



2nd September 2020

Edition 3

Welcome to this weeks' edition of **Flame** our Religious Education and Spirituality newsletter. After a furlough induced break, this will be a fortnightly publication. Thank you for the wonderfully positive response to our March editions as well as the suggestions for items to include. Please know that the RE and Spirituality team continue to keep you all in our prayers.

*God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder of our being,
for mind, body and spirit.*

Be with our children as they begin a new school year.

Bless them and their teachers and staff.

*Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow; wisdom and knowledge to their minds
as they search for understanding;
and peace and zeal to their hearts.*

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(from <https://catholicschools4u.org/blog/prayers-begin-school-year>)

Commission News

As of 1st September, 2020 the Education Commission has been restructured. Full changes will be available on the website at rcaoseducation.org.uk

Susan Elderfield remains Chaplaincy Adviser. While Sharon Docherty, Patrick Harrison and Daniel Coleman have additional responsibilities, they will continue to support schools directly as advisers for Catholic Life and Religious Education.

All Commission based courses and meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice. To see the full offer and to register please visit the website at rcaoseducation.org.uk/events/ .

Delegates will be sent joining details and where appropriate course materials via email.

Online Courses for Religious Education and Catholic Life

The following courses have been scheduled for the Autumn Term. Please click on this link to book: rcaoseducation.org.uk/events/

- [New to Leading Religious Education in a Catholic Primary School](#)
Wednesday 30th September 2020 9.30am-2.30pm Zoom – £50 per login
- [New to Catholic Schools](#)
Thursday 1st October 2020 9.30am to 2.30pm Zoom – £50 per login



- [Digital Chaplaincy – Mission In The Digital Curriculum](#)
Monday 5th October 2020 2pm-4pm Zoom – £20 per login
- [Primary Religious Education Leaders Meetings](#)
Tuesday 13th October 2020 2pm-4pm
Wednesday 14th October 2020 2pm-4pm
Thursday 15th October 2020 2pm-4pm
Zoom – £20 per login
- [Secondary Heads of Religious Education Meetings](#)
Tuesday 20th October 2020 2pm-5pm
Wednesday 21st October 2020 2pm-5pm
Zoom – £20 per login

If you would like a bespoke course, virtually or in person, delivered in your school please contact a member of the RE Advisory Team.

External Courses

St Mary's University is offering an online 1-day conference: **Heart Speaks Unto Heart: To commemorate the 10th anniversary of Pope Benedict XVI's visit to St Marys, a day of events linked to the educational mission of the University.** This is free and delegates may register to attend individual sessions. Please [click here](#) to view further details.

Virtual Visits

Religious Education and Catholic Life visits will resume from the first week of October and may be conducted either as a virtual visit or as an in-person school visit. The format of the visit is at the discretion of the school. If the school leadership feel comfortable with an adviser visiting, then the day will be planned taking all Covid protocols into consideration. The virtual visits will be conducted via Microsoft Teams or Zoom and will last a maximum of 2 hours. They may include discussions with designated stakeholders (which may include pupils), opportunities to share samples of pupil work and the possibility of virtual learning walks. A member of the team will be in contact to shortly to arrange the visits. In the meantime, if you require support please contact the advisers individually.



Celebration of Mass

As per the letter sent to Headteachers and clergy on 26th August. Masses in schools have been suspended for the time being. The letter can be viewed [here](#). This decision will be reviewed on a half termly basis and all will be informed as to any decisions made. In his letter, Archbishop John wrote about how the 'God who Speaks' initiative has been extended through to 2021. Please visit the website for resources and updates about online events and uploads: <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/education/>

Liturgical Engagement in Schools

Prayer and worship is central to the life of the Catholic school, particularly at this time. We know that within the diocesan schools this meaningful engagement is already happening in many different forms. To support the staff who are responsible for planning and leading on this aspect we are offering *Digital Chaplaincy – Mission in the Digital Curriculum*. Please [click here](#) to view more details and book. Susan Elderfield will continue to support the work of school Chaplains in this regard and the primary RE Lead meetings scheduled for October will also look at introducing new ways of praying with children.

Charities Updates

"Christian charity is not simple philanthropy," said the Pope. "On the one hand, it is looking at others through the eyes of Jesus Himself and, on the other, seeing Jesus in the face of the poor." Pope Francis 23rd August 2020

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-08/pope-francis-angelus-charity-high-road-of-perfection.html> for the full article and video link.

Cafod

Cafod have created new resources for schools and are holding another national assembly on 10th September: "The World We Want." They also continue to provide prayer and worship resources which are current and relevant.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Education-resources>

Catholic Children's Society

Please [click here](#) to see information from the Catholic Children's Society. It provides links to the Crisis Fund page and the Rainbows Bereavement Support Programme.

There is also a series of documents from their ConnectEd: Mental Health Service for

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Schools on how to support pupils as they return to school after lockdown. They also have resources for the Year of the Word.

Missio

On their Mission Together website for schools and families, Missio have a wealth of resources which will be updated as the school year gets underway.

<https://missiontogether.org.uk/about-mission-together/>

Aid to the Church in Need (ACNUK)

In addition to a variety of educational resources, ACNUK has completed their spoken Bible, a resource for use at home and in schools. <https://acnuk.org/resources-landing/>

Relationships and Sex Education: Archdiocese of Southwark 2020 Relationships and Sex Education Guidelines

Please find a copy of the final draft copy of the Diocesan Relationship and Sex Education Policy: Education in Human Love 2020 here www.rcaoseducation.org.uk. It has been recommended that this policy be ratified by the Diocesan Trustees at their next meeting.

The purpose of the policy is for the Archdiocese of Southwark to set out what it expects Relationships and Sex Education to be within our schools and colleges, this includes academies and independent schools. While portions may be used by individual schools and colleges to create their own policies, we fully expect them to use the Model RSE policy document, created by the Catholic Education Service (CES) as a template for their individual policies.

As stated in the policy it is expected that all schools and colleges follow the CES model curriculum for the primary and secondary phases which meet both Church and State requirements and is subdivided into age appropriate phases. This can be achieved through following a commercially available programme/s which meet the requirements and/or through the creation of their own resources.

Please contact a member of the RE advisory team if you require additional support. [Support documents and free training modules for staff may be accessed at the Catholic Education Service \(CES\): http://catholiceducation.org.uk/schools/relationship-sex-education](http://catholiceducation.org.uk/schools/relationship-sex-education)

GCSE & A Level Results

The Education Commission is requesting that Secondary Schools submit their results for Religious Studies at GCSE and A level. Please submit your results to Patrick Harrison, using the form which will be individually sent to each Head of RE.