

Flame Newsletter



Spring Term 1 2024
Edition 49

Welcome to the Spring Term 1 2024 edition of Flame. We have decided to move publication of Flame from bi-weekly cycle to half termly. If you would like to contribute to Flame or have suggestions to improve it, please contact Sharon at sharondocherty@rcaos.org.uk.

God of our past, present and future,
you created each one of us in your image and likeness,
help us to recognise you in each person.

As we pray for end to suffering caused by racism
lead us this day to walk with one another,
pray with one another and work together,
so that we create a future based on justice and healing,
where all can fulfil the hope you have for all peoples.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

[RJS23: Prayer - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](https://www.cbcew.org.uk)

Commission News

Racial Justice Sunday – 28th January 2024

The Southwark Diocesan [Commission for Promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion](#) in collaboration with the Education Commission would like to invite all schools to attend the annual celebration for Racial Justice Sunday, on 28th January 2024 at St George's Cathedral Southwark. We would be delighted to have your students participate in the Mass. Last year Archbishop John and Canon Victor were delighted to see staff and students represented at the Cathedral and we would like this to continue. **No booking is required to attend.** If you would like to contribute to the Mass email Susan Elderfield (susanelderfield@rcaos.org.uk) for further information.

Save the date:

Primary Religious Education Leaders Conference
Thursday 8th February 2024 & Friday 9th February 2024
Aylesford Priory



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Catholic Schools Inspection Update

Inspections are now underway. Please send any questions or queries about the process to the CSI Co-ordinator Colette Doran Hannon at colettedoranhannon@rcaos.org.uk.

Inspectors and schools have free access to the CSI website and can find material and information relating to the new framework at Catholic Schools Inspectorate. The only area that remains password protected is the Diocesan area which is for CSI Co-ordinators. The Catholic Inspection framework handbook has been amended. Please see the [letter](#) outlining the changes. The revised version of the handbook can be found on the CSI website as well as the Education Commission website by clicking [here](#).

We are currently recruiting for primary RE leads as CSI inspectors. If you would like to discuss what this entails, please contact Colette at colettedoranhannon@rcaos.org.uk.

Adviser Visits for Spring Term 2024

We are in the process of booking, in person or virtual visits, for Spring 2024 term. Schools who have not been visited in the past 18 months will be contacted. If you would like a visit sooner or require advice and/or support please contact one of the RE team. Staff contact details can be found here: <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/staff/>

To know You more clearly: Religious Education Directory (RED)

Primary: New implementation date: September 2026. Secondary implementation date remains September 2025.

The Bishops agreed to defer the implementation of the Religious Education Directory (RED) to 2026 for ages 3 to 11 years at their plenary meeting in November 2023.

Article 8 of the General Norms in the Religious Education Directory has, therefore, been amended for the purposes of ages 3 to 11 so that 2026 replaces 2025 at the request of the Bishops Conference.

We are asking that primary school leaders refrain from making decisions about how to implement the RED until we are able to provide informed guidance in regard to resources and timescales. Initial introductory training events for school (including curriculum) leaders will continue to take place throughout the current academic year. Please continue using your current programme of work.

To know You more clearly, the new Religious Education Directory can be downloaded here: [Religious Education Curriculum Directory \(catholiceducation.org.uk\)](https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk).



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To love You more dearly: Prayer and Liturgy Directory

To love You more clearly, the Prayer and Liturgy Directory can be downloaded here:

<https://catholiceducation.org.uk/images/116.pdf>

Religious Education Leader Contact Details

If you have appointed a new Religious Education Leader, please complete this

form: <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/contact-details-for-the-religious-education-leader/>

Living and Learning the Liturgical Year

Learning about the Liturgical Year adds an extra rich dimension to the teaching of R.E and to the prayer life of the school. This section is meant to provide some ideas; people and events, which may be incorporated into the lessons and prayer times.

January 2024

Pope Francis' prayer request for this January is for the gifts of diversity within the Church: We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church. The first 8 days of January fall within the Christmas Season and is represented by the liturgical colour of white. The remainder of the month falls within Ordinary time and is represented by the colour of green.

Notable January (F)easts, (S)olemnities & (M)emorials

- 1st Mary, the Holy Mother of God (S)
- 2nd Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen (M)
- 7th Epiphany of the Lord (S)
- 8th The Baptism of the Lord (F)
- 17th St Anthony, Abbot (M)
- 21st St Agnes, Martyr (M)
- 24th St Francis de Sales, Doctor of the Church (M)
- 25th The Conversion of St Paul (F)
- 26th Ss Timothy and Titus (M)
- 31st St John Bosco (M)

January Saints & Notable Days

- 3rd Most Holy Name of Jesus
- 12th St Aelred of Rievaulx
- 13th St Hilary, Doctor of the Church
- 19th St Wulstan
- 20th St Fabian and St Sebastian, Martyrs
- 22nd St Vincent, Martyr
- 27th St Angela Merici



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Notable January Dates

1st Happy New Year 2024

4th World Braille Day <https://www.un.org/en/observances/braille-day>

5th Twelfth Night

15th Martin Luther King Day (US)

24th International Day of Education

25th Burns Night <https://www.eparenting.co.uk/celebrations/burnsnight.shtml>

26th Australia Day <https://www.australiaday.com.au/>

26th India Republic Day

26th -28th Big Garden Birdwatch <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

27th International Holocaust Remembrance Day <https://www.unesco.org/en/days/holocaust-remembrance>

27th -4th February National Storytelling Week <https://www.sfs.org.uk/national-storytelling-week>

28th International LEGO Day <https://www.lego.com/en-gb/page/lego-offers-promotions?CMP=AFC-AffiliateUK-U2Hpw1U5ND0-2518072-124738-10000420>

February 2024

Pope Francis' prayer intention for December: For the New Martyrs: We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm. Until, Wednesday 14th February, it is Ordinary time with the liturgical colour of green. Ash Wednesday, 21st February, marks the beginning of Lent with the liturgical colour being purple.

February Saints & Notable Days

1st St Brigid

3rd St Blaise, Martyr; St Ansgar, Bishop

8th St Josephine Bakhita; St Jerome Emiliani

9th St Teilo, Bishop

11th Our Lady of Lourdes

21st St Peter Damien, Doctor of the Church

27th St Gregory of Narek, Doctor of the Church

Notable February (F)easts, (S)olemnities & (M)emorials

2nd Presentation of the Lord (F)

5th St Agatha (M)

6th St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs (M)

10th St Scolastica (M)

14th Ash Wednesday

22nd Chair of St Peter, Apostle (F)

23rd St Polycarp, Bishop (M)

Lent 2024 Resources

CAFOD, Mission Together, Aid to the Church in Need and the Catholic Children's Society will be updating their Lent pages in January. Information will be shared at that time.



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Significant February Dates and Weeks

Notable February Dates

27th January -4th February National Storytelling Week <https://www.sfs.org.uk/national-storytelling-week>

2nd Groundhog Day <https://www.groundhog.org/>

2nd World Play Your Ukulele Day <http://worldukeday.com/>

5th – 11th Children’s Mental Health Week <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

7th Charles Dickens Day

10th Chinese New Year

11th International Day of Women & Girls in Science <https://www.un.org/en/observances/women-and-girls-in-science-day/>

11th World Day of the Sick [Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes – World Day for the Sick – Mission Together](#)

12th Darwin Day <https://darwinday.org/>

13th Pancake Day <https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/Pancake-Day/>

13th World Radio Day <https://www.unesco.org/en/days/world-radio>

14th St Valentine’s Day

17th Random Acts of Kindness Day

: <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Education-resources/Fairtrade-school-resources>

Catholic Life

Notable Scripture for January and February 2024:

Monday 1 st January	Mary Mother of God	Luke 2: 16-21
Sunday 7 th January	The Epiphany of the Lord	Matthew 2:1-12
Monday 8 th January	Baptism of the Lord	Mark 1: 7-11
Sunday 14 th January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Weekly gospel	John 1:35-42
Sunday 21 st January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Weekly Gospel	Mark 1: 14-20
Sunday 28 th January Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Weekly Gospel	Mark 1: 21-28
Friday 2 nd February	The Presentation of the Lord	Luke 2: 22-40
Sunday 4 th February Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Weekly Gospel	Mark 1: 29-39



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Sunday 11 th February Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Weekly Gospel	Mark 11: 40-45
Wednesday 14 th February	Ash Wednesday	Matthew 6: 16-6, 16-18
Sunday 18 th February First Sunday of Lent	Weekly Gospel	Mark 1: 12-15
Sunday 25 th February Second Sunday of Lent	Weekly Gospel	Mark 9: 2-10

Notable Resources

Laudate Deum

Pope Francis issued an apostolic exhortation 'Laudate Deum', as a follow up to Laudato Si. You can find the document at ["Laudate Deum": Apostolic Exhortation to all people of good will on the climate crisis \(4 October 2023\) | Francis \(vatican.va\)](#)

Jewish Museum, London

The Jewish Museum are developing their online resource library and are offering virtual and in person workshops. The museum is currently closed but, from October 2023, they are offering in person or virtual workshops for children and young people. Click here for more details: [Enquire Now - The Jewish Museum London](#)

Key Stage 3 – Magister Resource

Magister Resources provides brand new, high quality teaching resources for Catholic secondary education linked to the new Religious Education Directory. Along with their for-purchase units, they offer a number of free downloads.

Download these schemes of work for the Year 7 branches of Creation & Covenant and Prophecy & Promise, and sign up to the mailing list to keep up to date with newly released material.

<https://magisterresources.com/free-downloads>

YouCat Website <https://www.youcat.org/>

We recommend that all those who teach RE in our Catholic school have access to the YouCat. And YouCat for Kids (primary). There are several other useful books in the series such as the DoCat (living out the Catechism) and a Youth Prayer Book, in addition to resources for sacraments, a faith course and a Y-Bible. This website also has a number of free resources which you may find useful for lesson planning in all phases. While youcat.org does not sell the books, they will send you to UK based sites which stock them.



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Professional Development and Personal Formation

MA in Education: Religious Education

This programme is designed for anyone who is involved in the teaching of Religious Education (specialist and non-specialists), to support practitioners in all phases of schooling, whatever their location. The course seeks to develop knowledge, understanding and research skills in order to generate insights that transform professional practice in Religious Education. This MA is offered as a two-year part-time course, or a full time one year course. Modules are taught at St Mary's monthly on a Saturday (online is available). More information: <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/postgraduate-courses-london/religious-education>

Courses for Religious Education & Catholic Life

In the 2023 -2024 academic year, the Education Commission is offering a hybrid mix of online and in person courses. To see the full offer and to register please visit the website at rcaoseducation.org.uk/et/ Delegates will be sent joining details in their booking confirmation email and course materials will also be sent to the delegate email address used on the booking form.

Please always check your junk and spam folders if you have registered for a course and not received confirmation. We have found that often the automatic responses are sent to these folders.

Training, courses and events

If you would like a bespoke course, virtually or in person, delivered in your school please contact a member of the R.E. Advisory Team. The cost will be per school; £100 for 1 session of up to 2hrs; £175 for 2 sessions up to 4hrs in total; £250 3 sessions up to 6hrs in total. You can choose to have the sessions over the course of one or several days. We can also provide any of our main offer R.E. and Catholic Life CPD courses in this manner.

Spring 2024

For Leaders of Liturgical Music in Primary and Secondary Schools.

Wednesday 17th January 2024 from 9:30-16:00

Focus for music in the new Prayer and Liturgy Directory. The different roles of music in Liturgy and Prayer. The challenge of choosing music for different purposes.

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Speakers:

- Maria Hall (Salford Diocese Contributor To Directory)
- Jonathan Schranz (Director of Music St. Georges Cathedral)
- Jo Boyce (Director CJM Music)

The day will inspire, affirm and resource you to return to your school reinvigorated and confident in music for prayer and liturgy.

CSI-Is the inspectorate calling you?

Tuesday 9th January 2024, 5pm- 6pm.

Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

Aspiring to Headship: Application to Interview

Tuesday 16th January 2024 10am-4pm

£25, Amigo hall, Lambeth Road, SE1 6HR

[Book](#)

For Governors – Catholic Life and Mission in the Catholic Schools Inspection

Framework

Tuesday 16th January 2024 5.30pm-7pm

Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

Directors of Music Conference

Wednesday 17th January 2024, 9.15am-3.30pm.

£30 per person or £50 per two persons from one school.

[Book](#)

Writing a Self Evaluation Document for Primary and Secondary Schools

Wednesday 17th January 2024

Free, St Edward's House, St Pauls Wood Hill, Orpington, BR5 2SR

[Book](#)

Romero Trust Award

Friday 19th January 2024 10am-12pm

Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

The Power of Good Communications

Tuesday 23rd January 2024 3.30pm-5pm

Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

CSI – What Governors Need to Know

Tuesday 23rd January 2024 5.30pm-7pm

Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

Considering Becoming a Foundation Governor or Foundation Director? Your Questions Answered

Thursday 25th January 2024, 5pm-6pm

Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

Headteachers Drop in – 1

Tuesday 30th January 2024 4-5pm

Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

Being a Foundation Governor – What You Need to Know

Tuesday 30th January 2024 5.30-7pm or

Thursday 1st February 2024 4-5.30pm

Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

Headteachers Drop in – 2

Thursday 1st February 2024 8-9am

Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

Headteachers Drop in – 3

Tuesday 6th February 2024 12-1pm

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Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

**Considering Becoming a Foundation
Governor or Foundation Director? Your
Questions Answered**

Tuesday 6th February 2024 4-5pm

Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

Chairs of Governors Drop in – 1

Wednesday 7th February 2024 4-5pm

Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

Chairs of Governors Drop in – 2

Thursday 8th February 2024 5-6pm

Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

About Your School

We love to hear and share stories from your schools. The news section of our website is shared through our newsletter and through our Twitter and Facebook pages. Articles are published weekly.

Please email your articles with images over to clairewilliams@rcaos.org.uk.

Articles can be any length and should include images.