

Diocese of Shrewsbury

Department of Education

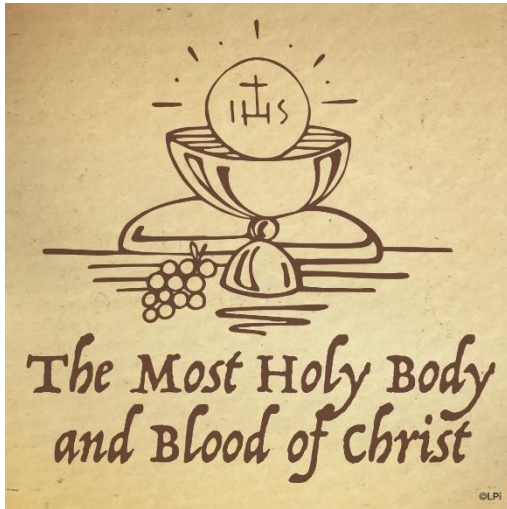


RE and CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER

Summer Term 2024 No.2

Dear Colleague

1. INTRODUCTION



Welcome back for the final half term of this academic year. Hopefully the wet weather didn't dampen the holiday mood too much!

Having recently celebrated Corpus Christi, or the Feast of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ', I share the words of Pope Francis from his homily on this day:

"The Eucharistic bread is the real presence... This speaks to us of a God who is not distant and jealous, but close and in solidarity with humanity; a God who does not abandon us but always seeks, waits for, and accompanies us, even to the point of placing himself, helpless, into our hands, subjecting himself to our acceptance or rejection... Dear brothers and sisters, how

much need there is in our world for this bread... It is urgent to bring back to the world the good and fresh aroma of the bread of love, to continue to hope and rebuild without ever growing weary of what hatred destroys."

Over these next few weeks, may we continue to share that 'good and fresh aroma of the bread of love' with all in our school communities, particularly those in most need, and may we also continue to pray for those affected by war and conflict in our world. Perhaps this prayer from CAFOD could be prayed daily...

God of peace, bearer of hope,
we seek your help
for all people affected by war and conflict.

Quiet the clamour of war
and guide us towards peace.

Where there is hatred and division
sow seeds of calm and openness.

Where there is destruction
help us to rebuild.

Where children are crying
bring an end to tears.

Shelter your peoples and protect them
Guide them and keep them from harm.

Show us how to break down the barriers of history and fear
and breathe whispers of hope.

Amen.

Linda Jones / CAFOD

2. YEAR OF JUBILEE

CAFOD are working alongside the CES and CSAN, with support from CYMFed, on a series of activities to support schools in marking the Jubilee year: **Pilgrims of Hope**. Please mark the following key moments in your diaries:



• **Jubilee Launch Day: Friday 24 January 2025**

• **Jubilee Pledge Day: June or July 2025**

Schools are invited to make a commitment to stand with the poorest communities, sharing hope and challenging injustice.

• **Jubilee Finale: Friday 21 November 2025**

They hope to share more details with schools soon.

For the Year of Prayer preceding this jubilee year the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) are promoting resources from *Sycamore* that can be delivered as a prayer course which staff may find helpful.

The course has five sessions: The Power of Prayer, Praying with the Bible, How to pray, Prayer in the Mass, and Mercy and Mission. Like all the courses *Sycamore* offers, the sessions are videos with moments of pause for reflection and discussion.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/the-year-of-jubilee-2025/sycamore-prayer-course/>

3. GENERAL ELECTION 4TH JULY 2024

On the 22nd may Rishi Sunak announced that the next general election would take place on Thursday 4th July. This provides an excellent opportunity to explore the electoral system and the importance of voting with our children and young people. Indeed, the Catechism teaches us that exercising our right to vote is a moral obligation!

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England, and Wales (CBCEW) has recorded a message encouraging Catholics, particularly young adults, to be "*willing to get involved and vote*" as the opportunity to vote in a general election is a "*privilege*".

"You want to know what your candidate will think and say on your behalf when that candidate gets into Parliament," says the Cardinal. *"I would like to put forward a theme for us all to think about. How do we seek to construct a society in which families can flourish? That's the bedrock – many positive things flow from that."*

In his message, Cardinal Nichols signposts resources that offer guidance on seven key topics of interest to Catholics. On behalf of the Church, he is urging us to consider the principles of Catholic Social Teaching when engaging with politicians on these key issues. The information and guidance can be found on the [Bishops' Conference website](#) and covers the following areas:



- Criminal Justice
- Domestic poverty, family life and taxation
- Education
- Environment
- International relations, human rights and peacebuilding
- Life Issues

- Migration

You can access the CBCEW resources on the key issues for Catholic voters, including Cardinal Nichols's recording, by visiting:

[General Election 2024](#)

In addition, the **SVP and CAFOD** have teamed up to support Catholic voters offering guidance on engagement with local MPs. They say, *'The common good is reached when we work together to improve the lives of people both in our local community, and in the wider world.'*

The SVP's and CAFOD's campaign wants to help the Catholic voice be heard in the next General Election, and we want to make sure our politicians make tackling poverty a priority.

The Church tells us that "...All citizens ought to be aware of their right and duty to promote the common good by casting their votes...". But in order to arrive at the polling station as well informed as possible, it's important to know our prospective MP's views on the things that matter to us.

For this reason, the SVP and CAFOD are inviting parishes to reach out to their local candidates ahead of the next election. This is not about party-political affiliations, but rather about strengthening community participation as a local faith group, and practicing the culture of encounter that Pope Francis talks about:

". . . with our faith we must create a "culture of encounter," a culture of friendship, a culture in which we find brothers and sisters, in which we can also speak with those who think differently..."

Perhaps through this culture of encounter our children and young people may wish to explore the views of prospective local MPs on what matters to us as a Catholic community.

Find out more or sign up here:

<https://svp.org.uk/encounter>

<https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/uk-general-election-2024-a-guide-for-catholic-voters>

CAFOD have also produced **specific general election resources for primary and secondary schools** that include clips, slides, worksheets, and activities. Find them [here](#).

4. THE CENTRE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT AND PRACTICE: resources for first time voters

The Centre for Catholic Social Thought and Practice brings together academics, charities, religious orders and social movements who are engaged in Catholic social thought and practice, to facilitate an ongoing conversation about how to think, talk, and act in response to our rapidly changing context and the social thought of the Church.

They have produced resources for first-time voters which could helpfully be shared with our Y13 students [Resources for first-time voters — Centre for Catholic Social Thought and Practice \(ccstp.org.uk\)](#)

5. 'CALLED TO BE PEACEMAKERS' – NEW DOCUMENT FROM CBCEW

A new document on disarmament and the ethical use of weapons has been released by the International Affairs department of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. *Called to be Peacemakers* presents a



Catholic approach to arms control and disarmament. It argues that if Catholics are to take up the call to stand as peacemakers in our troubled world, an integral part of this mission involves working to limit the proliferation of weapons and to advance the cause of global disarmament.

The document stresses that every human life lost to violence and conflict is a tragedy for our universal family. It examines three main areas:

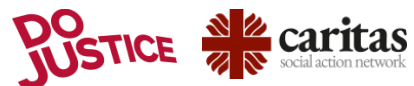
The Church's call for nuclear disarmament - We have a particular responsibility to respond to Pope Francis' call to counter the logic of fear with the ethic of responsibility, to foster a climate of trust and dialogue.

The Church's call for General and Complete Disarmament - This does not mean the removal of literally all weaponry and defence capabilities. Rather, it is eliminating weapons of mass destruction, regulating conventional arms, lowering military spending, and strengthening mechanisms for peace.

The Church's call to put emerging technology at the service of humanity - Until a binding treaty ensuring human supervision of lethal autonomous weapons systems is negotiated, the Church supports enforcing a moratorium on the development and use of such weapons.

You can read/download the document here [Called to be Peacemakers - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](https://www.cbcew.org.uk) or read it in sections via the navigation on the webpage.

6. DO JUSTICE: A VISION FOR SPIRITUAL AND CIVIC RENEWAL IN ENGLAND AND WALES



Published by Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN), this core text sets out a renewed vision for the nations of England and Wales, centred on Christ and Catholic Social Teaching. It is an invitation to the Catholic communities of England and Wales to fulfil ever more deeply our baptismal vocation and it is the foundation of Do Justice. You can get your copy by completing the form here:

[Do Justice Renewed Vision - Do Justice: A Vision for Spiritual and Civic Renewal in England and Wales](#)

7. TO LOVE YOU MORE DEARLY – THE PRAYER AND LITURGY DIRECTORY (PLD)

It was wonderful to see so many colleagues at The Park Royal for our first day of formation exploring the new PLD. We are grateful to Fr Peter McGrail, our keynote speaker and co-author of the directory, who shared with us in an accessible way the theology underpinning prayer and liturgy. We are grateful too to the working party who contributed to the organisation and order of the day. The working party will meet again before the summer term as we continue to explore together how best to support schools with prayer and liturgy and we plan to offer schools CPDF over the coming year with an in-person meeting and a virtual meeting organised for each of the three terms. More details will be shared in our 2024-25 CPDF offer soon.

8. MESSAGE FROM CAFOD

Fundraising with CAFOD: Big Lent Walk

THANK YOU! This Lent, 30% of Catholic schools registered to take part in the Big Lent Walk, and altogether primary and secondary schools raised over £100,000. It was great to see the creativity and generosity shown by secondary



schools in arranging walks throughout Lent. There were fewer secondary schools registered this year.

Emergencies

Thank you very much for sharing our emergency appeal for Sudan. A year of conflict has forced millions of Sudanese people to flee their homes and they now face another crisis – hunger. At least 25 million Sudanese people need immediate, emergency help: nearly half of the population. Schools can find resources to support fundraising for this emergency appeal here: <https://cafod.org.uk/education/education-resources/emergency-resources-schools/sudan-crisis-appeal-school-resources>

We have also updated our PowerPoint exploring the Israeli-Palestinian crisis: <https://cafod.org.uk/education/education-resources/emergency-resources-schools/israeli-palestinian-crisis-school-resources>

Thank you for continuing to remember these communities – and many others – in your prayers.

“Young people demand change!” campaigning resource

Speaking up for justice is an important part of the Catholic life and mission of our schools. This resource looks at why campaigning is important and will be good introduction to any future campaign activity. <https://cafod.org.uk/education/campaign-in-your-school/young-people-demand-change>. The activity will be a good preparation workshop before using our new General Election resources.

CPD

We are focusing on supporting school-led and teacher-led CPD at the moment. We have two “Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching” sessions available now. One is a school-led twilight CPD package of resources, which includes a PowerPoint, facilitator’s notes with a full script, and accompanying resources to use in the session. The other is an online module that individual teachers can take in their own time. These resources are available at cafod.org.uk/cpd.

9. GOD WHO SPEAKS

Fleur Dorrel says, *our June focus is on Scripture and Churches* - <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>

Where heaven meets earth by Josephine Warren - <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/where-heaven-meets-earth/>

On Holy Ground by Josephine Warren - <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/on-holy-ground/>

Video of the Living Stones Project by Riccardo Caravello in Sicily - <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/video-the-living-stones-project/>

Key Catholic symbols and their meanings - <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/posters-for-schools/#10s>

Poster of the Bible Alive inside our Churches - <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-bible-alive-in-church-poster/>



10. REFUGEE WEEK – 17TH TO 23RD JUNE

Refugee Week is the world’s largest arts & culture festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. Established in 1998 in the UK, this annual festival aligns with World Refugee Day, celebrated globally on June 20th. The theme for Refugee

Week 2024 is “Our Home”. From the places we gather to share meals to our collective home, planet earth: everyone is invited to celebrate what *Our Home* means to them.

What is happening in your local area to mark this week?

You can find out more from the website for refugee week <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/>

The Church has always shone a spotlight on the importance of welcoming the stranger. Pope Francis recently shared his message for the upcoming **110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2024**, which takes place on **Sunday 29th September**. The theme for this day is ‘*God walks with his people*’, echoing the synodal path the Church is walking.

Pope Francis said, ‘Many migrants experience God as their traveling companion, guide and anchor of salvation. They entrust themselves to him before setting out and seek him in times of need. In him, they find consolation in moments of discouragement. Thanks to him, there are good Samaritans along the way. In prayer, they confide their hopes to him. How many Bibles, copies of the Gospels, prayer books and rosaries accompany migrants on their journeys across deserts, rivers, seas and the borders of every continent!’

God not only walks with his people, but also within them, in the sense that he identifies himself with men and women on their journey through history, particularly with the least, the poor and the marginalized. In this we see an extension of the mystery of the Incarnation.

For this reason, the encounter with the migrant, as with every brother and sister in need, “is also an encounter with Christ. He himself said so. It is he who knocks on our door, hungry, thirsty, an outsider, naked, sick and imprisoned, asking to be met and assisted” (Homily, Mass with Participants in the “Free from Fear” Meeting, SacroFano, 15 February 2019). The final judgment in Matthew 25 leaves no doubt: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (v. 35); and again “truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me” (v. 40). Every encounter along the way represents an opportunity to meet the Lord; it is an occasion charged with salvation, because Jesus is present in the sister or brother in need of our help. In this sense, the poor save us, because they enable us to encounter the face of the Lord (cf. Message for the Third World Day of the Poor, 17 November 2019).’

You can read the full message for 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2024 here: [Message for 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2024](#)

PRIMARY

11. ATCRE TEACHMEET

ATCRE have two TeachMeet sessions this month as part of their Summer CPD:

Wednesday 19th June 2024 Secondary – 4pm to 4.35pm

Andrew Capone - **KS3 resources for the new RED**

Maria Coyle - **Metacognition in Core RE**

Thursday 27th June 2024 Primary – 4pm to 4.35pm

Elaine Arundell - **Free support materials for leading or involved in prayer and liturgy in the primary school.**

<https://www.atcre.co.uk/>

12. UPDATE FROM SR MARCELLINA at TERE

'Most likely you know that our new programme, 'The Vine & The Branches' for Years 1 and 3, has been published and years 2 and 4 will be available very soon.

Years 5, 6 and **Early Years** will be published in **July 2025**

Schools are advised to make sure they have copies of 'The Way, The Truth & The Life' for the times when it is not possible to access the digital books. Most of all, they provide an excellent variety of resources to enhance the quality of teaching and learning.'

There are currently discounts on all WTL books. Have a look at [the flyer](#) to find out more.

With the change to the publication date for Early Years the roadmap has been updated accordingly. Please see [here](#)

13. MUSTARD SEEDS: First Holy Communion video series

Mustard Seeds latest video resource is now available to pre-order at www.mustard-seeds.co.uk

This 8-part series takes a look at all aspects of Holy Communion with a series of beautifully crafted videos to guide us through our preparation.

1. What is Holy Communion?
2. Why is going to Mass important?
3. Transubstantiation
4. Bread & Wine
5. You are what you eat....
6. The Eucharistic Liturgy
7. Eucharistic Adoration
8. Carlo Acutis and Eucharistic Miracles



The full series will be ready in September 2024 priced at £175 (plus VAT), but schools can take advantage of our Early Bird offer and receive a 30% discount when ordering before September. So, the 8-part series can be ordered for just £122.50 (plus VAT). For more detailed info about each episode visit the SHOP page on our website. This discount can be obtained by each individual school....discount period ends 31st August.

14. ONELIFE MUSIC

ONELIFE Music are delighted to be producing a brand-new series of OPEN and STREAMS for the next academic year and that they are able to offer discount offers when purchasing as a MAC, or a cluster of schools.



[OPEN](#) is a short time of prayer for the classroom, with a series for Creation, Advent, Lent, and Mary. In each series you will receive, pre-recorded daily prayer time for primary school, with music, scripture and prayer led for you by Dan and Emily.

Join with Dan and Emily for five fabulous times of [live-streamed](#) music and prayer from the OneLife sofa direct to your classroom or school hall.

Throughout the school year we will go live to your school, joining together with many thousands of other children for a time of song and praise.



15. EYFS PILOT

Schools have signed up to pilot the RED model curriculum. We have our first in person meeting on **Tuesday 9th July 9.00am-11.00pm Venue: Holy Angels, Hale Barns**

If any school wishes to join the group, please do get in contact with me.
julia.cunningham@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

16. WTL Y6

A polite reminder that Y6 are able to learn about the L'Arche community but should no longer be learning about Jean Vanier. Thank you.

SECONDARY

17. THEOLOGY SUPPORT FOR TEACHING THE NEW MODEL CURRICULUM



John Moffat SJ from the London Jesuit Centre says, *'I'm currently working on podcasts for Branch 3 and hope to move onto Branch 4 before the summer is over, and it would be useful to know if the show so far has (a) helped refresh/enhance your own sense of the big theological picture and (b) whether you would recommend them to colleagues as something that would give extra depth to their pedagogy.*

What we would like to do here is make the podcasts generally available on the LJC website, perhaps with some support materials, as a self-study resource aimed at teachers, but potentially of interest to a wider audience. These would be backed up by half termly study mornings online, where those who wish can present and explore follow-up questions arising out of their listening/reading - or indeed arising out of their local emerging RE curriculum. Does this seem like a fruitful thing to do?

If you haven't had an opportunity to listen to the podcasts yet, you can find them for Branches 1 & 2 on the shared area. If you have any issues accessing this shared area, please contact rahul.ramanan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

If you have some feedback on these questions for John, do please let me know and I can forward your responses.

18. CAFOD

Refugee Week takes place on 17-23 June. CAFOD have numerous resources to support schools during this week:

<https://cafod.org.uk/education/secondary-and-youth-resources/refugee-resources>

19. FACULTY OF DIVINITY OUTREACH – CAMBRIDGE

Divinity Outreach are delighted to bring the following update regarding events they are offering:

[Cambridge University Open Day – 4th & 5th July 2024](#)

For anyone considering studying Theology, Religion or Philosophy of Religion at the University of Cambridge, please come along and visit us at the Faculty of Divinity on the Cambridge University Open Day! Booking is available [here](#).

[Islam Enrichment Day – 8th July 2024](#)

Join us at the Cambridge Central Mosque (Europe's first eco-mosque) and at the Faculty of Divinity for a day filled with insightful sessions and discussions about Islam. Featuring a talk and tour led by Dr Tim Winter (founder of the mosque) and other taster lectures. Booking is available [here for individuals](#) or please get in touch for larger groups.

[Hinduism Enrichment Day – 10th July 2024](#)

Join us at Selwyn College Chapel for an exploration of Hindu devotional music and the Faculty of Divinity for a day of taster lectures and engaging discussion on Hinduism. Featuring a talk and music by Dr Ankur Barua (Senior Lecturer in Hindu Studies). Booking is [available here for individuals](#) or please get in touch for larger groups.

We add to our list of events throughout the year. Do keep an eye on [our website](#) or follow us on [Instagram@camdivinity](#)

RSE

20. REVIEW OF THE RSHE STATUTORY GUIDANCE

The DfE are seeking views on changes to the relationships, sex and health education statutory guidance. They have released [Draft RSE and Health Statutory Guidance](#) and all stakeholders have been invited to share their views on the proposed changes via an online survey. One of the proposed changes is the introduction of age limits, for example, that sex education should not occur until Years 5 & 6, mirroring the science National Curriculum, and that FGM should not be taught before Year 9 (although they allow an exception to be made where schools have identified a greater risk of FGM at an earlier age or if the school has pupils who have been affected by FGM and need support.)

Please do read the draft guidance carefully and offer your thoughts via the consultation survey, which can be found on this webpage [Review of the RSHE statutory guidance - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)

This survey will remain open until **11th July 2024**.

CPDF

21. CPDF for Summer 2

There are a number of sessions this half term bookable through the Diocesan website by following the link: [Book-a-cpdf-course](#)

10 June	Support for implementing The Vine & Branches Y3 Teachers- Holy Angels
11 June	Primary Curriculum Working Party – St John Henry Newman Parish
12 June	Secondary DADAH CL&M Retreat – St Joseph’s Prayer Centre
13 June	Support for implementing The Vine & Branches Y2 Teachers- Holy Angels
17 June	COAST HUB; Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, Manchester
17 June	Secondary RSE Lead Meeting – St Nicholas High School
19 June	COAST HUB: Cheshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin
19 June	SHORE Conference – Leeds
20 June	ECT 2 nd Year CST – virtual
21 June	Support for implementing The Vine & Branches Y1 Teachers- Holy Angels
21 June	COAST HUB: Warrington, Halton, Wirral – Cardinal Newman High School
26 June	Support for implementing The Vine & Branches Y4 Teachers- Holy Angels
28 June	Understanding Scripture with Margaret Carswell – Holy Angels
1 July	Prayer and Liturgy Working Party meeting
9 July	EYFS Working Party meeting

In addition, a gentle reminder of our forthcoming celebrations of Holy Mass:

5th July

Mass of Thanksgiving, and Mini-DASH with our secondary schools at St Columba's RC Church,
Chester

(Schools should have already received information about this date)

17th July at 4.30pm

Mass of Thanksgiving for this academic year at All Saints RC Church, Sale.

Bishop Mark will be presiding, and **all are welcome**.

And finally...

I share with you this lovely examen for these summer months from Eric Clayton, Deputy Director of Communications at the Jesuit Conference of Canada, and the United States.

This examen is an invitation to pause and pray during these final days of the academic year:

Thanksgiving. Begin in gratitude. Review the past day, week, month. Where has God been pouring out blessings? Hold in your mind the faces of people who have blessed you with their presence, comfort, words, or encouragement. Return in your mind to the places that have filled you with consolation. For all these things and more, give thanks.

Light. If possible, go outside and feel the sun on your face, knowing that in its rays, we can feel God gazing upon us. Ask the Spirit to shed that same light of love upon your prayer.

Detail. Continuing in gratitude, walk through the past few weeks. What moments come to mind? How have you felt the changing seasons in your body, your work, your relationships, and your prayer life? How has the Spirit been nudging you into this new season? With what have you been equipped from the past to meet the present? How has God been delighting in your unique gifts, expertise and experience as a new chapter unfolds?

Shadow. Is there a heaviness to these details? A sense of sadness or longing? Have there been missed opportunities to love God, neighbour, and all of creation? In what way might these summer months be an opportunity to love those shadows into light?

Moving Forward. Look out at the weeks and months to come. What has God readied for you? Are you prepared to encounter anew our God of surprises? How can you better cultivate a disposition of availability and wonder as this new season unfolds?

God bless, Julia