



Welcome to the Advent Edition of Flame. We have decided to move publication of Flame from bi-weekly cycle to termly. If you would like to contribute to Flame or have suggestions to improve it, please contact Sharon at [sharondocherty@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sharondocherty@rcaos.org.uk).

## Maranatha!

Maranatha!

Open our eyes to the dignity of all people  
And our ears to the cries of the earth.

Maranatha!

Let us walk in solidarity with the poor  
And cleanse our world from oppression.

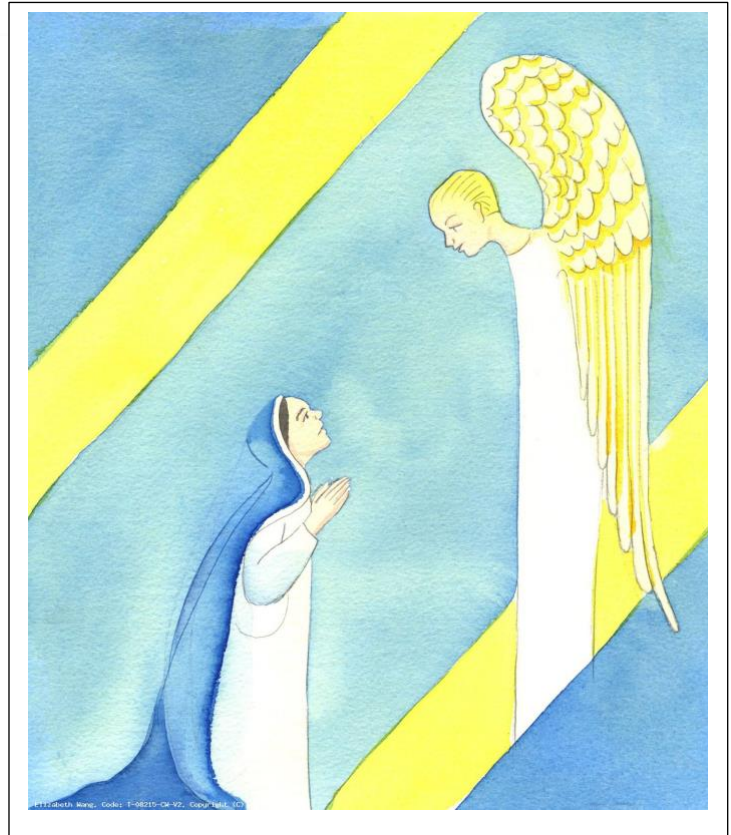
Maranatha!

Let us shout out for justice for all  
And renew our hope for change.

Maranatha!

The Lord is coming  
Let us share the Good News!  
Amen.

*Sue Cooper/CAFOD*



*Image by Elizabeth Wang*

## Commission News

### Advent Service for Primary Schools – Bookings close on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 5pm

The Advent Service for Primary Schools will be held at 1:30pm Thursday 1st December 2022 at St George's Cathedral. The work of the Southwark Crisis Fund, administered by the Catholic Children's Society will be highlighted at this service and the support from the schools celebrated. If you wish to bring a group of pupils to this event, please register via: <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/advent-service/>



## Religious Education Directory (RED) – Update

Following the consultation on the Religious Education Directory in the Summer term, significant updates were made to the draft text in response to feedback from teachers and dioceses. Additional revisions were requested by the Department of Education and Formation (a department of the Bishops' Conference) with the RED receiving final approval at the end of October.

The final text version has been shared with dioceses, but we have been asked not share with schools until the final formatted version is published. A formal launch of the document has been planned for January.

Given this delay to the publication of the directory, schools are advised to treat the remaining terms of this academic year as planning terms once the final text is shared and that teaching of the RED begins in September 2023. Full implementation is still required by September 2025.

The RE advisers are in the process of planning a series of CPD sessions which directly address the changes to the RE curriculum in all phases. This includes the Primary and Secondary RE Conferences.

## Ukraine Crisis

As the war in Ukraine continues, our school communities are supporting and welcoming those who continue to flee the fighting. If you have welcomed or been approached by Ukrainian families and have questions, please contact Daniel Coleman as he is the Education Commission Liaison. There is a link on the CSAN website to support Caritas Ukraine, in response to the humanitarian need in Ukraine. <https://www.csan.org.uk/news/response-to-crisis-in-ukraine/>.

## Adviser Visits for Spring and Summer Terms 2023

We are in the process of booking, in person or virtual visits, for the Spring and Summer terms. Schools who have not been visited in the past 18 months will be contacted. If you would like a visit sooner or require advice and/or support please contact one of the RE team. 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. We know that with a new academic year, your school, year comes changes. If you have appointed a new Religious Education Leader, please complete this form: <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/contact-details-for-the-religious-education-leader/>

# Flame Newsletter



## Living and Learning the Liturgical Year

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

### December 2022

*Pope Francis' prayer request is for volunteer not-for-profit organizations: We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation. <http://www.popesprayerusa.net/>*

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

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

- 3<sup>rd</sup> St Francis Xavier (M)
- 6<sup>th</sup> St Nicholas (F)
- 7<sup>th</sup> St Ambrose, Doctor of the Church (M)
- 8<sup>th</sup> The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (S)
- 13<sup>th</sup> St Lucy (F)
- 14<sup>th</sup> St John of the Cross, Doctor of the Church (M)
- 25<sup>th</sup> Nativity of the Lord (S)
- 26<sup>th</sup> St Stephen, the first martyr (F)
- 27<sup>th</sup> St John the Evangelist (F)
- 28<sup>th</sup> The Holy Innocents (F)
- 29<sup>th</sup> St Thomas Beckett, Martyr (F)

#### Notable Saints Days

- 4<sup>th</sup> St John Damascene, Doctor of the Church
- 9<sup>th</sup> St Juan Diego Cuatlatotzin
- 10<sup>th</sup> Our Lady of Loreto
- 10<sup>th</sup> St John Roberts, Martyr
- 11<sup>th</sup> St Damasus I, Pope
- 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 21<sup>st</sup> St Peter Canisus, Doctor of the Church
- 23<sup>rd</sup> St John of Kanty
- 31<sup>st</sup> St Sylvester I, Pope

#### Notable December Dates

- 1<sup>st</sup> World Aids Day <https://www.worldaidsday.org/>
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Elf Day for Alzheimer's Society <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/elf-day>
- 3<sup>rd</sup> International Day of People with Disabilities
- 4<sup>th</sup> International Cheetah Day <https://internationalcheetahday.com/>
- 8<sup>th</sup> Christmas Jumper Day
- 8<sup>th</sup> Bodhi Day – Buddhist Holiday
- 10<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Day <https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day>
- 16<sup>th</sup> Wear a Christmas Hat <https://www.braintumourresearch.org/fundraise/wear-a-hat-day>
- 18<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> Hanukah
- 21<sup>st</sup> National Robin Day
- 21<sup>st</sup> First Day of Winter
- 26<sup>th</sup> -1<sup>st</sup> January Kwanzaa Celebration of African Heritage
- 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve / Hogmanay in Scotland

# Flame Newsletter



## Advent Resources

The Education Service at Westminster Diocese have produced a booklet for this Advent Season:

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

Advent resources are now (or will be from next week) available on the following websites.

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

Mission Together: <https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/advent-resources/>

Aid to the Church in Need: <https://acnuk.org/> (Advent Resources will be posted soon)

The God who Speaks: <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>

## Catholic Life

### Flame 2023

This year the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation (CYMFed) are holding **FLAME 23 'RISE UP'** on Saturday 4th March 2023 at OVO Arena, Wembley for the largest Catholic gathering of young people (aged 14 and above) in England and Wales.

The theme of Flame 2023 – which is exactly 150 days before World Youth Day in Lisbon – takes the WYD Scripture “Mary arose and went with haste” and crystallises it into the theme, “Rise Up!”

The Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis (AEC) are organising our Diocesan presence at this event.

Please use the following link to book <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/latest/flame2023>

### Columban Schools Media Competition for Students aged 13-18

The Columban's are looking for articles and images that demonstrate an awareness and understanding of conflict in the world today and shine a light on people, communities and/or organisations trying to make the world a better place for everyone by building peaceful futures.

Is conflict inevitable?

Where and how is peacebuilding taking place?

What role can faith play in peace-making?

Students (aged 13-18 inclusive) are invited to submit an original piece of writing or an original image on the theme: ***Building Peaceful Futures***

More details at [Columban Competition](#)



## Professional Development and Personal Formation

### Promoting an Education in Religion

Culham St Gabriel's are delighted to have commissioned this series of short films to promote an education in religion and worldviews across many areas of public life. Individuals from a range of different perspectives and from different walks of life explain why an education in religion and worldviews matters to them. The films are freely available for all to use to show the importance of religion and worldview literacy in a multi religious, multi secular world.

More details at [Promotional film collection - Culham St Gabriel's \(cstg.org.uk\)](https://www.cstg.org.uk/promotional-film-collection)

### Teacher Survey

The project "Foregrounding Teachers' Voices" is finding out what teachers in England and Wales really think about the current state of RE and its future. The survey is open to all primary and secondary teachers of RE at all types of schools. Project leaders are Dr Tim Hutchings (University of Nottingham) and Dr Celine Benoit (Aston University), and the project is funded by Culham St Gabriel Trust. The project team will be creating new, free CPD resources for RE teachers in spring 2023, so this survey also asks what teachers would find most helpful. The survey is completely anonymous and should take 15 minutes to complete: <https://nottingham.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/teachers-voices-on-re>

## Courses for Religious Education & Catholic Life

\*\* The Education Commission's 'Continuing Professional Development Programme 2022-2023' has been sent to schools and can be accessed on the Events & Training page of the website. \*\*

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/](https://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.**

### Training, courses and events

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.



Autumn 2022

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## Secondary Religious Education Leaders Meetings

Monday 21st November 2022 2pm-4pm – Teams

Tuesday 22nd November 2022 2pm-4pm – Zoom

Wednesday 30th November 2022 2pm-4pm – Zoom

£25

[Book](#)

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## Advent Service

Thursday 1st December 2022 1.30pm

St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road, SE1 6HR

[Book](#)

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## Leading Religious Education & Collective Worship in the Catholic School (Part Two)

Tuesday 6th December 2022 10am-4pm

St Peter & St Paul Catholic Primary Academy, Orpington, £125

[Book](#)

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## Considering becoming a Foundation Governor or Foundation Director? Your questions answered

Free Zoom

Tuesday 6th December 2022 6pm

[Book](#)

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## Considering becoming a Foundation Governor or Foundation Director? Your questions answered

Free Zoom

Wednesday 7th December 2022 4pm

[Book](#)

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## Statlog Q & A

Thursday 8th December 2022 2pm-3pm

Free Zoom

[Book](#)

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Spring 2023

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## Writing a Self Evaluation Document for Primary and Secondary Schools

Thursday 12th January 2023 3.30pm-5pm  
£25 Zoom

[Book](#)

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## Romero Award – Towards Developer Award

Tuesday 17th January 2023 2-5pm  
£60 Zoom

[Book](#)

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## Governors Conference – Academisation

Saturday 28th January 2023 9.15am- 2.30pm  
£75 Zoom

£100 In person – St George’s Cathedral Catholic Primary School, 28 Lambeth Road,  
Southwark SE1 6HR

[Book](#)

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## Considering becoming a Foundation Governor or Foundation Director? Your questions answered

Free Zoom  
Thursday 9th March 2023 4pm

[Book](#)

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## Considering becoming a Foundation Governor or Foundation Director? Your questions answered

Free Zoom  
Wednesday 15th March 2023 at 6pm

[Book](#)

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**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 news section of our website is shared through our newsletter and through our Twitter and Facebook pages. Articles are published weekly.

Please email your articles with images over to [clairewilliams@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:clairewilliams@rcaos.org.uk).

Articles can be any length and should include images.