

Newsletter



7th May 2025

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Reflection

Beloved Friends, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we continue to share the Paschal joy this Easter season, I wish you a Happy Easter once again as we prepare for Pentecost.

The Month of May is dedicated to honouring our Mother Mary as Mother of God and Queen of Heaven and Earth. We call this time May Devotion, and it is celebrated in all Catholic Churches worldwide. The Church invites us in the month of May to give particular time and attention to reflect on the life of Mary, the daughter of Anna and Joachim, and the woman of Faith who held the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph together in love, service and devotion.

In our reflections, especially this Easter, we know how much love and devotion Our Lady gave to her son Jesus throughout his earthly life, from the crib to the cross and then to his disciples after his Ascension into Heaven. She continued to support his disciples in the formation of the early church and was with them at the birthday of the Church at Pentecost.

Today, in our time, our Mother Mary continues to intercede for us in Heaven, and we honour her in different ways through her various patronages and titles.

Like many, I am particularly drawn to three main places and titles of our Lady. The first is the national shrine of our country: Our Lady of Walsingham; to Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal and Our Lady of Lourdes in France. Do you have a particular place, title or patronage of our Lady that mainly speaks to you?

Like many of you, I watched the funeral of our dear late Holy Father, Pope Francis and was very

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proud to be a Catholic. I thank God for all the good work he did for the Catholic Church during his papacy that was always Christ-centred and outward-looking.

Our Late Holy Father decided to be buried in the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major. Over the twelve years of his papacy, Pope Francis prayed before the Salus Populi Romani Icon of the Mother of God 126 times. He was drawn to the Icon of Our Lady that inspired him all through his life and his papacy and gave him so much strength and peace. May he continue to rest in peace, Amen.

Like I shared in my last year's reflection, I would like to do so again this year. I encourage everyone to return to saying the Hail Mary. It is a simple prayer and the first step of many greater ones, such as the Holy Rosary. The word Rosary means "Crown of Roses". Whenever you see the beautiful Roses that have started to bloom in many gardens this spring, think of the Rosary as your Rose to our Lady.

Canon Victor Darlington
Episcopal Vicar for Education

Archbishop's Appeal Grant 2025

What is the Archbishop's Appeal Grant?

The Archbishop's Appeal is a fundraising appeal that takes place across parishes in the Archdiocese of Southwark each year. Launched in November 2022, this fundraising effort seeks to invest faith, hope, love, and charity into the missionary work of the Archdiocese in three key areas: Youth and Evangelisation, Social Outreach and Clergy Care. Funds are collected and held centrally by the Archdiocese of Southwark and ring-fenced for the Archbishop's Appeal, a portion of which is designated to be granted back to parishes and schools to support their local work.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available to support innovative projects taking place in Southwark parishes, schools, commissions, and other Catholic entities working alongside the Archdiocese, which seek to enhance one or more of the key missionary areas: Youth/Evangelisation or Social Outreach.

More information available: <https://rcaos.org.uk/archbishops-appeal-grant>

Admissions and PAN Numbers for all Primary Schools for September 2025

Thank you to those primary, infant and junior schools that have responded to date for our request for Admissions information. We have had 100 responses.

Could we please ask that the remaining schools take a few minutes to complete the form so that we have as clear a picture as possible about the provision of primary education in our diocese. <https://forms.office.com/e/yV1NDDXPpb>

If you are unsure whether your school has completed the form or not, please contact Colette who will let you know.

If the LA suggests you make any changes to admissions please contact Daniel or Angela ASAP for advice.



TA to Teacher

As you might be aware, The University of Buckingham offers high quality teacher training courses focused on creating skilled teachers and enhancing leadership in schools.

The University has created an online, distance-learning designed to equip TAs who do not already have a degree with the necessary knowledge and skills to become great teachers.

The application deadline of 16th May is fast approaching.

[Further details for primary schools](#)

[Further details for secondary schools](#)

Festival of Hope

Schools are invited to attend 'A Festival of Hope' at Aylesford Priory on 25th June 2025 from 9am until 3pm.

This event is targeted at children in Year 4 or Year 5 and the children will have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities, including singing, liturgical dance, arts and crafts and football, as well as have time for prayer and reflection. There are no food facilities so the children will need to bring a packed lunch.

This will be a fantastic opportunity to gather together to celebrate the Jubilee of Hope together and we are really looking forward to seeing lots of schools there.

[Click here](#) to view more details and book your places.

Celebration of Service Mass

Archbishop John looks forward to meeting headteachers at the Mass to celebrate Catholic Education and those who serve as leaders that will be held on 18th June 2025 at 4pm. All headteachers are encouraged to attend and pupils are also welcome. Heads are invited to bring a future leader with them be it a member of the teaching, support or administrative staff who you wish to encourage into leadership in their area of school responsibility.

Please [click here](#) to view more details and book.

Contact with Property

Please send all queries relating to property, land and buildings to ecbuildings@rcaos.org.uk in the first instance. This will be picked up by a relevant member of the team.



Worknest - Tackling Stress in Education

Education staff across the UK are grappling with unprecedented levels of stress. From unmanageable workloads and inspection demands to staffing shortages and limited resources, the pressures placed on people in the profession are escalating – and so are the consequences.

Join WorkNest for a free one-hour webinar on the 21st May at 9.30am to understand the legal landscape, the risks, and proactive ways to manage stress in education.

Register here: <https://worknest.com/training/tackling-stress-in-education-practical-advice-to-prevent-legal-pitfalls-partners/?v=ADOSW>

Wintershall Life of Christ performances

17th-21st June 2025. 10am-3.30pm

Discover the wonder of Jesus' life with an unforgettable event for all the family. The Life of Christ is a play like no other, placing you in the middle of an immersive theatre experience. Join over a hundred actors in the stunning grounds of Wintershall Estate as this magnificent story is movingly recreated with authentic detail in an epic open-air production.

Further details can be viewed here: <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/event/life-of-christ/>

Savings for School Staff

See Martin Lewis Moneysavingexpert page for details of savings for school staff. The very successful emergency services Bluelight discount card is now available to school staff.

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/deals/discounts-for-teachers/>

Upcoming School Grants

Kellogg's Breakfast Club Grants

£1,000 grant - Priority for schools with over 40% of pupil premium eligibility - No deadline

Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust

£100 - £100,000 - Project schemes directed towards capital expenditure - No deadline

Foyle School Library Scheme

Up to £10,000 - Grant to help buy books, e-readers, library software, IT equipment and furniture - No deadline



Recruitment

Vacancies can be viewed in full here: <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/recruitment/>

Deputy Headteacher, St Edmund's Catholic School

Dover

Closing date: 7th May 2025

Teacher of PE, St Ursula's Convent School

Greenwich

Closing date: 7th May 2025

Headteacher, St Saviour's Catholic Primary School

Lewisham

Closing date: 9th May 2025

EYFS Leader, St Fidelis Catholic Primary School

Erith

Closing date: 16th May 2025

Assistant Headteacher, St Simon of England RCP School

Ashford

Closing date: 16th May 2025

SENCO, St Fidelis Catholic Primary School

Erith

Closing date: 16th May 2025

Teacher of Religious Education, Coloma Convent Girls' School

Croydon

Closing date: 16th May 2025

Year 6 Class Teacher, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Wandsworth

Closing date: 16th May 2025

Events & Training

Summer 2025

Catholic Leaders Drop in

Multiple dates & venues

[Book](#)

Safeguarding for Governors

Wednesday 30th April 2025. 5.30-7pm

Zoom

[Book](#)

Good Shepherd Mass

Thursday 1st May 2025. 1.45pm

St George's Cathedral

[Book](#)

KS1 – KS3 Greater Depth Moderation

Multiple dates & venues

[Book](#)

Governors' Gathering

For all governors

Wednesday 7th May 2025. 4-5pm. Zoom

Thursday 8th May 2025. 5-6pm. Zoom

[Book](#)

Induction for New Foundation Directors, Governors and Clerks

Tuesday 3rd June 2025 4-5.30pm. Zoom or

Thursday 26th June 2025 5.30-7pm. Zoom

[Book](#)

Buildings Termly Update Meeting

Tuesday 10th June 2025. 2-3pm. Zoom

[Book](#)



School Building Responsibilities as a Governor

Thursday 12th June 2025. 5.30-6.30pm. Zoom
[Book](#)

Foundation Governors Retreat Day

Saturday 14th June 2025. 9.30am-3.30pm.
£25, Cowderoy Room, Amigo Hall, Lambeth
Road, SE1 6HR
[Book](#)

Celebration of Service Mass

Wednesday 18th June 2025. 4pm
St George's Cathedral
[Book](#)

Finance for Governors

Tuesday 24th June 2025 5.30-7pm. Zoom
[Book](#)

Festival of Hope

Wednesday 25th June 2025. 9am-3pm
The Friars, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7BY
[Book](#)

Chaplaincy Retreat

Friday 27th June 2025. 9.30am-4pm.
£55. Canterbury Cathedral Lodge, The Precincts,
Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2EH
[Book](#)

Save the Date!

Deputy Headteachers Conference - 9th July 2025

Beginning of Year Mass - 24th September 2025

Headteachers' Conference 2025 -Ashford International Hotel - 20th and 21st November 2025

News

Walking the Way of the Cross, St Oscar Romero Catholic Academy Trust



On the 2nd April 2025 all St Oscar Romero schools came together at St George's Cathedral, Southwark, in order to celebrate "Walking the Way of the Cross". At the heart of the Trust is their witness of faith and there is nothing more important to them than to be able to celebrate and profess their faith together as a family of schools.

[Continue reading.](#)

National Recognition for Richard Challoner School Strong Performance

Members of the Richard Challoner School community are delighted that the school's excellent outcomes, once again, have been recognised by SSAT (Schools', Students' and Teachers' Network) in this year's Educational Outcomes Awards.

[Continue reading.](#)

