, both primary and secondary, in their teaching of RE and in prayer and liturgy/catechesis.

They will be exhibiting at the forthcoming ATCRE Conference this Saturday 2nd March and have an offer for schools of 25% off their **Confirmation** series, and the **Lent/Big Questions** bundle (as well as those series individually...) - but the code is only valid until 11th March 2024.

If you wish to purchase the videos just enter the code **ATCRE25** at checkout for 25% discount on all video series. <https://mustard-seeds.co.uk/>

13. THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

Fleur Dorrell and her team have resources, including posters, to support you this Lent and Easter including a beautiful online calendar offering a daily piece of scripture and an accompanying action.

New Online Lent Calendar – [The God Who Speaks](#)

Lent resources here - [The God Who Speaks](#)

Lent posters here - [The God Who Speaks](#)

Lent and Easter symbols - [The God Who Speaks](#)

First witness to the Resurrection: Mary Magdalene - [The God Who Speaks](#)

Easter Donkey Activity Story - [The God Who Speaks](#)

Easter resources - [The God Who Speaks](#)

They are also promoting a unique collaboration of *Women in the Bible* through paintings, poetry and music for **Women's World Day of Prayer on 1st March** and **Women's International Day on 8th March**.

The collection features seven women from the Bible including Sarah, Miriam, Ruth and Esther – four Old Testament women who feature in the new RED model curriculum.

[The God Who Speaks](#)

PRIMARY

14. MISSION TOGETHER

Mission Together are continually reviewing and improving the resources they create for schools. If you haven't had a look already, check out their resources for Lent.

<https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/lent/>

SECONDARY

15. EDEXCEL GCSE

Edexcel have updated their specification for GCSE RE. To access these specifications if you haven't downloaded them already, you can do so here

<https://educationshrewsbury.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/changes-to-pearson-edexcel-gcse-9-1-in-religious-studies-a-issue-2.pdf>

<https://educationshrewsbury.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/changes-to-pearson-edexcel-gcse-9-1-in-religious-studies-b-issue-2.pdf>

<https://educationshrewsbury.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/specification-gcse-11-12-religious-studies-a-issue-2.pdf>

<https://educationshrewsbury.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/specification-gcse-11-12-religious-studies-b-issue-2.pdf>

CPDF

16. CPDF OPPORTUNITES FOR THE SPRING TERM

- 04/03 Primary Curriculum Working Party at St John Henry Newman Parish, Warrington
- 11/03 COAST Hub Meeting (Stockport, Tameside, Trafford & Manchester) at St Paul's
- 12/03 SHORE at St Paul's Catholic High School, Wythenshawe
- 12/03 COAST Hub Meeting (Warrington, Halton & Wirral) at St Anselm's College
- 14/03 Understanding Scripture with Lat Blaylock LKS2 Teachers at St Columba's, Chester
- 14/03 COAST Hub Meeting (Cheshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin) at The Catholic High School
- 15/03 Understanding Scripture with Lat Blaylock UKS2 Teachers at St Hugh's Parish, Timperley
- 18/03 Secondary DADAH Catholic Life and Mission Session at Blessed Thomas Holford
- 21/03 Christ at the Centre S4 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Ellesmere Port

The courses in the Spring term are bookable through the Diocesan website by following the link [Book course](#)

Please register by using your school email address

And finally...

Pope Francis shared some beautiful words of encouragement in his message for Lent 2024 entitled, *Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom*, where he linked the exodus of the Israelites from slavery to freedom to the conversion of heart we are called to, especially during this Lenten season.

You can read the full text of his message [here](#)

God bless,

Julia