Newsletter

23rd April 2025

In this Newsletter

- Admissions and PAN Numbers
 - New to Catholic Schools
 - Festival of Hope
 - <u>Celebration of Service Mass</u>
 - <u>Contact with Property</u>

- Savings for School Staff
- Upcoming School Grants
 - <u>Recruitment</u>
 - Events & Training
 - <u>News</u>

Reflection

Beloved Friends, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy Easter in this Jubilee Year, and welcome back to school after a much-deserved rest during the Easter holidays.

As we return to our school communities, we do so with heavy hearts following the recent death of our beloved Holy Father, Pope Francis. We give thanks to God for his life of humble service, his prophetic witness to mercy and justice, and his call to see one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. May the Lord now grant him eternal rest and reward him for his faithful ministry to the Church and the world.

The Easter season is a 50-day period of joy, thanksgiving, and new life. It runs from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the victory of life over death. This season is considered the most important time of the liturgical year. After your 40 days of Lent, we now give thanks to God for the sacrifice He made for us in Jesus.

In our schools and homes, the message of peace, reconciliation, and an end to violence and suffering in various parts of the world continues to be our Easter message. Alleluia! Jesus is truly risen, and His sacrificial love continues to change us and bring us to salvation, now and always.

The darkness of Good Friday was only temporary—light scattered the darkness of the grave, truth triumphed over falsehood, our strength was restored, and our hope came fully alive once again.

During the Easter Season, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on Sunday, 27th April, which was originally intended to be the date for the canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis, a great inspiration for our young people. Following the death of Pope Francis, the Vatican has postponed the canonisation. PG 1

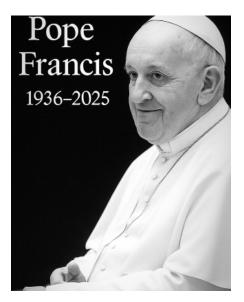
A new date will be announced by the next Holy Father in due course. Nonetheless, we continue to honour Blessed Carlo's witness, especially during the Church's Jubilee of Adolescents.

We will also be celebrating a number of Feast Days:

- Friday, 25th April Feast of Saint Mark, Evangelist
- Monday, 28th April Solemnity of Saint George, Patron of England (transferred from 23rd April due to Easter Week)
- Tuesday, 29th April Feast of Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
- Saturday, 3rd May Feast of Saints Philip and James, Apostles
- Wednesday, 14th May Feast of Saint Matthias, Apostle
- Tuesday, 27th May Feast of Saint Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop
- Thursday, 29th May Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation in England and Wales)
- Saturday, 31st May Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Tuesday, 3rd June Memorial of Saints Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs
- Thursday, 5th June Memorial of Saint Boniface, Bishop and Martyr
- Sunday, 8th June Solemnity of Pentecost, the Birthday of the Church and the end of the Easter Season

I'm sure you will also have much going on this term, with plenty to prepare for and do. May the joys of the Easter Season continue to sustain us, renew our strength, and inspire us to carry forward the legacy of faith, love, and compassion that Pope Francis embodied.

Canon Victor Darlington Episcopal Vicar for Education



Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let Your perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

Pope Francis RIP. Archbishop John calls Pope Francis a Pope for the poor and a Pope for peace. Following the death of Pope Francis, Archbishop John said the Holy Father was a Pope for the poor and a Pope for peace. <u>Continue reading</u>.

PG 2

Admissions and PAN Numbers for all Primary Schools for September 2025

Pupil numbers remain a significant issue for many schools, at this time. Forecasts suggest that this will continue to be a challenge in the coming years. In response to this situation, the Education Service continues to meet with a number of local authorities. It is vitally important that we have our own information and a clear picture of the situation in our schools.

To this end, we would be grateful if you could follow the link provided and complete the form regarding your admission numbers for Reception 2025 and your numbers across other year group for the coming academic year. Having this data will be helpful in our upcoming discussions with our local authorities.

Thank you, once again, for your continued support in this work. Responses due by Tuesday 6th May 2025.<u>https://forms.office.com/e/yV1NDDXPpb</u>

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

Last chance to book! New to Catholic Schools

Tuesday 29th April 2025, 10am-4pm. £25

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, 7 St Joseph's Street, SW8 4EN

This full day course is designed to support those who are new to teaching in Catholic schools. It is aimed at ECTs and experienced teachers.

Sessions include:

- the Church's mission in education, specifically within the Archdiocese of Southwark;
- an introduction to Catholic Social Teaching (CST), how it is lived out by all members of the school community;
- an exploration of the question 'What is a Catholic Classroom?'
- a session on leading times of prayer within the classroom and participating in wider school times of prayer and liturgy.

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.

<u>Click here</u> 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 <u>click here</u> to view more details and book.

Contact with Property

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

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

<u>Kellogg's Breakfast Club Grants</u> £1,000 grant - Priority for schools with over 40% of pupil premium eligibility - No deadline

<u>Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust</u> £100 - £100,000 - Project schemes directed towards capital expenditure - No deadline

Foyle School Library Scheme

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

Recruitment

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

Class Teacher, St Peter's Catholic Primary School

Woolwich Closing date: 23rd April 2025

School Business Manager, St Joseph's Catholic Federation

Upper Norwood Closing date: 23rd April 2025

School Business Manager, Bishop Thomas Grant London Closing date: 23rd April 2025

Director of Standards (Secondary), St Oscar Romero Catholic Academy Trust Crovdon

Closing date: 25th April 2025

Events & Training

Teacher, Corpus Christi Catholic School London Closing date: 28th April 2025

Headteacher, St Thomas' Catholic Primary School Canterbury Closing date: 6th May 2025

EYFS Leader, St Fidelis Catholic Primary School Erith Closing date: 16th May 2025

SENCO, St Fidelis Catholic Primary School Erith Closing date: 16th May 2025

Summer 2025

New to Catholic Schools

Tuesday 29th April 2025, 10am-4pm. £25 St Mary's Catholic Primary School, 7 St Joseph's Street, SW8 4EN Book

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 govenrors Wednesday 7th May 2025. 4-5pm. Zoom Thursday 8th May 2025. 5-6pm. Zoom <u>Book</u>

New to Primary Religious Education Leadership – Day 3

Thursday 8th May 2025. 9.30am-4pm £25 Education Service, St Edward's House, St Pauls Wood Hill, Orpington, BR5 2SR <u>Book</u>

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 <u>Book</u> **Catholic Leaders Drop in** Multiple dates & venues 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 <u>Book</u>

Save the Date!

Governors Retreat - 14th June 2025 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

Emile Vidal Carr Hosts Fashion Design Course at St Fidelis Catholic Primary School



Award winning fashion designer Emile Vidal Carr has been working with the pupils at St Fidelis Catholic Primary School in Erith, on a fashion design course. It has given the pupils an opportunity to design and create their own designs. Continue reading.

Christ the King Sixth Forms Receives Prestigious Oscar Romero Award on 45th Anniversary of His Passing

Christ the King Sixth Forms has been honoured with the Oscar Romero Award at St George's Cathedral, Southwark. Christ the King Sixth Forms (CTK) is delighted to announce that we have been awarded the Oscar Romero Award at Participator Level in recognition of our commitment to Catholic Social Teaching, social justice, and solidarity.



Continue reading.

PG 6