



WITNESS

to the word



23rd March
2022

Spring Term
Issue 5

Dear Colleagues in Catholic Education

Every second Wednesday, the Education Service 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 may benefit from them.

Please feel free to share.

SUBJECT CONTENT IN THIS ISSUE

Information about upcoming CPD and Training is [here](#)

Religious Education and Catholic Life resources are [here](#)

Mental Health and Wellbeing Resources are [here](#)

Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity updates are [here](#)

Leadership and Governance Updates are [here](#)

Caritas Updates are [here](#)

SPEC Updates are [here](#)

Capital Projects and PPP Updates are [here](#)

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

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Racial Justice Primary Schools Workshop – 24th March 2022

Course Aim: To support all staff with their teaching of racial justice in the primary setting.

Content:

- To help teachers and leaders of Religious Education plan and provide excellent learning in the classroom on issues of racial justice, equality and diversity.
- To support staff in encouraging pupils to learn about religion and beliefs, racism and prejudice in challenging ways.
- To promote the well-being of all pupils in our richly plural communities.

Guest Speaker: Lat Blaylock, Editor of RE Today

Target Audience: All Primary School Teachers and Leaders

[Click here to book](#)

This workshop will build upon from our previous workshop and will have more practical examples for you to use in the classroom. Please see testimonials from our previous RJED session, Rethinking the Curriculum:

Testimonials:

"The practical examples are always useful and it would be wonderful to have more of these."

"Excellent practical examples, thank you!"

"So many fantastic workable ideas that we can implement in our school"

"So much to think about and make sure we act upon in our school"

RSE and SEND Online Course – 25th March 2022

Course Aim: To equip teachers with ideas to disseminate RSE content to children with SEND.

Course Content:

- To consider the differing needs of children with SEND in a mainstream setting to develop an inclusive programme of study.
- To provide practical ideas/advice on teaching RSE to children with SEND and signpost suitable resources.
- To explore practical considerations such as how support may be deployed, considerations regarding resources, timetabling and learning environment, as well as ways to use targeted intervention and small group work.

Target Audience: RSE Leads in Primary and Secondary Schools

[Click here to book](#)

Testimonials:

"Very informative."

"Useful and practical information"

REC Online Conference Part 2 – 29th April

Course Aim: To provide RECs with both inspiration and the opportunity for celebration of their role.

Course Content:

- Provide spiritual nourishment for RECs to support them in their role.
- Provide updates regarding the RECD, Inspection and the Prayer and Liturgy Directory.
- Signpost to relevant resources and events for Classroom RE and Catholic life
- Provide opportunities for RECs to network online and share good practice.

Target Audience: Primary Staff

[Click here to book](#)

Testimonials:

"Thank you to all speakers. All wisdom gratefully received!"

"Thank you so much for your time today and like always your CPD is brilliant."

"Thank you very much for this morning. I enjoyed the breakout room. Always useful to share ideas with other RECs."

"A really useful morning. Useful updates too from the team."

CCRS

We are now taking expressions of interest and registration forms for the new group which will start in September, running online, 4-6pm, 5 x Mondays per module. For further information please email Margaret Hanley ccrs@rcdow.org.uk.

RE and Catholic Life Resources

Pope Francis Prayer Intentions: March

Intention for evangelisation – **For A Christian Response to Bioethical Challenges**

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

Pope Francis Prayer Intentions: April

Intention for evangelisation – **Health Care Workers**

We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

PRAYER INTENTIONS (Based on the Liturgical Year)	Liturgical Colour
Penitents and Wanderers	PURPLE
The Needy and Hungry of the World Especially on Lent Fast day (Friday after 1 st Sunday of Lent)	
Candidates for the Sacraments Especially on the Sundays in Lent	
Women Especially on Women's World day of Prayer (1 st Friday in March)	
Survivors of Sexual Abuse Friday 26 March (Friday 5 th week of Lent)	

LITURGICAL YEAR	NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS
March <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annunciation (25th) April <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Francis of Paolo (2nd) St Isidore (4th) St Vincent Ferrer (5th) St Stanislaus (11th) St George (23rd) St Mark, Evangelist (25th) St Catherine of Siena (29th) 	March <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Meteorological Day (23rd) Remembrance of Victims of Slavery Day (23rd) Mother's Day (27th) April <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (4th) International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (6th) World Health Day (7th) International Day of Human Space Flight (12th)

Ukraine

The Education Team has created a Prayer for Ukraine presentation for you to use with pupils, staff and your school communities to encourage prayers to be offered for those who have been impacted as a result of this conflict and to bring a swift resolution and lasting peace. This editable PowerPoint is available [HERE](#).



Pope invites bishops to join him in consecration of Russia and Ukraine

The Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary will be pronounced by the Pope on the afternoon of Friday 25 March in St Peter's Basilica. The act of consecration will be performed in communion with the local churches throughout the world.

In the apparition of 13 July 1917 in Fatima, Our Lady had asked for the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart and the communion of reparation on the First Saturdays, stating that if this request was not granted, Russia would “spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church,” and “the good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, various nations will be annihilated.”



After the apparitions of Fatima there were various acts of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and now this year, on March 25 (the feast of the Annunciation), Pope Francis will consecrate Russia together with Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in communion with bishops from all over the world. See [HERE](#).

More information about this will come soon from the Holy Father including the Prayer of Consecration. In the meantime, schools can unite in prayer on this day by saying the Rosary, the Angelus, the Stations of the Cross, Adoration or other form of age-appropriate prayer. Cardinal Vincent will also celebrate Mass in Westminster Cathedral at 5.30pm, also making the Act of Consecration will during Mass.

CAFOD – Ukraine

The Education team at CAFOD have developed new resources to support schools to explain CAFOD's response to the Ukraine crisis and to help schools engage in the Ukraine humanitarian appeal. There are tailored resources for both primary and secondary schools. There is also a beautiful prayer. Please find resources [here](#)

Flame 2023

We're excited to announce that the biggest Catholic youth event in the UK is returning to London, as CYMFED organise Flame 2023.

Westminster Youth Ministry have reserved hundreds of passes at the reduced price of £20 exclusively for those from Diocese of Westminster Parishes and Schools, sign up at the link [here](#)

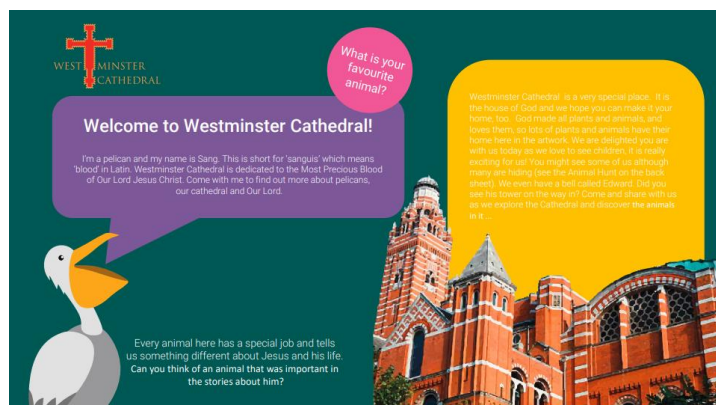


Westminster Cathedral Tours – available now!

Westminster Cathedral is pleased to offer learning opportunities to schools, irrespective of denomination, by means of virtual or actual tours.

The new website, recently launched, offers a 3D tour of the Cathedral with links to further information and there are learning resources available for KS4 and an Animal Trail with follow-up activities for KS2. These resources can be found [HERE](#) and can be used to support teaching and learning.

Schools may also book an actual tour by following the link on the website [HERE](#). These take place at 11am and last 60-70 minutes. It is possible to book the Hinsley Room for lunch afterwards, depending on availability. Special requests regarding the focus of tours can usually be addressed. We do not charge but suggest a donation; £3 per pupil - Primary; £3.50 - Secondary.



Getting to Know Jesus: A Retreat Inspired by Dear Pope Francis

Invite children to get to know Jesus through a special retreat inspired by **Ignatian spirituality** and the book *Dear Pope Francis*. The retreat includes Scripture passages with the theme of getting to know Jesus. Each passage provides the basis for one session. The sessions can be prayed with over the course of a week in a Catholic school or in shorter sessions over the course of a one-day or weekend retreat for parishes.

Three options for prayer exercises allow children to experience a variety of ways to encounter God. Retreat organizers may wish to break up sessions with stretch breaks, music, or short talks from peers, catechists, or parents about how they get to know Jesus. The retreat is adapted from materials by Rev. John Belmonte, SJ, Ph.D. Complete the form [here](#) to receive the free resource

Extra-or-do-nary

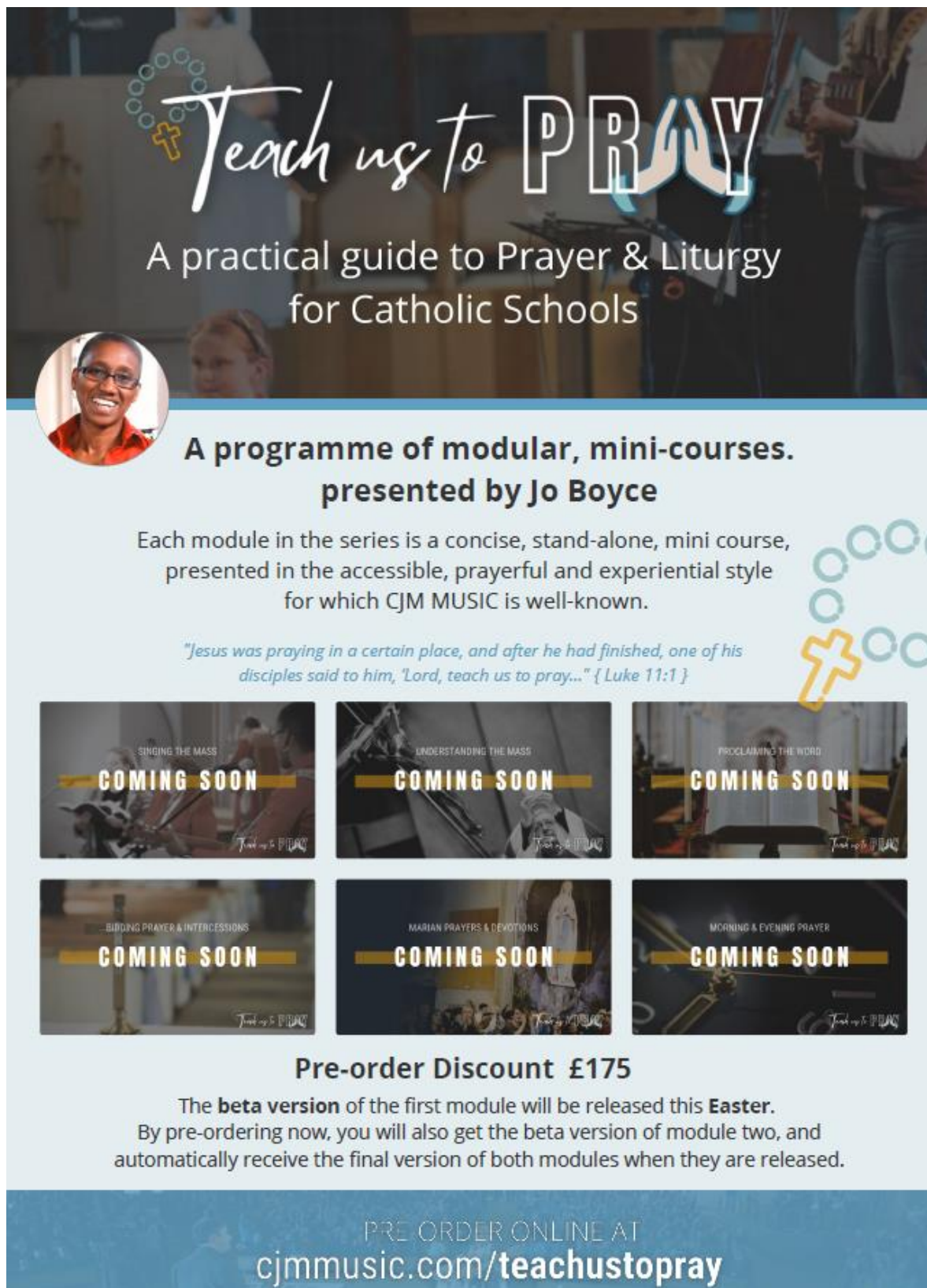


Extra-Or-do-nary takes its name from the Diocesan Ordo. This document acts like a calendar for each diocese - helping people to know what season, feast day or celebration takes place on each day. Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service have created a special version for young people and coupled each week of the year with a different theme – linked to the liturgical season – to help connect and inspire your prayer and liturgy.

Each week is also accompanied by a video on our YouTube channel that takes you through the important days in the week and brings the resource to life. Click [here](#) for more information and video links.


Teach Us To Pray programme: an accessible and practical guide to Prayer & Liturgy for Catholic Schools.

A series of modular, mini-courses on various aspects of music, prayer and liturgy in the context of a Catholic School. What CJM has always been good at doing is holding on faithfully to our tradition of prayer and liturgy while giving it contemporary expression. This resource is about helping staff in our schools to do the same, to bring the liturgy to life for our young people. **Pre-order the first instalment** of this programme [here](#). There is a short explanatory video [here](#)



The poster features a background image of a church interior with people. At the top, the title 'Teach us to PRAY' is written in a mix of script and bold sans-serif fonts, with a graphic of hands in prayer. Below the title is the subtitle 'A practical guide to Prayer & Liturgy for Catholic Schools'. A circular portrait of Jo Boyce is on the left. The text 'A programme of modular, mini-courses. presented by Jo Boyce' is centered. Below this, a paragraph describes the modules. A quote from Luke 11:1 is included. Six module thumbnails are shown in a 2x3 grid, each with a 'COMING SOON' banner. The bottom section features a 'Pre-order Discount £175' and details about the beta version. The footer contains the pre-order link.

Teach us to PRAY
A practical guide to Prayer & Liturgy
for Catholic Schools

 **A programme of modular, mini-courses.
presented by Jo Boyce**

Each module in the series is a concise, stand-alone, mini course,
presented in the accessible, prayerful and experiential style
for which CJM MUSIC is well-known.

*"Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his
disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray...' { Luke 11:1 }*

COMING SOON SINGING THE MASS

COMING SOON UNDERSTANDING THE MASS

COMING SOON PROCLAIMING THE WORD

COMING SOON BIDDING PRAYER & INTERCESSIONS

COMING SOON MARIAN PRAYERS & DEVOTIONS

COMING SOON MORNING & EVENING PRAYER

Pre-order Discount £175

The **beta version** of the first module will be released this **Easter**.
By pre-ordering now, you will also get the beta version of module two, and
automatically receive the final version of both modules when they are released.

PRE ORDER ONLINE AT
cjmmusic.com/teachustoprayer

Mental Health Update

Keeping Safe Online

DfE [Click here](#) Teaching online safety in school

Mentally Healthy Schools:

- [Click here](#) Keeping safe online toolkit (Primary)
- [Click here](#) Keeping safe online toolkit (Secondary)
- [Click here](#) Top tips for staying safe online

Childline [Click here](#) Staying safe online

Young Minds:

- [Click here](#) A guide for parents: Social Media
- [Click here](#) A guide for young people: Social Media and mental health
- [Click here](#) How to avoid getting sucked into unhealthy behaviour online

NSPCC - [Click here](#) E-safety for schools

CEOP Education [Click here](#) Resources for Primary and Secondary Schools

UK Safer Internet Centre [Click here](#) Resources for 3-11 year olds

InternetMatters.Org:

- [Click here](#) Online safety resources (Primary)
- [Click here](#) Online safety resources (Transition from Year 6 to Year 7)
- [Click here](#) Online safety resources (Secondary)
-

Childnet [Click here](#) Resources for Primary and Secondary Schools

Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity Update

CPD – 24th March 3:30-5pm Lat Blaylock – Racial Justice Primary Schools Workshop

This engaging session delivered by RE expert, Lat Blaylock, will offer lots of practical ideas for practitioners in the primary classroom during this session which has been extremely well-received nationally. Tried and tested resources which have been used around the country will be shared along with examples of pupils' work relating to this theme. There are still some spaces available but this course is limited to 50 spaces so book soon to avoid disappointment. Please note that this is not part of the RJED package and needs to be booked separately. See [HERE](#) for booking and information.

Liturgy – 9th June

A special RJED liturgy is being organised for all primary and secondary schools and this will take place in Westminster Cathedral at 2pm on 9th June. Bishop Paul McAleenan will be leading the liturgy and RISE theatre will be supporting with drama. More details will follow in due course so please note this date in your diary. Some schools who have participated in the song competition will be able to share their songs at this special event.

Diocesan Song Competition

This year, we would like to invite your pupils to compose a song on the theme of racial justice, equality and diversity. There are various options, depending on what you want to do:

- It can be completed at home or school
- Pupils can work independently, in pairs, groups, as a class or school (eg choir)
- It can be done with or without a teacher or specialist
- The song can be sung, said or silent (as some pupils might prefer to read theirs with music in background, or to enter the lyrics of their song only)
- It can be to a known tune (religious or otherwise) and this can be any style (Gospel, pop, rap...)
- They can compose their own tune (they can use instruments of any kind and may write their own musical notation)
- It can be about anything related to racial justice, equality and diversity or Pentecost and the Holy Spirit

Please let elainearundell@rcdow.org.uk know if you are interested in taking part in this and then send through entries by **Friday 25th March 2022**. If you need an extension, please let her know to wait for this. Some entries will be shared at our RJED liturgy in June. Entries should be sent as a Youtube link if they are performed, ensuring that the school has received the relevant permissions. If they are written pieces, please send as a Word document with the words typed. For any other questions, please contact Elaine.

Diocesan Website – RJED



We have been working hard to develop our RJED initiative on the website. We hope that you can help to bring this page alive by sharing your success stories, any impact from courses, pupil voice or examples of work that you have done on RJED. Please send to elainearundell@rcdow.org.uk.

For our main page and examples of work from our diocesan schools see [HERE](#).

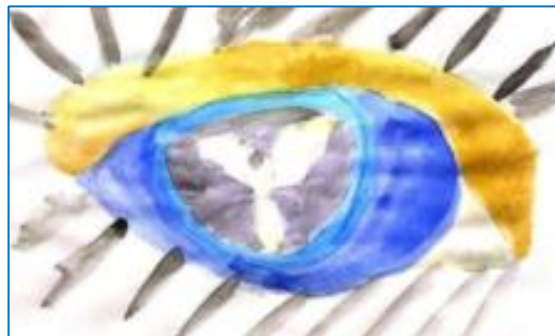
For our diocesan mission and vision and pupils' prayer cards, artwork and poetry see [HERE](#).

For relevant Church documents, resources and videos see [HERE](#).

For diocesan and other resources see [HERE](#).

For CPD and events see [HERE](#).

Our pages are developing and more resources are being added daily so do keep checking for updates.



Racial Justice Sunday theme – 'In the Image and Likeness of God'

The RJED theme for this year is 'In the Image and Likeness of God'. On the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales website, there are some beautiful images of the Holy Family which you can share with your pupils of all ages and this can be found [HERE](#). You can then explore this theme throughout the year and we would love you to share with us any of the images your pupils have created on this theme and we may be able to share these on our website. Some images and videos have already been shared with us – see the work St Vincent's Primary School in Ealing have done on this [HERE](#).

The prayer for the theme this year is:

Prayer for Fraternity and Social Friendship

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,
 reflected in all the peoples of the earth,
 so that we may discover anew
 that all are important and all are necessary,
 different faces of the one humanity
 that God so loves. *Amen*.



(by Pope Francis taken from his encyclical letter Fratelli Tutti)

Leadership and Governance Update

Refugee Families

Please contact Deb Long if your school receives applications for places from families arriving as refugees from Ukraine, and you need guidance as to how these applications might be processed without all the usual paperwork. There is currently no specific guidance for schools and boards, so it is about understanding how we can process these applications using our existing admissions policies and in line with the School Admissions Code.

Vacancies on Education Service Website

We are setting up a dedicated page on our website to publicise jobs vacancies in our schools. We hope that this will make it easier for applicants to find jobs within the Diocese. If you would like us to advertise your position, please send a link to Education@rcdow.org.uk once you have published it and we will add it to the site.

Senior Appointments - Support

We are delighted to be kept very busy at the moment by attending interviews for new Head and Deputy Head teachers- it is so good to know that such good candidates are prepared to put themselves forward for these vital positions in our schools.

As we plan for the successful candidates to begin their new roles, we would like to make sure that they have a good support network. I'm sure we all remember that feeling when you start a new job, often in a new school or a new Local Authority; it's hard to feel in charge when you have to ask where everything is. Many new appointees will have built up good networks already, but having someone nearby who knows who it is in the LA you need to contact for the best HR advice can be invaluable.

If you would be prepared to help someone new to their position, please would you contact catherinemcmahon@rcdow.org.uk

GovernorHub

GovernorHub is the only way we have of communicating with all governors in the diocese. Please make sure that the details on it are correct and that you check it regularly.

Appointing foundation governors / directors

Please remember that guidance for appointing foundation governors and directors can be found on the diocesan website and on governor hub.

Courses for Governors in the Spring term

Date / Time	Course Title / Overview	Booking Links
<p>Wednesday 8th June</p> <p>Monday 13th June</p> <p>Wednesday 15th June</p>	<p>New Governors Induction Course (Three Sessions) –</p> <p>Course Aim: The AIM of this course is to address the main issues that will be faced by a new (or nearly new) governor. This course takes place over three sessions.</p> <p>Course Content: Governance in a Catholic context. Understanding the language of governance. Committees and school visits. Legal duties and responsibilities. Strategic v Operational issues.</p> <p>Target Audience: Newly appointed governors.</p> <p>Course Lead: Deb Long</p>	<p>Booking Link</p>
<p>Tuesday 28th June</p> <p>Thursday 30th June</p>	<p>New Chair of Governor Training Course (Two Sessions) –</p> <p>Course Aim: The AIM of this course is to provide new Chairs of Governors (and others) in Catholic schools with the knowledge and expertise to manage this important role with confidence.</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A reminder of the three core functions and six key features of effective governance of a Catholic school. 2. The key responsibilities of the Chair of Governors in a Catholic school including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensuring effective functioning of the board and strategic focus – Setting expectations 3. Providing leadership & direction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Working as an effective team – Key relationships including Headteacher, Diocese, Local Authority and Trust 4. Knowing how to drive improvement in your board so that your board can drive improvement in your school and being a Chair of a Catholic school in challenging times. <p>Target Audience: Newly appointed Chairs, Co-Chairs or Vice-Chairs.</p> <p>Course Lead: Deb Long</p>	<p>Booking Link</p>

Caritas Update

Responding to the crisis caused by the war in Ukraine

Our communities have responded generously to the needs of refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine by providing goods and financial donations. **Now we turn our minds to hosting Ukrainian refugees who come to the UK.** This document addresses key points, what is needed and how best to respond. Please read CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network) document [here](#) from which much of the following is taken.

Prayer Is Essential

Loving God,

We pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world.

Amen.

(<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/A-prayer-for-Ukraine>)



Donate

We recommend donating money to CAFOD (who are a part of the Disasters Emergency Committee). CAFOD will be working through partners including our sister organisations Caritas Ukraine and Caritas Poland, on the ground. Please note we do not advise donating or transporting goods. See more [here](#)

How can schools respond to the War in Ukraine?

Schools of Sanctuary - Recording of Asylum Seeker and Refugee Response Network Meeting

If you would like to learn more about making your school even more of a place of sanctuary migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, as well as learning about:

- The new DOWES Inspection Framework
- The Schools of Sanctuary Programme and how you can take part
- Newman Catholic College's amazing work as a School of Sanctuary
- Notre Dame Refugee Centre's support of Afghan women in a bridging hotel
- How you might upskill staff members with an ESOL qualification, or welcome an ESOL practitioner to your school.

The video is available [here](#)

In the video you will see fantastic presentations from:

- Tony Gorton – Diocese of Westminster Education Service
- Megan Greenwood – Schools of Sanctuary
- Anjali Saran – Newman Catholic College
- Ines Ignasse – Notre Dame Refugee Centre
- Rahel Daniel – Twin UK (ESOL Provider)



Sponsoring a Ukrainian refugee (or family) as an individual - 'Homes For Ukraine'

This Government scheme allows British people to host a refugee family in their homes for six months or more. We encourage this but only after careful consideration. We recommend that people find out as much as possible about both the practicalities and other possible impacts of hosting refugees.

- The government has FAQs regarding the practicalities on its website [here](#)
- The [Jesuit Refugee Service](#) (JRS) have been supporting people to host refugees for many years.
- Get in touch with a local refugee support group or charity, who will be able to advise you.
- Caritas Westminster is looking into providing training through JRS on hosting – so get in touch with your local Caritas Development Worker, you can find their details [here](#)

To Sign Up

The Government scheme is open to those who already know a refugee family they would like to host. Most people will not be in this category. However even though you don't know a Ukrainian person you can still host. Do this by registering your interest. We recommend RESET (a leading Community Sponsorship of Refugees charity) who have a website where individuals can register to be matched with Ukrainian person or family. Find details [here](#)

To Sponsor refugees as a Community Group

The Government scheme and the RESET website mentioned above are only set up for individuals who wish to sponsor (although organisations can register their interest on the RESET page. Now is the time for your parish to consider taking part in the general Community Sponsorship scheme, and work towards finding a home and a welcome for a refugee family from Afghanistan, Syria, Ethiopia, Yemen... Go [here](#) to find out more, and contact your Caritas Westminster Development worker too!

The Parish Community

Even though accommodation will necessarily be provided by an individual household the involvement of the parish community is still required. Skills such as befriending, catering, introduction to local amenities and schools will be needed.

Remember Ukrainians already present in the UK

Where there are Ukrainians already in your communities, be aware of their needs, both pastoral and physical.

- Many Ukrainians are in the UK on temporary visas and should be able to get these extended – they will need to check the advice and act quickly.
- Ukrainians on visas which do not allow them to apply for benefits (No Recourse to Public Funds) may be particularly vulnerable, for example of becoming homeless, or being exploited. See the link above for signs that someone is being enslaved.
- Ukrainians will be anxious to bring their family members over and the Government has set up a scheme to allow this, but it will not apply to everyone – see the information on the CSAN resource [here](#)

Primary and Secondary School's Resources

Visit our webpage to access schools' resources, jointly produced with the SVP and JRS, to reflect with your pupils on how to welcome migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. Click [here](#)

Be Conscious of the Risk of human trafficking

On Tuesday, an open letter was sent from a group of organisations working in the field of Human Trafficking. It was signed by Karen Anstiss, manager of Caritas Bakhita House. The letter highlighted the risk that those who have fled Ukraine, to Poland and Romania, may be at risk of being trafficked for the purposes of exploitation and slavery. As always please be vigilant of the signs of human trafficking and modern slavery, which can be found on our website [here](#)

Volunteering to help refugees in the UK

Not everyone can host a refugee, but we need people to help support a refugee or asylum seeker.

We are able to help find volunteering roles and anyone interested should fill in this form [here](#) (NB - this form was originally created to help find volunteers to support Afghans arriving last summer, but it is a general form for anyone wishing to volunteer with refugees.)

The Nationality and Borders Bill

The House of Lords has voted against key clauses of the Government's Nationality and Borders Bill. The Bill will soon return to the House of Commons, where the Government is likely to reject many or all of the Lords' proposed amendments. JRS UK has produced a briefing asking MPs to support the Lords' amendment to prevent the creation of differential treatment of refugees depending on how they arrived in the UK. We urge people to write to their MPs on this matter. The JRS briefing can be found [here](#)

"Up-skilling" those who provide pastoral support in your school

Please pass information about the following training events onto anyone in your school who is involved in pastoral support, particularly working with those who are struggling financially or who are looking for dignified work.

Managing Utilities - Information Session

Thursday 24 March 10:00-11:15am

This information session will be useful for anyone in a parish, school, SVP or outreach project supporting people who are struggling financially, especially with utilities bills.

Hosted by Caritas Westminster, and delivered by the Head of Financial Inclusion at Advice 4 Renters Money, and advisers from National Energy Advice and Green Doctors. [Find out more](#)

Stepping Stones – supporting people back into work

Caritas Westminster is partnering with Homelessness Charity The Upper Room to deliver a training course for those working with people who are homeless or otherwise struggling and finding it hard to get dignified, decently paid work. Participants will learn useful information and skills to enable them to help people back into work. This is a one year course with sessions once a month. Find out more [here](#) and [here](#)

Firm Foundations – accompanying people out of debt

Firm Foundations, a year-long **financial resilience** programme designed to support churches, schools and community projects to reach the most marginalised, particularly people trapped in debt and other financial difficulties. Hear from the Chaplain of NCC talking about his experience [here](#).

Collective Imagining of a Brighter, more Caritastic Future based on Catholic Social Teaching

When there is so much negativity in the world, it is so important that we accompany young people to look forward in hope. Caritas Westminster is developing a quality resource to inspire young people to dream big about a future that is good for community and for the planet, as well as take some small steps to make changes in their community. Please let us know if you would like to help with the planning and preparation. Please email francesmoore@rcdow.org.uk

In the meantime, if you haven't already, please ask us about our Caritas Ambassador programme, for both primary and secondary schools. It aims to equip pupils with a strong understanding of **Catholic Social Teaching** and how we can put it into action in our daily lives. For more information see our website: [here](#)

The Caritas Volunteer Service

We like to encourage volunteering at this time of year, as an alternative to the traditional “giving something up” for lent. Now that all restrictions caused by the pandemic are over, it is an especially good time to take up volunteering. The Caritas Volunteer Service supports people every step of the way.

- please promote our one-to-one sessions with the Volunteer Coordinator, which can take place by Zoom or phone - details below.
- Alternatively use the following or similar message in your newsletters:
If you want to start volunteering this Lent, the Caritas Volunteer Service is here to help. We aim to make volunteering as easy as possible for the Catholic community in London and Hertfordshire. Go to www.caritasvs.org.uk to find the perfect opportunity for you.

Caritas Deaf Service

The Caritas Deaf Service is helping enable the full participation of Deaf people in our communities throughout Lent and Easter, with Signed Stations of the Cross each Friday afternoon at Westminster Cathedral, and all the Holy Week services at Maria Assumpta Chapel in Kensington Square. Do ensure that any Deaf people in your community are aware of this valuable service. Find out more [here](#)

Building Community, Building Peace through Food

Tuesday 26th April 2022, 11:00 - 12:30; Online

This is an opportunity for anyone involved with a school, parish or community food project to meet and share ideas and best practice. At this event we will hear from Niki Psarias, Caritas Westminster's new lead staff member on Food. She will be sharing her experience of the link between food and community-building. The meeting is open to anyone who is interested, and you can find out more and register here::

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/diocese-of-westminster-caritas-food-collective-tickets-251164338297?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Symbols of Faith

Caritas St Joseph's is facilitating a Symbols of Faith Workshop, hosted by the parish of St Mary and St Michael, Commercial Road, on Saturday 30th April 10am-2pm. This workshop offers parents, priests and catechists creative insights and ideas on the faith formation and sacramental preparation of people with learning disabilities. For information and booking, or to find out about other upcoming Symbols of Faith workshops, please contact Gail Williams, email: gailwilliams@rcdow.org.uk or phone: 020 8202 3999.

SPEC Update

Synodality

It's the hot topic at the moment and something we are all talking about

But what does it really mean?

Where has it come from and how can it impact our lives and what we do?

John Stayne of Cor et Lumen Christi community, will be joining us to share some of the basis of the term, how it affects us and how we can work to understand it more. This will be a really exciting session full of conversation and the chance to share with one another- we'd love you to join us! Sign up [HERE](#)

YOU'RE INVITED! TO AN ONLINE SESSION WITH: John Stayne

**WHAT IS SYNODALITY &
WHY DOES IT MATTER?**



for more details or to book on
email : youth@rcow.org.uk

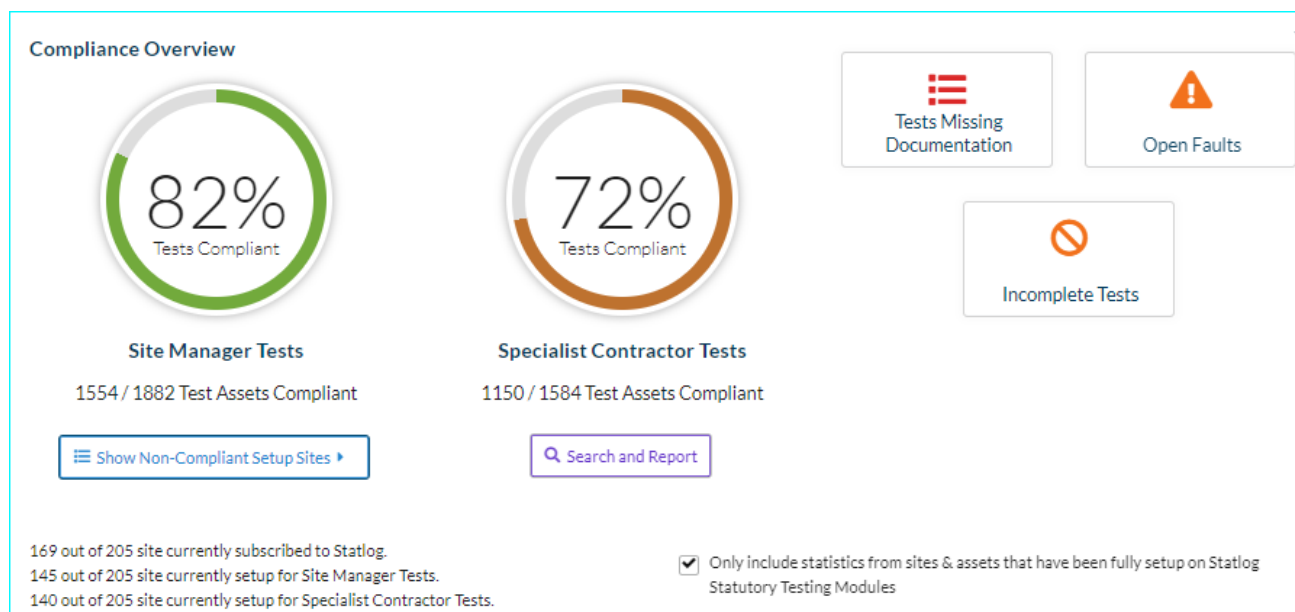
**24.03.22
10.00-1.00**



Capital and PPP Update

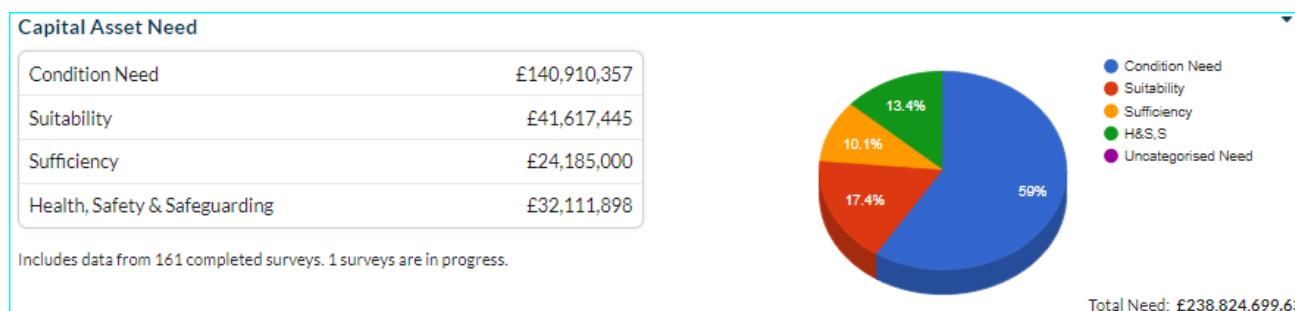
Capital

Statlog – Statutory Compliance



The number of schools completing Site Manager Tests is currently 1 less than last reported. This relates to the Structural Issues at a school in Hertfordshire that is currently unable to occupy its site.

Statlog – Condition Surveys



7 Licenced Schools have not been surveyed. Leaders and Governors are encouraged to address this matter urgently. Without a compliant Statlog Survey on file, the needs of your school will not be included in the ranked list of potential projects. If you are one of these schools, please contact your retained Buildings Consultant immediately.

Project Manager Lite (PML)

Colleagues continue to grow in confidence using this Statlog Module.

If you need support with Statlog, please contact nigelspears@rcdow.org.uk (07738183828) or helpdesk@statlog.co.uk (03331123133)

For full transparency and audit purposes, all elements of the Statlog Process must be recorded electronically. If a contractor fails to provide their quotation in the required format, their submission cannot be accepted. Please work with contractors and help them to understand our requirements and/or contact the above for assistance.

Priority School Building Programme

Project managers continue to monitor the progress of schools in this scheme.

School Rebuilding Programme (SRP) 2022

The application window is closed. We now await the Governments decision. This is expected later in the year.

Insurance of Land and Buildings

Thank you to those colleagues who have provided evidence of a positive engagement with the RPA. As explained during last week's Head Teacher Briefings, our concerns relate to the possibility of insufficient funding being available via the RPA if a major incident occurs in a building that is occupied by a contractor and school users. We have been advised that the RPA cover limit in that situation is limited to £250K. Colleagues are working with the RPA to secure further information on their limitations. Further information will be provided in due course.

If you have any questions, please email Nigel Spears nigelspears@rcdow.org.uk.

RAAC – Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete

The Government has issued a questionnaire on this subject that has been directed to Responsible Bodies. Returns are due back at the end of the month. We have contacted all Diocesan Approved Consultants seeking assurances that RAAC is not present in any of the schools they manage. Last week, information on this product was shared with the Heads who attended the briefing sessions. If you were not in attendance, please contact your buildings consultant to identify any issues you may have.

Government guidance on RAAC can be found: [Here](#) - (RAAC Guidance Link)

Currently, one of our primary schools is unable to use its assigned building because of RAAC. Issues with the product have created a significant risk and the Trustees have been advised that it is unsafe to permit occupation. We are working with the DfE and the RSC to confirm options for resolving the issue. Currently, the focus is on temporary accommodation and then we will concentrate on building refurbishment/replacement.

Pupil Placement Planning**1st Planner Project**

The circulation of school specific reports is slightly delayed whilst the team focuses on the submission of the Salix Reports (see below). We are now expecting that school level data will be released in April and May. Once

all of the reports have been issued, there will be opportunities for clusters of schools and academies to meet with Nigel Spears and 1st Planner colleagues to review local data and explore options for the future.

Decarbonisation

Salix – Heat Decarbonisation Plans

Our Heat Decarbonisation Plans will be submitted to Salix this week. The submission is currently being reviewed to errors or omissions (quality control). Thank you to all of the schools that engaged in this first round of plan preparation. The reports are extensive, detailed and complex. Next term, Zeco will be meeting with small groups of schools so that the reports can be unpacked. If you are unable to participate on your allotted date, please notify the team and they may be able to add your school to another group. The initial meetings will be targeted at operational staff (Heads, SBMs and SPMs). Information for the executive (Governors and Academy Trustees) will follow.

Other Approved Initiatives

Condition Data Collection (CDC)

The Government has commenced the latest round of its Condition Data Collection process. It is a quinquennial programme and this round builds on the two that preceded it. Schools will be contacted by surveyors appointed by the Government. This process is monitored by the Education Service, but we do not normally attend any of the engagement sessions. The surveyors are expected to contact you in advance of any proposed site visit. Please contact nigelspears@rcdow.org.uk if you have any questions about this process. If we receive advanced notification of a block of visits, we will publish that list in the bulletin.

Insurance Validation

The Catholic Insurance Service and Zurich have commissioned an audit and appraisal of schools insured via the CIS. The Diocesan Trustees are paying for this initiative and targeted schools will be approached by a company called Charterfields. If your school is targeted during this initiative, please supply Charterfields with the data and access they required.

Smart Meter Pilot

The DfE has advised us that they are undertaking work to try to encourage schools which have analogue electric meters to convert to a smart meter, to enable the automatic collection of energy consumption data. They have been in conversations with EDF and more recently SSE and SSE has identified some Catholic schools who they wish to invite to participate in a pilot. The two identified schools in our Diocese are:

- Blessed Sacrament Primary School URN100451
- Our Lady and St Joseph School URN100264

If building work is required to fit a Smart Meter, the DfE will offer a grant of up to £2,500 for each meter. And, each participating school will receive £100.00 towards the costs of their participation in the pilot.

If the work involved is less than £2,000.00 nett, this work can be undertaken a “Maintenance”. Otherwise, a locally managed Statlog Project will be necessary to ensure appropriate approvals are given