

Diocese of Westminster Education Service

Witness to the Word:

School Bulletin 08.07.20

Dear Colleague in Catholic Education,

The Education Service every Wednesday provides schools with a wide variety of materials, resources, advice and updates on all matters relating to our schools and colleges. The content of these Bulletins are for Headteachers, Senior Leaders, Teaching Staff, Governors, Clergy and anyone who you feel would benefit from them. Please feel free to share widely.

Objectives of the Education Service during Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic from June to July 2020

- To support and training for Headteachers, Heads of RE, RE Coordinators, Governors and the wider school community to cope at this time of unprecedented challenge;
- To provide the updates from the UK Government, DfE, CES and the Diocese of Westminster on all aspects of the Coronavirus Covid-19 relating to schools and colleges;
- To provide resources and advice relating to the Teaching and Learning of RE;
- To provide resources and advice relating to Mental Health issues;
- To provide resources and advice relating to Spiritual support and renewal.

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Thank you for all you are doing for your school community and for Catholic education

PHONE

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Announcement on resuming Collective Worship

Cardinal Vincent welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement on 23rd June that collective acts of worship can resume, saying: 'I welcome the statement by the Prime Minister earlier today, that places of worship are now able to resume collective acts of worship from 4th July. This is welcome news for members of all religions in England. I thank all who have worked hard to bring this about, not least my fellow religious leaders.

'As Catholics we now look forward to being able to celebrate Mass together again from 4th July. We have waited with patience and longing for this moment, understanding the importance of protecting the health of people in our society. Now we are full of anticipation that we will be able again to take part together in the Eucharist, which lies at the centre of our faith.

'It is important that we continue to abide by the guidance, given by the Government, on appropriate social distancing and the other measures to avoid all unnecessary risk. Our own detailed guidance will be distributed around dioceses and parishes so everyone can be confident that they may come to Mass securely and understand the part they are to play in protecting each other from any remaining risk of infection.

'The past few months have been a time of fashioning new patterns of prayer, new ways of exploring and enriching our faith and vigorous ways of reaching out to those in need. We can build on these, forgetting nothing of the graces we have been given. Yet now, with the experience of opening our churches for individual prayer already gained, this return to the more normal patterns of worship will be of great importance to all Catholics.

'This time of our "Eucharistic fast" has made our hearts grow in longing for that moment when we can come together and receive again the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. That moment is now very near and for that we thank God.'

New Staff at the Education Service

I am delighted to announce that our new Chief Inspector of Schools from September 2020 will be **Mrs Nancy Conoboy**. Nancy is currently the Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning at St Dominic's Sixth Form College. Nancy has over 30 years' experience in Catholic education. She is one of our Lead Inspectors and a Religious Education specialist. In September Nancy will have the opportunity to communicate to all schools what the vision for her role and the inspection process will look like going forward. Nancy will take over from Jane Goring who has done a wonderful job as Chief Inspector and we wish her every happiness and fulfilment in all her future endeavours.

In Conversation...

We are delighted to include information about a new resource we have created to provide information to schools about areas of significant interest. Our ***In Conversation*** video series highlights various organisations and charities who work directly to support schools, providing an overview of their work and the resources and training they provide. Please follow the link for interviews with key personnel from **Papyrus (Suicide Prevention)** and the **Catholic Children's Society** detailing their mission and how they can be of benefit to our schools. Please click [here](#) for access to both videos.



Catholic Life and Worship Resources

Weekly Rosary

Please join us each week as we pray a decade of the Rosary together. This Friday, July 10th, we recite the Third Joyful Mystery: The Nativity of the Lord. You can join via YouTube [here](#) or alternatively download the powerpoint [here](#)

[Weekly Rosary 8th July 2020](#)

Weekly Beatitude Assembly

Please click [here](#) for a Primary and a Secondary Powerpoint resource that can be used with students

[Beatitude Presentations Primary and Secondary](#)

Pope's prayer intention for July: For families

By Fr David Stewart SJ


As we passed the year's longest day last month, many families felt that this was the longest year ever as so many suffered at various levels from the effects of the pandemic. Families grieved the loss of beloved elders and loved ones while enduring job losses and economic uncertainty. At the invitation of the Pope, in June we contemplated the wounded side of the Saviour and took solace and strength from the blood and water that flowed from his Sacred Heart. We prayed with Pope Francis that many hearts would be touched by that Heart. Now, in July, the Pope invites us to pray with him for families: 'that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance'.

When Pope Francis decided, in consultation with the leaders of his worldwide prayer group, on the intentions that would be presented to us each month this year, none of us had heard of COVID. Now, halfway through the calendar year, it is the backdrop to everything we pray, say and do. There are signs of hope in some places that it might be ending and signs of magnificent great love in the efforts of healthcare professionals in particular and essential workers everywhere. At every time of prayer in these days, we must pray for them and in thanks for their magnificent service of others.

As we pray with the Pope this month, we might note that we are not only praying for families, although goodness knows we would want to, for our own families, for those who have no family, for shattered refugee families and, at this time, for families devastated by the effects of the contagion. We make that prayer but recognise that the Holy Father invites to a specific intention, that families may be accompanied. Who is to accompany them?

Who is responsible?

The answer must surely include a recognition that the human family and each individual family is under threat and therefore that those who have power must act in response. They must be urged to act. 'Love, respect and guidance' should be at the heart of how society accompanies families. It is for good people with the common good at heart to act, to put



pressure on those who have power and those with a vested interest in keeping people poor and fragmenting families. The oldest generation are fully part of our family and society life, or should be.

Pope Francis has said that:

‘The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that our societies are not organised well enough to make room for the elderly, with proper respect for their dignity and frailty. When the elderly are not cared for, there is no future for the young.’

Praying with the Pope each month for the challenges that face human society must of necessity involve a willingness to act, to mobilise ourselves according to whatever abilities and talents we’ve been given. These acts can be sacramental embodiments of our faith-filled prayer. The New Testament reminds us that, ‘faith without works is dead’ (James 2:14-26).

Speaking at a General Audience on 17th June 2020, Pope Francis taught that, ‘to pray means to intercede for the world, to remember that despite all its frailties, it always belongs to God’. This is the opposite of the temptation, that comes from the Bad Spirit, to shun the world and to keep your faith private, whatever that might mean. The pandemic presents many possibilities for action, especially this month for families. Let us not forget the very young, especially those whose schooling is interrupted by the pandemic, but also the elderly, who have made us who we are and have sacrificed a great deal for us.

Prayer moment

Let the Spirit of God lead you to a place of interior stillness and then allow yourself to become aware of God’s gaze on you, full of love and hope for you and for all of creation. That gaze is sustaining and life-giving. Ask, in your heart, for a deepening, interior awareness of that divine presence and compassion. Ask for the grace of knowing how the Trinity is shared love and of how the human family reflects that love, making it present in each family member and in the world. Hold before the Lord in prayer families and particularly people who have been deprived of family life, who are not accompanied with love, respect and guidance. Conclude with an intimate conversation with the Lord about his own family life, as one of the Holy Family of Nazareth, as one of the Blessed Trinity. Speak to him about whatever presents itself to your mind and heart at this moment.

A morning offering for a time of great danger

Eternal Father,

I thank you for this day that allows me to increase my love of you.

Help me to be more available today to your mission

and to be a good example to others.

I offer my day, uniting myself to Pope Francis and his own prayer-group, the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network.

Our Father ...



The Pope's Prayer Intention for the month of July: A Prayer for Families

Let us pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance, and especially, that they may be protected by the State.

The family ought to be protected.

It faces many dangers: the fast pace of life, stress...

Sometimes, parents forget to play with their children.

The Church needs to encourage families and stay at their side, helping them to discover ways that allow them to overcome all of these difficulties.

Let us pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance, and especially, that they may be protected by the State.

Pope Francis – July 2020

Proposals for prayer and action this month

Last month a young, unassuming footballer grabbed the headlines from the politicians by writing a cogent, urgent letter about a government policy that threatened to damage family life and poor children in Britain. Marcus Rashford refused to make any political capital out of his campaign for justice, thanking the government for its embarrassing change of policy when others might have gloated. It was the poor families that were his only concern, and he used his talent and his prominence to advocate for them. He showed how it can be done, with graciousness, but determination. Consider ways in which you might be able to act similarly; alone, in your family, or in your parish or worshipping community.

As you pray the Daily Prayer Pathway, consisting of the Morning Offering, the Midday Moment and the Evening Prayer of Daily Awareness (Examen), ask for the grace to be humbler and more ready to listen to others before judging them. Ponder, gently, any temptation to treat others as less worthy if they do not appear to contribute so much materially or financially. Ask that your heart may be opened to any healing that is needed.

Discuss, as far as is possible while our movements are still restricted, in your own friendship circles or your parish, where there might be possibilities in your own neighbourhood of supporting and accompanying families with 'love, respect and guidance'. Remember the Pope's words: 'To the pandemic of the virus we want to respond with the universality of prayer, of compassion, of tenderness'. Resolve to act!

Resources


The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network websites: www.popesglobalprayer.net and www.popesprayer.va

Prayer platform: www.clicktopray.org

The Pope's video: www.thepopevideo.org (new video released on the first Friday of each month)

To order the Living Prayer 2020 booklet or prayer cards for the Daily Prayer Pathway,

email: prayernetwork@jesuit.org.uk

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- The Diocese is **live streaming Masses** and here is the link to those available.
<https://rcdow.org.uk/news/how-to-participate-in-mass-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/>
<https://soundcloud.com/catholicchurch>
 - The Jesuit Pray as You Go site <https://pray-as-you-go.org>
 - <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-07/pope-francis-prayer-video-message.html>

Fr James Hanvey SJ This week ‘What Ignatius gives us is not a scholastic or academic theology; it is not a theory, but a theology that is lived and experienced. In this sense, too, our theology becomes a daily action, shaping and making our lives.’ To celebrate the Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, on 31 July, James Hanvey SJ exposes the theological vision manifested in the Spiritual Exercises and in Ignatius’s life. [Read Here](#)

David Lonsdale

During extended periods of isolation, we are likely to be more-than-usually sensitive to changes of mood. Ignatius of Loyola’s own experience of this led him to develop techniques to respond to feelings of ‘darkness and disturbance’. David Lonsdale explores Ignatius’s observations about what he called ‘consolation’ and ‘desolation’, and finds in the Spiritual Exercises a helpful tactic to work against the latter. [Read Here](#)

Caritas Westminster Schools Survey Update

In the recent Caritas Westminster survey, 30 schools expressed an interest in resource to help individuals in financial difficulties. Caritas Westminster has set up a **Financial Resilience webinar specifically for schools**; to take place this **Thursday 9 July, 4 - 6pm**.

Registration details are on the attached flyer or link below.


It is designed for a member of staff, or volunteer who might in turn be able to support and help parents to recover from income shock.

There are a few places remaining, please register now to avoid disappointment.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/helping-those-in-income-shock-tickets-111286474842>

Mental Health and Well-Being

This week’s focus for mental health and well-being centres around supporting children and young people on their return to school. The attached **PowerPoint/pdf** showcases key mental health charities and their webpages/resources that support this specific area. It can be used as a presentation to inform staff, governors, or those with specific responsibility for mental health and well-being within the school, signposting useful resources that are available. It can also be used to



access the resources directly via the web links. Resources include teaching material for primary and secondary schools, a guide on best practice on supporting well-being in lockdown and advice targeted at children, young people and carers on the issue of returning to school.

Professional Development Opportunities

For a list of our upcoming training opportunities, please see attached document.

Personnel Updates

APPOINTMENTS: SENIOR LEADERSHIP, CHAPLAIN, & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RESPONSIBILITY

There have been one or two cases recently where schools have failed to inform us, in reasonable time, of the impending appointment of a Senior Leader, Chaplain or RE post holder. This is contrary to the requirements of the Bishop of England & Wales:

Interview procedures approved by Governing Bodies for teacher recruitment must be open to scrutiny. They must be clear, objective and transparent.

The Diocesan Bishop is entitled to be represented at all proceedings relating to the appointment of senior leaders and teachers of religious education.

Governing Bodies must facilitate the attendance of the Diocesan Director (or his or her nominee), either by affording them advisory rights or otherwise. These may be in relation to all appointments at the school or, more usually, to the appointment of the senior posts to which the requirement to be a practising Catholic are applied.

Memorandum on Appointment of Teachers in Catholic Schools

Archbishop Malcom McMahon

September 2014

Please ensure that we are informed when a vacancy occurs and certainly before any dates are set for meetings. In the first instance please contact Mike Pittendreigh (mikep@rcdow.org.uk 07973662548)

Pupil Placement Planning

1st Planner – Demographic Survey

The Pilot Project is making good progress through Phase 2. 1st Planner is engaging with Local Stakeholders in order to refine their data. The Phase 2 report will be presented to the Oversight Committee upon completion. Part of the preparation for stakeholder engagement included the preparation of an introductory video. Fr. Michael kindly recorded an introduction that has been included in the presentation to school leaders. It can be accessed by clicking on the following link: <https://www.1stplanner.com/aow-key-stakeholder-intro>

With so many presenting challenges, it is important to plan for the future of Catholic Schools in our Diocese. Catholic Schools have been an integral part of the maintained sector for more than 75 years. If our provision is to continue for the next 75 years, it is imperative that we develop new and sustainable plans to effect change. Buildings are aging and educational delivery has changed significantly. Catholic parents are seeking outstanding education in well-constructed and maintained learning environments. If we are to take the initiative, we need to find new ways for Trust assets to work both harder and smarter. The WinWin Initiative is based on Catholic Social Teaching. In developing this initiative, it is our aim to persuade all potential stakeholders to invest in a future that is at the heart of our church and central to the needs of the communities in which we live and work.



LIGHTHOUSE

The Education Service is exploring Education Data Tools that will support and enhances the Services engagement with Schools. In addition, the Service is seeking a Tool that will support the Due-Diligence required during the academisation process. One of our Head teachers is developing a tool (Lighthouse) that is showing significant promise.

Lighthouse focuses on school level data including:

- Finance
- Capital
- Future Projections/Forecasts
- Benchmarking (School Performance and Standards)

- Achievement
- Workforce

Capital

Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) – 2020-2021

The Government announced the 2020-21 CIF Programme on Monday 29th June. Initial indications suggest that the following schools have been offered CIF Grants:

URN	School Name	Project Name
143082	Bishop Douglass School Finchley	Fire Safety Improvements
146721	Our Lady of Grace RC Infant and Nursery School	Urgent Safeguarding and Security Works
142558	St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School	Urgent, life expired, defective roof covering replacement to entire main building
142558	St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School	Urgent replacement of boiler plant, controls and ancillary services to main building
146176	St George's Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy	Urgent Fire Compartmentation & Precautions Upgrade
146178	St John Fisher Catholic Primary School	Urgent Fire Compartmentation & Precautions Upgrade
146245	The Sacred Heart Language College	Sacred Heart Language College- Replacement Windows
146903	Holy Rood Catholic Primary School	Urgent fire compartmentation & precautions upgrade
146922	Divine Saviour Roman Catholic Primary School	Urgent fire compartmentation & precautions upgrade
146922	Divine Saviour Roman Catholic Primary School	Urgent safeguarding and security works
130411	St Charles Catholic Sixth Form College	Essential Boiler Replacement, Gas Safety and Associated Works
141931	The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial RC School	Urgent Security and Safeguarding Works

Academy Trusts seeking to undertake work on any asset owned by or otherwise controlled by the Trustees of the Diocese of Westminster are required to secure permission to undertake the planned work, prior to the engagement of Contractors. The Capital Strategy Committee has received some proposals for consideration at their meeting on Thursday 9th July 2020.

Statlog

The introduction of Statlog within the Diocese is progressing well.

Schools and Academies are engaging with the software and the main Diocesan Buildings Consultants have received initial training to support this process.

Schools and Academies that fully engage with the Statutory Compliance and Site Survey (Asset management) modules will be permitted to commission Minor Capital Works without the oversight of external consultants. Minor Works are usually those funded from Local Funding i.e. DFC, Governors Voluntary Funds or the School's revenue budget. School Business Managers and other School Leaders will be trained to use Statlog in order to safeguard themselves, their schools and the Diocesan Trustees.

Major Works will also be processed using Statlog. The prioritisation of work for funding in 2021 and beyond will be managed within Statlog. The Diocese will use the Survey Data within Statlog to identify and rank urgent work. VA Schools will not have access to VASCA until they fully engage with Statlog.

Priority School Building Programme

Project managers continue to monitor the progress of schools in this scheme. Some contractors can make headway whilst ensuring social distancing.

VASCA 2020/21

34 Projects are now live on Statlog. School Leaders and Governors from those schools, with the support of their Building Consultants, are fully engaged in the process of scoping and procuring the essential work approved by the Education Commission.

UK Government & DfE Updates and links;

Maintaining Educational Provision for Vulnerable and Key Worker Children:

OfSTED Announcement 6th July 7, 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ofsted-autumn-2020-plans>

DfE Guidance up to 08.07.20

Please see below DfE guidance that has been issued recently which you may have missed:

- [Guidance for full opening – schools](#) – Published 2 July
- [Guidance for full opening: special schools and other specialist settings](#) – Published 2 July
(Guidance for special educational settings to prepare for the September return of pupils with SEND)

➤ **What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak** – Updated 2 July and 30 June

(Added guidance for parents and carers about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term, content on summer provision, school uniform and a package of support worth £1billion to support pupils to catch up; updated content on school meals and the Covid Summer Food Fund.)

➤ **Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak** – Updated 2 July
(Updated to set out a change to the protective measures in early years settings that will be effective from 20 July, removing the requirement to keep children in small consistent groups within settings (sections 2.1 and 3.3). Added new content on risk assessment (3.1), supporting staff with increased risk factors (3.2) and system of controls (3.3). Updated content on attendance at settings for those shielding, with changes to the advice effective from 1 August, and removal of content on vulnerable children since settings are open for all children (section 4). Updated content on wraparound care (5.3). Updated Early Years Foundation Stage reforms (7.6) and Reception Baseline Assessment (7.7).)

➤ **Awarding qualifications in summer 2020** – Updated 2 July
(Summer 2020 grades for GCSE, AS and A level, Extended Project Qualification and Advanced Extension Award in maths: Guidance for teachers, students, parents and carers document updated to reflect autumn 2020 consultation decision outcomes and 2021 exam series consultation proposals.)

➤ **Providing free school meals during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak** – Updated 30 June
(Updated application form and guidance on the temporary extension of free school meals eligibility to NRPF groups. This is to reflect the change in annual household income threshold to £16,190 after tax.)

➤ **Summer holiday arrangements**
The Secretary of State for Education has confirmed that schools are not being asked schools to open over the summer holidays, and there is no expectation that schools should open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers over this period. Teachers, support staff and school leaders deserve a break, to recharge and rest. However, we are aware that some school leaders may be considering using their catch-up premium to provide summer school activities for their pupils. Where this is the case, you have the flexibility, discretion and autonomy to decide how you want to do this. To support schools in planning how to use the catch-up premium, the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has produced a guide, which includes advice on summer schools and a link to the Teach First toolkit specifically focuses on summer schools, for schools that choose to do this.

The EEF guide can be found here:

- <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources/covid-19-support-guide-for-schools/>

The Teach First toolkit can be found here:

- <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence-summaries/teaching-learning-toolkit/>

➤ **EYFS reforms consultation response**

Published [response](#) to the early years foundation stage (EYFS) reforms consultation. The goal of the reforms is to improve outcomes for all children and reduce workload. Find out more [here](#).

A summary of the consultation response and a table of changes can be found [here](#).

➤ **Reception Baseline Assessment**

In response to the impact of COVID-19 on schools, the statutory implementation of the Reception Baseline Assessment has been postponed until the 2021-2022 academic year. Schools can take part in an early adopter year in the second half of the 2020 autumn term. Find out more [here](#).

➤ **COVID Summer Food Fund** – Updated 30 June

(Added Company Shop Group and Iceland, including The Food Warehouse Stores, to list of supermarkets you can order eGift cards for; also added an example to show how you could schedule smaller gift cards.)

➤ **Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak** – Published 1 July

➤ **Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak** – Published 1 July