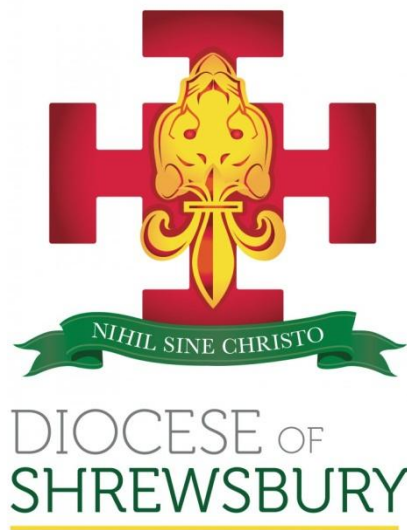


Diocese of Shrewsbury
Department of Education



RE and CATHOLIC LIFE
NEWSLETTER

Summer Term 2025 No.2

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1. INTRODUCTION

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great joy that we welcome our new pope, successor to St Peter, Pope Leo XIV. Elected on the evening of Thursday 8th May, his first words to the faithful and to the whole world echoed the words of the risen Christ, 'Peace be with you all!'. In this year of Jubilee, as pilgrims of hope, we are called to work for peace, for unity, and to bring hope to the hopeless.



Pope Leo XVI went on to say, 'God loves us, God loves you all, and evil will not prevail! All of us are in God's hands. So, let us move forward, without fear, together, hand in hand with God and with one another other! We are followers of Christ. Christ goes before us. The world needs his light. Humanity needs him as the bridge that can lead us to God and his love. Help us, one and all, to build bridges through dialogue and encounter, joining together as one people, always at peace.' May these first words of Pope Leo XVI's pontificate be a source of inspiration to us as we strive to live out Christian vocation each day.

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

We are delighted that the Jubilee Icons of the Visitation will begin their pilgrimage around the Diocese this half term. Please do share the joys of this journey with us on X @EducationShrew (formerly Twitter) or via education@dioceseofshrewsbury.org as Maggie can upload this 'Good News' to our website.

Full instructions concerning the practicalities of this venture, including the schedule, have been shared with schools and they can also be found on our [website](#) . A hard copy of all resources will travel with the icon and accompanying resources.



NB: the icon is a print of the stained-glass window depicting the Visitation found in the Cathedral. The print is A1 and is framed in a slim black frame with acrylic glazing. It comes in a folio with carry handles and a shoulder strap, so it is quite portable.

3. THE YEAR OF JUBILEE – QUILTED BANNER OF HOPE

It is wonderful to see the growing number of school badge patches for our quilted banner of hope. Full instructions on how to prepare the patch and where to send it are contained within the 'Year of Jubilee' booklet (see link above).

If anyone would like to get involved in the big sew together then please get in touch: jackie.walker@dioceseofshrewsbry.org

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

4. THE YEAR OF JUBILEE – CREATIVE COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLS

A reminder to our Diocesan schools of the invitation to share their thoughts on what it means to be a Pilgrim of Hope in a creative way.

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

Individuals, groups and 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 to us 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.

5. 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.

CAFOD have updated their website to include resources to help schools make their pledge and mark this day, including a CPD ppt for teachers, and most recently, a celebration of the word for primary schools.

If you have made your pledge already, why not revisit it with some of the resources below? In addition, share it with CAFOD to be added to their Jubilee Pledge map and receive a certificate.

Pledge Day in June/July: All resources/info [Jubilee pledge for schools](#)

Specific Resources to support schools in Jubilee Pledge Day preparation:

- Pledge preparation animation for teachers: [How to prepare for your Pledge Day | CAFOD](#)
- Summary of info: [Jubilee Pledge Summary](#)
- 15 min CPD for teachers on the pledge: [Education Jubilee CPDPledgeDay.pptx](#)
- Guide: [Education Jubilee PledgeGuide.pdf](#)
- Poster: [Education Jubilee PledgePoster.pdf](#)

New! Online Pledge Map: Visit [Jubilee Pledge map for schools](#), use the drop down menu to select your school, which will then be plotted on the map. A Jubilee Pledge Certificate will then be sent out automatically.

New! Short films for Jubilee inspiration



Two films for pupils to celebrate all that has been achieved so far in this Jubilee Year as we all look forward to making the Jubilee Pledge to continue building a better world.

[We are Pilgrims of Hope – Primary Schools | CAFOD](#)

[We are Pilgrims of Hope – Secondary Schools | CAFOD](#)

6. JUBILEE FOR CATECHISTS

The Department of Evangelisation and Catechesis is hosting a Jubilee for Catechists on Saturday 15th November at St Joseph’s Catholic Church in Stockport. Click [here](#) for the flyer.

All the details for booking can be found on Eventbrite via this link <https://bit.ly/Jubilee-for-Catechists>.

7. TO LOVE YOU MORE DEARLY – THE PLD CPDF

CPDF continues this term focussing on engagement and participation in the school community – see below for details of when and where.

If you missed the virtual session on celebrations of the word led by Greg Finn from Mark 10 Mission you can view the recording on our website.

01/07/2025	1pm-4pm	Prayer and Liturgy Directory 6 – Engagement and participation	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
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NB: For this 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 CPDF sessions, click [here](#)

8. LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26

Please find below a link to a liturgical calendar for the academic year 2025-2026 shared by Jane Porter, School Chaplain and Trust Leader of Chaplaincy at the St Thomas Catholic Academy Trust.

[PDF Liturgical Calendar 2025-2026](#)

This can also be accessed on the Liturgy Office website via the link below where you will also find a version on Publisher:

[Liturgy Office | Spirit of the Season](#)

9. SUPPORT FOR TEACHING JUDAISM

Anna Silver from the Board of Deputies is leading an 'Any questions' zoom session to support teachers in their teaching of Judaism.

Date: **Tuesday 17th June** Time: **3:45-4:45**

It's free and informative.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87673118531?pwd=jbr7OdUuZJyHNVgav1kZMrIde1ozgU.1>

Meeting ID: 876 7311 8531

Passcode: 409549

10. GOD WHO SPEAKS

Fleur Dorrell says:

This month our theme is **Pentecost**: www.godwhospeaks.uk/

Celebrate the **Feast of Pentecost** with:

Our **Pentecost Activity Resource**: *Wonders in Heaven: Signs on Earth*

– www.godwhospeaks.uk/pentecost-activities-resource/

Pentecost Posters - www.godwhospeaks.uk/in-between-times-pentecost-posters/

Acts of the Apostles: A Guide to the Holy Spirit - www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-acts-of-the-apostles-a-guide-to-the-holy-spirit/

The Holy Spirit in Art - www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-holy-spirit-in-art/



Pentecost for non-verbal children - www.godwhospeaks.uk/pentecost-and-barriers-to-language/

Doves in Scripture - www.godwhospeaks.uk/o-for-the-wings-of-a-dove/

29th June – **Feast of St Peter and St Paul - Apostles**

St Paul's Life and Ministry poster - www.godwhospeaks.uk/posters-for-schools/#bibletimeline

NB: We're currently working on a St Paul's Travelogue project in the footsteps of his ministry and Letters.

PRIMARY

11. DIALOGUE AND ENCOUNTER

To consider when exploring the Divine Liturgy in the Orthodox Church, Potamitis Publishing produces books for all ages of children for their personal use and for use with their families.



I picked up these two books in Shrewsbury Orthodox Church. Perhaps your local orthodox church sells similar. The books are published in the US. To see the full range: <https://potamitis.us/>

To further support teachers with planning of Branch 6, if Y1 teachers wish to explore holy wells as an 'expression of Christian belief in a different Christian community (D1.6.2), this website may be helpful: <https://www.britishholywells.co.uk/>

In addition, if Y4 teachers are exploring iconography, this short video may be helpful for background knowledge [Exploring the hidden world of icons - Christianart.com](http://www.christianart.com)

12. MIXED-AGE CLASSES WORKING PARTY

In a bid to support the growing number of schools with mixed-age classes, a reminder that 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.

13. MISSION TOGETHER

Mission Together are continuously revising, updating and adding to their collection of resources for schools. See below for links to some key resources for use in RE and to support with prayer:



Listen to our new CST song - The Wonderfully Made Mambo!!!

After the success of Mission Together's *Pilgrim Calypso*, they have penned another song for schools - this time focusing on Catholic Social Teaching.

Inspired by Psalm 139, the *Wonderfully Made Mambo* underscores the principles of human dignity; care of creation; solidarity; and preferential option for the poor. What's more, *Wonderfully Made Mambo* has a catchy Latino rhythm, perfect for a new Pope from the Americas! [Find the sing-along films, lyrics and sheet music here.](#)

Pope Leo and the Catholic Church resources

As a pontifical charity, the election of Pope Leo was especially welcome for Mission Together. With lived experience of mission (during his time in Peru), and a clear appreciation of Catholic Social Teaching (revealed in his choice of Papal name), Pope Leo implores us to share Christ's love with everyone, everywhere.

Mission Together have put together several new resources to help pupils learn more about our new Pope and the Global Church he serves. Find the *Pope Leo Five Fact Assembly* and *Pope Leo and the Catholic Church* lesson aid [here](#).

Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul

On June 29 the Catholic Church celebrates the solemnity of Saint Peter & Saint Paul, two of the Church's most important missionaries. To mark this high-feast in school, Mission Together have a new Five Fact Assembly, Celebration of the Word, worksheets, and other resources. [Download here.](#)

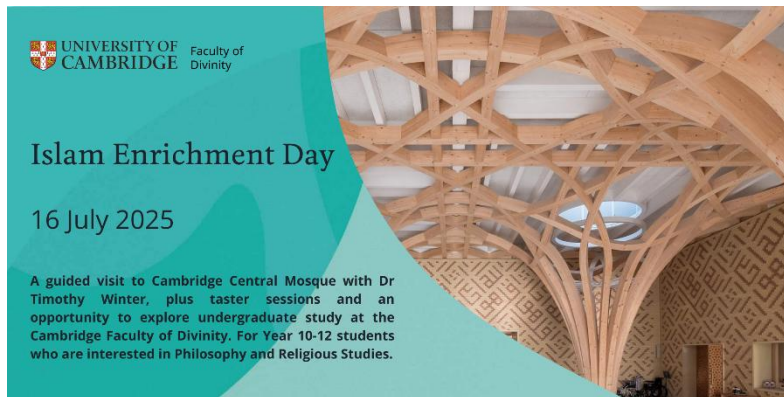
RED Resources

To support teachers with the RED, Mission Together have collated all their resources linking to the different branches. They are adding to these RED webpages regularly, so please keep revisiting. [Click here to explore.](#)

SECONDARY

14. FACULTY OF DIVINITY, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

For Years 10-12 students who are interested in studying Theology, Religion, and the Philosophy of Religion. We are hosting two Enrichment Days, one focused on [Judaism](#) and the other on [Islam](#). You can access fuller information and the registration systems by clicking on the posters just below:



The poster for Islam Enrichment Day features a teal background on the left with the University of Cambridge logo and text. The right side shows a photograph of the interior of the Cambridge Central Mosque, highlighting its intricate wooden timber frame and geometric wall patterns.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE Faculty of Divinity

Islam Enrichment Day

16 July 2025

A guided visit to Cambridge Central Mosque with Dr Timothy Winter, plus taster sessions and an opportunity to explore undergraduate study at the Cambridge Faculty of Divinity. For Year 10-12 students who are interested in Philosophy and Religious Studies.



The poster for Judaism Enrichment Day features a teal background on the left with the University of Cambridge logo and text. The right side shows a close-up photograph of a hand writing Hebrew text on a scroll with a quill pen.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE Faculty of Divinity

Judaism Enrichment Day

9 July 2025

A guided visit to the Beth Shalom Reform Synagogue in Cambridge, including a look at one of their Torah Scrolls. We will also have taster sessions on Ancient and Medieval Judaism with Dr Arjen Bakker and Prof Daniel H. Weiss. This event is for Year 10-12 students who are interested in Philosophy and Religious Studies.

Cambridge University Open Days (July 10 and 11)

Come visit us and explore the Faculty of Divinity! Besides the usual course presentations and taster lectures, this year we are running a Course Exhibition (from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm) to give students a better taste of what it looks like to study Theology, Religion, and the Philosophy of Religion here at Cambridge University. Registration and further information can be found [here](#)

15. 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
10/06/25	9.30am-12.00pm	Secondary DADAH 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
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, 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 – Engagement and Participation	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, Warrington, WA4 1JE

We have now finalised our CPDF calendar for next academic year and details of courses and dates can be accessed via the [Education Department website](#).

Booking forms will be available before the end of the summer term and we will email schools to inform you when the booking forms are accessible.

And finally,

June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and Pope Leo, in his first monthly prayer intention for this June, invites the faithful to pray 'that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from His Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.'

<https://thepopevideo.org/june-that-the-world-might-grow-in-compassion/>

You might like to share the video with your school community.

God bless,

Julia

