

Newsletter



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5th November 2025

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Reflection

Beloved Friends, Brothers, and Sisters in Christ,

In November, we remember the dead. I know some of you have recently lost loved ones, while others mark anniversaries of painful losses within your families and our school community. I am very sorry for your loss and pray that the Lord grants you, his consolation. May the souls of the departed continue to rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

We begin the month by celebrating all the Saints in heaven on Sunday 2nd of November, and the next day, Monday 3rd November we pray for all the Holy Souls. As I mentioned last year, everyone has lost someone dear—whether a distant relative, parent, schoolmate, colleague, child, friend, grandparent, or neighbour. We pray: “Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.”

November is a time for reflection and gratitude. Personally, I have so much to be thankful for, not least on a successful webinar for Racial and Cultural Inclusion by our Commission, as we continue to remind everyone to show love and compassion for each other, especially for those who are different from us. We believe there is always room for one more.

In November, we also celebrate Christ the King of the Universe, marking the end of Ordinary Time. As we honour this feast, I invite you to pray for peace in the world. At the close of the month, we celebrate the feast of Saint Andrew, the beloved Apostle of Jesus who was born in Galilee and spent much of his life preaching the Good News of peace. Andrew introduced his brother, Peter—our first Pope—to Jesus. Saint Andrew stands as a role model in these times, eager to lead us to Christ; eager to invite us to a culture of peace.



These two feasts, which bring our Liturgical Calendar to a close, prepare us for the Season of Advent and, of course, the beautiful season of Christmas.

May Saint Andrew, the Patron of Scotland, pray for us at this time.

Canon Victor Darlington,
Episodical Vicar for Education, Archdiocese of Southwark

Administering Admissions

Wednesday 12th November 2025. 2pm-3.30pm. Zoom

It's the time of year when schools need to consult on admission policies and start to process applications! This information session for staff, Headteachers and anyone involved in the process to guide you through consulting, amending your admissions policy, thinking about when to use a certificate of practice and even better when not to.

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

Safeguarding Alert

The book publisher, Puffin, has issued an alert about books by Andy Cope. The books in the Spy Dogs, Spy Cats and Spy Pups series include links to additional content.

Unfortunately, the links are no longer owned by the author and if the links are followed, they now contain pornographic content. The books themselves are fine; it is just the additional content which requires caution.

Oscar Romero Award Trust - Important Dates

To be able to receive your award for participator, developer and innovator level of the Oscar Romero Award at the Mass in March 2026 please note the dates below for submission of evidence deadlines. These allow enough time for the assessment to take place.

Participator level 13 February 2026

Developer level 9 January 2026

Innovator level 9 January 2026

Ten:Ten Secondary Schools Half Term Report

Ten:Ten's new Partner Schools Initiative - a small group helping shape how Ten Ten continues to serve Catholic education is detailed in their report including their latest updates.

[Click here](#) to read the report.



Work Nest

Employment Law Roadmap | how to prepare for 2026 - 27 November at 2pm

Big changes are coming to UK employment law, and 2026 is set to be a pivotal year. From stronger union powers and restrictions on fire and rehire practices to enhanced harassment prevention duties and other key reforms, the Employment Rights Bill (ERB) will reshape how businesses hire, manage, and support their people.

[Register here](#)

Advent Reflections

Please join us for our weekly online Advent Reflections starting the **27th November 2025**.

Headteachers and all school staff are warmly invited to join us for a brief, weekly online Advent reflection led by representatives from CAFOD, Missio, Million Minutes, and SVP. During this busy season, we invite you to take a 15-minute pause each week to reflect, pray, and gather virtually with colleagues from across the diocese. All reflections, along with additional prayer and liturgy resources from each charity, will be sent out to every school after the event.

Please [click here](#) to book.

Secondary Heads of Religious Education Meeting

Secondary Heads of Religious Education meeting will take place on **11th November 2025** and led by Andy Lewis, author of the Source and the Summit. He is Deputy Headteacher at St Bonaventure's School in East London. He has contributed to Religious Education nationally through his work with Culham St Gabriel's, Teach First and the Catholic Education Service. We will also be discussing KS5 General RE programs that support the RED requirements along with Curriculum updates from the CES & NBRIA

Please [click here](#) to book.

Primary Advent Service

This year Archbishop John Wilson will be joining us for the Primary Advent Service on the **9th December 2025** and it's great to see the numbers of schools that have already registered as well as those who will be participating in this years event.

We are looking forward to the music led by Jonathan Schranz and the Southwark Singing programme. If you would like to book, please [click here](#).



To ensure we have as much participation as possible, we are asking for all the schools to learn 'Mary did you know...?' [Mary, Did You Know with Lyrics](#)

Christmas Card Competition

Our Christmas card competition for Nursery - Y6 pupils is now open! This year's entries will be used to produce next year's cards. Please email designs as either a JPEG or PDF to clairewilliams@rcaos.org.uk by **Friday 21st November 2025 Midday**.

Themes for the entries can be chosen from:

- **While Shepherds Watched**
- **We three Kings**
- **Go tell it on the mountains**

Jubilee Pledge

All Catholic schools are invited to make a Jubilee Pledge to live out Catholic Social Teaching. A better world needs all of us, and the Pledge will be a whole school, long-term commitment to building a fairer world.

Add your school to Cafod's online map to show you have made a Jubilee Pledge, and you will receive a certificate to display as a sign of your commitment to building a better world! Click here: <https://cafod.org.uk/jubilee-schools/jubilee-pledge/jubilee-pledge-map>

Wintershall

The Travelling Crib at Lambeth
10-14 November 2025

Join the characters of the Nativity on the journey to Bethlehem, at this very special workshop experience in the gardens of Lambeth Palace. Outdoor Advent themed education workshops suitable for KS1 & KS2

Workshop 1 10:00 - 12:00
Workshop 2 12:30-14:30

To find out more and book your place schools@wintershall.org.uk

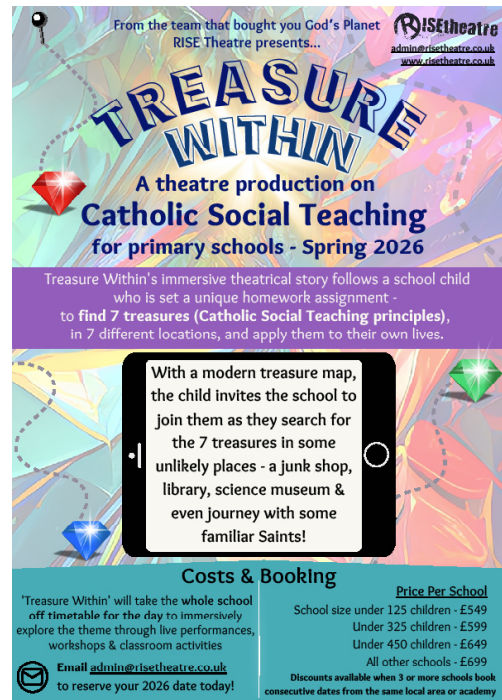
The poster features a collage of four photographs at the bottom showing children in costumes interacting with people dressed as the Three Kings and animals like a donkey and sheep in a garden setting.

Wintershall have opened up their bookings for their Advent Travelling Crib at Lambeth Palace.

Please complete the form and they will confirm your booking via email as soon as possible. Limited availability.

Please use this link to book: <https://forms.gle/81dzMrSeDhcZiP926>





Recruitment

Trust Relationship Officer, Education Service

We are seeking a dedicated and aspirational Trust Relationship Officer. This role is pivotal in fostering and maintaining relationships with trusts and schools in promoting the Archdiocese's mission and activities. You will work alongside colleagues supporting other trusts.

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

To advertise any school vacancy with us for free, please email clairewilliams@rcaos.org.uk

Events & Training

All sessions are available to book on our website: www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/et

Autumn 2025

Finance for Governors

Tuesday 11th November 2025. 2-3.30pm. Zoom

Secondary RE Leaders Meeting

Tuesday 11th November 2025. 9.30am-4pm.
£25. Amigo Hall, Lambeth Road, SE1 6HR

Succession Planning and Recruiting a Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher

Wednesday 12th November 2025. 4-5.30pm.
Zoom

Administering Admissions

Wednesday 12th November 2025. 2pm-3.30pm
Zoom



Lighting the Path – Catch up session

Thursday 13th November 2025 4pm-6pm.
Zoom

Jubilee Year – Schools Celebration

Friday 21st November 2025. 2-3pm
Zoom

New to Catholic Schools

Tuesday 25th November 2025 9.30am-4pm. St Mary's RC Primary School, Battersea

Governors Gatherings

Tuesday 25th November 2025. 5.30-6.30pm.
Zoom

Parish Priests – Drop in Session

Tuesday 25th November 2025, 2-3pm
Zoom

Primary RE Leaders Briefing

Wednesday 26th November 2025. 4-5.30pm.
Teams

Advent Reflections

Thursday 27th November, 4th, 11th, 18th
December 2025. 8am to 8.15am. Teams.

Advent Service

Tuesday 9th December 2025. 1.30pm. St George's Cathedral

Does Your Prayer & Liturgy Meet CSI Expectations

Wednesday 10th December 2025, 3.30-5pm
Zoom

Save the Date!

Introduction to Oscar Romero Award Trust - Thursday 15th January 2026

Oscar Romero Award Trust Mass - Thursday 26th March 2026

News

All Saints Day at St Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School and Nursery



The whole school at St Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School & Nursery in Ramsgate celebrated All Saints Day with a special assembly in preparation for Saturday, 1 November. Mr Marshall introduced all the class saints and three children from each class represented their class saint.

[Continue reading.](#)

Catholic Choirs Festival

On Friday the 24th October the Catholic Choirs Festival was held at Sacred Heart Church Battersea. artJohn Cronin, a long standing music teacher (and parishioner) has organised this Catholic inter school event for 6 years and it is a huge success.

[Continue reading.](#)

