



Spring Term 2 2024
Edition 50

Flame Newsletter

Welcome to the Spring Term 2 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 goodness and mercy,

Hear my prayer as I begin this Lenten journey with you. Let me be honest with myself as I look into my heart and soul, noticing the times I turn away from you. Guide me as I humbly seek to repent and return to your love. May humility guide my efforts to be reconciled with you and live forever in your abundant grace. Transform me this Lent, heavenly Father. Give me the strength to commit myself to grow closer to you each day.

Amen.

<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent/prayers-for-lent.html#ash-wednesday>

Commission News

Restructure and name change

From 1st February we are the Education Service. Additionally, there have been changes within the team.

Patrick Harrison has retired from his role as an Education Officer and Leadership Adviser, but will continue to serve Catholic schools as a CSI Inspector. Patrick was an intrinsic member of the Diocesan Education team for almost 10 years. His wit and wisdom will be greatly missed by his colleagues at the Education Service and by those who work in the diocesan schools.

The new Education Service Team:

Episcopal Vicar for Education: Canon Victor Darlington
Diocesan Schools Commissioner: Angela Cox OBE
Director of Academies. Colette Doran Hannon.
Trust Relationship Officer 1: Daniel Coleman.
Trust Relationship Officer 2: To be recruited
Communications & Media Officer: Claire Williams



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PA to DSC and Team administrator: Donna Gray
Chaplaincy and Staff Formation Officer: Susan Elderfield
Governance and Compliance Officer: Yvonne Epale
CSI Co-ordinator: Sharon Docherty

Sharon Docherty, Daniel Coleman and Susan Elderfield will continue to support schools in relation to RE and Prayer and Liturgy.

Catholic Schools Inspection Update

Inspections are now underway. Please send any questions or queries about the process to the CSI Co-ordinator Sharon Docherty sharondocherty@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. <https://catholicschoolsinspectorate.org.uk/>

We are currently recruiting for primary RE leads as CSI inspectors. If you would like to discuss what this entails, please contact Sharon.

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://catholiceducation.org.uk).

To love You more dearly: Prayer and Liturgy Directory

The Education Service has begun to offer courses which support this implementation and will continue to do so. Please check the events section at the end of Flame.



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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 or Head of Department, 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.

March 2024

Pope Francis prayer request for March 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.

The entire month of March, except the 31st, falls during the liturgical season of Lent which is represented by the liturgical colour violet or purple — a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart. All saint days that are usually Memorials are shifted to Optional Memorials during the season of Lent. The 31st March marks the beginning of the Easter Season and is represented by the liturgical colour of white.

March Notable Saints Days

4th St Casimir
8th St John of God
9th St Frances of Rome
17th St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland
18th St Cyril of Jerusalem
23rd St Turibius of Mongrovejo, Bishop
24th St Oscar Romero, Bishop & Martyr
25th St Margaret Clitherow

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

1st St David, Bishop and Patron of Wales(F)
7th SS Perpetua & Felicity Martyrs (M)
19th St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary(S)

April 2023

Pope Francis' prayer request for April is for women: We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.



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This year the month of April falls during the Easter season which is represented by the liturgical colour white — the colour of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored).

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

8th The Annunciation of the Lord (S)
11th St Stanislaus, Bishop (M)
23rd St George, Patron of England (S)

April Saints & Notable Days (missing ones are due to falling on Sundays or Holy Days)

13th St Martin 1, pope
20th St Beuno, Abbot (Wales)
24th St Fidelis of Sigmaringen & St Adalbert, Bishop
29th St Catherine of Siena
30th St Pius V, Pope

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 \(vatican.va\)](#)

Lent 2024 Resources

CAFOD: This year's Big Lent Walk is to support communities around the world living in extreme poverty. They have new resources, including assemblies for both primary and secondary <https://cafod.org.uk/education>

Mission Together: For primary they have created an interactive Lent Calendar which can be used in class or the home. <https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/lent/>

Missio: Secondary resources include a contemporary version of the Stations of the Cross <https://missio.org.uk/secondary/resources-for-lent/>

Aid to the Church in Need: the primary resources focus on issues Christians is in Nigeria re dealing with <https://acnuk.org/resource/lent-2024/> . The secondary resources focus on a Lent challenge to use your mobile less. <https://acnuk.org/resource/lent-mobile-phone-challenge-for-ukraine/>

Catholic Children's Society <https://www.cathchild.org.uk/lent/> These resources are themed around giving our children and young people a voice in today's world.



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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.

Professional Development and Personal Formation

Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies Q&A Café 29th February 4:30pm

Register here: [Events for 29/02/2024 \(ticketsolve.com\)](https://ticketsolve.com)

This free informal online Q&A Café event is an opportunity to network with fellow Religious Studies practitioners, ask questions and share best practice.

The session will be led by Eduqas Regional Support Representative Dave Jones, who will be on hand to answer your questions and signpost to further advice, guidance and resources.

This event is open to both current Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies teachers and those considering switching to Eduqas in the future.

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



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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>

Education Service Courses for Religious Education & Catholic Life

In the 2023 -2024 academic year, the Education Service 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.

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Admissions Appeal Panel Members Training

Thursday 22nd February 2024 3.30-5.30pm or

Tuesday 27th February 2024 5.30-7.30pm
Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

Welcome to Catholic Schools – Part 2

Tuesday 27th February 2024 9.30am – 3pm

£25, St Peter & St Paul Catholic Primary Academy, St Pauls Wood Hill, Orpington, BR5

2SR

[Book](#)

For Governors: Developing Vision and Virtues in a Catholic School or Academy

Wednesday 28th February 2024 5.30pm-7pm

Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

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For Governors – Collective Worship in the Catholic Schools Inspection Framework

Tuesday 5th March 2024 5.30-7pm

Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

Collective Worship in the Catholic Schools Inspection Framework

Wednesday 6th March 2024 3.30-5pm

Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

Secondary Religious Education Leaders Meetings

Tuesday 12th March 2024 9:30am – 12pm, St Peter & St Paul Catholic primary Academy, Orpington or Tuesday 12th March 2024 1:00pm

-3:30pm, Zoom

Free

[Book](#)

Buildings Termly Update Meeting

Wednesday 13th March 2024 2pm-3pm

Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

Religious Education in the Catholic Schools Inspection Framework

Wednesday 13th March 2024 3.30pm-

5pm. Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

Weaving Catholic Social Teaching into Your School

Thursday 14th March 2024 9.30am-4pm.

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

[Book](#)

For Governors – Religious Education in the Catholic Schools Inspection Framework

Tuesday 19th March 2024 5.30pm-7pm.

Free, Zoom

[Book](#)

St Oscar Romero Feast Day Mass

Wednesday 20th March 2024 12.30pm

St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road, SE1 6HR

[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.