



Cluster Group Newsletter

Spring Meeting Thursday 22nd March 2018

*'The Christian Education Team is dedicated in assisting schools and colleges
proclaim the Good News.'*



Email: p.peel@rcaol.co.uk d.hegarty@rcaol.co.uk j.rourke@rcaol.co.uk

Christian Education Website : <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/Information498>

Opening prayer — Clothed with the Qualities of Christ. Please see the attached prayer sheet.

David Wells said: "If you're proclaiming a joyful gospel - 'tell your face,' show happiness!"

Appeal: Please notice the prayer leaflet has two images on. If you would like to send in a picture to be included on a future prayer, please email one of the team.

National Eucharistic Congress

The Bishops of England and Wales will hold a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool this September. It has been given the title **Adoremus** (let us adore).

On the first day of the Congress, there will be workshops for parish catechists, RE teachers, Chaplains and Extraordinary Ministers. Schools have been invited to apply for tickets from our allocation to attend these.

The Archbishop has suggested that schools celebrate the Congress in some way:

- By holding a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament - with the co-operation of the Parish priest. (see example sent to schools and on *Pastoral Formation* website)
- By participating in the Artwork competition to design a poster entitled **JESUS, THE BREAD OF LIFE**. Schools are asked to judge entries and submit the winners in age group to the Christian Education Department at L.A.C.E. by Friday, April 20th. The best ones from across the Archdiocese will be chosen and printed in a booklet to give to delegates at the Congress.
- Through works of mercy - feeding the hungry etc.
- Through prayer and reflection.

Thank you to St Leo and Southmead Catholic Primary School, Knowsley who have begun their celebrations...



New Standards for Religious Education Pilot

The pilot is coming to a close and a big thank you to those schools who wished to take part. There was a very positive response from the Pilot schools, particularly for mixed aged classes, along with a very good response to the end of age phases.

Julie has now emailed the questionnaire to the pilot schools which will take approximately an hour to an hour and a half to complete. However, once the questionnaire is opened and begun schools *must* complete it in its entirety as there is no going back function online. A PDF version of the questions has also been emailed out so that co-ordinators will be able to go through them first and compile answers *before* filling it in on line.

The Questionnaire must be completed by the 1st May 2018. It will be looked at and sent to Bishops before their next meeting. The agenda for the Bishops also contains a new Religious Education Curriculum Directory (RECD) which may affect the pilot as they may decide that the two things need to be looked at together.

A useful 'Standards Tree' resource to further explain how standards grow and branch out can be accessed via our website under 'Assessment.'



Sharing resources, ideas & displays

- <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Refugee-resources>

Join CAFOD in their 24,900 mile solidarity walk - the distance around the world. Tell world leaders you are speaking out for refugees, and that they need to do the same. Organise a walk for Refugee Week in June!

- ATCRE Association of Teachers of Catholic Religious Education www.atcre.co.uk

The Association of Teachers of Catholic Religious Education (ACTRE) aims to be the principal national body promoting professional development and networking for religious education teachers working in Catholic schools. The Association draws on the expertise that exists in Catholic schools today and aims to provide for the professional needs of religious education teachers working in Catholic schools in England and Wales. ACTRE aims to speak for religious education teachers working in Catholic schools, ensuring that their voice is heard not just at diocesan level but at the national table as well. Please visit the website if you wish to join.

- **In Another Place** Phone Number: 0151 924 4468 E-mail: admin@inanotherplace.com

'We are delighted to announce that we are bringing back The Greatest Story Ever Told. We last performed this in 2014 and are excited to be bringing it back to life in St George's Hall, Liverpool this July. From the 10th to the 12th July let us take you on a journey through the bible as we follow the greatest story ever told!' The theatre-in-the-round production gives a whistle stop tour of the Bible aimed particularly at 7 - 17 year olds. Each performance lasts for 2 hours inclusive of a 20 minute interval. The event features large props such as Noah's ark and a life size whale to swallow Jonah. It also has impressive screen visuals and things happening in every direction! There will be a large cast of around 300 individuals, community groups, choirs and those with additional needs.

- **Bishop Eton, Liverpool**

Joanne shared information about the Blessed Sacrament being held at her school. Fr. Tim, their parish priest has published a *Freddy Freckles* book for children to accompany the Eucharistic Congress.



Joanne highlighted the book *Malala's Magic Pencil*, written by [Malala Yousafzai](#), the young girl from Pakistan whose work as an education activist gained international recognition, and who was the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. The book engaged readers of all ages at school. Here's a little more about the story...

The book is by Malala herself, and it focuses on her childhood, offering the sort of personal details that make her early life highly accessible to young readers. The violent attack against her -- when she was shot by the Taliban -- is handled gently and indirectly for the age group, saying only that "dangerous men tried to silence me, but they failed." The book is a powerful introduction to this young, female role model and her work.

- **St. Mary's, Blackbrook, St. Helen's**

Rachel informed the group that her parish priest is providing a short half- hour 'Exposition' for children in Key Stage Two. Julie recently visited the school and experienced how enriching and reverent the children were. The timings and prayers used made it so accessible and relevant for the children.

If you are hoping to lead an Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament then please refer to the notes and letters sent to all schools. If you would like a further copy of how to make the experience accessible to children then please follow this link for some ideas.

<http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/userfiles/files/PFM/40%20hours%20school%20visit%20sample.pdf>

- **Fundraising**

Many of our schools are starting *Mini Vinnies*—children aged 7 to 11, or younger, who, with the permission of their parents and support of the schools embark on their first steps of 'turning concern into action.' One school raised funds through their group to buy John Burland CD'S.

If you would like more information about Mini Vinnies have a little look at the website:

<http://www.minivinnies.org.uk/index.php>

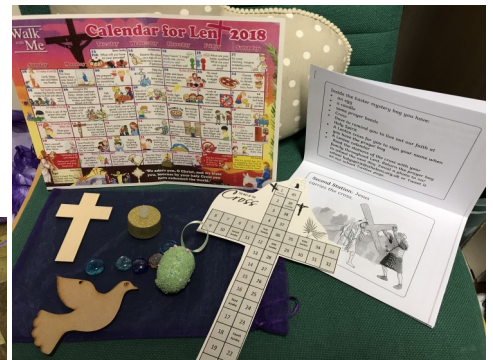
Sharing resources, ideas & displays

- **Holy Spirit, St. Helen's**



Sinead shared how they are using prayer bags for liturgical seasons which are sent home with the children. They are proving to be a great success. Their Lenten prayer bags held a special cross, dove, candle, egg, prayer pebbles and prayers.

In school Lenten lanterns were displayed on focus tables to help the children *shine* this Lent. They are hoping to provide children with a Eucharistic prayer bag in the near future.



LIVERPOOL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI

15 OCTOBER 2018 | 4 NIGHTS £579 per person

Transport & Accommodation

Direct flight from Manchester to Rome Ciampino
Transfer on arrival from the airport to our hotel in Santa Maria degli Angeli with guide assistance
4 nights' accommodation in Hotel Porziuncola, in Santa Maria degli Angeli (Lower Assisi)
Daily breakfast and evening meal served at hotel
Transfer from our hotel to Rome airport for return flight
Direct flight from Rome Ciampino to Manchester
Luxury air-conditioned coach for all transfers and tours

Tours & Excursions

Visit to Basilica of St Mary of the Angels, Basilica of St Francis and St Clare in Assisi
Visit to Siena
Visit to Cascia
Full Spiritual Programme with Daily Masses

Notes

Price per person sharing twin/double rooms with private facilities
Prices are inclusive of airline taxes and charges
Optional pilgrimage travel insurance is available from Joe Walsh Tours for £29 per person up to 85 years of age (terms & conditions apply). An additional insurance premium of £29 is charged to persons aged 86 to 94 years
Passengers are entitled to one piece of hand luggage (10kg) check in luggage (20kg) is subject to a charge of approximately £50 return and subject to airline's conditions;
Single rooms are on request at a supplement of £25 per night
Full assistance of Joe Walsh Tours representative for the duration of the tour
A buy on board catering system is available on flights
A non-refundable deposit of £200 is required for booking
Itinerary and flight details may be subject to change; E&OE
All bookings protected by the Commission for Aviation Regulation in Ireland (T.O. 052 | T.A. 0689) and the Civil Aviation Authority in the UK (ATOL 5163 | ABTOT 5332)



If you, your headteacher or school colleagues are interested,
please contact Pat Peel, our pilgrimage organiser at p.peel@rcaol.co.uk

Section 48 updates and Monitoring Visits

RSE—Please ensure your school has a policy and website statement and have begun mapping it across school. If you would like any documents to support your school, please email one of the team.

Our colleagues in Church of England schools have produced further reading: *Guidance for Church of England schools on challenging homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying*. This document may provide some background reading for those leading RSE and Equality within schools.

https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/Valuing%20All%20God%27s%20Children%27s%20Report_0.pdf

SED—When completing your SED, on average there should be no more than two pages for each section. The first section for the provision of Catholic Life is always the largest area. You may find that other areas will just need one page. One tip is to complete the SED by looking at leaders and governors first, then what the school provides and then the outcomes are for children. This may help with repetition. It may also help by beginning with Collective worship areas first.

Please note that there are 3 areas each now for Catholic Life, Religious Education and Collective Worship.

Pastoral work—this is an area which has grown in content for Section 48. All Catholic schools offer lots of support to staff, children, parents/carers and the community so please celebrate this is your SED.

Governor training—There is always Governor training available for Religious Education, Collective Worship and the Role of the RE link governor. Please refer your governors to the updates from Ian Beck, who is the Archdiocesan Governor Support Officer. Ian regularly sends updates of courses to Chair of Governors, including information from the Christian Education Department. Remember to include any updates you may have made to governors and make reference to this in the SED.

Come and See Updates

The Come and See website subscription is £10 per class annually.

Please do not use the books as they are now outdated however, the information pages at the front of the book providing the background, process and overviews may be useful for those new to Come and See.

Please download the updated topics from the teacher resources on the Come and See website. This is, at present, the most up to date part of the website. A little reminder... the downloaded topics are a resource for the teacher and the information it provides for the four weeks of the topic needs to be made accessible to children. <http://www.comeandseere.co.uk/main-resources/teachers-resources>

There are plenty of resources also available for teachers who may need to make the content suitable for children with specific needs. You can find lots of ideas for planning by looking on the green button SEN <http://www.comeandseere.co.uk/main-resources/sen>

As we update our Formal Assessments on our own website, we also include 'Background Notes' to aid the teachers across the school. Teachers and coordinators are finding them very useful.

A resource to aid the **Local Church—Community** topic will be added onto our own website under <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/Planning>

Thank you for an idea from St. Mary Magdalen's, Penwortham ... a question grid was used to promote further Scripture understanding. Examples of questions grids can be found easily by searching for **Ask Better Questions** available on the *TES* website.

Local Cluster Groups

All Religious Education coordinators should by now be in a local cluster support group!
If you are having difficulty joining one, contact your local LACE cluster group leader from the contributions list at the end of the newsletter or simply contact your neighbouring Catholic school.
There is now a wealth of successful and informative cluster groups for you to join!

Pat, Denise or Julie can attend your local cluster if you need advice or support.

Dates for your diary

- John Burland

If you would like a visit from John Burland on dates including 21-25th June, please email Denise.

- Religious Education Coordinators' Spirituality days—LACE on:

Tuesday 3rd July and on Monday 9th July. You will have the choice of coming along to either one of the dates. Please keep checking our website for booking forms.

- National Eucharistic Congress

Friday 7th, Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th September 2018

- CCRS Orientation—LACE

Tuesday 25th September 7p.m.

- Christian Education Department Pilgrimage—Assisi

Monday 15th October - Friday 19th October 2018

LACE Cluster group next meeting

Date for next LACE Cluster meeting: 28th June 2018 1.30p.m. in Seminar 1

Data Protection Reminder Please only use school emails in correspondence with the Archdiocese.

Thank you to our LACE Cluster group:

Ian Mackenzie, St. Ambrose, Speke; Ruth Hints, St. Christopher's Speke; Tracey Williams, All Saints, Anfield; Maria Reichinger, St. Paul & St Timothy's Infants, West Derby; Sandra Hamilton, Our Lady & St. Swithin's, Liverpool; Joanne Mitchell, Our Lady's Bishop Eaton, L'pool; Teresa Mc Cann, St. Bede's Jnrs, Widnes; Kate Dooley, St. Basil's, Widnes; Lynsey Connell, Jo Schofield, St. Mark's, Halewood; Margaret Boardman, St. Margaret Mary's Infants, Huyton; Lisa Cooney, Our Lady of Good Help, Liverpool; Clare Derryhouse & Suzanne Travis, St. Margaret Mary's Jnrs, Huyton; Rachel Conroy, St. John Fisher, Knowsley Village; Rowena Swarbrick, St. Joseph's, Wrightington; Charlotte Chenery, Sacred Heart, Chorley; Rachael Dooner, St. Mary's, Blackbrook; Amy Mc Cormack, St. Mary's, St. Helen's; Teresa Davies, Ursuline, Blundellsands; Dymna Bradley, Great Crosby, Crosby; Angela Sothern, English Martyrs, Litherland; Sinead Walsh, Holy Spirit, St. Helens; Lynn Rawlinson, St. Peter's, Warrington; Melanie Smith, St. Marie's, Standish; Louise Tracey, St. Patrick's, Wigan; Rev. Fr. Dave Melly, Christian Education Department; Pat Peel, Christian Education Dept; Denise Hegarty, Christian Education Dept; Julie Rourke, Christian Education Dept.