



WITNESS

to the word



15th November 2023

Autumn 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

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Leadership and Governance Updates are [here](#)

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SPEC Updates are [here](#)

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

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Day and Time	Course	Booking Link
Tuesday 21 st November 3.45pm to 5.00pm	2nd in Charge of RE Updates and Sharing Online Forum Course Aim: The aim of this course is to explain to teachers who are 2nd in charge of RE diocesan and national updates and give them an opportunity to share good practice and network Course Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide relevant and useful updates regarding RE. To provide an opportunity for advisors to address any question or concerns regarding RE. To provide time to share good practice and network with other 2nd in charge of RE. Target Audience: 2nd in Charge of RE.	Click Here: Booking Link
Wednesday 22 nd November 3.45pm to 5.00pm	RJED Updates and Sharing Online Forum – Getting Others Involved Course Aim: The aim of this course is to provide diocese RJED updates and signpost to relevant resources and training and share good practice in regards to the diocesan Headteachers RJED pledges focusing on 'Getting Others Involved.' Course Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide diocese RJED updates and signpost to relevant resources and training. To provide an opportunity for advisors to address any question or concerns regarding RJED. To provide time to share good practice in regards to 'Getting Others. Target Audience: RJED Coordinators	Click Here: Booking Link

<p>Thursday 23rd November</p> <p>9.30am to 3.30pm</p>	<p>Heads of RE Day Conference</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to provide Heads of RE with relevant and useful training, and practical ideas so they can excel in their roles and have an opportunity support one another and network.</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide relevant and useful training from experts that will support Heads of RE in leading their RE Department. To provide practical suggestions to develop teaching and learning in RE. To provide opportunities to share good practice and network. <p>Target Audience: Secondary Heads of RE.</p> <p>Venue: Diocese of Westminster, Vaughan House, SW1P 1QN.</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
<p>Tuesday 28th November</p> <p>9.30am to 3.30pm</p>	<p>EYFS Planning Workshop for new RED (Branch 3&4)</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to understand the content of the RED for EYFS and Develop Planning for Branches 3 and 4 (Galilee to Jerusalem & Desert to Garden).</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide an opportunity to develop subject knowledge for Branches 3 & 4 and explore a suggested planning approach. To provide Sharing of resources for new RED. To provide time to produce plans with colleagues to implement in school. <p>Target Audience: EYFS Practitioners (teachers, nursery nurses, TAs), EYFS Leads, RECs.</p> <p>Location: London Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, London, W1K 3AH.</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
<p>Tuesday 28th November</p> <p>3.45pm to 5.00pm</p>	<p>Chaplains Updates and Sharing Online Forum</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to explain to Chaplains diocesan and national updates and give them an opportunity to ask questions, share good practice and network</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide relevant and useful updates regarding chaplaincy. To provide an opportunity for advisors to address any question or concerns regarding chaplaincy. To provide time to share good practice and network with other chaplains. <p>Target Audience: Chaplains and Liturgy Coordinators.</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>

<p>Monday 4th December 9.30am to 3.30pm</p>	<p>Primary and Secondary Prayer and Liturgy Online Day Conference</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to provide schools with relevant and useful training in regards to Prayer and Liturgy and give participants the opportunity to share good practice and network.</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide relevant and useful training from experts that will help support Prayer and Liturgy within school community. To provide practical suggestions to develop Prayer and Liturgy. To provide opportunities to share good practice and network. <p>Target Audience: Headteachers, RECs, Primary and Liturgy Coordinator, Chaplains, Senior Teachers in Catholic Life and Mission.</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
<p>Tuesday 5th December 3.45pm to 5.00pm</p>	<p>Primary RSE Sharing Twilight Session</p> <p>Time: 3.45pm to 5.00pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to collaborate with other RSE leads in to share experience and good practice</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Diocesan Updates on RSE. Model and share examples of activities and best practice. Provide opportunities to discuss emerging issues. <p>Audience: Primary RSE coordinators</p> <p>Location: Online Course</p> <p>Course Lead: Tony Hall</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
<p>Tuesday 12th December 3.45pm to 5.00pm</p>	<p>Secondary RSE Sharing Twilight Session</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to collaborate with other RSE leads in to share experience and good practice</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Diocesan Updates on RSE. Model and share examples of activities and best practice. Provide opportunities to discuss emerging issues. <p>Audience: Secondary RSE coordinators</p> <p>Location: Online Course</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>

<p>Tuesday 12th December 3.45pm to 5.00pm</p>	<p>Understanding the Theology</p> <p>Session 3: Understanding the Theology – Year 7 Branch 2</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to ensure non-specialist RE teachers understand the theology in Year 7 in Branch 3</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide an engaging explanation of the theology in Year 7 across Branch 3. • To provide Opportunities to ask questions to develop understanding of the Catholic beliefs and practices in Year 7 across Branch 3. • To provide practical suggestions for teaching Year 7 across Branch 3. <p>Target Audience: Secondary non-specialist RE teachers.</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
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CCRS

Are you aspiring to Senior Leadership in a Catholic School?

Are you a teacher or teaching assistant, teaching RE, and need an introduction to theology to support your work?

CCRS can develop your knowledge of subjects covered in Religious Education and can also support your teaching in accordance with the RED. We are a supportive learning community for all staff members.

There are spaces in a group, starting Module 2 in January 2024. It will run online on a Thursday from 4-6pm.

Please get in touch by email if you are interested in joining this group or if you would like to learn more about this certificated course.

New groups will commence in September 2024, running on a Monday and Saturday.

Thank you to all the senior leaders who are supporting their staff in undertaking this course.

Margaret Hanley, CCRS Co-ordinator, ccrs@rcdow.org.uk

Leadership and Governance Update

Leadership

As the Department for Education publishes its latest guidance on mental health and well-being, [Promoting and supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-and-supporting-mental-health-and-wellbeing-in-schools-and-colleges) we remind you of the article we published in the last witness to the word which highlighted the work being done by St Vincent's Mill Hill in this area. Their [blog](#) describes their work.

Many of you will know that we work in partnership with Aquinas Education who sponsor many of our events and promote our training. If you are advertising vacancies, they may well contact you. There is no pressure from us to you to take their calls- but they may be able to help you.

Governance

As ever, and increasingly as we head towards the Spring term which is prime interview time, please make sure that the Diocese is contacted as soon as you know you will be advertising for a Senior Leader. The [CES expectations](#) are that the Diocesan Representative is present throughout the process, and especially for shortlisting and the interview itself. Please liaise with us around dates so that we can ensure we can support you.

Thank you to all of you who have already signed up to attend the Chairs of Governors meeting next week. The details are on Governorhub, and the link is [here](#)

Day and Time	Course	Booking Link
Thursday 16 th November 5.30pm to 7.00pm	<p>RSE Updates for Link Governors Online Course</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to provide governors with key information to enable them to fulfill their responsibilities in relation to RSE</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide the opportunity to explore key documentation relating to RSE within a Catholic school. To provide the opportunity to explore CSI and diocesan expectations in relation to RSE. To provide the opportunity to discuss emerging issues relating to RSE and available support and guidance. <p>Target Audience: Governors (Particularly those with responsibility for RSE).</p>	Click Here: Booking Link

RE and Catholic Life Resources

Pope Francis Prayer Intentions: November



Intention for evangelisation – For the Pope

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER INTENTIONS (Based on the liturgical year)	Liturgical Colour
Deeper Understanding Between Christians and Jews	GREEN
Those Who Suffer Persecution	
Those Who Suffer Oppression	
Those Who Suffer Denial of Human Rights	
Europe	
Human Life	
Seafarers	

LITURGICAL YEAR	NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS
November <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Albert the Great (15th) St Margaret of Scotland (16th) Presentation of Mary (21st) St Cecilia (22nd) St Andrew (30th) 	November <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day for Tolerance (16th) World Day of the Poor (17th) World Toilet Day (19th) Universal Children's Day (20th) Carers' Rights Day (21st) International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25th) <p>Month of Remembrance Remembrance Sunday is the beginning of Interfaith Week.</p>

PRAYER INTENTIONS during Advent and Christmastide (Based on the Liturgical Year)	Liturgical Colour
Migrants and Refugees (Migrants' day - 3 rd December)	PURPLE
Openness to the Word of God (Bible Sunday – 2 nd Sunday in Advent)	
Expectant Mothers (especially on 4 th Sunday)	

The Month of Remembrance

The month of November is traditionally dedicated in the Catholic Church to honouring the dead and relieving the sufferings of the souls in purgatory.

A Prayer of Remembrance

God, thank you for the people in our lives whom we are remembering in a special way during the month of November.

We thank you for being a compassionate God who walks with us in dark moments of grief and loneliness.

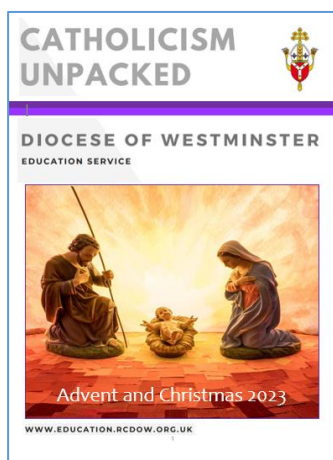
We are thankful for all who continue to love and support us through our grief.

Lord, continue to be a light for us, giving us hope, direction and courage.

May we now live our lives treasuring the memories of those special people we have known and loved and help us to bring light and hope to others.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord,

Amen.



Advent

Advent will begin on **3rd December** this year. To support schools with this, an updated Catholicism Unpacked resource will be shared with soon. Please look out for this and share it with members of your community as this will support understanding of prayer and liturgy during Advent as well as subject knowledge. This resource and others can be found [HERE](#).

Advent is a time to:

1. Prepare for the Solemnities of Christmas in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered
2. As we remember this, we prepare our hearts and minds for the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time

During this time, we hear in the readings about the promise of the Messiah in the prophecies of the Old Testament and the preparation of Mary and John the Baptist. It is a time of joyful expectation.

The crib is used as a symbol for reflection during this season and believers often attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation and say the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. This season lasts until Christmas Eve.

The World Day of the Poor: A Message of Hope

*"..whenever we encounter a poor person, we cannot look away,
for that would prevent us from encountering the face of the Lord Jesus."*

World Day of the Poor Message, 2023

World Day of the Poor, established by Pope Francis, falls on Sunday, November 19, 2023. This day serves as a direct call to action inspired by the Gospel's message of compassion and service to those less fortunate. It is a reminder of our Christian duty to reach out to the poor and marginalized and engage in acts of charity, love, and inclusion.

The World Day of the Poor underscores the importance of breaking down the barriers that perpetuate poverty and marginalization. It encourages all members of the Catholic community, as well as society, to engage in meaningful conversations and concrete actions that seek to empower the poor and restore their dignity.

Read the Pope's message for World Day of the Poor - [Click Here](#).

[What can you do?](#)

[Pray a novena based on scripture](#)

Look at this novena for the World Day of the Poor by Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN), which is offered to help us prayerfully encounter in scripture God's constant care for those who are in various forms of poverty and to prompt in us a desire for more just relations in the community. [World Day of the Poor 2023 - Caritas Social Action Network - CSAN](#). Prayers for an end to poverty - [Click Here](#)

Christmas Card Competition

We are excited to launch our **Diocesan Christmas Card Competition 2023**. The theme this year is

*'For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'*
(Isaiah 9:5-6)

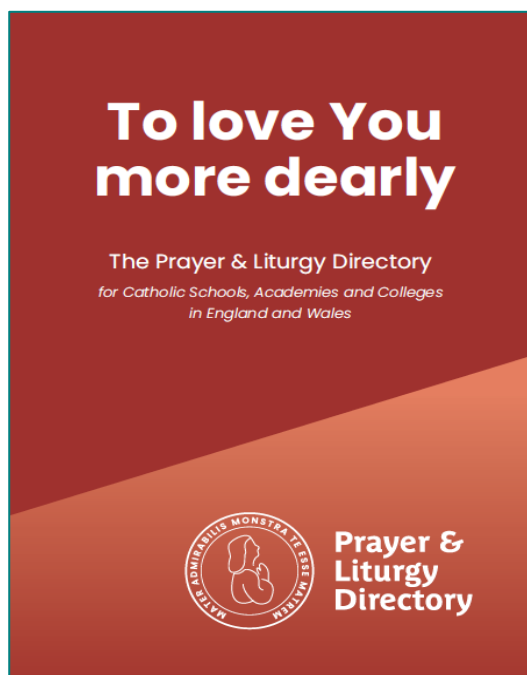
Instructions:

1. Ask pupils to design a Christmas card using this theme, as appropriate to their age. (It can be any medium but must not include the pupils' names)
2. Choose **ONE CARD** from each key stage and take a high-quality photo of it.
3. Copy the photo into the attached powerpoint template ensuring it is the correct size.
4. Add the required information - **pupil's first name, key stage, school and deanery** next to the photo on the powerpoint template.
5. Attach the powerpoint template to an email and send it to claireoneill@rcdow.org.uk
6. Any entries that are submitted not using this format will be returned.

Closing date - **Friday 8th December by 5:30pm**

We really hope that your pupils enjoy participating in these competitions. All work shared will be celebrated on our website and entrants will receive a certificate. Their work may also be shared in our newsletter and on social media.

Prayer and Liturgy Directory Updates



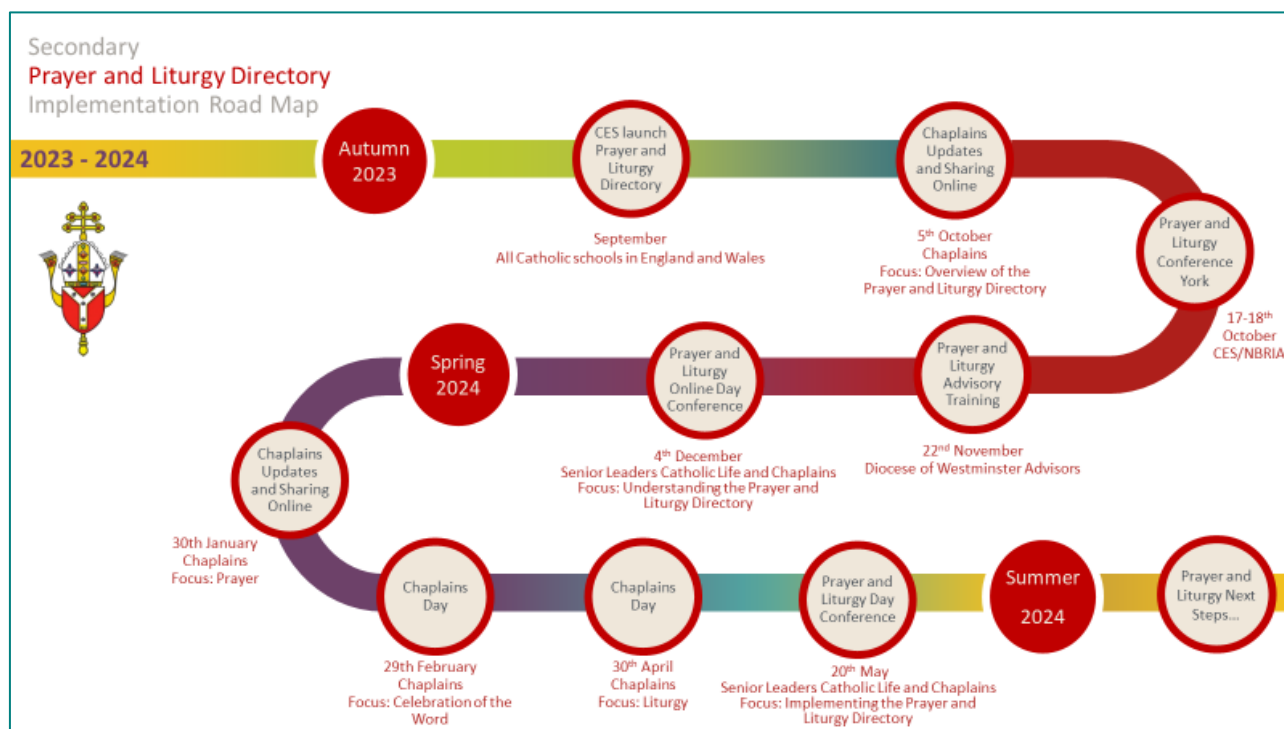
We are delighted to announce that the NEW Prayer and Liturgy Directory has now been launched. It is an important and informative document which aims to enhance the excellent practices that already exist for Prayer and Liturgy within our schools and across the diocese. Please click [HERE](#) for the Prayer and Liturgy Directory or you can order a print copy [HERE](#)

To support our schools, the Education Service will be providing training on understanding the Prayer and Liturgy Directory and on ways to implement it in your schools. Please do ensure your REC, Chaplains and Senior Leaders in Charge of Catholic Life attended these training opportunities:

Essential Training: 4th December - An introduction to the new Prayer and Liturgy Directory - Understanding and Unpacking the Directory. Online, Full Day [Booking Here](#)

20th May - Implementing the Prayer and Liturgy Directory - In person, Full Day (Booking link to come)

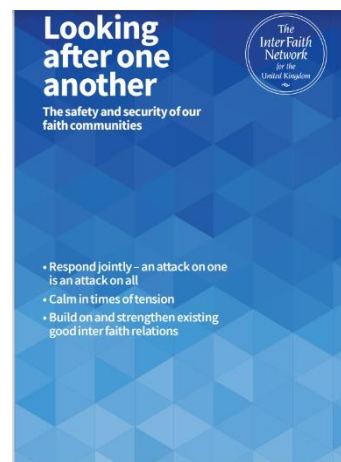
Here is the Secondary Road Map for the Prayer and Liturgy Directory:



The Inter Faith Network – Looking after one another

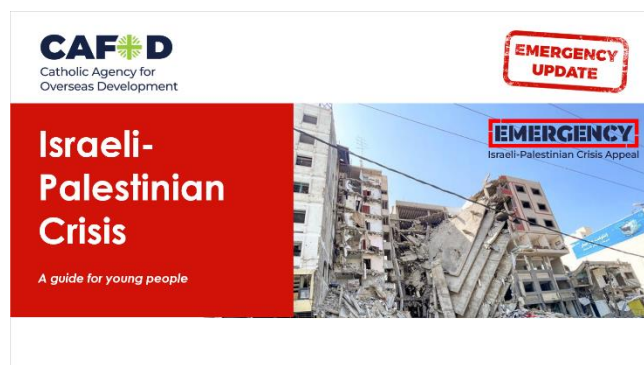
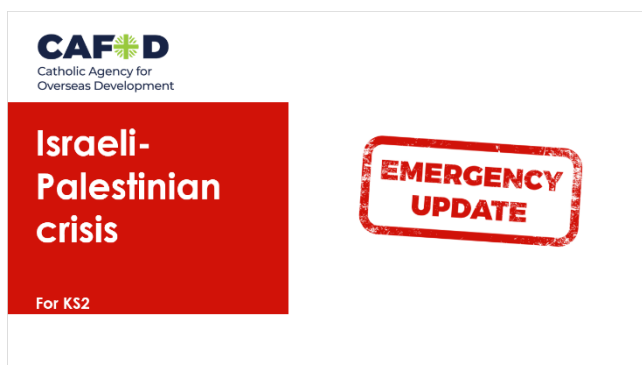
In general, the UK is a place where there are good inter faith relations and where there is respect for the traditions of different faiths and for the beliefs and practices of different communities and for their places of worship.

In times of tension, however, faith communities may find themselves vulnerable in a number of ways. These short guidelines have been produced by the Inter Faith Network for the UK and can be found [here](#)



CAFOD - Israeli – Palestine Crisis Resources

Please find [here](#) a KS2 powerpoint to help children find out how CAFOD is responding and to pray for people affected by the Israeli-Palestinian crisis. Please find a secondary school version for young people [here](#).



The God Who Speaks

November God who Speaks [updates](#)

This month our focus is on: [All Saints and All Souls](#)

Calling all Artists! [Made in God's Image Art Exhibition](#) coming soon

Get inspired with [World Science Day](#) on **Thursday 09 November 2023** with Science and Scripture series

Our latest article looks at [Evolution and the Bible](#)

Read the final article in our timely [Good Work series](#) on the power of Sundays

We continue with our [November Sunday Reflections](#)

Taking Liturgy Seriously 2

Following the successful TLS1 course, a general introduction to Catholic Liturgy, a 2023 modular study course, taking place on Thursday evenings via Zoom, will focus on all aspects of Eucharist. Each module will comprise three one-hour sessions, 7.30-8.30pm, offering time for discussion and comments. The course is aimed at all who wish to develop a deeper knowledge of liturgy.

MODULE 1 EUCHARIST – Monsignor KEVIN MCGINNELL

- Exploring the theology and meaning of the Eucharist.
- The history of its development to the present day.
- Ars celebrandi in the Roman and other rites. Some ecumenical reflections.

9, 16, 23 February

MODULE 2 WORD of PRAYER – Reverend Professor PETER McGRIL

- Collects and other Orations – their development and origins.
- Eucharistic Prayers with their Prefaces. Thoughts from the Ambrosian Rite.
- Penitential Rites, Blessings and the Common of the Mass.

16, 23, 30 March

MODULE 3 WORD of GOD – MARTIN FOSTER

- The proclamation of the Word of God, the use of psalms.
- The use and development of Lectionaries.
- The current Roman Lectionary. Some ideas on the Revised Common Lectionary.

27 April, 4, 11 May

MODULE 4 SYMBOL – Father PAUL TURNER

- Symbol and Theology.
- Bread and Wine.
- Gesture and posture for celebrant and people.

8, 15, 22 June

Taking Liturgy Seriously 2 - Eucharist

MODULE 5 MUSIC in the Mass – MARTIN BARRY

- The forms and functions of music in the Mass.
- Liturgical music in Christian history.
- Reform and renewal in music for the Mass.

21, 28 September, 5 October

MODULE 6 ENVIRONMENT – ANN BLACKETT

- Building and space for worship – an historical overview.
- Altar, ambo, chair – how they speak in worship.
- Liturgical vessels, vestments, art – yesterday and today.

16, 23, 30 November

Red Wednesday – 22nd November Livestream: 9.30am -10.30am

A livestream for primary schools with the charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) on #RedWednesday will take place on 22nd November and you are invited to tune in to this exciting event. We would love as many schools as possible to participate and to hear about the amazing work of ACN. The livestream is taking place in collaboration with the Mark 10 Mission.

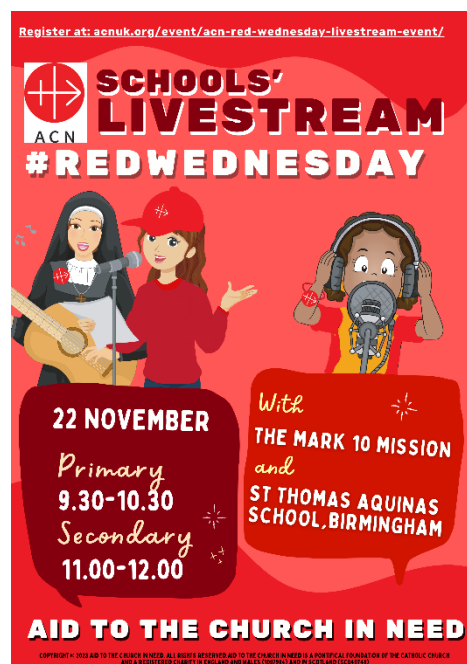
There will be a short liturgy, games, segments where the team 'go live' to schools around the country, information, music, Q&A and a call to 'mission'. ACN has been described as 'Catholic Social Teaching in action' and this is a fabulous opportunity for the children to witness the mission of the Church lived locally and globally.

Find out more about Red Wednesday and resources available for use in your schools [here](#)

The link for ACN's online assembly to accompany this event is below. This resource (which is referenced to 'To know you more clearly': Religious Education Directory (RED) and the Catholic Self-Evaluation Document) can be used as an assembly to support teaching about #RedWednesday across Key Stage 2 and to encourage pupils to commit to action through prayer and fundraising. Equally, the materials may support a specific lesson in KS2 focusing on the work of a Christian Charity.

LIVESTREAM: [Aid to the Church in Need | #RW Schools Livestream event \(acnuk.org\)](#) please register here

If you would like any further information about this initiative and/or ACN's work in schools, please contact rachel.buckley@acnuk.org who would be delighted to meet you and explain more about the charity.

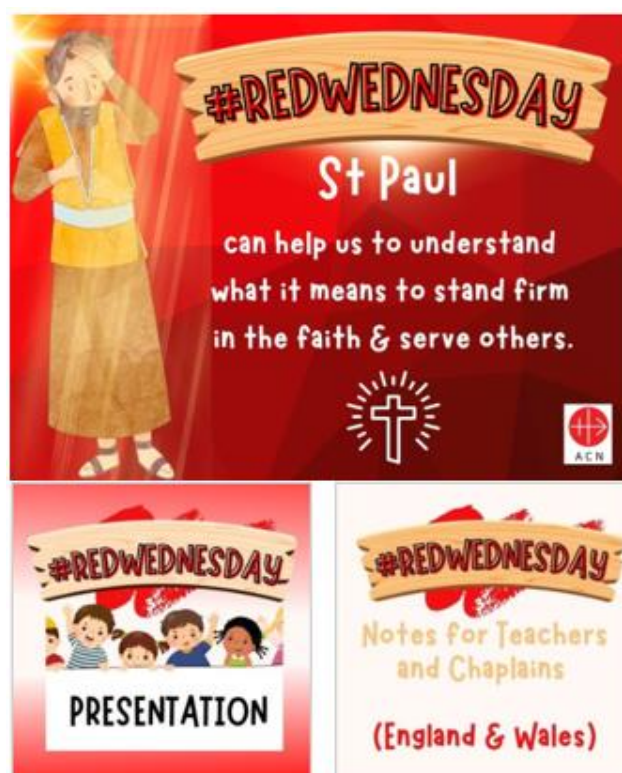


Primary Schools

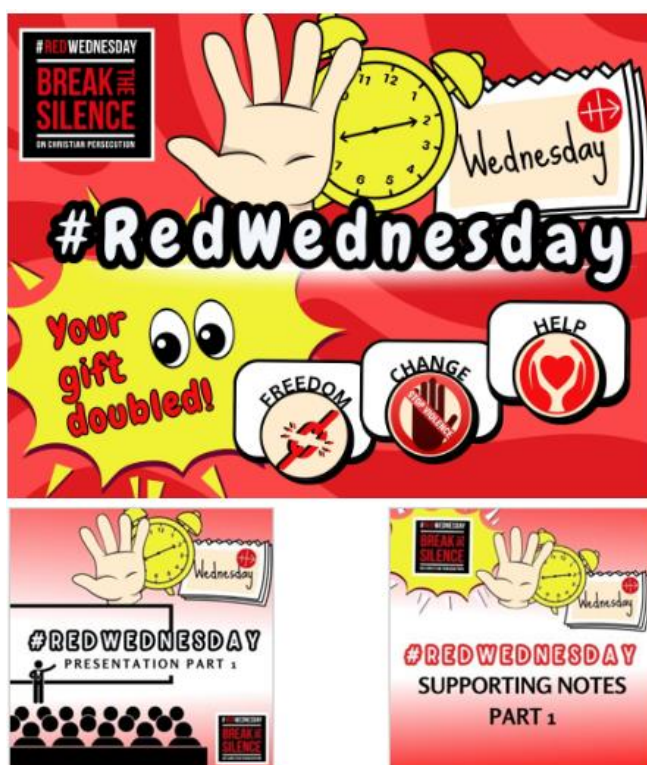
#RedWednesday occurs on 22nd November 2023. Schools will be able to make use of this assembly to support teaching about #RedWednesday across Key Stage 2 and to encourage pupils to commit to action through prayer and fundraising.

The materials may support further engagement with the [LIVE STREAM](#) event. Equally, the materials may support a specific lesson in KS2 focusing on the work of a Christian Charity.

The primary materials talk about religious freedom, without going into the detail about religious persecution and encourage children to reflect on the fact that they can express their faith publicly without fear. They will come to realise, through engagement with these materials, that this is not the case for children across the world.



Secondary Schools



Prepare your students for **#RedWednesday** (22nd November 2023) with this brand-new assembly presentation. This personal invitation from ACN to each member of your community will help your students understand why religious freedom is an inalienable human right.

Margaret Attah's experience of religiously motivated violence is explored, and her faith and courage in the midst of such cruelty serve as a reminder to all not to be complacent about the freedoms we enjoy. Including videos, photographs and thoughtful questions, this resource explains not just how but why 'Breaking the Silence' is necessary.

With slide-by-slide explanations, the Supporting Notes give detailed instructions to enable this presentation to be completely student-led. The second presentation (Part 2), shows four ACN projects in Africa. This will help your students understand ACN's work and allow them to more fully grasp how their fundraising becomes a lifeline for others.

The Travelling Crib at Lambeth

4 - 8 December 2023

Join the characters of the Nativity on the journey to Bethlehem,
at this very special workshop experience in the gardens of Lambeth Palace.
Outdoor Advent themed education workshops suitable for KS1 & KS2

Workshop 1 10:00 - 12:00
Workshop 2 12:30-14:30

To find out more and book your place
schools@wintershall.org.uk



www.wintershall.org.uk



CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP 20 FORMATION PROGRAMME 24

Tomorrow's leaders need
to be prepared today.

Lower-Sixth student?

*Want to build a society founded on
Christian principles?*

This is your chance.



www.christianleadershipformation.com

Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity Update



In order to support our schools more fully, we will soon be conducting an audit about the following information. To help with this, please see the resources below the table. For further information, please contact your advisor.

	Not started	Ongoing	Completed
We have a named RJED coordinator and have shared details with DOWES			
We have shared the diocesan RJED Strategy with relevant governors and staff			
We have a named RJED governor			
We have a RJED (or equivalent) policy			
We have a RJED whole-school approach			
We have reviewed the curriculum so that it is more diverse			
We have reviewed the literature in the school			
We have shared Bishop Paul's talk/video with members of the school community			
We have shared the RJED Catholicism Unpacked resource with staff			
We have shared the RJED in Sacred Scripture resource with staff			
We attend relevant diocesan RJED CPD			
We attend LA RJED CPD			
We attend diocesan RJED forums			
We have taken steps to ensure that our governing body is more diverse			
We have taken steps to ensure that our recruitment process encourages greater equality and diversity of staff			
We have included RJED on our website and our images/photos show diversity			
We have included RJED on our School Development Plan			
We have included RJED on our CSED			
We learn about diverse saints and inspirational people			
We have enhanced our environment so that it reflects our diverse community			
We have involved a diversity of people and cultures (visits, visitors, speakers etc)			
We have engaged with the Racial Justice Sunday theme			
We have submitted a RJED pledge			
We have made progress towards our RJED pledge			

Support links and resources for the audit

Send RJED coordinator details to: eduadmin@rcdow.org.uk

RJED forum Autumn term: [HERE](#)

Resources

Diocesan RJED Strategy with mission and vision: [HERE](#)

RJED Whole school approach: [HERE](#)

RJED policy: [HERE](#)

RJED in Sacred Scripture: [HERE](#)

RJED Catholicism Unpacked: [HERE](#)

Racial Justice Sunday theme and Education resources for 2023: [HERE](#)

Bishop Paul's video: Expected soon

Diverse images of Mary and the infant Jesus: [HERE](#)

Non-white depictions of the Blessed Virgin Mary: [HERE](#)

Diverse artwork for Advent and Christmas in Catholicism Unpacked: [HERE](#)

New members for the RJED Working Party

We are looking for new committed members of our RJED working party and are keen that this is a diverse group with those from various roles within our primary and secondary schools. Members should be willing to commit to attending all meetings as there are only three of these per year. If you know of anyone who is interested, please contact eduadmin@rcdow.org.uk

Our priorities are as follows and new members are welcome to help us to move forward with these:

1. Structural Change

To proactively challenge racial inequality and non-inclusive practice in school: Governance, Policy, School Leadership, Staffing

2. Curriculum

To have a curriculum that is diversified and representative of society and ensures BAME pupils achieve and make progress; To ensure the curriculum is used to address RJED issues and promote anti-racism

3. Communication and Training

To ensure all relevant parties are informed about RJED and have received relevant training on RJED.

4. Promotion, Celebration and Collaboration

To actively promote and celebrate the RJED vision with all stakeholders in schools and colleges, the Education Service and the diocese, and to collaborate with other dioceses and relevant groups to support each other's work.

Saints from Racial and Cultural Inclusion

Saint Charles Lwanga:

St Charles Lwanga who was a Ugandan convert to the Catholic Church who was martyred with a group of his peers and is revered as a saint by both the Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion.

Saint Lorenzo of Manila

St Lorenzo of Manila, is a Filipino saint venerated in the Catholic Church. A Chinese Filipino, he became his country's protomartyr after his execution in Japan during its persecution of Japanese Christians in the 17th century.

Saint Rita of Cascia

St Rita of Cascia, was an Italian widow and Augustinian nun. One of the most popular Saints in the Church for centuries, St. Rita is known as the "Saint of the Impossible" because of her amazing answers to prayers, as well as the remarkable events of her own life.

Desirous of being a nun, she instead obeyed her parents and married. Her husband was cruel, and caused her much suffering, to which she responded with love and prayers, eventually converting him. After the death of her husband and two sons, Rita was able to enter a convent, where she devoted herself to prayer and penance.

Saint Euphrasia Eluvathingal

Euphrasia Eluvathingal (born Rosa Eluvathingal; 17 October 1877 – 29 August 1952) was an Indian Carmelite nun of the Syro-Malabar Church, which is an Eastern Catholic Church in Kerala. Euphrasia is said to have had a vision of the Holy Family, at which point the illness she had long felt ceased. She was canonised as a saint by Pope Francis on 23 November 2014 in Vatican City.

Saint Stanislaus of Poland

St Stanislaus of Poland was Bishop of Kraków known chiefly for having been martyred by the Polish King Bolesław II the Generous. Stanislaus is venerated in the Roman Catholic Church as Saint Stanislaus the Martyr (as distinct from the 16th-century Jesuit Stanislaus Kostka).

Saint Augustine Zhao Rong

St Augustine Zhao Rong - Father Augustine, was the first native-born Chinese priest and the first Chinese priest to be martyred. He was originally a soldier entrusted with the task of transporting to Beijing French Bishop John Gabriel Taurin. During the long journey, the bishop greatly impressed Zhao Rong with his kindness and peaceful demeanor in the face of persecution. Zhao Rong requested and received baptism after learning about the Catholic faith. Taking the name Augustine, he was later ordained a priest. After his arrest, he was offered the opportunity to renounce the Catholic faith but refused. After horrific tortures, Father Augustine died of his injuries in prison.

Saint Joseph Vaz

St Joseph Vaz - Catholic Oratorian priest from Goa. He is known as the Apostle of Ceylon. Fr. Vaz entered Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) during the Dutch occupation, when Calvinism was the official religion. He travelled throughout the island bringing the Eucharist and the sacraments to clandestine groups of Catholics. At the time of his death, Fr. Vaz managed to rebuild the Catholic church on the island. On 21 January 1995, he was beatified by Pope John Paul II in Colombo.

Saint Josephine Bhakita

St Josephine Bhakita - venerated as a modern African saint, and as a statement against the brutal history of slavery. She has been adopted as the patron saint of modern Sudan.

Saint Martin de Porres

Saint Martin de Porres from Peru patron saint of mixed-race people, barbers, innkeepers, public health workers, and all those seeking racial harmony, and animals.

Saints Perpetua and Felicity

In the eyes of the world, Saints Perpetua and Felicity were separated by status: one a well-educated noblewoman, the other a servant or slave. Yet, in life and in death, these two women from early 3rd century Carthage, North Africa, were sisters in Christ and both were martyred for their faith in A.D. 203, under the emperor Severus.

At the time of their arrest, Perpetua had an infant son, and Felicity was pregnant. While she was in prison, Perpetua wrote about the circumstances leading up to their death in a diary that was later published as *The Passion of Saints Perpetua and Felicity*. We know of Perpetua and Felicity's story because of the diary Perpetua kept while she and her companions were awaiting execution. Not only is this text rare for its account of early Church martyrs in the days leading up to their deaths, but it is one of the earliest first-person narratives by a woman writer.

Date/Time	Course	Booking Link
Monday 11 th December 3.45pm to 5.00pm	Session 2 – What can CEOs and Headteachers do? Course Aim: To ensure CEOs and Headteachers are informed about issues concerning RJED and know how to champion and support RJED within their schools Course Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant and useful CEOs/Headteacher training from an RJED expert • Practical suggestions about how to monitor, support and develop RJED • An opportunity to ask questions to gain a great insight into the role of CEOs/Headteachers in RJED Target Audience: CEOs and Headteachers	Click Here: Booking Link
Monday 5 th February 3.45pm to 5.00pm	Session 3 – What can Senior Leaders do? Course Aim: To ensure Senior Leaders are informed about issues concerning RJED and know how to champion and support RJED within their classrooms Course Content: <p>Relevant and useful senior leaders training from an RJED expert Practical suggestions about how to monitor, support and develop RJED An opportunity to ask questions to gain a great insight into the role of senior leaders in RJED</p> Target Audience: Senior Leaders	
Monday 29 th April 3.45pm to 5.00pm	Session 4 – What can RECs and Chaplains do? Course Aim: To ensure RECs and Chaplains are informed about issues concerning RJED and know how to champion and support RJED within their schools Course Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant and useful RECs/Chaplains training from an RJED expert • Practical suggestions about how to monitor, support and develop RJED • An opportunity to ask questions to gain a great insight into the role of RECs/Chaplains in RJED Target Audience: RECs and Chaplains	
Monday 24 th June 3.45pm to 5.00pm	Session 5 – What can ECTs and Classroom Teachers do? Course Aim: To ensure ECTs and classroom teachers are informed about issues concerning RJED and know how to champion and support RJED within their classrooms Course Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant and useful ECTs/classroom teachers training from an RJED expert • Practical suggestions about how to monitor, support and develop RJED • An opportunity to ask questions to gain a great insight into the role of ECTs/classroom teachers in RJED Target Audience: ECTs and Classroom Teachers	

Capital and PPP Update

Statlog

RAAC

The use of Statlog in our schools enabled us to respond quickly to the challenges presented by RAAC. Using the evidence contained in the system, we identified all buildings in the school estate that constructed during the time period that RAAC was in general use. Using that data, we were able to engage directly with the DfE. The DfE deployed their retained specialists to over 60 schools and they assessed the buildings for RAAC. Thankfully, no new buildings have been identified.

Project Manager Lite

We are please to report that more School Business Manager are using this tool to deliver small capital works projects on their respective sites. If you SBM needs support during the progression of a project, please email nigelspears@rcdow.org.uk

Land and Buildings Collection Tool – Academies Financial Return

We are pleased to report that the 2023 LBCT process is complete and that all Trusts using the Diocese to verify Church Owned Land were submitted before the deadline. Thank you for the work completed at Academy Trust level that facilitated this data return.

No new projects are proposed for this term. The Capital Strategy Committee is awaiting guidance on the management of RAAC before committing any more of the reserve.

RAAC – Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete

Colleagues from Diocesan Property and Education teams continue to support all schools identified with RAAC. Where time is required to plan for significant change, mitigation projects are underway to protect building users from harm. Elsewhere, remediation work is in development to remove the RAAC. Some of our schools have been provided with Marquee Accommodation as a temporary substitute for their main hall until the roof is made safe or replaced. In other schools, staff have reconfigured their existing spaces to ensure the continuity of teaching and learning. If you have any issues with a RAAC related project, please email nigelspears@rcdow.org.uk

Diocesan School Regeneration Programme

The pilot schemes are all making progress. Trustees will be presented with an update at their December meeting. One of the projects as reached the point where the search for prospective developers can begin. Two of the others are focusing on the detail of what a new school will contain and preparing their communication strategies.


VASCA

We are currently developing the pilot project that is focusing on Carbon Reduction. Hills, supported by Zeco, are developing proposals for Building Management Systems. Subject to the successful completion of this initiative, other school will be added to the collective early in the New Year.

SPEC Update

Westminster Youth Ministry is taking part in World Youth Funday, organized by CYMFed and being livestreamed in schools nationwide. [Click here for details.](#)

The BIGGEST Youth Livestream
connecting Catholic School classrooms
across England and Wales
worldyouthsunday.org



world youth day
fun
ENGLAND & WALES

COME + SEE

LIVE

Register today!

09:30AM | ALL AGE
OPENING CELEBRATION OF THE WORD WITH
SR LINDA & SR ANNA, FDC

9:45AM | ALL AGE
WAKE AND SHAKE WITH WORLD YOUTH DANCE CREW

10:00AM | ALL AGE
WELCOME: LIVE

10:30AM | PRIMARY
YOUTH FUNDAY INTERNATIONAL WITH THE
COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES

11:00AM | SECONDARY
THE THEME UNPACKED WITH
WESTMINSTER YOUTH MINISTRY

11:30AM | PRIMARY
FAITH IN ACTION WITH SVP

12:00PM | SECONDARY
FAITH IN ACTION WITH CAFOD

12:30PM | ALL AGE
LUNCHTIME: SYNOD AND SANDWICHES

1:30PM | ALL AGE
CLOSING PRAYER

Advent Summit

Westminster Youth Ministry is hosting an Advent Summit for 13+ year olds at the Church of Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Queensway on the 2nd December between 2-5pm. The events theme is 'The Dwelling Place' from Psalm 84, encapsulating the roles of Mary, The Church, and The Eucharist in becoming the Dwelling of God's people as we enter the advent season.

Joined by Cardinal Vincent Nichols who will speak on The Church, we will also be hearing a conversion testimony from Emmanuelle McFarlane Barrow, founder of generation hope and leader within the Youth 2000 network, and a teaching from Megs Dimbylow, a formidable catholic evangelist based in Reading. Alongside incredible music ministry, we will be hosting a time of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with the opportunity of confession.

2 December 2023

ADVENT

THE DWELLING PLACE

2-5pm

Our Lady, Queen of Heaven, QUEENSWAY, W2 3RY

SUMMIT

Sign Up at youth.rcdow.org.uk/events

Caritas Update

Say Yes to School Food for All Today!

Nutrition is as essential for learning as having tables, chairs, books and bathrooms in school for all children, so why are we still means testing children for school food?



**School Food
For All**

Every child, regardless of background or parental income, deserves healthy nutritious food at school.

The Education team and Caritas Westminster, alongside other organisations, schools, charities and individuals have signed up to the [Say Yes to School Food for All](#) campaign.

The campaign calls for universal free school meals from nursery up to sixth form.

Add your school to the interactive map [HERE](#)

Just like a petition, the campaign team will hand every name on the map to Downing Street **this Friday 17 November!** Please consider adding your name to this immediately!

You can read more about the campaign, and watch a video filmed at a Catholic school in Diocese of Southwark [here](#)

We believe in an education system free at the point of access. We don't means-test children for pencils or desks, so why for food? We don't means-test adults or children when it comes to hospital and prison meals, so it's perverse that we still insist on this for our children. Many other countries around the world have already realised this and now seeing huge benefits of healthy meals for all.

- Barbara Crowther, Campaign Coordinator of the Children's Food Campaign

Caritas St Joseph's Family Forum

Caritas St Joseph's outreach team aims to integrate people with intellectual disabilities into the life of the church. We provide training, support and advice on liturgies, and help children and young people with learning disabilities to prepare for the sacraments.



We also offer general support and advice for those with learning disabilities and their families/carers from advice about education to accessing benefits. Read more about Caritas St Joseph's Outreach [here](#).

Our next Family Forum for Parents/Carers of those with Learning Disabilities (but open to all interested) is on **5th December at St Joseph's Pastoral Centre, St Joseph's Grove, the Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4TY, at 4:30pm.**

The speakers will be Noelle Blackmann and Christine Towers and the topic is: **Thinking about the future: ideas and resources to help with conversations and planning.** [Read more here](#) or email paulchristian@rcdow.org.uk

Wisdom from a Journey to a Good Life

Caritas Westminster has just published a report, which records the voices of 57 people who are seeking sanctuary in the UK. The report, created following a “Wisdoms” listening exercise in partnership with the Mayday Trust, puts a spotlight on the voices of migrants and refugees.



The responses were varied but many people spoke about having the freedom to make choices and have control over their lives, where they can feel safe and secure. They also wanted to feel able to contribute to their local communities, and to have a sense of purpose.

[Find out more about the report here](#), or [read the 26 page report online here](#)

We are holding an **online event on Thursday 30 November at 5:30pm** for anyone interested in taking a closer look at the report, to share reflections and plan together. If your school has welcomed any children who have come to the UK seeking sanctuary, please come along and share your experiences.

To sign up for this online meeting, [please click here](#).

Advent Giving Calendar - reminder

This is a tool to help parishes and schools who run or support food banks or other initiatives such as community meals, and homeless projects, to collect extra donations for the busy Christmas and winter period. It can be used to support any local project, and is a great reminder that advent is not all about receiving a chocolate every day!!

If you would like to use the Advent Calendar in your school or to encourage families to use it in their homes, you can download it [here](#)



World Day of the Poor

This coming Sunday, 19 November is the seventh World Day of the Poor, with the theme of not turning away. You can read the message from Pope Francis, focusing on the story of Tobit, [here](#).

Global Day of Action for COP28

The international Climate talks, COP 28, will be happening in the United Arab Emirates starting on 30th November. Westminster Justice and Peace will be joining CAFOD and other faith groups on the climate march in London from 11.45am. Starting location tbc but sign up details – [find all the detail on CAFOD's website](#).