



WITNESS

to the word



10th January 2024

Spring Term Issue 1

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

Upcoming Training Opportunities are [here](#)

Leadership and Governance Updates are [here](#)

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

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

SPEC Updates are [here](#)

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

Upcoming Training Opportunities

[Our Spring Term CPD Programme is HERE](#)

Day and Time	Course	Booking Link
10 th January to 22 nd May	<p>Foundation Stones Course (12 Sessions)</p> <p>Online Sessions: 3.30pm to 5.00pm</p> <p>Foundation Stones is a 12 sessions introductory course to Catholicism. Participants learn about the key Catholic beliefs and practices and the course is structured to allow participants to ask questions and discuss ideas so they can gain insights into the Catholic faith. This in turn aids the teaching of RE and understanding of the Catholic Life of each school. It is excellent CPD for non-Catholic teachers or those who are not confident teaching RE.</p> <p>The online structure of this course enables schools across the Diocese to access the course and it means a group of teachers can take part without needing to leave school.</p> <p>Sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10th January – Catholic Faith • 24th January – God the Father • 31st January – God the Son • 7th February – God the Holy Spirit, Mary and the Saints • 28th February – Church • 6th March – Liturgy, the liturgical year and the seven sacraments • 20th March – Baptism and Confirmation • 17th April – Eucharist • 1st May – Reconciliation and Sacrament of the Sick • 8th May – Marriage and Holy Orders • 15th May – Prayer • 22nd May – Life as a Christian <p>Target Audience: All staff</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>

<p>Monday 15th January</p>	<p>Secondary - Head of RE Update and Sharing Forum</p> <p>Time: 3.45pm to 5.00pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is To explain to Heads of RE 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 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 Heads of RE. <p>Target Audience: Heads of RE.</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
<p>Thursday 18th January</p>	<p>Catholic Life and Mission Day Conference</p> <p>Time: 9.30am to 3.30pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this conference is to provide those leading their school's Catholic Life and Mission relevant and useful training and an 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 the Catholic Life and Mission within school communities. • to provide practical suggestions to develop Catholic Life and Mission in schools. • To provide opportunities to share good practice and network. <p>Target Audience: RECs, Chaplains, Senior Teachers in Charge of Catholic Life and Mission.</p> <p>Venue: Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue, London, SW1P 1QJ.</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>

<p>Monday 22nd January</p>	<p>Primary Creating a Culture of Accompaniment Training Day</p> <p>Time: 9.15am to 3.45pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to help schools to create a culture of accompaniment to support LGBTQ+ pupils.</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pope Francis's vision for a renewed form of ministry among young people. • The Church's teaching on sexuality, homosexuality, and pastoral care for individuals, especially young people. • The general principles of pastoral guidance and approaching pastoral conversations with LGBTQ+ pupils. • Practical steps and ideas for schools to support and listen to LGBTQ+ pupils. <p>Target Audience: Senior Leaders, those with pastoral responsibility and school chaplains.</p> <p><i>Please note that this is a repeat run of the course from February 2023 for those who were unable to attend.</i></p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
<p>Friday 26th January</p>	<p>Secondary - Creating a Culture of Accompaniment Online Course</p> <p>Time: 1.00pm to 4.00pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course to to helps schools to create a culture of accompaniment to support LGBTQ+ pupils.</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pope Francis's vision for a renewed form of ministry among young people. • The Church's teaching on sexuality, homosexuality, and pastoral care for individuals, especially young people. • The general principles of pastoral guidance and approaching pastoral conversations with LGBTQ+ pupils. • Practical steps and ideas for schools to support and listen to LGBTQ+ pupils. <p>Target Audience: Senior Leaders, those with pastoral responsibility and school chaplains.</p> <p><i>Please note that this is a repeat run of the course from October 2022 for those who were unable to attend.</i></p>	<p>Click here: Booking Link</p>

<p>Tuesday 30th January 3.45pm to 5.00pm</p>	<p>Secondary - Chaplains Updates and Sharing Online Forum</p> <p>Time: 3.45pm to 5.00pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course 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.</p>	<p>Click Here Booking Link</p>
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Leadership and Governance Update

Leadership and Governance

There are many “housekeeping” tasks to carry out at the start of a new term and some of them involve several people! Unfortunately, there are three different lists to update for Governors; Governorhub, Get information about Schools and your own school website. Please could the staff responsible for these updates make sure that all three are correct and showing the same information.

We communicate with governors via Governorhub, so please make sure that the roles of governors are recorded on your own school pages so that we are able to go to the correct person each time. We do not have editing rights to your pages and so rely on you to keep these up to date.

Creating a Culture of Accompaniment (LGBT+)

In 2022 and 2023 the Education Service facilitated training for school leaders and chaplains to help create a culture of accompaniment within schools for people who are LGBT+. We are re-running these training days for those who did not attend or in case there has been a change of personnel. If no one from your school attended or the person in charge of the school or pastoral care has changed since then please book on to the relevant course

The Primary course focuses on the theology of accompaniment and how schools can support families and tackle homophobic bullying and language. It takes place in Cathedral Hall on 22nd January from 9.15am - 3.45pm. book [HERE](#)

The Secondary course focuses on the theology of accompaniment and provides resources and practical advice to schools on being an accompanying school. It takes place on 26th January online from 1-4pm online, Book [HERE](#)

Cross Phase RSE conference

On February 8th we are inviting all RSE leads to our cross phase RSE conference in Cathedral Hall. This is the first in-person training for RSE leads since 2019 and we are keen to gather as many RSE leads together as possible to help to support them in their role and to provide the opportunity to network with colleagues. Please book your RSE lead onto the conference [HERE](#)

Upcoming Governor Training

Date/Time	Online Courses	Booking Link
Tuesday 16 th January	<p>Governors - Appointing Head and Deputy's</p> <p>Time: 6.00pm to 7.30pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to help Governors understand the processes in advertising and appointing for Senior Leadership roles.</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements for leadership in a Catholic School. • Shortlisting. • Planning the interview. <p>Target Audience: Chairs of Governors and those on interview panels.</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
Wednesday 31st January, Monday 5th, Wednesday 7th February	<p>Introduction to Governorship (3 Sessions)</p> <p>Time: 5.00pm to 7.00pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide information on Governance in a Catholic context. • To provide an understanding the language of governance. • To provide details of committees and school visits. Legal duties and responsibilities. • To provide an overview of strategic and operational issues. <p>Target Audience: Newly appointed governors.</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>

RE and Catholic Life Resources

Pope Francis Prayer Intentions: January

Intention for evangelisation – For the gift of diversity in the Church

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.



PRAYER INTENTIONS (Based on the liturgical year)	Liturgical Colour
Christian Unity (Octave or prayer for Christian unity in January)	GREEN
Peace on Earth (Peace Day – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)	
Victims of Human Trafficking (Feast of St Josephine Bakhita)	
Sick and Those Who Care For Them (World day of the Sick – Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes)	
Europe (Feast of Ss Cyril and Methodius)	
Racial Justice (Racial Justice day - 3 Sundays before Lent)	
Unemployed (Day for the unemployed – Sunday before Lent)	

LITURGICAL YEAR	NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS
January <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baptism of Our Lord (8th) Peace Sunday (14th) St Anthony (17th) The Word of God (21st) St Francis de Sales; (24th) Conversion of St Paul, Apostle (25th) Ss Timothy and Titus (26th) Racial Justice Sunday (28th) St John Bosco (31st) 	January <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Braille Day (4th) International Day of Education (24th) World Leprosy Day/Hansen's Disease (26th) International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust and Genocide (27th) Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25th Jan)

Other faiths/worldviews

For a brief overview of each of these festivals see [HERE](#).

The season of Christmas has ended and it is now Ordinary Time again. During this season we listen to readings about the teachings and parables of Jesus and reflect on what it means to be a follower of Christ. In this ordinary time, we concentrate on the saints and try to imitate their holiness as Christ's followers. As it is Racial Justice Sunday this month, we remember especially the saints from different races and cultures, and learn more about them. We also pray for the intentions above in green at any time but especially on their special days. For more information and prayers for this season and the special days listed above see the Liturgy Office [HERE](#). During this time of war in our world, we do not forget those who are suffering, especially the children, and we keep them in prayer.

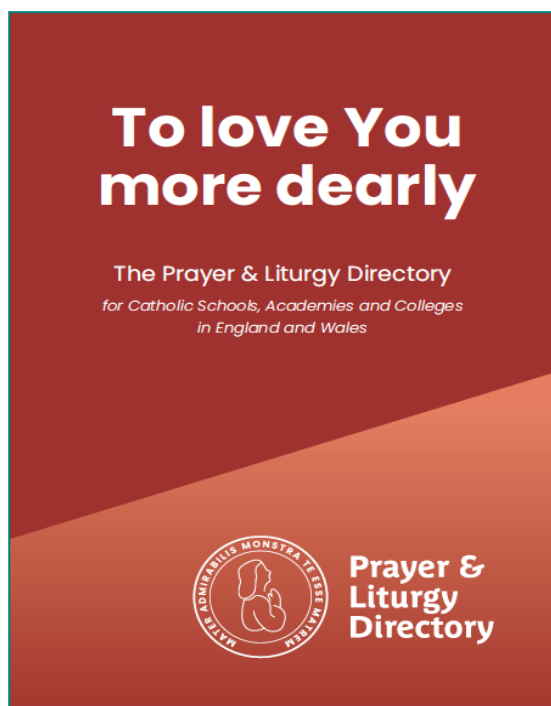
A Prayer for Persons Suffering from War

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.* (John 14:27)

Gracious God, we pray for all persons suffering from war.
May they be held in your loving care and protection
and given the strength to endure great suffering and hardship.
Transform the hearts and minds of all those who perpetuate violence and oppression.
Grant wisdom to world leaders in advancing efforts toward world peace;
may they not be compromised by self-interest and blind indifference.
We ask all this through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes
and in the name of your Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen

(Catholic Health Association of the United States)

Prayer and Liturgy Directory Updates

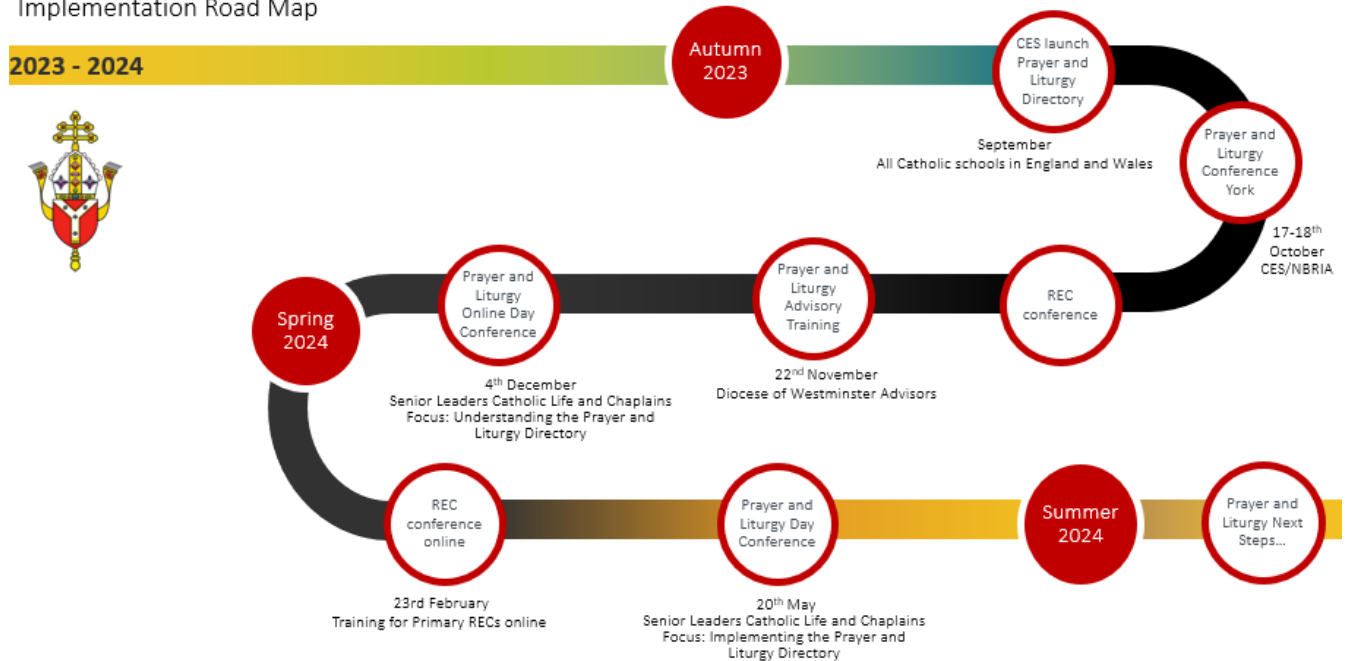


The NEW Prayer and Liturgy Directory has now been launched. It is an important and informative document which aims to enhance the excellent practices that already exists for Prayer and Liturgy within our schools and across the diocese. Please click [HERE](#) for the Prayer and Liturgy Directory. It includes a **model policy (p69)** as well as **progression of prayers (p72)** at the back of this document.

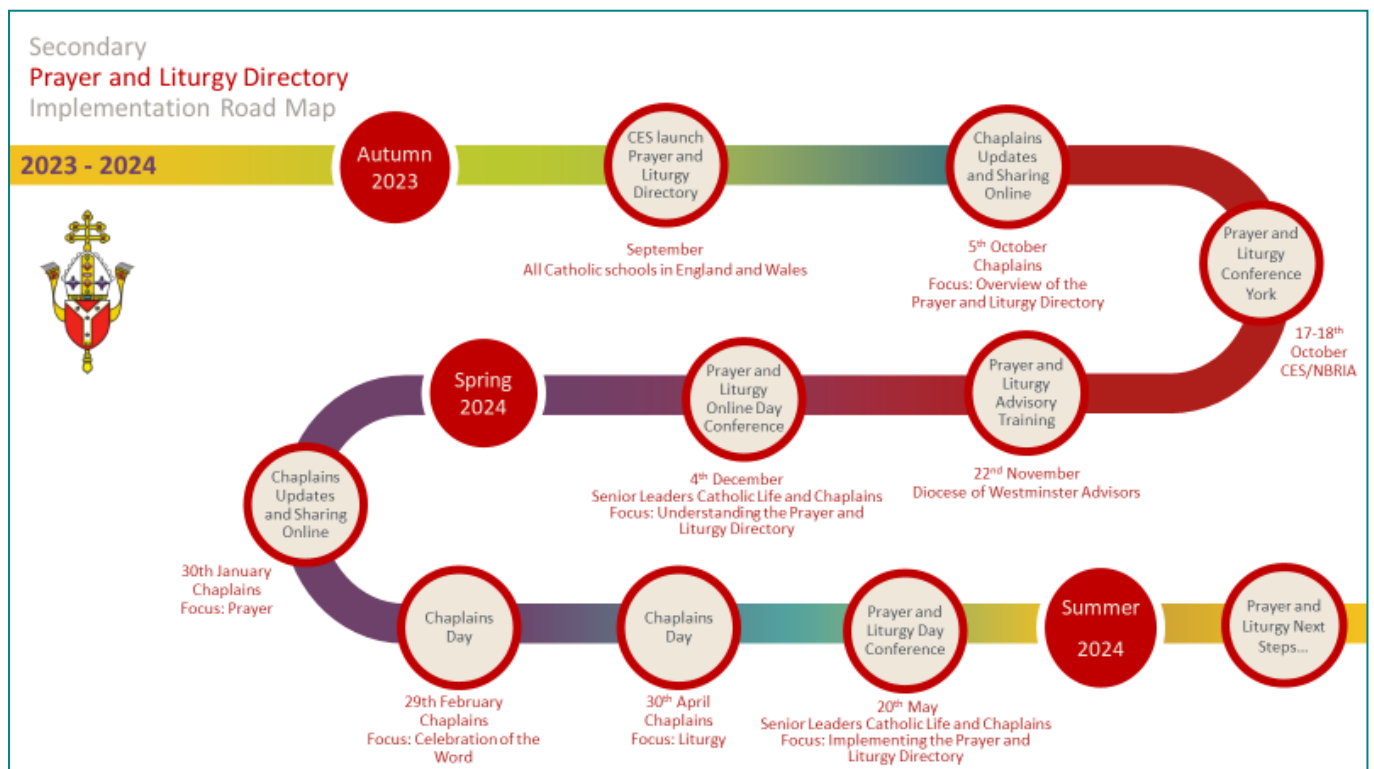
To support our schools, the Education Service provided training on understanding the Prayer and Liturgy Directory on 4th December. Further training will take place on **20th May – Book [HERE](#)**. This will provide support on implementing the Directory. Please do ensure your REC, Chaplains and Senior Leaders in Charge of Catholic Life can attend.

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

Primary Prayer and Liturgy Directory Implementation Road Map



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



Year of Prayer - 2024



In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. There is a particular focus on the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) this year, and this presents us with a great opportunity to reinvigorate the centrality of prayer within our schools. The Education Service will be producing resources from January 2024 to support schools with the Year of Prayer.

Within the next few weeks, an introductory resource for the Year of Prayer will be shared. Following this, there will be both primary and secondary resources sent to all schools that will unpack the Lord's Prayer. In the meantime, perhaps your New Year's resolution as a school could be to say, sing or sign the Lord's Prayer together.

Peace Sunday (Pax Christi) – 14th January 2024

Peace Sunday 2024 is Sunday 14th January and the theme chosen by Pope Francis is 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'. You can read a full copy of his message for the World Day of Peace [HERE](#).



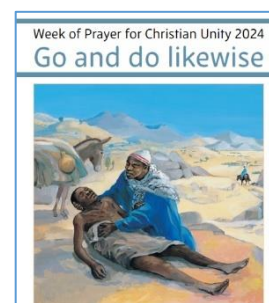
For the Pax Christi website see [HERE](#).

For activities and prayers for children see [HERE](#).

For a liturgy pamphlet see [HERE](#).

Week of Christian Unity – 18th-25th January

For the prayer and information booklet which can be used and amended for pupils and staff see [HERE](#). This is based on the story of the Good Samaritan.



Racial Justice Sunday – 28th January

The theme for Racial Justice for this entire year is: *Seeing one another in the life of the Church.*

Some resources have been created by our Education Service and have been directly to your schools. This includes PowerPoints which can be used for worship led by staff or pupils as well as an Activities Pack.

Following the success of this initiative last year, it is hoped that all schools will create a Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity board once again this year and then share a photo of this with us for our website later in the spring term. More resources will be shared in future bulletins.



Prayer resources for pupil-led prayer and Celebrations of the Word

Primary RED Implementation

We are looking forward to the next phase of the roadmap starting with the **online REC conference on 23rd February 2024** looking at Branch 3 'Galilee to Jerusalem'. Currently, we are continuing to update our 'Garden' web pages and adding resources and will keep you informed of the progress.

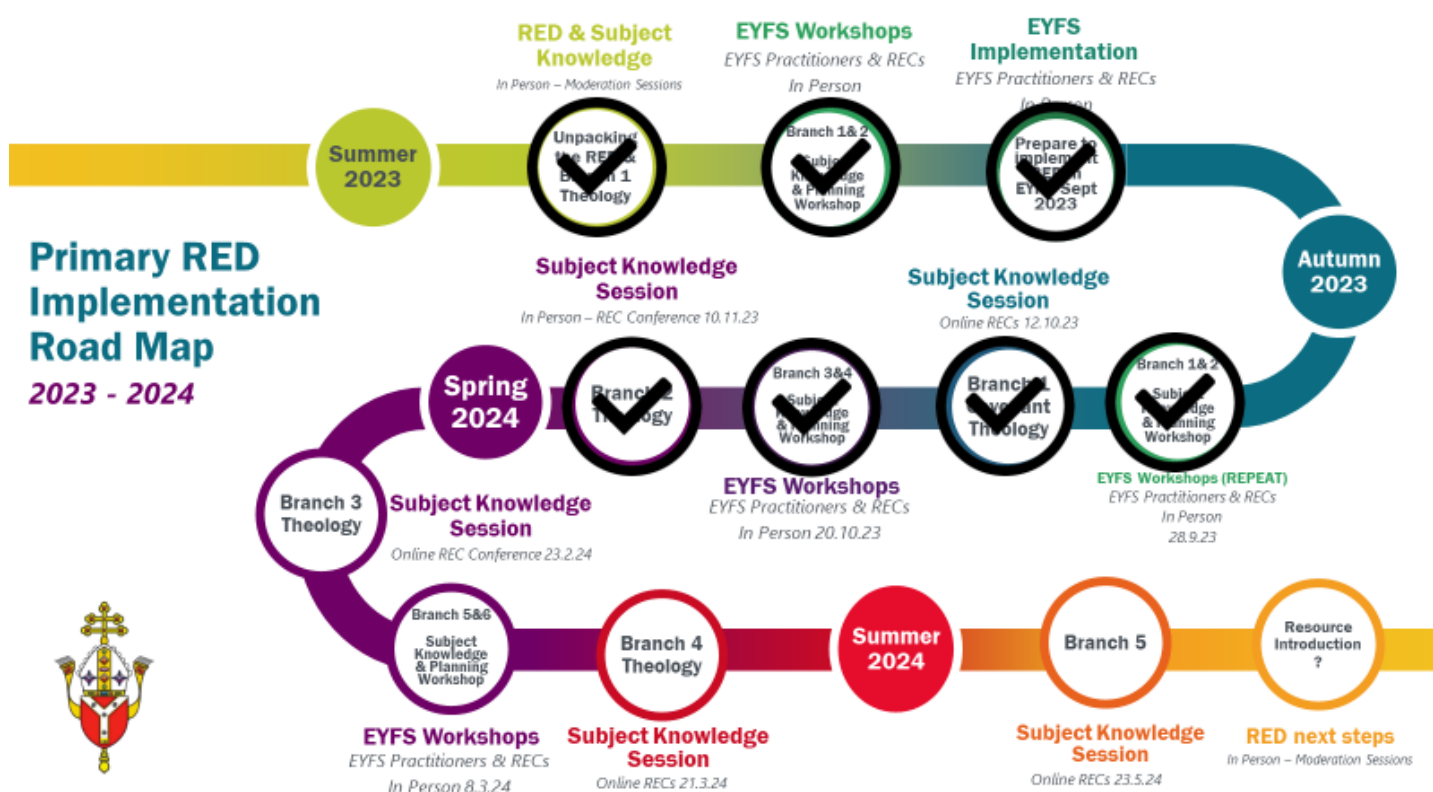
If you have started your RED journey at the EYFS stage, please share any successes, challenges or comments with us as we would love to hear from you. Please contact your diocesan advisor and then we can then continue to add good practice/ideas to our shared resource bank and it will help inform our future courses and give you the best support.

Theology / subject knowledge sessions will take place on the following dates:

TOPIC	ONLINE / IN PERSON	DATE
Branch 3 – Galilee to Jerusalem	Online (REC Conference)	23.02.24
Branch 4 – Desert to Garden	Online	21.03.24
Branch 5 – To the Ends of the Earth	Online	23.05.24

EYFS Branch Planning Workshops

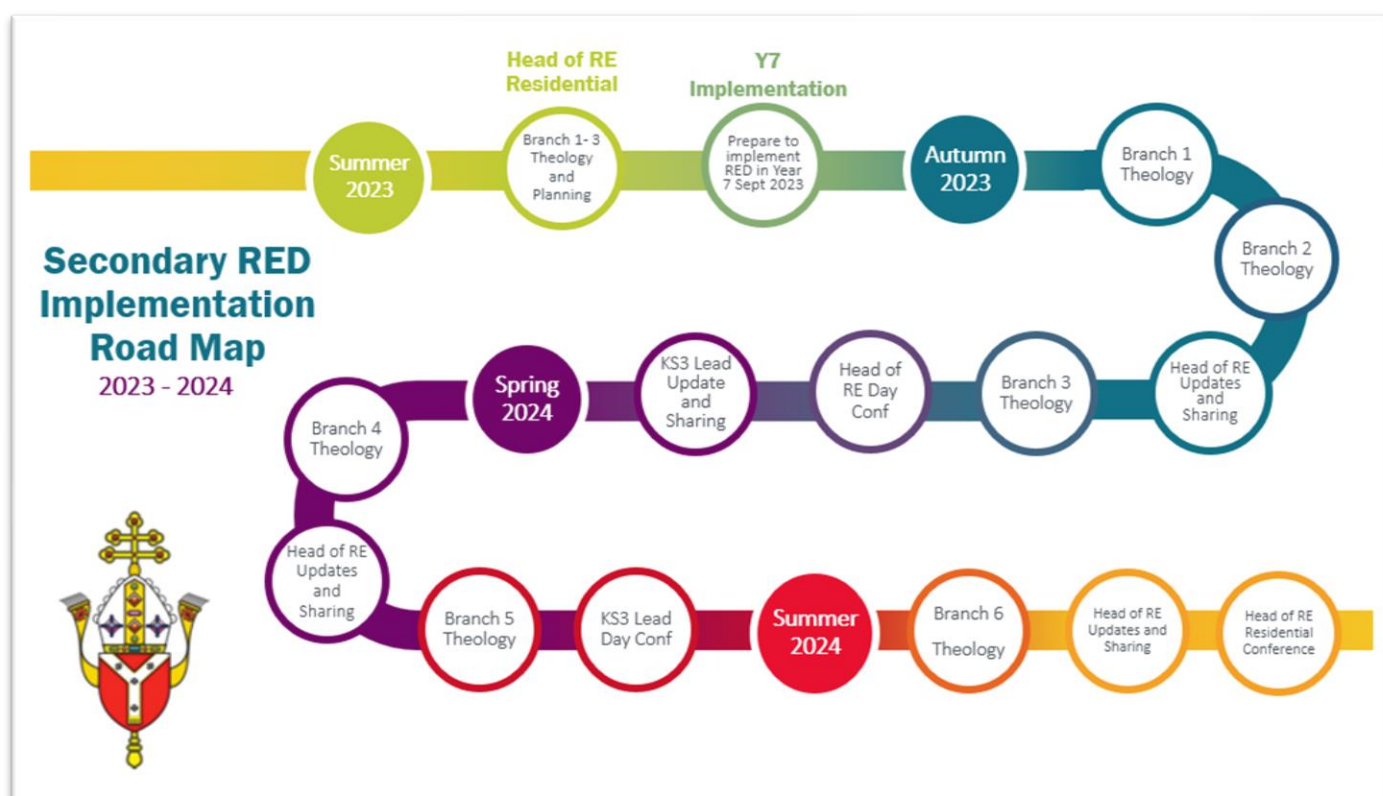
TOPIC		DATE
Branch 5 & 6 and RE ELGs	In Person	08.03.24



Secondary RED Implementation

In order to continue to support Heads of RE and RE teachers with the implementation of the new RED the following sessions are taking place soon.

- Planning workshop Monday 15th January 3.45-5.00pm. This is a sharing and updates session dedicated to planning the delivery of the new RED. There will be an offer of further collaborative planning for those who would like to work together following this session. The aim is to help schools to respond to some of the challenges they have raised. Any number of staff can attend the session. We urge all schools to be represented to help at this time of great change. Register [HERE](#) for the free zoom session.
- Understanding Theology – Year 7 across Branch 4 . These theology sessions are aimed at helping teachers to enhance their subject knowledge in relation to the year 7 RED. The session specifically focused on theology in branch 4 will take place on February 6th from 3.45- 5pm online. Book [HERE](#) for this session.



Catholic Life and Mission day Conference

Tuesday 18th January 9.30-3.30pm

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

A graphic for the 'Catholic Life and Mission' conference agenda. It features a background image of a large, textured rock formation in shades of blue and white. On the right side, the text 'Catholic Life and Mission' is written in a white, elegant script font. Below this, the title 'CONFERENCE AGENDA' is printed in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. The agenda items are listed on the left side of the graphic, each preceded by a time slot in bold dark blue text. The items are: 9:30 Welcome and Opening Prayer by Bishop Paul McAleenan; 9:45 Session 1: Embracing the Distinctive Catholic Identity, Mission and Virtues of your School - David Wells; 10:45 Sharing Good Practice; 11:15 BREAK; 11:30 Session 2: Catholic Social Teaching, See, Discern, Act - Raymond Friel; 12:30 Sharing Good Practice: CAFOD & CST - Susan Kambalu; 1:00 LUNCH; 1:45 Session 3: The importance of Religious Dialogue - Elliot Vanstone; 2:30 Sharing Good Practice: James Holland and James Johnstone; and 3:15 Closing Prayer and Evaluations.

*Catholic Life
and
Mission*

CONFERENCE AGENDA

9:30 **Welcome and Opening Prayer**
 Bishop Paul McAleenan

9:45 **Session 1: Embracing the Distinctive Catholic Identity, Mission
 and Virtues of your School - David Wells**

10:45 **Sharing Good Practice**

11:15 **BREAK**

11:30 **Session 2: Catholic Social Teaching, See, Discern, Act -
 Raymond Friel**

12:30 **Sharing Good Practice: CAFOD & CST - Susan Kambalu**

1:00 **LUNCH**

1:45 **Session 3: The importance of Religious Dialogue - Elliot
 Vanstone**

2:30 **Sharing Good Practice: James Holland and James Johnstone**

3:15 **Closing Prayer and Evaluations**

Have you made a New Year's Resolution as a school? Why not apply for one of the following awards?

What is the Live Simply Award?

The **LiveSimply** award is a scheme for communities and schools who can show how they have been living:

- simply
- sustainably with creation
- in solidarity with people living in poverty.



The award celebrates what you have already done and inspires you to do more. It helps your community live, not just more simply, but also more fully.

Sign Up

To sign up for the LiveSimply Award click [Here](#)

What is the John Paul II Award

The Pope John Paul II Award is a faith achievement award for young people between the age of 16 and 18. It is non-competitive, inclusive, flexible and voluntary.



The Award enables participants to take an active part in the life of their Church – in the life of their community and society. It enables young people to become more aware of the teaching and role of the Catholic Church in the world and to engage at a deep level with Christ.

Sign Up

To sign up for the Pope John Paul II Award click [Here](#)

What is the Faith in Action Award?

The Faith in Action Award encourages young people through recognising, rewarding and celebrating their active faith lived out through service and reflection. The Award helps them connect their life and faith in a tangible manner. In journeying through the Award, young people should experience a deepening of their relationship with God and find themselves exploring that relationship. It is hoped that through their relationship and action, others will see God's love through them.



Who is it for?

Young people aged 10-18 years old (Year 6 - 13) can take part in the Faith in Action Award through their school, parish or organisation. The Faith in Action Award is accessible to, and inclusive of, all young people, regardless of academic ability.

The 4 award levels

There are four levels to the Faith in Action Award - from Pin through to Gold.

The progression of the Award reflects the spiritual and personal growth of the participants through acquiring more credits of service and showing a greater level of commitment and leadership.

Sign Up

To sign up for the Faith in Action Award click [Here](#)

What is The Oscar Romero Award?

Pope Francis has called on all Catholic communities to become places where "faith illumines life and society". As Catholic schools, we recognise this as our commitment to Catholic Social Teaching because our faith demands that we stand up for justice.



The Oscar Romero Award
Aspire to be more

The Oscar Romero Award will support your school in realising and living this unique calling of a Catholic school to empower young people and all who work in the school, to become true agents of the change they want to see in the world by putting their faith into action.

Award Levels

The Oscar Romero Award will recognise the school's commitment to Catholic Social Teaching. The Award is available at three levels; Participant, Developer and Innovator.

Sign Up

To sign up for the Oscar Romero Award click [Here](#)

Muslim Studies

Muslim Studies is a brand-new course and is hosted by the Centre for Catholic Education, Research and Religious Literacy, as part of its outreach programme in developing faith literacy. It offers an exciting opportunity to study a religion that roughly one in four persons in the world adheres to in varying ways. The course in Muslim Studies assumes little or no knowledge of Islam and will explore topics at an introductory level. It will seek to explore historical and socio-cultural paths of religious teachings and to bring contemporary and practical relevance to them, whilst also keeping an eye on Catholic or Christian touchpoints or needs concerning Islam or Muslims. More information is available [here](#)



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

What does it mean to be human?

This is an in-person event being held in Winchester on **Saturday 16th March 2024** focusing on modern medical ethics and social care.

The event has been crafted as part of the work of our Dialogue with Cultural Sectors Team, members of

whom work across a range of fields (including education, medicine, business, the law and politics) and who seek to bring the Catholic tradition into critical conversations with the thinking and philosophy behind these professional sectors.

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth's Dialogue with Cultural Sectors Team presents

What does it mean to be Human?

Medical Ethics and Social Care Today

Keynote 1 - What does it mean to be Human? **MGR. MICHAEL NAZIR ALI**

Keynote 2 - How significant is the Sexual Revolution? **RYAN CHRISTOPHER**

Saturday 16th March 2024 10:00 - 16:15

The Arc, Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8SB

Tickets £20 (includes lunch and light refreshments) Scan the QR code with your smart phone or use this link: <https://what-does-it-mean-to-be-human-symposium.eventbrite.co.uk>

Hosted by: **DAVID WELLS** and **BISHOP PHILIP EGAN**

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Over the past couple of years the team have successfully organised two symposia featuring key note addresses, workshops and critical discussions – *Science and Religion* featured celebrity scientist and professor, Dr Brian Cox and Fr Andrew Pinsent, Catholic priest and CERN physicist. *Politics and Religion*, featured Jacob Rees-Mogg MP, Ruth Kelly MP and Lord David Alton.

Given the relevance and importance of the subject, we are naturally really keen to optimise the number of attendees. Whilst many in the audience will be Catholic, we hope many others will come so that they can hear Catholic viewpoints expressed by experts in their respective fields.

The Symposium will feature presentations from well-known experts and is led by David Wells, the popular motivational speaker. It is open to people of all faiths and none, specialist and lay, to students and to anyone with an interest in medical and social care.

Tickets cost £20, including sandwiches and refreshments, and are available on-line via Eventbrite [here](#)

Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity Update



In order to support our schools more fully, we are conducting an audit about the following information. To help with this, please see the resources below the table. For further information and support, 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

For the link to the audit, see [HERE](#).

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

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](#)

Saints from Racial and Cultural Inclusion

We have a PowerPoint with images to support this so if you would like a copy of this, please contact elainearendell@rcdow.org.uk This information will support the theme for Racial Justice Sunday.

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.



RACIAL JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CPD PACKAGE 2023/24



ONLINE COURSES, ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/24

Session 1	9th October: 7.00pm to 8.30pm	What can Governors do? Guest Speaker: Shonagh Reid
Session 2	11th December: 1.30pm to 3pm	What can CEOs and Headteachers do? Guest Speaker: Rosemary Campbell-Stephens MBE
Session 3	5th February: 3.45pm to 5.00pm	What can Senior Leaders do? Guest Speaker: Aisha Thomas
Session 4	29th April: 3.45pm to 5.00pm	What can RECs and Chaplains do? Guest Speaker: Lat Blaylock
Session 5	24th June 3.45pm to 5.00pm	What can Classroom Teachers do? Guest Speaker: Orlene Badu

SINGLE AND SCHOOL PACKAGES AVAILABLE

Course enquiries, please contact Linette Blackmore:

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SPEC Update



Life to the Full

YEAR 5 RETREAT

This retreat brings Children on a Journey aimed at helping them to see that God wants them to live "life the full".



We do this by helping them to understand what true happiness really is and where it can be found. We tell them about the love of God, we get them to meet Jesus in adoration, reminding them that there is nothing in the whole of creation that God loves more than He loves them. We get the children to think about the blessing in their lives, and we get them to explore the lives of some people who truly lived life to the full, the saints.

ENCOUNTER

During our residential retreats we also get the children to have the ultimate encounter with Christ – at Mass, which they get to explore, prepare and help to deliver.

COMMUNITY

We also get them to realise how important their small communities are when it comes to reach the fullness of life: we do this by allowing plenty of time for them to play together and through team building activities; we get them to have an experience of profound happiness: hot chocolate and marshmallows by the campfire, or a movie night, will help them to realise that God created them as part of a bigger reality than they may think: happiness can be reached through the communion with their friends... "Where two or three are united in My Name: there I am with them".

TESTIMONIES

"My favourite thing that we did as a group was nature art, because I love exploring nature! I also loved [decorating] the stained glass because it gave me an encounter with Christ in a fun way (Mass was fun as well!!)"

"The retreat affected my faith because I got closer to God when we went into the chapel [for adoration] and for the mass, because I got to say sorry for what I done to my brother"



Bookings are now being accepted for
Academic Year 2024-25!

Get in touch: spec@rcdow.org.uk