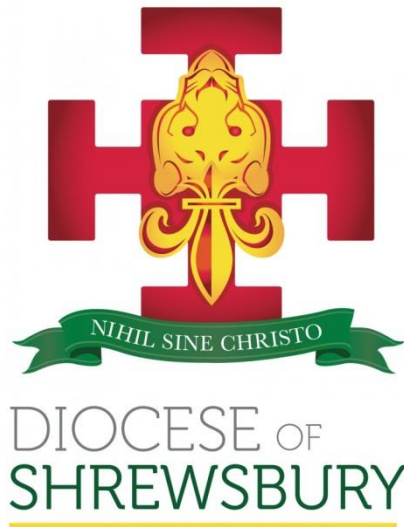


Diocese of Shrewsbury

Department of Education



RE and CATHOLIC LIFE

NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2024 No.1

Dear Colleague

1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this new school year - I hope you have enjoyed the summer break! Whether you are a new member of staff to our schools or a returning member, whether in a new role or the same role as previous years, we wish you every joy and blessing and thank you for your continued commitment to the children and young people in our Diocesan schools.

As you begin this new academic year, recognising the challenges and the opportunities it may bring, perhaps pray this prayer each day, asking the Lord to be with you in your vocation.

TEACHER'S PRAYER

HEAVENLY FATHER,

ENABLE ME TO TEACH WISDOM,
FOR I HELP TO SHAPE THE MIND.

EQUIP ME TO TEACH WITH TRUTH,
FOR I HELP TO SHAPE THE CONSCIENCE.

ENCOURAGE ME TO TEACH WITH VISION,
FOR I HELP TO SHAPE THE FUTURE.

EMPOWER ME TO TEACH WITH LOVE,
FOR I HELP TO SHAPE THE WORLD.

AMEN.

2. THE SEASON OF CREATION

Sunday 1st September saw the World Day of Prayer for the Season of Creation. The Season of Creation runs until the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on Friday 4th October. This is a perfect opportunity for lessons in RE on Branch One, Creation and Covenant, to complement the prayer and liturgy during this time, and the wider Catholic life and mission of your school, perhaps by committing to achieving CAFOD's Live Simply Award (<https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/livesimply->

[award/livesimply-award-for-schools](#)), or focussing on CST principles of stewardship, subsidiarity and of course, human dignity.

'Hope and Act with Creation' is the theme and invitation of this year's Season of Creation, which draws its inspiration from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (Romans 8:19-25).

In his message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2024, Pope Francis encourages us to seek to live "a life that becomes a song of love for God, for humanity, with and for creation, and that finds its fullness in holiness."



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

Dedicate the school community to prayer and action for the protection of Creation with resources from the CBCEW (Catholic Bishops' Conference for England and Wales) <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/season-of-creation/>, from CAFOD <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/season-of-creation/>, and The Laudato Si Movement <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

3. MASS TO CELEBRATE THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Mass to celebrate the start of the school year will take place in three venues in the Diocese this September:

Tuesday 17th September	Our Lady and the Apostles, Shaw Heath	4.30pm
Wednesday 18th September	St Michael and All Angels, Wirral	4.30pm
Thursday 19th September	St Thomas More High School, Crewe	4.30pm

We very much look forward to seeing you there.

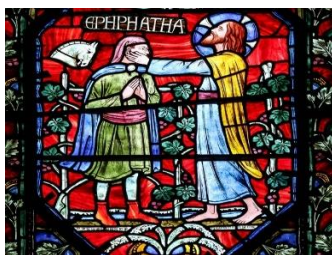
Refreshments will be available after Mass so please join us to continue the celebration.

4. EDUCATION SUNDAY

Education Sunday offers an opportunity for us to pray to Almighty God for all people involved in Catholic education, to celebrate the achievements of the past and to ask Our Lord to bless the work of the year ahead. This year, on **8 September**, marks the 176th celebration of Education Sunday for the Church in England and Wales.

Bishop Marcus Stock, Bishop of Leeds and Chair of the CES, writes: "As we commence the beginning of a new academic year, let us entrust to Almighty God all who are involved in the provision of Catholic education in our schools, colleges and universities. We pray that Christ the Teacher will strengthen their faith and fill their hearts with courage and hope.

The Gospel reading for Education Sunday is taken from St Mark's Gospel (7:31-37): "He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak."



Our Lord Jesus Christ came among us and brought fulfilment to those who were searching for peace, healing and joy. Revealing the love of God the Father to mankind, Christ is the one and only way, truth, and life. Led by the light of the Holy Spirit, the words of the Holy Gospels guide us in His way, draw our minds into His truth, and invite our hearts to be filled with His life.

Christ is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise in a Catholic school. As "the way, the truth, and the life" Christ is both the object and subject of Catholic education. A Catholic educational institution seeks to root the Gospel of Christ in the minds and lives of students, providing a holistic formation that promotes human flourishing, inspiring a lifelong love of learning, and fostering the

virtues that will assist children and young people to discover in themselves and in others the Truth, Goodness and Beauty of God. On Education Sunday, it is important we give thanks to Almighty God for all who govern, lead, teach, guide, and support the children and young people in our Catholic schools, colleges and universities.

To read Bishop Marcus's letter in full and for resources to support celebration of this special day of prayer click [here](#).

5. VISIT OF THE RELIC OF BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

We are blessed to welcome the Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis to the Diocese of Shrewsbury from 20th September to 23rd September. We hope you will be able to join us on **Monday 23rd September** at **St Anthony's, Wythenshawe**, to learn more about the first millennial saint and to venerate this holy Relic.

Carlo Acutis, affectionately known as 'God's influencer', died from leukaemia in 2006 at the age of 15, and though he had only a short life, it was a life devoted to God.



Carlo was 'a teenager who wore jeans and trainers, played video games and loved computing and websites, Carlo Acutis enjoyed football and is very relatable to young people today. His biographer described him as, "a model for all young people, showing that holiness is accessible and can be lived fully even in our contemporary world." ... Carlo's outlook was simple and profound: "To always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan" (<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/relic-of-gods-influencer>). Now, as a second miracle has been attributed to him, Blessed Carlo Acutis' canonisation has been approved by Pope Francis!

Please see this [document](#) for links to websites offering further insight into the life of this remarkable young man.

Please click on the link below to view the timetable for the day and complete the Google form as your expression of interest detailing how many pupils you will be bringing with you.

<https://forms.gle/HMKfxwWvhDLgGoS89>

We very much look forward to seeing you there.

6. THE YEAR OF JUBILEE

The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope", and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis.

Preparations for the 2025 Year of Jubilee began in Advent 2023, which marked the start of a year of prayer. You can find the Jubilee Prayer and the Jubilee Hymn here <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025/>.

A reminder that although the Year of Jubilee begins on 24th December, as schools are closed, Bishop Marcus Stock has nominated 24th January 2025 as the launch date for schools and colleges.

The CES are working with CAFOD and CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network), along with CYMFed (Catholic Youth Ministry Federation) to provide resources that can support our schools and colleges in celebrating this jubilee year to become pilgrims of hope. <https://cafod.org.uk/jubilee->



[schools](#) promises education resources, events, activities, information and ideas for teachers to celebrate the Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope in schools. The webpage already contains a short clip from their Jubilee animation, key dates for 2025 and a CPD session for staff to inspire and inform staff. This CPD session may be a helpful way to introduce the Year of Jubilee to staff if you haven't already, or perhaps it could be used in the induction of new staff.

We look forward to hearing from you how you are marking the Jubilee in school.

7. LITURGICAL THEMES

With grateful thanks to Mrs Mairie Gelling, Chaplain at St Nicholas's CHS, Hartford, who has shared her liturgical calendar with potential weekly themes for use in schools. You can download the calendar [here](#). This may be edited and adapted to suit your particular context. SYMT have also shared a liturgical calendar/planner as an Excel spread sheet. Again, this would need to be adapted to a particular context. Click [here](#) to access the document.

NB: The scripture shared on each document references the Gospel readings for the Sunday of that week.

8. 'TO LOVE YOU MORE DEARLY: PRAYER AND LITURGY DIRECTORY

To support schools as they endeavour to love God more dearly, a series of CPDF sessions are planned for this academic year:

03/10/2024	3.30pm-5pm	Prayer and Liturgy Directory 1 - The Liturgical Year	What is it, why is it important, how does it inform our prayer and liturgy?	Virtual
27/11/2024	1pm-4pm	Prayer and Liturgy Directory 2 - Prayer	Exploring different ways to pray in the Catholic tradition. Practical help and support with classroom and whole school prayer	St Columba's Parish Hall, CH2 1PL
11/02/2025	1pm-4pm	Prayer and Liturgy Directory 3 - Mass- Liturgy and rubric	How do we celebrate the Mass as a school community?	Loreto Education Centre, WA14 4GZ
13/03/2025	3.30pm-5pm	Prayer and Liturgy Directory 4 - Mass - practicalities	How do we plan for the celebration of Holy Mass? What is required?	Virtual
21/05/2025	3.30pm-5pm	Prayer and Liturgy Directory 5 - Celebration of the Word	What is a celebration of the word? What does it look like in class? What does it look like with a larger group? Who can do what?	Virtual
01/07/2025	1pm-4pm	Prayer and Liturgy Directory 6 - Formation, progression and ministry	An opportunity to explore engagement and participation in prayer and liturgy in school, including a focus on ministry. How can we form our school communities in their participation of prayer and liturgy? What does progression look like?	Loreto Education Centre, WA14 4GZ

NB: For the three in-person afternoons, lunch will be provided free of charge from 12.30pm. To book on to the sessions please follow this link [Book CPDF](#)

9. CSI and SINGLE WORD JUDGEMENTS

CSI have updated the documentation for this new school year (v3.0). You can find the most up to date documentation and a change log highlighting the key changes on our website.

In the light of the announcement that Ofsted are no longer using single word judgements for inspections, the CES have released a response which you can find [here](#)

10. CAFOD

CAFOD have a helpful list on their website of key dates for schools during the academic year <https://cafod.org.uk/education/for-teachers/key-dates-for-school-planning>

For this half term, please note **4 October 2024: Harvest Family Fast Day**. Perhaps you could 'Brighten Up' and build a better world supported by CAFOD's resources.

There are two Family Fast Days each year (the other is in Lent) and each day is an opportunity to stand in solidarity with the poorest and most marginalised of our global family and pray that justice prevails so that all in our world are treated with equal dignity.



11. CAFOD and the RED

CAFOD are constantly growing their resource bank to support schools with delivery of the RED model curriculum.

<https://cafod.org.uk/education/primary-teaching-resources/re-resources-catholic-primary-schools>

<https://cafod.org.uk/education/secondary-and-youth-resources/key-stage-3-re-resources>

12. GOD WHO SPEAKS – BIBLE SOCIETY



Our September focus is on: **Science, Scripture and Catholic teaching** with Fr **Gareth Leyshon**: Was Noah the first climate scientist? Why do we get baptised and much more in our new 8-part series -

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/scripture-science-series-1/>

This series may be helpful content for teachers new to teaching the Branch 1 content, Creation and Covenant

Pray with our new Labyrinth and Scripture resource -

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/labyrinth-prayer-resource/>

Creationtide Scriptures & Pictures resource - <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/creationtide-scripture-resource-powerpoints/>. To celebrate Creationtide, take some time to pray, reflect and act using our new powerpoint resource. Every day take a moment to meditate on a short Scripture text and image and help to take care of this fragile earth.

September Sunday Reflections - <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/sunday-reflections-for-september-year-b/>

Inclusive Catechesis - Recommended resources and support - <https://www.lightoftruth.uk/inclusion>

PRIMARY

13. THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES

Teacher Books and Pupil Books are now available from TERE for Y1 to 4. All schools should be delivering *The Vine and the Branches* in their RE lessons in Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y4. Resources to support teachers were emailed to schools before the summer holiday via WeTransfer. These included teacher notes to support planning for Branch 1, Creation and Covenant. Please email Malgorzata.Kowalska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org if you were unable to download them in the time available. I will be working with the PCWP (Primary Curriculum Working Party) to produce further teacher notes for subsequent branches.

NB: the Teacher Books for Y3 and Y4 are now available as hard copies for £30 each. Schools wishing to purchase hard copies should follow these links:

<https://vb.tere.org/book-3/>

<https://vb.tere.org/book-4/>

Support for implementation of The Vine and the Branches

Teachers of Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y4 are invited to attend virtual CPDF twilights in advance of teaching the next branch to support their understanding and aid in planning and teaching. Please see the [Vine and Branches CPDF offer](#) for the full list of dates. All twilights will be recorded for future use and shared with schools.

NB: Change of date: the **Vine and Branches Y4 preparation for Desert to Garden** has moved from 7th February to **29th January**

Teachers of Y5 & Y6: The Vine and the Branches resources for UKS2 will be available in June 2025. As with teachers of Y1-4 last year, a day has been organised for teachers of Y5 and another for teachers of Y6. These days are an opportunity for teachers of Year 5 and Y6 to gather with colleagues who teach the same year group, to explore the demands of the model curriculum and to understand how that has been translated into the new directed religious education scheme, The Vine and The Branches.

There will be input on the overarching theme for each year, the foci for each branch and the opportunity to plan and collaborate in preparation for teaching in the new academic year.

Y5 2nd July Y6 3rd July

EYFS and the new model curriculum

We continue to support our EY teachers this year with two days planned to explore branches 3-6.

21st November – Branch 3 & 4

26th March – Branch 5 & 6

In addition, the EYFS working party will continue to meet, which will in turn support all schools when they begin using the new scheme from September 2025.

Christ at the Centre

We continue to offer our **Christ at the Centre** course. This course supports 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*” (RED 2023)

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 spread sheet and the website: [Book CPDF](#)

14. RE COORDINATORS

RE Coordinators will again have the opportunity to gather each term during this academic year.

The Autumn term – **20th November at Holy Angels, Hale Barns**, will explore the following: *What does 'good' RE look like? How do we assess RE through the Ways of Knowing?* We will be joined by Dr Nancy Walbank.

We will meet in hubs during the Spring term. Please see the CPDF spread sheet and/or the website for individual hub dates and venues.

We welcome Lat Blaylock back to our Diocese in the Summer term to look at Branch 6, Dialogue and Encounter. This day is at **St Columba's, Chester, on 1st May** [Book CPDF](#)

15. OPEN WITH ONELIFE

A reminder that OPEN for Creation began on the 2nd September. We look forward to sharing this and all the series of OPEN this academic year.



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.

16. IMRAN KOTWAL: 2024/25 Islam Training Courses for Primary Schools

Imran says, “*We are pleased to share our complete list of Islam CPD courses and dates for primary schools this academic year. The aim is to develop subject knowledge and confidence in teaching Islam.*”

There are 12 different courses (15 hours CPD) delivered as live webinars (recordings are also available) that cover all the main topics on your RE syllabus. You can select individual courses or choose one of our value-for-money CPD subscription packages. We can also offer bespoke training for your school on any listed courses (in-person or virtually)”.

Date	Course Title
23 September	Life of Prophet Muhammad - Key events
8th October	Births, Weddings and Funerals
4th November	Being a Muslim in Britain inc. Islamophobia
11th December	5 Pillars of Islam - Overview
9th January	Akhira - Life after death -Muslim beliefs
6th February	Prayer / Salah & the Mosque
26th February	Ramadan & Eid-ul-Fitr
3rd April	Islamic Artefacts & 5 Pillars
21st April	The Holy Qur'an
23rd May	Islamic Stories for Primary Schools

2nd June
19th June

Hajj / Pilgrimage to Mecca
Diversity in Islam - Sunni & Shi'a

To book a course / see our price list - use this link :

<https://zfrmz.com/PqQDypl5mnNEF2qBHCYo>

SECONDARY

17. THE REDEEMED – new prayer series from Mark 10 Mission

Mark 10 Mission who have been producing online celebrations of the word for primary schools have this year begun to offer them for secondary schools too. You may find their online prayer and reflections a helpful resource for supporting the daily and weekly prayer that already takes place in school.



Greg Finn says, *'We will be publishing new videos every week of term. They will come out on a Monday afternoon, looking ahead to the next Sunday Gospel. The videos are designed to be used in form-time/registration. They are short, feature the 'celebration of the word' elements and are created to lead young people into God's presence. As with our primary school offering, we are making them completely free to schools. We want as many young people as possible to have the opportunity to pray with us each week...*

...Just like our primary school videos, we want to give teachers and chaplains a massive helping hand, especially those who aren't confident in leading prayer. We have even included a couple of discussion questions at the end of each episode to inspire conversation if they want to continue the session. We hope that the whole video, but particularly the contemplative prayer section, will model a new and more impactful way to lead prayer in school.

Rest assured, we are working with a number of priests, including an Episcopal Vicar for Education, to make sure that everything we put out is securely grounded in our Catholic tradition and theology. We will present some of the big questions of faith and invite young people to consider their views and responses. When planning, I was inspired by Jesus's model of saying "You have heard it said...but I say to you..." as he does in Matthew 5. We want to show young people that we appreciate the challenges they face growing up in a secular society and present them with a different way to live. We want to present them to Jesus and his invitation into a deep personal relationship.'

You can watch Episode 1 here [The Redeemed Episode One // Who are you?](#)

Catch every episode here theredeemeduk.com

SYMT (Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team)

18. FAITH IN ACTION

The Faith in Action Award for primary and secondary pupils is run by SYMT (Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team). The award seeks to help young people practice their faith and make a difference in their community.

The award is for both primary and secondary as Year 6 can achieve the 'Pin' level award, then gain the higher-level awards at their secondary school.

Please see [the flyer](#) for further information and about registration for this academic year.

CPDF

In addition to the CPDF opportunities outlined above, you can find our full offer for this year on our pdf spread sheet. [CPDF 24-25](#)

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 or by using the **live link within the spread sheet** itself: [Book CPDF](#)

UPCOMING CPDF:

Date	Time	Course Title	Venue
24/09/2024	1.30pm-4pm	Induction for New Heads of RE Secondary	St John Henry Newman Parish Centre, Warrington, WA4 1JE
25/09/2024	10am-3pm	COAST	St John Henry Newman Parish Centre, Warrington, WA4 1JE
26/09/2024	9.30am-3.30pm	Christ at the Centre- A Course for Primary Practitioners - Module 1	Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish Centre, 2a Enfield Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 8BY
27/09/2024	9.30-12pm	School support under the CSI Framework	Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port, CH65 8BY
01/10/2024	1pm-3.30pm	New RE Coordinator Induction	St John Henry Newman Parish Centre, Warrington, WA4 1JE
03/10/2024	3.30pm-5pm	Prayer and Liturgy Directory 1 - The Liturgical Year	Virtual
07/10/2024	3.30pm-5pm	Vine and Branches Year 1 preparation for Prophecy & Promise	Virtual

08/10/2024	9.30am-3.30pm	Induction for Newly Appointed Chaplains	St John Henry Newman Parish Centre, Warrington, WA4 1JE
08/10/2024	3.30pm-5pm	Vine and Branches Year 2 preparation for Prophecy & Promise	Virtual
09/10/2024	3.30pm-5pm	Vine and Branches Year 3 preparation for Prophecy & Promise	Virtual
10/10/2024	9.30am-3.30pm	ECT Induction Primary - 1st Year	St Columba's Parish Hall, Plas Newton Lane Chester, CH2 1PL
14/10/2024	3.30pm-5pm	Vine and Branches Year 4 preparation for Prophecy & Promise	Virtual

And finally, I leave you with a prayer for our earth – fitting for this Season of Creation – that featured at the end of Pope Francis's encyclical, Laudato Si

A prayer for our earth

All powerful God,
you are present in the universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with your peace,
that we may live as brothers and sisters,
harming no one.

O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle,
for justice, love and peace.

God bless,

Julia