



Welcome to the latest edition of **Flame** our Religious Education and Spirituality newsletter. Flame will be back in January. May you experience all the blessings of the Christmas Season.

A prayer for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

Father in heaven, help us to remember that all our gifts come from you. When we think we are in charge, remind us that we are your people and that you are our God. And let us have no gods — not wealth, not power, not fame, not material things — before you.

God above, as you found favor in the Virgin Mary, help us live so that you find favor in our lives. Help us to be holy.

Help us, Lord, to follow Mary's example of faith and trust. Along with Mary, help us, too, to say: "Yes, God, I am yours. Do with me as you want. Make me your hands on earth."

Holy Spirit, inspire us to live every day as if Christmas were just a week away.

Amen

<https://thecatholicspirit.com/>

Commission News

Advent Reflections for School Staff

The Season of Advent is a time of reflection and preparation towards welcoming Jesus into our hearts and homes. This year we would like to celebrate this with a series of four Prayer and Reflections sessions on the theme of Hope.

Hope is both infectious and healing, particularly at a time of struggle. These times of reflection will help us to pray 'Christ's Hope' into the reality of our lives and encourage hopefulness within others. Archbishop John Wilson will be providing the reflection and can be used as a staff morning prayer.

To watch all 4 Reflections on YouTube, click here:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdJITfTb65nR0_fyalDGwg

Celebration of Mass and other Liturgical Events in Schools

Due to the constantly shifting nature of the Covid situation we are advising schools to liaise with their Parish Priest and to consider existing guidance and local covid situations when planning for such celebrations. The most up to date guidance for the Archdiocese of Southwark can be found here:

<https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/more-to-explore/covid-19/>

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Adviser Visits 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.

The God Who Speaks

The December Focus is *Dreams and Revelations*. 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/focus-2021/dreams-and-revelations/>

December 2021

Pope Francis' prayer request that catechists, who are called to proclaim God's Word, may be empowered by the Holy Spirit to be its courageous and creative witnesses.

The first 24 days of December fall during the liturgical season of Advent and are represented by the colour purple – the colour of penance, mortification, and the sorrow of a contrite heart. The remaining days of December mark the beginning of the Christmas Season and the liturgical colour is white or gold –the symbol of joy, purity and innocence.

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

- 3rd St Francis Xavier (M)
- 6th St Nicholas (F)
- 7th St Ambrose, Doctor of the Church (M)
- 8th The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (S)
- 13th St Lucy (F)
- 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)
- 27th St John the Evangelist (F)
- 28th The Holy Innocents (F)
- 29th St Thomas a Beckett, Martyr (F)

Notable Saints 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



January 2022

For true human fraternity: *We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognised, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.*

The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. The first 10 days fall during the liturgical season known as Christmas and is represented by the liturgical colour white. The remaining days of January fall within Ordinary time and are therefore represented by the liturgical colour green.

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

- 1st Mary, the Holy Mother of God (S)
- 2nd SS Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Doctors of the Church (M)
- 6th Epiphany of the Lord (S)
- 10th The Baptism of the Lord (F)
- 21st St Agnes, Martyr (M)
- 25th The Conversion of St Paul (F)
- 26th Ss Timothy and Titus (M)
- 28th St Thomas Aquinas, Doctor of the Church (M)

January Saints & Notable Days

- 7th St Raymond of Penafort
- 12th St Aelred of Rievaulx
- 13th St Hilary, Doctor of the Church
- 19th St Wulstan
- 20th Ss Fabian and Sebastian, Martyrs
- 22nd St Vincent, Martyr
- 27th St Angela Merici

January Resources

Epiphany and Baptism of the Lord

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Collective-worship-primary/Epiphany-resources>

<https://missio.org.uk/advent-and-christmastide/>

<https://missiontogether.org.uk/resources-by-month/calendar-january/>

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

Catholic Life

Save the Date -- One Heart One Mind

On Thursday 23 June 2022, The Education Commission and Mission Together are hosting a day of Liturgy and pilgrimage at Aylesford Priory. **One Mind, One Heart** is a day for Diocesan primary pupils to come together and celebrate their unique place within God's global family. More details including booking forms will be shared in the coming term.

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

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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

The Way, the Truth and The Life News

The Teachers' Enterprise in Religious Education have launched their new website. It is a digital store with subscription service. <https://digital.tere.org/>

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>

Professional Development

Shepherding Talent

Shepherding Talent is a pioneering programme in which teaching professionals with leadership potential are challenged to explore their vocation to lead. Aimed at all teaching professionals in Catholic schools, this programme is delivered in the context of Catholic school education.

Through live presentations and interactive sessions, the mission of the Catholic educator is elucidated alongside a consideration of personal disposition and values, inviting a critically reflective response to leadership. This interplay and its impact in an ever-changing educational environment make up the content of our programme.

This live online course, arranged exclusively for schools in the Archdiocese of Southwark, will run over 5 sessions from 5.30-7.30pm on the following dates in 2022: 21st February, 7th March, 21st March, 25th April and 9th May. Please [click here](#) to view more details.

Farmington Scholarship 2022/23

Applications for the 2022/23 Farmington Scholarships are now open. These are Scholarships available to teachers of religious education and associated subjects in UK secondary, primary, and special needs schools. Head teachers who wish to undertake research into either religious education or values education are also eligible to apply.

Scholarships cover the cost of tuition, essential local travel and, by negotiation with the school, the salary of a replacement teacher up to point 6 of the main pay scale. Scholarships last for a maximum of 30 days and can either be taken at a local university (we have links with 13 throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) or can be home-based with a local tutor. Further information and an application form can be found on our website

<http://www.farmington.ac.uk/index.php/farmington-scholarships/>



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/>

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.

Spring 2022

We are hoping to be able to deliver our in-person courses in the Spring term but are making contingency plans for online delivery and will inform delegates in due course

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.

Romero Award – Toward Developer Level
Friday 14th January 2022, or
1.00pm-4pm

£50, Zoom
For: Senior Leadership Team
[Book](#)

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Planning for Catholic School Inspections from
September 2022

18th January 2022 4pm-5.30pm

£25 Zoom

For: Headteachers, Religious Education Subject
Leaders & Governors

[Book](#)

Induction for New Foundation Governors
Wednesday 19th January 2022 4pm-5.30pm or
Tuesday 25th January 2022 5.30pm-7pm

£25 Zoom

[Book](#)

Writing a Self-Evaluation Document for Primary
and Secondary Schools

26th January 2022 3.30pm-5pm

£25 Zoom

For: Headteachers, Religious Education Subject
Leaders & Governors

[Book](#)

Admissions Appeals Panel Member Training
Thursday 27th January 2022

St Peter & St Paul Catholic Primary Academy,
Orpington, BR5 2SR

Free

[Book](#)

Clerks to Governors Forum 1
Wednesday 2nd February 2022

Free Zoom

[Book](#)

Catholic Life and Mission in the Catholic Schools
Inspection Framework

9th February 2022 6pm-7.30pm

£25 Zoom

For: Governors

[Book](#)

Catholic Life and Mission in the Catholic School
10th February 2022 3.30pm-5pm

£25 Zoom

For: Headteachers, Religious Education Subject
Leaders & Chaplains

[Book](#)

Clerks to Governors Forum 2

Thursday 10th February 2022

Free Zoom

[Book](#)

Collective Worship in the Catholic Schools
Inspection Framework

23rd February 2022 3.30pm-5pm

£25 Zoom

For: Senior Leadership Team & Chaplains

[Book](#)

Living 'Laudato Si: Care for our Common Home' in
Catholic Schools

25th February 2022, 9.30am-3.30pm

£125, Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral, Lambeth
Road, SE1 7HY

[Book](#)

Collective Worship in the Catholic Schools
Inspection Framework

2nd March 2022 6pm-7.30pm

£25 Zoom

For: Governors

[Book](#)

Religious Education in the Catholic Schools
Inspection Framework

8th March 2022 3.30pm-5pm

£25 Zoom

For: Senior Leadership Team and Religious
Education Link Governor

[Book](#)

Religious Education in the Catholic Schools
Inspection Framework

16th March 2022 6pm-7.30pm

£25 Zoom

For: Governors

[Book](#)

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If you would like to book onto any of the about course please visit:

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

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.