



Welcome to the latest edition of **Flame** our Religious Education and Spirituality newsletter.

Loving God,
We praise your name with all you have created.
You are present in the whole universe,
and in the smallest of creatures.
We acknowledge the responsibilities you have placed upon us
as stewards of your creation.
May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 as they
seek to embrace the changes needed to foster a more sustainable society.
Instil in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions
for the poorest and most vulnerable,
and commit their nations to the care of Our Common Home.
We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ your Son.
Amen
(Prayer for the COP26 climate summit | CAFOD)

Commission News

Celebration of Mass and other Liturgical Events in Schools

Currently there is no update to the Archbishop's position in regard to the celebration of liturgies, including Mass, within school communities. However, the Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales' '**Covid-19 Route Map: Step 4 Guidance**' has been shared with all Archdiocese of Southwark Clergy and Parishes. <http://rcsouthwark.co.uk/media/2021.07.15%20-%20Step%204%20Guidance%20-%20FINAL.pdf> Therefore, we are advising schools to liaise with their Parish Priest and to consider this guidance when planning for such celebrations.

Adviser Visits Autumn Term 2021, Spring 2022 and Summer 2022

We are in the process of booking, in person or virtual visits, for the remainder of the 2021-2022 academic year. 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 Leader Contact Details

Thank you to all who have kept us up to date when a new RE leader is appointed. If you have appointed a new Religious Education Leader in your school, please complete this form:

<https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/contact-details-for-the-religious-education-leader/>



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.

Year of St Joseph and Year of the Family

Pope Francis has announced that this year (8th December 2020 – 8th December 2021) will be a Year of St Joseph. 2021 is the 150th anniversary of the proclamation naming St Joseph as the patron of the Universal Church. Pope Francis announced that from 19th March 2021 – 26th June 2022 would be the Year of the Family. More information can be found here.

<http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia.html>

<https://yearofstjoseph.org/devotions/sacred-artwork/>

The God Who Speaks

The November Focus is All Saints and All Souls. There are a variety of new resources including a 'Healing Tree'. Please click on this link for resources <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/all-saints-and-all-souls/>

November 2021

Pope Francis' prayer request for people who suffer from depression: We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

The month of November is dedicated to the Holy Souls. Beginning with the Solemnity of All Saints and the Feast of All Souls, it is also traditionally a month of remembrance for those who are no longer with us. Until 27th November the Church is in the liturgical season of Ordinary Time which is represented by the colour green. As of Sunday 28th November, the Church enters the Season of Advent which is represented by the colour purple.

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

- 1st All Saints (S)
- 2nd All Souls (F)
- 4th St Charles Borromeo, Bishop (M)
- 9th Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (F)
- 10th St Leo the Great, Doctor of the Church (M)
- 11th St Martin of Tours, Bishop (M)
- 12th St Josephat, Bishop (M)
- 21st Feast of Christ the King
- 22nd St Cecilia (M)
- 28th First Sunday of Advent
- 30th St Andrew, patron of Scotland (F)

Notable Saints Days

- 3rd St Martin de Porres; St Winefride
- 5th St Faustina Kowalska
- 6th St Illtud, Abbot
- 7th St Willibrord
- 15th St Albert the Great, Doctor of the Church
- 16th St Margaret of Scotland; St Gertrude;
St Edmund of Abington
- 17th St Elizabeth of Hungary; St Hilda;
St Hugh of Lincoln
- 23rd St Clement I; St Columban
- 24th Ss Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions
- 25th St Catherine of Alexandria



Catholic Life

COP26

As we seek to plan a world after the pandemic, we must make sure that the people hardest hit by the impacts of the climate crisis – but who have done the least to cause it – are at the heart of the COP26 talks. (CAFOD Website) [COP26 - Campaign for the climate | CAFOD](#)

Prayer Resources for COP26 (with thanks to Hexam and Newcastle Diocese)

There are many online resources for times of prayer during COP26.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/prayer-chain>

<https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2021/06/how-to-pray-with-children-about-the-climate-crisis>

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/climatejustice#COP26%20pray>

Prayer Spaces in Schools have revamped their website and have several prayer spaces which focus on climate change:

[Plastic Planet](#) is a prayer activity aimed to bring awareness to pupils about the effects of single-use plastic and encourage them to think about how they could live differently to help save the planet.

[Rising Seas](#) is a prayer activity that invites pupils to read case studies from Bangladesh, where people say climate change tastes like salt because increased rainfall is flooding homes and farms making the crops taste like salt from the seawater. The pupils are invited to taste a pinch of salt, and then write hopes or prayers on post-it notes for people affected by rising sea levels.

[Climate Change Windmills](#) is a prayer activity that invites pupils to think about the effects of climate change on communities and the world. As pupils think about climate change, they are invited to write their prayers and thoughts onto the paper before making it into a windmill.

[Weather](#) is a short series of prayer activities that list different types of weather and invite pupils to use each of them as a focus of reflection and prayer. The five types of weather are related to different thoughts and feelings, including being thankful, expressing need, being sorry, seeking, guidance, hopes and promises. This activity series can be adapted to focus on climate change issues and the world we live in.

[Forest Thanks](#) is a prayer activity that encourages pupils to look at and think about the beauty in nature, the plants and animals, the rivers and mountains, the stars and sunsets, and it invites them to thank God.

[Carbon Footprints](#) is a prayer activity that encourages pupils to think about their carbon footprint, that is the amount of carbon dioxide released into the air because of our energy needs, and to consider how their choices can make a difference.

Faith in Action

The CYMFed Faith in Action Award for young people aged 10-18, enables them to explore and develop their faith through service and reflection in their schools, parishes and wider community. It recognises, rewards and celebrates active faith. The Award encourages personal and spiritual growth, reflecting the ongoing nature of faith and Catholic social teaching, with emphasis on Discovery, Independence, Leadership and Innovation as participants gain Pin, Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. For further details, or ongoing support for your Faith in Action group please contact Mary Harvey at maryharvey@rcaos.org.uk or 07718899557

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The Way, the Truth and The Life News

Plans are in progress for The Way, The Truth & The Life Programme for Primary and Secondary to be available in digital format in November 2021. The WTL Books will continue to be available in hardcopy from Redemptorists Publications and the CD/DVD ROMs with additional resources from TERE. Further details will be shared with schools as soon as they are available.

Mark 10 Mission

Mark 10 Mission are once again creating weekly Gospel resources, including a brief liturgy, which are released every Friday. <https://www.themark10mission.co.uk/>

CAFOD

Cafod have a wealth of resources to support the Catholic Life of the school which can be used by teachers and chaplains. They also offer a variety of free online CPD sessions and are pleased to announce that they are once again sending volunteers out to schools. To learn more visit: <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/For-teachers/CAFOD-in-your-area>

Daughters of Divine Love (DDL)

The Daughters of Divine Love are a religious order of nuns, a group of whom are based in Norbury (Lambeth Deanery). They have asked that we highlight the work they do across the world in education and healthcare. <https://ddlenglishregion.org/> Please consider supporting them through your fundraising endeavours. For further information please contact Sr Ann admin@ddlpdo.org

Professional Development

Theology & Religious Studies in Higher Education (TRS-UK)

TRS-UK serves, represents, supports, and promotes the academic study of religion and theology in UK higher education institutions. They have produced a great series of videos by T&RS graduates talking about their degrees and the careers they have entered. <https://trs.ac.uk/studying-trs/graduate-videos/>

MA in Education: Religious Education

This programme is designed for anyone who is involved in the teaching of Religious Education (specialist and non-specialists), to support practitioners in all phases of schooling, whatever their location. The course seeks to develop knowledge, understanding and research skills in order to generate insights that transform professional practice in Religious Education. This MA is offered as a two year part-time course, or a full time one year course. Modules are taught at St Mary's monthly on a Saturday (online is available). More information: <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/postgraduate-courses-london/religious-education>

Religion Media Centre

The RMC has now been up and running for the last three years and has become an authoritative resource for news, fact sheets and commentators in the field of Religion and Belief. It is independent and non-confessional: simply there to improve religious literacy in society. Visit their new website <https://religionmediacentre.org.uk/>

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Courses for Religious Education & Catholic Life

The Education Commission is offering a hybrid mix of online and in person courses. To see the full offer and to register please visit the website at rcaoseducation.org.uk/et/ 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.

Autumn 2021

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.

Planning and Assessment in The Way, The Truth and The Life

Thursday 11th November 2021 3.30pm-5pm
Zoom £25

[Book](#)

Early Years in the Catholic School – Part 2
Engaging the 3-5s in Religious Education
Wednesday 17th November 2021 3.30pm-5pm
£25 Zoom

[Book](#)

Inspection under the Catholic Schools
Inspectorate Framework for Primary Schools
Thursday 18th November 2021 9.30am-3.30pm
£75 Zoom

[Book](#)

School business managers briefing (VA schools
only)
Tuesday 23rd November 2021
Free Zoom

[Book](#)

Advent Reflection
Tuesday 30th November 2021 8am-8.15am
Tuesday 7th December 2021 8am-8.15am
Tuesday 14th December 2021 8am-8.15am
Thursday 16th December 2021 8am-8.15am
Free Zoom

[Book](#)

If you would like to book onto any of the above courses please visit:

<https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/et/>

Flame Newsletter



About Your School

We love to hear and share stories from your schools.

The Crier is a great way of sharing your news with schools and parishes. The Crier is published three times per year. The news section of our website is shared through our weekly mail out and through social media. Articles are published once a week.

Please email your articles with images over to clairewilliams@rcaos.org.uk.

Please specify if you would prefer your article to be on the website or in The Crier.

Articles should be around 300 words and cannot be published on both the website and in The Crier. One article per school per edition for The Crier.