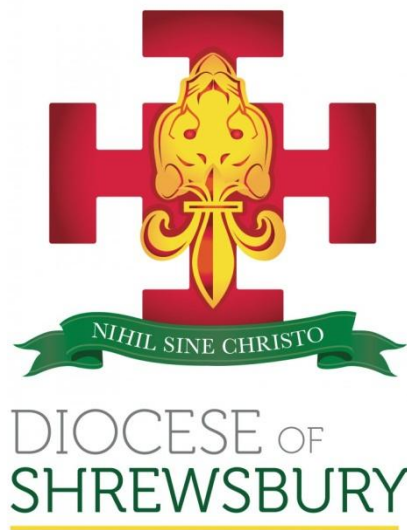


Diocese of Shrewsbury
Department of Education

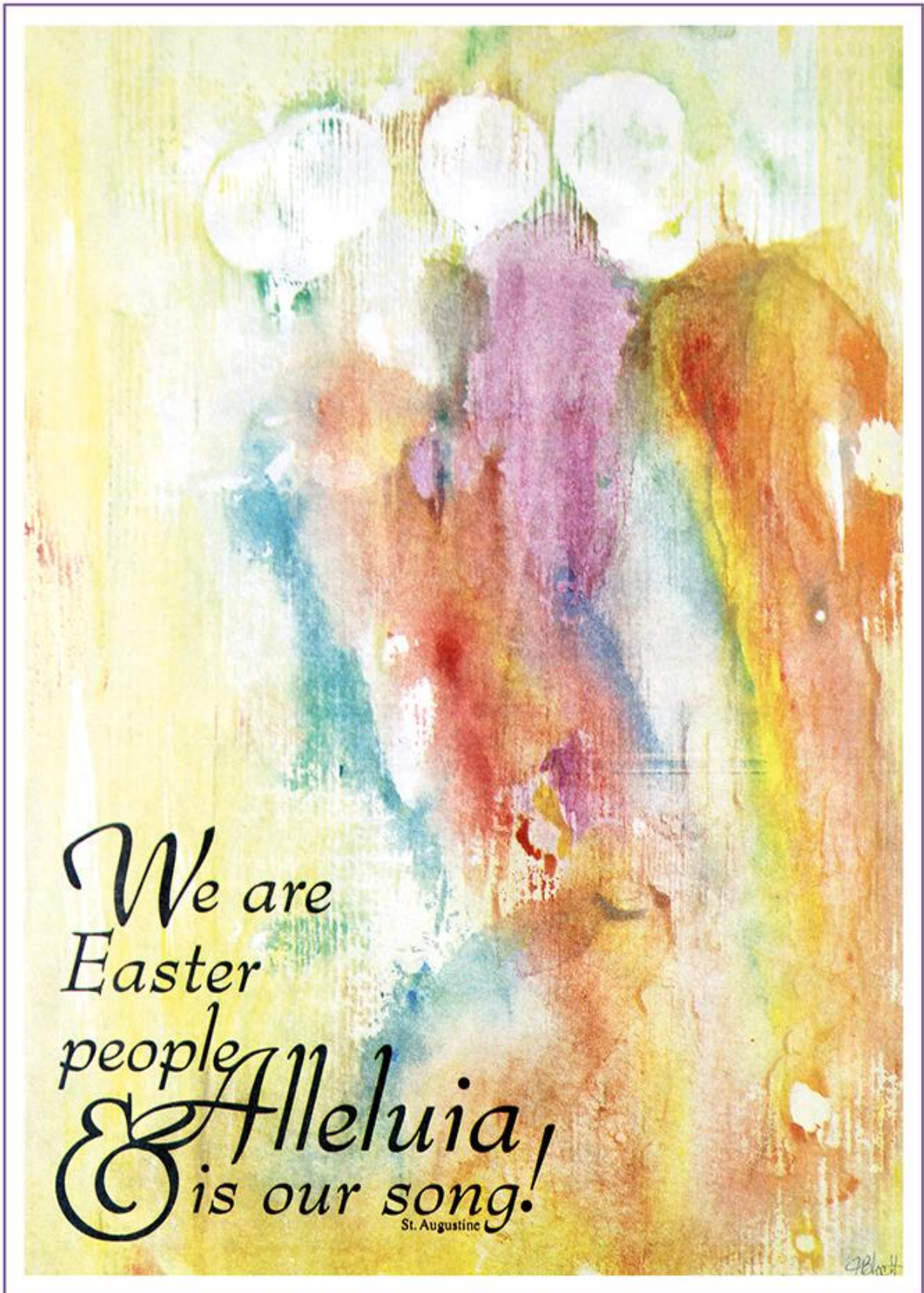


RE and CATHOLIC LIFE
NEWSLETTER

Summer Term 2025 No.1

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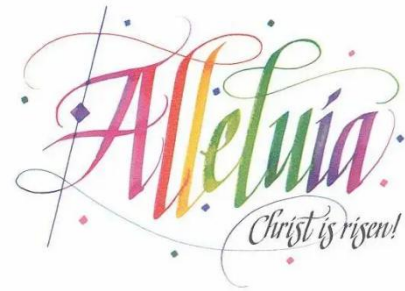
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1. INTRODUCTION

Dear Colleagues

We return to school in the joy of the Easter season. As St Pope John Paul II said, likely quoting St Augustine, **'We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song'**. He proclaimed these encouraging words during his Sunday Angelus on Nov. 30, 1986, on his papal trip to Australia that year. He said, *'We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain. But we know Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his own pain to the glory of the Resurrection. And we live in the light of his Paschal Mystery — the mystery of his Death and Resurrection. 'We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!' We are not looking for a shallow joy but rather a joy that comes from faith, that grows through unselfish love, that respects the 'fundamental duty of love of neighbour, without which it would be unbecoming to speak of Joy.'*



This joy is understandably tinged with sadness at the news of the death of Pope Francis on Easter Monday, only a day after he wished a happy Easter to the gathered crowds in St Peter's Square and toured around the piazza in his popemobile. However, what more beautiful a time could there be for Pope Francis to return to the Father he loved so dearly? That he should journey to the next life so soon after his homily delivered at Mass on Easter Sunday declared, *'Like Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, we hasten to meet Christ'*! Pope Francis, who urged us to see the face of the risen Christ in our sisters and brothers around the world, most especially in the faces of those on the margins of society, is now gazing upon the face of the risen Christ in God's great Kingdom of Light. We must rejoice that Pope Francis is filled with the light of Christ's resurrection, for *'this is the greatest hope of our life: we can live this poor, fragile and wounded existence clinging to Christ, because he has conquered death, he conquers our darkness and he will conquer the shadows of the world, to make us live with him in joy, forever.'*

The Vatican has, since his death, published the preface written by the late Pope Francis in early February for the book in Italian by Cardinal Angelo Scola, Archbishop Emeritus of Milan, entitled 'Awaiting a New Beginning. Reflections on Old Age'. In his preface Pope Francis reflects on the book's conclusion, *'death is not the end of everything, but the beginning of something. It is a new beginning, as the title wisely highlights, because eternal life, which those who love already begin to experience on earth within the daily tasks of life — is beginning something that will never end. And it is precisely for this reason that it is a "new" beginning, because we will live something we have never fully lived before: eternity.'*

Pope Francis is awaiting his 'new' beginning no longer. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Read the full text of Pope Francis's homily here [Easter Sunday - Mass of the Day \(20 April 2025\) | Francis](#)

2. POPE FRANCIS 'A CONSTANT SOURCE OF HOPE AND INSPIRATION'

From CAFOD:



A constant source of hope and inspiration, Pope Francis has profoundly shaped the very mission and the whole life of the Catholic school community, moving a generation of children and young people throughout England and Wales to put their faith into action, to care for our world and for those in greatest need. There is no doubt that the impact of Pope Francis's words can be found in every Catholic school in the country. We at CAFOD have seen the tangible results, as you and your schools have engaged in responding to "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" through taking part in our climate campaigns, supporting the Big Lent Walk for many years, in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world, and in raising awareness of many aspects of our work that resonate with Pope Francis' teachings, from welcoming the refugee and stranger to campaigning for debt cancellation.

Pope Francis said that his own life story was a journey of hope. He understood that in a world that can feel scary or divided, God's love and the hope it brings is needed more than ever. In fact, he made hope the theme of this Jubilee year.

How poignant it is in this Jubilee year, as hundreds of thousands of children and young people in schools around or nations embark on their Jubilee journey, aspiring to his invitation to be pilgrims of hope, he is now passing the baton over to these trusted young hands.



We have put together a short powerpoint for you to use in school to remember the life and legacy of Pope Francis, which includes a short reflection and prayer:

[Remembering Pope Francis in schools](#)

Further reflections and resources are being added over the coming days.

In the meantime, we join our voices with those of the global Church, as we remember Pope Francis in our prayers and give thanks for his life and inspiration.

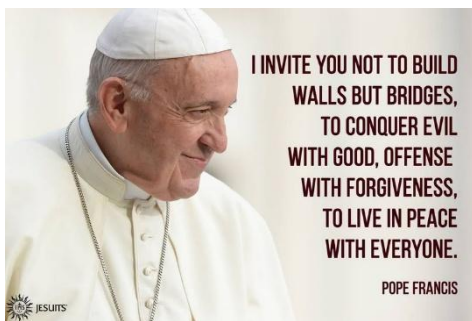
3. JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO SJ

Pope Francis was the first Jesuit priest. The Jesuits, also known as the Society of Jesus (SJ), are a religious order founded in 1540 by St Ignatius of Loyola. They seek to find God in all things and serve the greater glory of God and the good of all humanity.

The Jesuits in Britain said of Pope Francis, 'At the heart of Pope Francis's message was the joy of the Gospel. As he shared in *Evangelii Gaudium*, "the joy of the Gospel fills the

hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness, and loneliness.” This vision will continue to resonate deeply with us, reminding us that true joy comes from our relationship with God and one another.

He consistently advocated for the dignity of the poor and vulnerable, urging us to be “men and women for others.” His encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, has inspired us to care for our common home, calling us to confront the ecological crisis with both urgency and compassion—a teaching that has been vital for our Province and has inspired our own commitment to sustainable practices.



In his quest for unity, Pope Francis built bridges between religions, as well as fostering good ecumenical relations. His meetings with leaders across denominations, including the last Archbishop of Canterbury, and the signing of the Document on Human Fraternity in 2019 demonstrate his belief in the transformative power of dialogue and peace, so needed in today’s world.’

[Pope Francis has returned to the Lord—a statement from the Jesuits in Britain](#)

4. ‘URBI ET ORBI’

Justice and peace for all were constant themes throughout Francis’s papacy. Already the Holy Family Catholic Church in Gaza has acutely felt the loss of those nightly phone calls made by Pope Francis, even when he was hospitalised, since the start of the war in October 2023. In his ‘Urbi et Orbi’ blessing on Easter Sunday, in some of Pope Francis’s final words to the Church, he called again for peace across the world, individually naming those places struck by conflict and violence at this present time. He asked us to pray for peace and renew our hope that peace is possible:

‘On this day, I would like all of us to hope anew and to revive our trust in others, including those who are different than ourselves, or who come from distant lands, bringing unfamiliar customs, ways of life and ideas! For all of us are children of God!’ [Francesco - Urbi et Orbi](#)

5. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE POPE DIES?

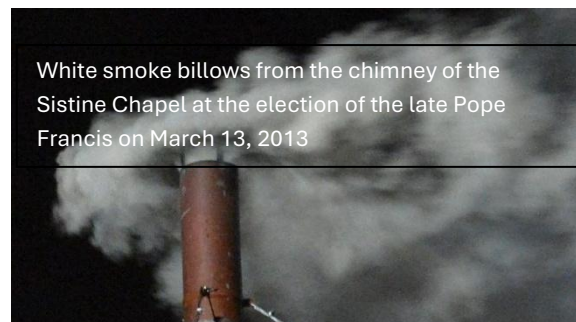
It may be that you wish to explore this question in school, with staff or with pupils. Perhaps you have already been asked this question several times! Interestingly, Pope Francis made a number of revisions to the customs and practices of the Church on the death of the pope only last year, for example, he streamlined the funeral rituals and placed a greater emphasis on the pope’s role as bishop, a shepherd among his flock. However, despite changes, the three main rituals remain, firstly, the formal declaration of his death, secondly, the sealing of the coffin the night before the funeral, and finally the Pope’s funeral.

Another change made by Pope Francis is the place of burial. Unlike most popes who are buried in St Peter's Basilica or its grottoes, Pope Francis requested he be buried in the St Mary Major Basilica. This choice reflects Francis's veneration of an icon of the Virgin Mary located there. On his return to Rome after every journey Francis would go to the basilica to pray before the icon. Pope Francis's last Testament, dated March 2022, expresses his wish saying, *'I wish my earthly journey to end precisely in this ancient Marian sanctuary, where I would always stop to pray at the beginning and end of every Apostolic Journey, confidently entrusting my intentions to the Immaculate Mother, and giving thanks for her gentle and maternal care'*. [Testamento Francesco](#)

After the funeral and burial of Pope Francis (Saturday 26th April), nine days of official mourning will begin. This is known as the 'novendiales'. The US Bishops' Conference have shared a novena that has been prepared to help pray for the Pope during this time. The daily novena—lasting for the novendiales period from April 26 to May 4, 2025—consists of a short reading from Scripture or some other ecclesiastical text and some brief prayers, including orations drawn from the Roman Missal and the Order of Christian Funerals.

You might want to pray this novena in school [Novena in Memory of Pope Francis](#)

The College of Cardinals will meet, and guided by the Holy Spirit, elect Pope Francis's successor. Known as the Conclave, this is an "ancient institution," confirmed as the setting for the election of the new Pope. Pope St John Paul II reaffirmed its essential structure and mandated that all election proceedings take place exclusively



in the Sistine Chapel of the Apostolic Palace. Of course, all this takes place behind closed doors, however the results of the votes are shared with the wider Church via smoke from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel. Twice a day, wisps of smoke can be seen emerging from the chimney as the ballots are burned. Black smoke means no pope has been elected; white smoke means that he has. Read more here: [Vatican News - pope-death-what-happens-interregnum-sede-vacans](#)

Ascension Press have a short video that may be helpful in answering the question [What happens when a Pope dies - Dr Edward Sri](#)

Let us pray for the Conclave, that these holy men be governed in mind, word and deed by the Holy hand of God and through the intercession of our Immaculate Mother Mary.

6. THE YEAR OF JUBILEE – PILGRIMAGE OF THE JUBILEE ICONS OF THE VISITATION

The Visitation is the inspiration for one of the windows in the Cathedral in Shrewsbury. Created by eminent stained-glass artist, Margaret Rope, the window depicts the young



Mary, who travels ‘with haste’ after she is visited by the angel Gabriel, to meet her cousin, Elizabeth. It is this depiction of the Visitation by Margaret Rope that Bishop Mark has chosen for schools to mark this Jubilee Year, Pilgrims of Hope. This icon will journey from school to school as a beautiful symbol of hope for us as a Diocesan family of schools to meditate upon.

Three images of this icon will travel around the Diocese. These were blessed by Bishop Mark during the Mass of the Sacred Chrism at St Anthony’s, Wythenshawe, before the Easter Triduum. In his homily that evening Bishop Mark said, *‘It is the pure and sinless Heart of Mary which is of all hearts most closely aligned to the Heart of Jesus. And so, I wish this evening to send an image of Our Lady, as she is depicted in our Cathedral in the joy of her Visitation, to every school and college of the Diocese. As Pope Francis speaks of Our Lady as truly the pilgrim of hope, for he declares, “Hope finds its supreme witness in the Mother of God. In the Blessed Virgin, we see that hope is not naive optimism but a gift of grace amid the realities of life”’.*

Our Lady, Help of Christians, is of course the primary patron of our Diocese. Our Lady, ‘pilgrim of hope’, comes ‘with haste’ to help us in our time of need just as she came to the aid of her cousin, Elizabeth, in hers. Devotion to Our Lady, Help of Christians, underscores her position as one who can intercede on our behalf, for just as she interceded at the wedding at Cana, prompting Jesus’ first miracle, Mary continues to intercede for her children, the Church, bringing our needs and petitions to her Son. As the icons make their pilgrimage around the Diocese, we can ask for Our Lady’s continued intercession for the Church, for those in our school communities and for the whole world, especially the most vulnerable and those on the margins.

A booklet will be shared later this week enabling schools to discover more about the symbolism of the Jubilee Icon of the Visitation and the wonderful opportunity offered by Bishop Mark in this Jubilee Year to grow ever closer to Jesus through his mother, Mary. The booklet contains the celebration of the word which is to be shared with each school

receiving the icon, and to be led by the school who journeys with it to them. It also contains further suggestions for prayer, reflection and activities whilst the icon is visiting your school and offers scripts that could be used or adapted to lead Visio Divina and Lectio Divina with the school community.

Full instructions concerning the practicalities of this venture are given in the electronic booklet and a hard copy will travel with the icon and accompanying resources.

7. THE YEAR OF JUBILEE – QUILTED BANNER OF HOPE

The Department of Education would like to make a patchwork banner with the logo/badge from every school uniform in our Diocese to commemorate this Year of Jubilee. The banner will be simple English-style handsewn paper piece quilting.

For this quilted banner to be realised, we would like each school to make their own patch first. Click [here](#) for full instructions, including a link to instructional videos.

Please share the patches as soon as possible so they can be sewn together gradually but definitely share by the end of the Summer Term 2025. If anyone would like to get involved in the big sew together then please get in touch: jackie.walker@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

The aim is to have the quilted banner finished for the close of the Year of Jubilee.

8. THE YEAR OF JUBILEE – CREATIVE COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLS

The Department of Education is launching an exciting opportunity for our Diocesan schools to share their thoughts on what it means to be a Pilgrim of Hope.

What does it mean to me to be a Pilgrim of Hope?

Individuals, groups, schools are invited to respond to the question above in a creative way, for example, through art, creative writing, music or song. As school communities are celebrating this Jubilee Year and engaging with the theme chosen by Pope Francis, we know there will be many opportunities for our children and young people to explore this question in depth.



Schools may wish to hold a competition internally and then share the top three entries with the Department of Education. The deadline for entries is **Friday 26th September**.

Alternatively, schools may wish to enter the competition as a school, or as key stages. In these circumstances there is no need to hold a competition internally. Entries can be sent directly by the deadline.

NB: All entries must be submitted digitally (e.g. if the entry is a piece of art, please take a picture of it/scan it and send the digital image).

Please send all entries to education@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Winners of this competition will be announced at the close of the Year of Jubilee in November.

9. THE YEAR OF JUBILEE - SCHOOLS' PLEDGE FOR THE YEAR OF JUBILEE

In June or July all Catholic schools are invited to make a Jubilee Pledge to live out Catholic Social Teaching.

A better world needs all of us, and the Pledge will be a whole school, long term commitment to building a fairer world.

Download the Pledge Guide to help you write your Jubilee Pledge and plan your Pledge Day. <https://cafod.org.uk/jubilee-schools/jubilee-pledge>

Coming soon! CAFOD, with CSAN and CYMFed will be displaying school Pledges on an interactive map! *'When you make your pledge in the summer, tell us about it and we will send you a certificate.'*

10. CES CENSUS DIGEST 2024 - ENGLAND

The CES have published the Digest of the 2024 Census Data for Schools and Colleges in England. Their data remains the most accurate and reliable depiction of England's 2,074 Catholic schools and colleges.

Key findings include:

- 817,784 pupils are educated in English Catholic schools and academies.
- Catholic schools and academies make up 10% of the state-funded sector.
- 57.2% of pupils at state-funded Catholic schools and academies are Catholic.
- 47.2% of pupils are from ethnic minority backgrounds; the national average is 38.7%.
- Catholic schools educate 51.5% more pupils from the most deprived backgrounds than the state sector.
- 47,312 staff members are employed, 47.5% of whom are Catholic.
- 24.6% of staff members are from ethnic minority backgrounds, compared to a 16.2% national average.

[Census Key Facts](#)

[Census Digest England 2024](#)

The census remains a vital tool for the CES when championing our schools and colleges to parents, pupils, government partners and other stakeholders.

NB: it is this data that forms, in part, the data from CSI that is shared with inspectors and schools prior to inspection.

11. DIOCESAN QUESTIONNAIRE

We are keen to hear the views and observations of colleagues on the essential service areas provided by the Shrewsbury Diocese Education Department to inform our future work in supporting schools and colleges.

We have therefore composed a questionnaire for completion by governors, directors, senior leaders, RE leads and school Chaplains. We are inviting colleagues to take a few moments to offer their observations and comments on current diocesan provision and areas for future consideration across eleven key areas. *There is no need to complete each and every section* and we would encourage colleagues to complete those sections that align to their current role and responsibilities.

Please find the link to the questionnaire below:

[Diocesan Education Department Questionnaire 2025.](#)

12. TO LOVE YOU MORE DEARLY – THE PLD CPDF

CPDF continues this term focussing on celebrations of the word and engagement/participation in the school community. The virtual session on celebrations of the word will be led by Greg Finn from Mark 10 Mission. Greg is an inspiring speaker and an authentic witness to the love of Jesus.

A reminder that the following CPDF sessions are planned for this term and year ahead:

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 in-person afternoon, lunch will be provided free of charge from 12.30pm.

To book on to the sessions please follow this link [Book CPDF](#)

For presentations and recordings (where available) of previous COPDF sessions, click [here](#)

13. ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING

All are cordially invited to our annual Mass of Thanksgiving for this academic year presided over by Bishop Mark.

Mass will be celebrated on the 8th of July 2025 at 4.30pm at St John Henry Newman Catholic Church, Knutsford Rd, Warrington, WA4 1JE

Please [book here](#) if you are planning to attend.

14. GOD WHO SPEAKS

Fleur Dorrell and the team at God Who Speaks have new posters on Mary's life in Scripture including Our Lady in Scripture and the prayers of the Benedictus and the Magnificat. www.godwhospeaks.uk/posters-for-schools/#ols



It is always worth checking this webpage as new posters are uploaded regularly which support both the RED and the PLD. For example, there is now a very useful Bible timeline for schools to download and print out. All posters are free.

15. GOD AND THE BIG BANG

God and The Big Bang (GATBB) has become a nationwide project, involving dozens of scientists of Christian faith, who have spoken to tens of thousands of students since its inception. In 2023 alone, the team visited more than 100 schools and interacted with more than 6500 9- to 18-year-olds.



The aim is to help students explore how faith and religion together helps us ask better questions in harmony with scientific knowledge and discovery through the lens of Christian spirituality and biblical faith. Many children don't always appreciate just how much the Church has been an advocate for scientific discovery throughout history and just how many amazing scientists were men and women of profound Christian faith.

The workshop aids the mission, identity and evangelisation role of the school by raising awareness of just how pro-science the Church is and has been as well as alerting young people to the risk scientism. [placing an excessive belief in the power of scientific knowledge and techniques]

Students are challenged to think critically as they approach questions from both a scientific and faith perspective. The content is carefully tailored to the age and ability of the students taking part.

The following clip provides more information about the project

https://youtu.be/qC7oIUWzAL8?si=DdC_94sNKJNPR9Mh or visit <https://gatbb.co.uk/>

PRIMARY

16. UPDATE ON 'THE VINE & THE BRANCHES' RE PROGRAMME

Sr Marcellina writes, 'It is now available as digital resources which can be sampled and ordered on our website www.tere.org for Years 1 – 4 with printed copies also available for the Teachers' Books.

In the design and content of the Pupil's Books efforts have been made to provide continuity and progression. Power Points are included to stimulate interest, engage and challenge all abilities and give meaning and purpose to the pupils' lives.

The focus of the Teacher's Books is to help the inexperienced teacher provide differentiation and cater for mixed ability. The Power Points explain some of the challenging 'Expected Outcomes'.

The programme for Years 5 and 6 will be published in June 2025 to be followed by Nursery and Reception early in 2026. Following this, help will be given for assessment and weekly lesson plans which teachers can download and edit to suit their needs.'

17. MIXED-AGE CLASSES WORKING PARTY

In a bid to support the growing number of schools with mixed-age classes we are looking to form a small working party to meet periodically to look at how best to adapt the model curriculum in the RED and The Vine and the Branches scheme for such contexts.

To those interested in joining the working party, an initial meeting will take place on Monday 7th July at 12.30pm until 3.00pm at St John Henry Newman Church, Knutsford Road, Warrington, WA4 1JE. Sign up [here](#)

Bring your lunch along. Biscuits and beverages will be provided.

18. REMINDER: NEW DATE FOR EYFS – 12th JUNE – 'INTRODUCTION TO THE RED'

In response to requests from schools to support EYFS teachers who will be starting with the Vine and the Branches from September, but haven't already had the opportunity to attend CPDF, we have an extra date in the CPDF calendar, **Thursday 12th June**, with Julie Rourke, Diocesan Adviser for Liverpool Archdiocese, and drafter of the EYFS model curriculum in the RED. The day will be held at St Columba's in Chester and teachers can book the usual way via the website.

19. RESCHEDULED DATE FOR EYFS DAY ON BRANCHES 5 & 6

For reasons beyond our control, it was not possible for the scheduled day for EY teachers on Branches 5 & 6 to go ahead on 26th March.

We have been able to reschedule this session with Julie Rourke from Liverpool Archdiocese so the day will now take place **9.30am-3.30pm** on **Friday 23rd May** at the Loreto Education Centre, Altrincham, WA14 4GZ. Re-book here [EYFS 23 May 25](#)

20. ONELIFE MUSIC

[OPEN. with Mary 2025](#) has been filmed in the most beautiful church of St Mary the Mount in Walsall.



OPEN. with Mary will be available to use every class day in the month of May to give honour to Our Lady. Join with Dan and Emily each day at a time to suit your class for 3 - 4 minutes of prayer, music and honour to Mary.

<https://onelifemusic.thinkific.com/courses/open-with-mary-2025>

Booking for OneLife Music's OPEN. and Streams series is open for next academic year. This includes early bird discounts.

Dan and Emily say: *'If you're thinking of joining us for OPEN & STREAMS for the academic year 2025-2026, then we are pleased to offer a BIG saving when purchasing this special big bundle deal. Buy OPEN & STREAMS together, save £150 and pay £500 + VAT'* [open-streams-early-bird-big-bundle-2025-2026](#)

21. PRAY IN MAY WITH MARY'S MEALS



Anna says, *'A huge thank you to those schools who have invited representatives of Mary's Meals into their schools to lead assemblies and other activities so far this year and to share the story of Mary's Meals, who provide children with a nutritious meal in 16 countries every school day.*

This May we invite you to join our [Pray in May](#) campaign. During the month of May we invite you to join us in praying for the hungry children who rely on our life-changing school meals, and for all the children and families around the world who live in poverty.

Our resources include assemblies that can be led by staff and pupils, a prayer calendar and prayers for both primary pupils and secondary students to use. You can also sign up for our fortnightly prayer emails to journey throughout May [here](#).

Please do get in touch if you have any questions or would like to book an assembly or class talk.

Many thanks for your continued support. Prayers and best wishes, Anna Houghton'
anna.houghton@marysmeals.org

22. RISE THEATRE NEW PRODUCTION

'TREASURE WITHIN' - RISE Theatre's BRAND NEW theatre production & interactive day - a treasure hunt theatre adventure for whole primary schools exploring the 7 principles of Catholic Social Teaching and how these inspiring treasures can be applied to every child.



What's 'Treasure Within' about?

Treasure Within's theatrical story by RISE Theatre follows a school child who is set a unique homework assignment - to find 7 treasures (Catholic Social Teaching principles), in 7 different locations, and apply them to their own lives. With a modern treasure map (a tablet), the child invites the school to join them as they search for these treasures in some unlikely places such as in a junk shop, library, science museum and even a journey with some familiar Saints!

Designed to enhance the CST curriculum - www.risetheatre.co.uk/treasurewithin

What does the day involve?

'Treasure Within' will take the whole school off timetable for the day to immersively explore the theme in full and includes morning assembly from RISE Theatre, interactive classroom workshop activities, a new immersive group workshop, and an exciting afternoon show for the whole school. Accompanied by interactive visuals and original songs by Charley Tidy, this day offers something unique on Catholic Social Teaching.

Click [here](#) for more information

For any enquiries please email: admin@risetheatre.co.uk or call us on 0118 324 7775.

23. MUSLIM LEARNER SERVICES

Courses this term:

23 May 9-10.30am - Islamic Stories for Primary - Includes a story Pack

2 June 4-5pm - Pilgrimage to Mecca - The Hajj - What's involved and why during this 5-day journey?

16 Jun 4-5pm Diversity in Islam - Sunni & Shi'a

To book a place on the live webinars (includes a Q&A session) or to request a video recording of the entire course, please click [2024/5 Primary Islam Training Courses](#)

This is an excellent opportunity to boost your subject knowledge and develop your confidence in teaching Islam. Imran Kotwal from Muslim Learner Services will deliver the training.

SECONDARY

24. SHORE MEETING 19/06/25

REMINDER: Our next SHORE meeting will be held at The Catholic High School, Chester, and will focus on KS3 in the morning and **KS5 Core RE in the afternoon**. The afternoon session replaces the planned meeting for Core RE on 18th June.

NB: It may be that different members of the department attend for the morning or the afternoon dependent on their specific responsibility. Please ensure that all attendees sign up and make clear if lunch is required for catering purposes.

25. MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS



A reminder that our Mass of Thanksgiving takes place on **Friday 4th July** at St Columba's Church, Chester. Further details will be shared nearer the time.

26. CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP COURSE FOR SIXTH FORM: AMENDED DATES

The application deadline has been extended for this inspirational course for those who will shape tomorrow's society. This programme is for students who want to deepen their faith and who want to engage in the public discourse around the common good.

The dates of our Christian Leadership Formation Programme have also been amended to allow for students wishing to attend the Jubilee of Youth in Rome.

For more information and to apply: <https://www.christianleadershipformation.com>

Please find the flier for the Christian Leadership Formation programme here: [2025 CLF flier](#)

27. CPDF

To attend any of our CPDF sessions, please follow this link:

<https://educationshrewsbury.org/formation-development/ed-cpdf-opportunities/book-a-cpdf-course/>

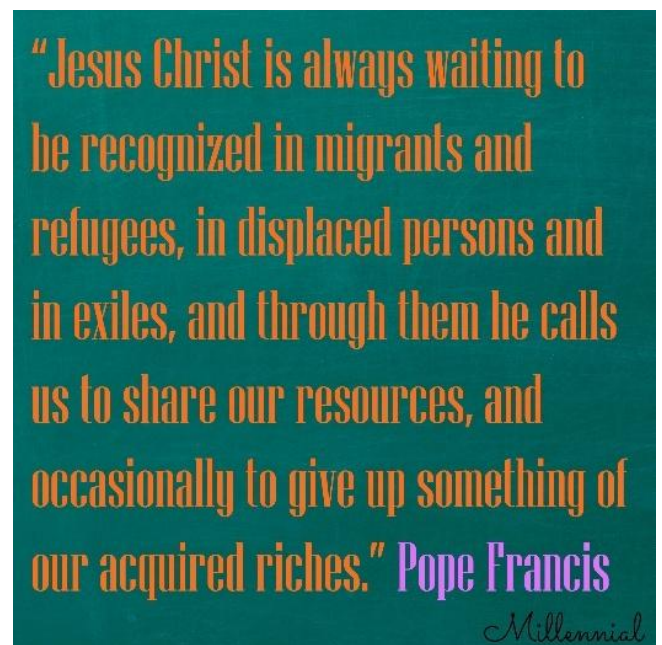
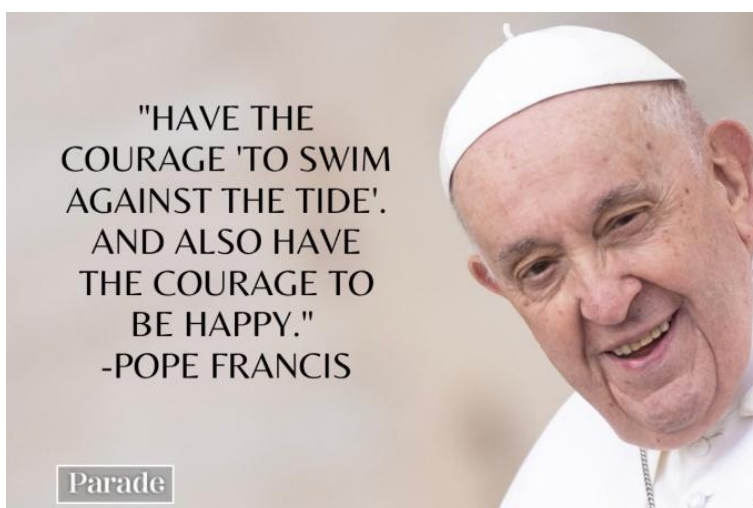
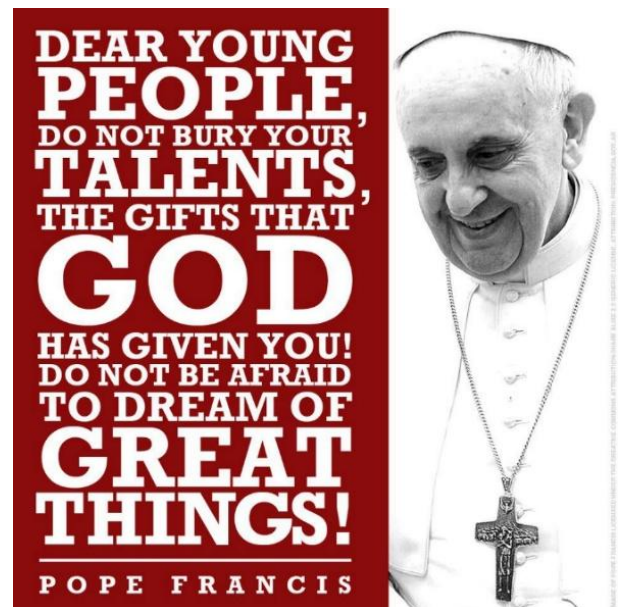
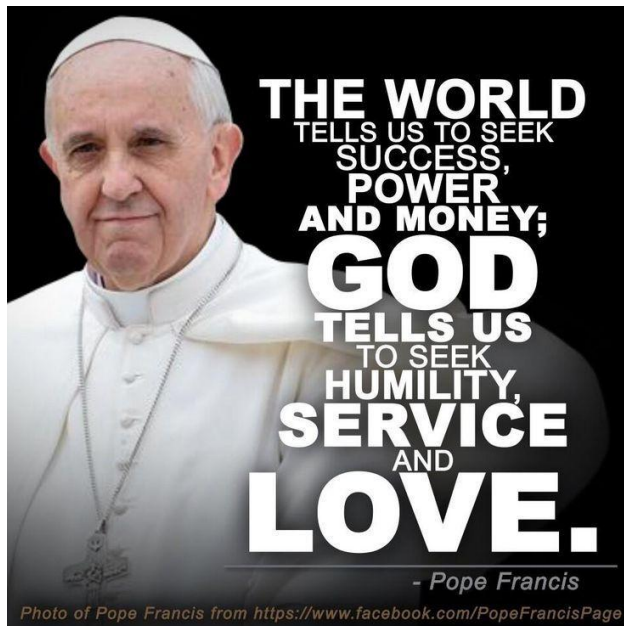
Upcoming CPDF:

Date	Time	Course Title	Venue
01/05/25	9.30pm-3.30pm	RE Leads Meeting with Lat Blaylock- Dialogue and Encounter Branch 6	St Columba's Parish Hall, Plas Newton Lane Chester, CH2 1PL
02/05/25	9.30am-12.00pm	School support under the CSI Framework	Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish Centre, 2a Enfield Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 8BY

01/05/25 to 02/05/25	4.30pm Thurs - 3pm Fri	COAST Summer Retreat	Oblate Retreat Centre, Wistaston Hall, 89 Broughton Lane, Crewe, CW2 8JS
12/05/25	3.30pm-5pm	Vine and Branches Y1 preparation for Dialogue and Encounter	Virtual
13/05/25	3.30pm-5pm	Vine and Branches Y2 preparation for Dialogue and Encounter	Virtual
19/05/25	9.30-11.00am OR 1.30-3.00pm	Primary Deputy & Assistant Headteacher Forum	Virtual
19/05/25	3.30pm-5pm	Vine and Branches Y3 preparation for Dialogue and Encounter	Virtual
20/05/25	3.30pm-5pm	Vine and Branches Y4 prep for Dialogue and Encounter	Virtual
21/05/25	3.30-5.00pm	Prayer and Liturgy Directory 5 – Celebration of the Word	Virtual
10/06/25	9.30am- 12.00pm	Secondary Deputy & Assistant Headteacher Forum Catholic Life and Mission	Harrytown Catholic High School, Harrytown Lane, Romiley, SK6 3BU
11/06/25	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Secondary RSE Lead Meeting	St Ambrose College, Wicker Lane, Hale Barns, WA15 0HE
12/06/25	9.30pm- 3.30pm	Intro to the RED: EYFS Day for EYFS Leads and Teachers	St Columba's Parish Hall, Plas Newton Lane, Chester, CH2 1PL
16/06/25	9.30pm- 3.30pm	Primary Curriculum Working Party	St John Henry Newman Parish Centre, Knutsford Road, Warrington, WA4 1JE
17/06/25	1.30pm- 3.00pm	COAST HUB 1 (Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, Manchester)	Aquinas College, Nangreave Road, SK2 6TH
19/06/25	9.30pm- 3.30pm	SHORE Meeting	The Catholic High School, Old Wrexham Road, Chester, CH4 7HS
19/06/25	1.30pm-3pm	COAST HUB 3 (Warrington, Halton, Wirral)	Cardinal Newman Catholic High School, Bridgewater Avenue Latchford, WA4 1RX
20/06/25	1.30pm-3pm	COAST HUB 2 (Cheshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin)	The Catholic High School, Old Wrexham Road, Chester, CH4 7HS
01/07/25	1.00pm- 4.00pm	Prayer and Liturgy Directory 6 – Formation, progression and ministry	Loreto Education Centre, Dunham Road, Altrincham, WA14 4GZ
02/07/25	9.30pm- 3.30pm	Y6 Preparing to teach Vine & Branches	St Columba's Parish Hall, Plas Newton Lane Chester, CH2 1PL
03/07/25	9.30pm- 3.30pm	Y5 Preparing to teach Vine & Branches	St Columba's Parish Hall, Plas Newton Lane Chester, CH2 1PL
07/07/25	12.30pm- 3.00pm	Planning for mixed-age classes: Working Party	St John Henry Newman Parish Centre, Knutsford Road, Warrington, WA4 1JE


And finally,

I leave you with just some of the words of Pope Francis, a man of great humility, faith, service and love who will continue to inspire us for many, many years to come:



(#FRATELLI TUTTI #78)

LET US SEEK OUT OTHERS
AND EMBRACE THE WORLD
AS IT IS, WITHOUT FEAR
OF PAIN OR A SENSE OF
INADEQUACY,
BECAUSE THERE WE WILL
DISCOVER ALL THE GOODNESS
THAT GOD HAS PLANTED
IN HUMAN HEARTS.

saltandlighttv.org 

Concern for the environment
thus needs to be joined
to a sincere love
for our fellow human beings
and an unwavering commitment
to resolving the problems society.

Pope Francis
*Laudato Si:
On Care For
Our Common Home*

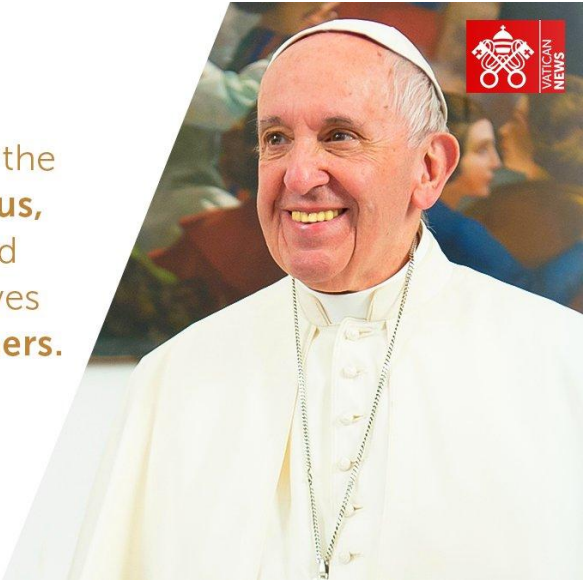


The Gospel

invites us to respond to the
God of love who saves us,
to see God in others and
to go forth from ourselves
to seek the good of others.

Pope Francis

Evangelii Gaudium, 281



God bless,

Julia

