



Welcome to this weeks' edition of **Flame** our Religious Education and Spirituality newsletter.

During these challenging times, please know that all at the Education Commission continue to keep you all in our prayers.

1st week of Advent

Come, Lord Jesus! Come! May this Advent be a time of deep renewal in my life, dear Lord. May it be a time in which I strive with all my heart to seek out Your gentle and profound voice. Give me the grace, dear Lord, to turn away from the many noises of the world that compete for my attention and to turn only to You and to all You wish to say. Come, Lord Jesus, come into my life more deeply during this Advent season. Jesus, I trust in You.

Sourced from www.mycatholic.life



Christmas Liturgy for Schools

Archbishop John will be celebrating a Christmas Liturgy at 11am on Thursday 17th December. This liturgy will be held on Zoom as it allows the opportunity for greater interaction. The Liturgy will be recorded and shared for use within Diocesan schools and colleges.

To book your places onto this event please [click here](#).

Message from Archbishop John

Archbishop John Wilson has asked that we share the latest update on Masses and Eucharistic Celebrations in schools.

Dear Colleagues,

From 3rd December churches will be allowed to open again for public celebration of Mass and other acts of worship. The Bishop's Conference of England & Wales have issued a statement welcoming this news. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-welcome-return-to-public-worship/>. For our schools, though, there is no change and the previous guidance issued in October stands.

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Archbishop John has confirmed that it is not yet possible to permit the celebration of Mass in school or by relocating to a church for Mass. Similarly, it is not possible to permit a 'Liturgy of the Word with distribution of Communion'. General guidance for gathering in large groups or mixing of 'bubbles' in school prohibits gathering for Mass or other liturgy that includes the distribution of Communion. The protocols that have been set up for celebration Masses in parishes were designed specifically for the context of the parish community. In the different context of schools, we need to respect the existing adaptations schools have introduced to make those sites safe for pupils and staff. In most cases that includes restricting 'visitors' coming on to school sites and requiring that any 'visitors' do not join existing school based 'bubbles'. In addition, it is important to recognise the health and safety needs of our priests.

Archbishop John continues to be heartened to hear of the many ways in which the children and young people who attend the schools and colleges in the diocese are engaging with the wider liturgical life of the Church.

We will continue to review this decision and will revisit this after the Christmas break. If you wish to seek clarification, please contact a member of the RE and Spirituality Team.

+ John

Commission News

Adviser Visits 2020 - 2021

During this time of lockdown, please be reassured that the Advisory team are going to continue to be here to support you. Unfortunately, we are unable to visit schools for the purpose of advisory visits at the present time. Online visits will continue as will our online CPD offer. The weekly mail out and this newsletter will continue to be published as usual. If you need advice and support do not hesitate to contact one of us. Staff contact details can be found here: <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/staff/>

Religious Education and Catholic Life visits are continuing but have become online only. These virtual visits will be conducted via Microsoft Teams or Zoom. If you require advice or support, please contact the advisers individually.



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Living and Learning the Liturgical Year

Learning about the Liturgical Year can add an extra rich dimension to the teaching of R.E and to the prayer life of the school. This new section is meant to provide some ideas; people and events, which may be incorporated into the lessons and prayer times.

December 2020

Pope Francis's prayer request for December: We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception. Advent falls during the first 24 days of December which is represented by the colour purple and during which we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. From the 25th December we enter the joyous season of Christmas.

Notable December (F)easts, (S)olemnities & (M)emorials

- 3rd St Francis Xavier (M)
- 7th St Ambrose, Doctor of the Church (M)
- 8th The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (S)
- 14th St John of the Cross, Doctor of the Church (M)
- 25th Nativity of the Lord (S)
- 26th St Stephen, the first martyr (F)
- 27th the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (F)
- 28th The Holy Innocents (F)
- 29th St Thomas a Beckett, Martyr (F)

The following feast days fall on a Sunday this year and are therefore superseded by the Sunday liturgy:

- 6th St Nicholas (F)
- 13th St Lucy (F)
- 27th St John the Evangelist (F)

December Saints & Notable Days

- 4th St John Damascene, Doctor of the Church
- 9th St Juan Diego
- 10th Our Lady of Loreto
- 10th St John Roberts, Martyr
- 11th St Damasus I, Pope
- 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 21st St John of Kanty
- 31st St Sylvester I, Pope



Advent Resources

<https://education.rcdow.org.uk/catholicism-unpacked-new/>

A Christmas Crib activity for families from TEN:TEN [The Christmas Crib \(Parents\)](http://tentenresources.co.uk)
(tentenresources.co.uk)

[Jesse Tree for Families - free download - Brentwood Diocese \(dioceseofbrentwood.net\)](http://dioceseofbrentwood.net)

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/advent-christmastide/>

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Catholic Life and Collective Worship Inspiration

[Agency for Evangelization and Catechises](#)

The main goal of the Agency is to support the parishes of the Archdiocese of Southwark in terms of Evangelisation, Catechesis and Formation and to encourage the development and formation of lay people in the diocese. Their new website contains some excellent resources which may help to develop teachers' understanding of Church Teaching beginning with Advent. <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/advent>

[Advent Livestream Event OneLife Music](#)

OneLife music are hosting a livestream event on Friday 4th December at 1:25pm. Song sheets can be found here:

<https://www.bdes.org.uk/resources-for-prayer-and-learning.html>

Livestream link is here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pxczNr_Lrc&feature=youtu.be

[The Mark 10 Mission](https://www.themark10mission.co.uk/)

The Mark 10 Mission, in partnership with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, has been able to commit to creating content for the remainder of the Autumn term. Each week they provide a video about the Sunday Gospel. Each session includes an introduction, the reading of the Gospel, a reflection and a hymn. All resources are free to access. The Mark 10 Mission relies solely on donations to keep up their work. Please consider giving to this charity.

[Columban Missionary Society Image and Writing Competition](#)

'Let's Create a World Without Racism' is the theme for a schools' competition launched by the Columban Missionary Society. It is open to young people aged 14-18. You can learn more about the competition and the Columbans here:

<https://columbans.co.uk/education/4919/columbans-launch-schools-media-competition-end-racism/>

Charities Updates

[Aid to the Church in Need](#)

They have created an Advent Resource for secondary schools (and upper junior). This link includes ways in which the young people across the diocese can support those who live in areas where the Church is in dire circumstances.

[Aid to the Church in Need | Advent Resource 2020 \(Secondary\) \(acnuk.org\)](#)

[CAFOD](#)

CAFOD have launched their Advent Resources with separate Advent Calendars for primary, secondary and families. <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Education-resources> you can also link to their World Gifts Assembly and poster pages from here.

[Catholic Children's Society](#)

The Advent Calendar is available for download. <https://www.cathchild.org.uk/resources/advent-2020/> Please [click here](#) to see additional information from the Catholic Children's Society.



Missio

The mission together website has been redesigned and updated for the new school year. It is now easier to navigate and contains many new resources for prayer and liturgy. November <https://missiontogether.org.uk/resources-by-month/calendar-november/>

Online Courses for Religious Education & Catholic Life

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 in their booking confirmation email and course materials will also be sent to the delegate email address used on the booking form.

Please always check your junk and spam folders if you have registered for a course and not received confirmation. We have found that often the automatic responses are sent to these folders.

[Planning for the teaching of Religious Education using the Way, the Truth & the Life](#)

Tuesday 8th December 2020

3.30pm-5pm

Zoom – £20

[Planning for the teaching of Religious Education using Come and See](#)

Wednesday 9th December 2020

3.30pm-5pm

Zoom £20 per login

Spring 2021

[Foundation Stones](#)

Multiple dates during the spring term

Zoom – £120

If you would like a bespoke course, virtually or in person, delivered in your school please contact a member of the R.E. Advisory Team. The cost will be per school; £100 for 1 session of up to 2hrs; £175 for 2 sessions up to 4hrs in total; £250 3 sessions up to 6hrs in total. You can choose to have the sessions over the course of one or several days. We can also provide any of our main offer R.E. and Catholic Life CPD courses in this manner.

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External Courses and Events

ATCRE Free Online Courses

ATCRE aims to support and represent teachers of Catholic religious education by: facilitating dialogue amongst teachers of Catholic religious education; providing a voice at a national level for teachers of Catholic religious education and celebrating and sharing excellent practice of Catholic religious education. To that end the upcoming online courses are: **Monday 7th December at 4pm Fratelli Tutti - Fr Eamonn Mulcahy CSSp** and **Tuesday 12th January at 4pm Teaching Scripture - Dr Margaret Carswell**. You can find the registration links, as well as the link to become a member, here, [Catholic RE teachers | ATCRE](#)

The videos from the October Conference 2020 sessions can be accessed here [Virtual Conference October 2020 | ATCRE](#).

CAFOD's Everything is Connected CPD Offer

Supported by the British Council, *Everything is Connected* provides teachers with skills they can use to enrich school life through global learning. Further information about the programme can be viewed here. <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/For-teachers>

NATRE: Strictly R.E.

This year the annual Strictly R.E. Conference will be going virtual. There are discounts available for those who are subscribers. To find out more, please visit: <https://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/strictlyRE-2021/>

Relationships and Sex Education:

Please find a copy of the copy of the Diocesan Relationship and Sex Education Policy: Education in Human Love 2020 here www.rcaoseducation.org.uk . It has now been approved for use within the Diocese.

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> . *It is highly recommended that all members of staff who will be involved in the teaching of RSE complete these modules.*

The Department for Education and Training: DfE has released a series of PowerPoints designed to support teachers in the teaching of the new statutory curriculum for Relationships, Sex and Health Education. These contain information not covered in the CES modules such as personal hygiene, mental health, first aid and drugs/alcohol education. They can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/teaching-about-relationships-sex-and-health#train-teachers-on-relationships-sex-and-health-education>