



Edition 67
December 2018

Welcome... *The Maximilian* is a monthly newsletter from the Education Commission to all categories of governors in our schools, highlighting changes in legislation and other news which will be of help to governing bodies.

Advent Message from the Director

This Advent we are reminded yet again of the ever-increasing need to welcome Jesus Christ at Christmas. Today's uncertainty and the relentless pace of change is even more reason for all to take time out, take stock, and seize the opportunity to reflect on the extraordinary moment in history when God came on earth to dwell among us.

We wish all of you an enjoyable Christmas amid friends and family. We hope you will find time to recuperate from what has been a long and exacting term. We pray for those facing Christmas in trepidation, recognising that for some of the children we serve, Christmas will be spent in circumstances they would not choose for themselves.

Our schools continue to be beacons of excellence, bringing the light of Christ into the world. We have only had pleasing outcomes from inspections this term, there have been spectacular celebrations of our young people's successes in last year's round of examinations, and those children who participated in our Advent Service gave us adults a brilliant afternoon to remember. Thank you to all involved.

With every good wish and in the hope that the new year brings you all you would wish for yourselves and for those you love.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Bryan', is positioned below the text.

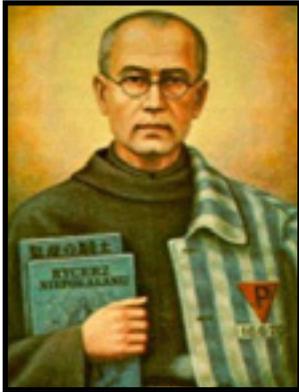
Announcement- Stephen Bryan

As you may already know, after over seven years' service with the Diocese, Stephen Bryan has decided to move on to take the next step in his career.

He has enjoyed working with the school communities across the Diocese and would like to thank you all for your support and commitment to Catholic education.

He wishes you well in the future.

125th Anniversary of the birth of St Maximilian Maria Kolbe

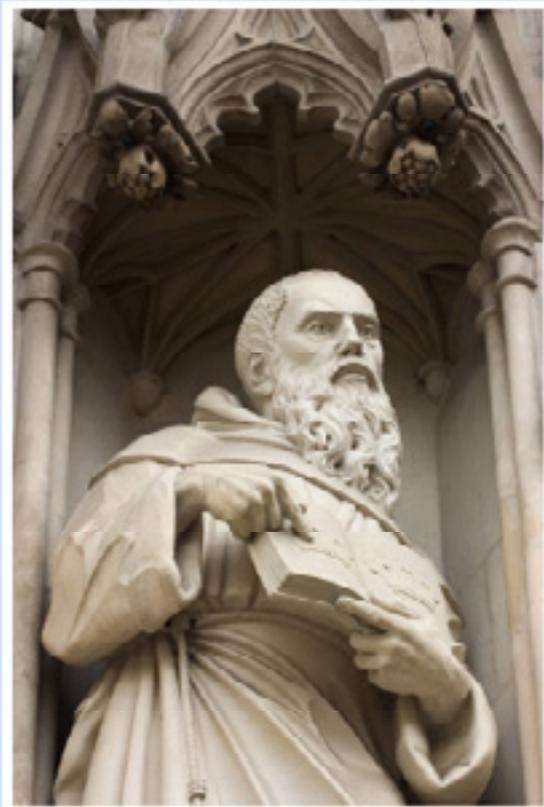


The name for this newsletter is inspired by St Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Franciscan Friar who died in Auschwitz on 14th August 1941. His sacrifice is well known in that he voluntarily took the place of a man who along with nine others had been condemned to a cell until they starved to death.

Maximilian could be heard each day leading the men in prayer and singing hymns. He was the last to die, hastened by a lethal injection. Prior to his imprisonment Maximilian supported numerous Catholic communities in his country and much further afield by printing and distributing newsletters.

This helped many keep true to their faith at a time when it was tested strongly. Many of his missives contained criticism of the Nazi regime which led to his arrest.

125 anniversary of the birth of ST MAXIMILIAN MARIA KOLBE



Free entrance tickets available from
westminster-abbey.org/events

WESTMINSTER ABBEY
Sunday 13 January 2019 6:30pm

There will be an Anglo-Polish service at Westminster Abbey to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the birth of St Maximilian Kolbe.

He is particularly celebrated by the Abbey and is one of the 10 martyrs honoured with a statue above the Great West Door entrance.

Crisis Fund

Archbishop Peter Smith accepted an offer to launch the Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) (CCS) Crisis Fund in the Diocese of Southwark in 2016. The fund is accessible to all Parish Priests and Headteachers of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Southwark who have a child or family in immediate need. The application form is simple and CCS aims to respond within 24 hours. Schools are encouraged to consider The Crisis Fund as a charity they support.

Website: <https://www.cathchild.org.uk/crisis-fund/>

The Crisis Fund is an effective and imaginative way of helping people in immediate need and has delivered all seven Corporal Works of Mercy, which are:

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Harbour the harbourless
- Help the sick
- Help the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

The Education Commission organises annual events in aid of The Crisis Fund. This year they are:

Good Samaritan Mass 1st May 2019

Brexit

The Government has published guidance on workplace rights in the event of a no deal Brexit. The information can be found by [clicking here](#).