

Newsletter



12th February 2025

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Racial Justice Sunday Mass



Racial Justice Sunday 2025

"Love One Another as I Have Loved You"

16th February 2025, 10:00 AM
St George's Cathedral, Southwark

Principal Celebrant: Archbishop John Wilson

View online: <https://youtube.com/live/0D0qTuRqDS0>

The Racial Justice Sunday Mass, will take place on Sunday, 16th February 2025, at 10:00 AM at St George's Cathedral. Information and resources for schools can be found here. [Racial Justice Sunday – CBCEW](#)

The event page and the weblink to view the Mass online can be found here. [Racial Justice Sunday 2025 – Southwark](#)

Canon Victor is taking part in a webinar on Wednesday, 12th February 2025 at 6:30 PM, titled Racial Justice: Embracing All – Practical Solutions to End Racism in Our Communities. Further details can be found here. [Racial Justice Webinar – Southwark](#).



Refreshments After Mass
All are welcome!

Racial Justice events page



Scan the QR code

CES Annual Census 2025 - Complete by 14th February 2025

The CES 2025 Census started on 16th January 2025 in England and 21st January 2025 in Wales. **All schools should complete and submit their census between the start date and Friday 14th February 2025.**

If you have a support query please follow the link on the website to [Help Centre](#) and raise a support request.

VASCA funding

Schools with an academy order at the start of September 2024 that we expected to convert into a CIF eligible trust by 1 April 2025 have also been invited to apply.

CIF eligible schools have been invited to bid into the fund for 2025 to 2026. If a school has been invited to bid for CIF in the 2025 to 2026 financial year, their responsible body will not receive any SCA funding on their behalf. Schools invited to CIF should therefore submit a bid if they have condition investment requirements.

To receive direct SCA, multi-academy trusts and VA bodies must have met both eligibility criteria:

- the trust or VA body must have had 5 or more open schools at the start of September 2024

We notify academy trusts and VA school bodies that are eligible for SCA each autumn. Eligibility should not be assumed unless it has been confirmed.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-capital-funding#who-the-funding-is-for>

School Admission Requirements: Foreign Nationals

The Department for Education continues to receive reports of a small number of schools refusing to admit foreign national children, including refugees and asylum seekers, or delaying admitting them whilst they seek immigration documentation.

This practice breaches admissions and equalities law.

Whilst they reside in the UK all children have a right to attend school, irrespective of their immigration status. We encourage you to review the guidance provided on [school applications for foreign national children and children resident outside England.](#)

Whilst they are in England all parents are under a statutory duty (section 7 of the Education Act 1996) to ensure their children, if they are of compulsory school age, receive a suitable full-time education.

Their parents have a right to apply for a school, and school admission authorities are under a duty to comply with that preference unless 'prejudice' applies, as defined in section 86 of the



School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA), and to comply with the rules about processing applications and not seeking unnecessary personal information set out within the School Admissions Code.

Also, under section 86 of the SSFA, LAs are under a duty to provide advice to all parents in their area on their preferences.

Information is available on the [government website](#) and states:

'Admission authorities for state-funded schools:

- must not refuse to admit a child on the basis of their nationality or immigration status nor remove them from the roll on this basis
- must not ask to see passports or other immigration information as a condition of admission (this would be a breach of paragraphs 1.9(a) and 2.8 of the [school admissions code](#))
- [with the exception of children who are Irish nationals](#), must not actively recruit foreign national children who are still resident overseas as pupils'

Admissions Clarification Update

In recent editions of the newsletter we made reference to how the Certificate of Catholic practice was to be used and distributed. A decision was made, stating that this document would reside with the parish priest exclusively. Following discussions with a number of headteachers, governors and admissions officers, we have taken on board their comments and have adapted the guidance on the use of the CoP.

The relevant parish priest will still be able to provide parents and carers with a certificate and it will be for each individual parish to manage this process. In addition to this, schools will still be able to provide parents and carers applying with a copy of the certificate. This can be done with the inclusion of the CoP in the admissions pack or those applying can obtain a copy directly from the school. It remains the case that parents and carers are not able to download a copy from a school's website. The certificate is on the website for the purpose of familiarising applicants with the document.

We recognise that this is a further amendment to these arrangements and apologies for this but we have listened and responded to the points that have been raised with us. As always, if you have any questions please contact Daniel Coleman at danielcoleman@rcaos.org.uk

Contact with Property

Please send all queries relating to property, land and buildings to ecbuildings@rcaos.org.uk in the first instance. This will be picked up by a relevant member of the team.



The Romero Rosary by Archbishop John Wilson

Archbishop John Wilson has written a new book entitled The Romero Rosary. With introductory chapters about St Oscar Romero and the rosary, this beautiful and creative new book contains reflections on the traditional mysteries of the rosary (Joy, Light, Sorrow & Glory) and the NEW Romero Mysteries (Charity, Compassion and Mercy, & Justice and Peace) - all illumined for reflection and prayer by the words of St Oscar Romero. The book is available from Pauline Bookshops and online at www.paulineuk.org.

WorkNest

Contracts and Handbooks Made Simple | advice for small businesses

When employment issues arise, robust contracts and carefully crafted employee handbooks are employers' first line of defence. Despite this, many small businesses still don't have the necessary documents in place, or are relying on documents that are poorly drafted or out of date. This can be a costly mistake to make.

Join WorkNest's Employment Law experts on the 25th February at 2pm for an essential overview of contracts and handbooks, including why every employer needs them, what the law requires, and how to avoid common pitfalls that could leave your business exposed. <https://worknest.com/training/contracts-and-handbooks-made-simple-advice-for-small-businesses-partners/?v=ADOSW>

What's in Store for Health and Safety in 2025?

Are you prepared for several key trends and legal shifts that could reshape the health, safety and fire landscape in 2025?

With Labour's Employment Rights Bill proposing sweeping reforms, psychological safety and mental health still remaining high on organisations' agendas, and further measures under fire safety legislation following recommendations made by the Grenfell Inquiry set to take effect throughout the year, staying informed has never been more critical.

In this webinar, WorkNest's Director of Health & Safety Services, Nick Wilson, and Head of Fire Safety, Jeff Watkins, explored the key changes OHS professionals need to have on their radar to help you feel informed and prepared. They also took a broader view, providing an update on the HSE's current focuses as well as examining significant cases from 2024. Watch here: <https://worknest.com/apps/access-your-webinar-partner/?doc=https://worknest.com/services/whats-in-store-for-health-and-safety-in-2025-on-demand/?v=ADOSW>

Academy Trusts - Annual Report

Academy trusts must publish their audited annual report and accounts on their website by 31 January each year. Guidance is available in the [academy trust handbook](#).



Sharing content from the CES website

The CES would strongly suggest that if a diocese or a school wishes to promote items from any external website (including the CES) that they do so through a link.

They regularly update items on their website and remove other items when they are out of date. By sharing resources through a link rather than a static upload, the accuracy and ownership of the material is more guaranteed. This is particularly important in relation to copyright and intellectual property.

[CES new website.](#)

Called to Bear Fruit- Get involved

You will have had the letter from Archbishop John Wilson read at all Masses in the diocese in the last few weeks. It calls us all to be missionary disciples in our parishes. As the consultation now moves to a second phase everyone in the Archdiocese is invited to a deeper reflection on the situation at parish and deanery level.

Please do get involved and encourage your young people to get involved in the parishes where they practise.

Establishing Breakfast Club

A letter has gone to all schools from Angela with links to the detailed guidance on establishing a breakfast club in schools. As you will be aware this is one of the provisions of the new Education and Wellbeing Bill going through Parliament at present. The DfE will be appointing 750 early adopter schools. The guidance sets out the timelines and other requirements as well as details of grants.

Recruitment

Vacancies can be viewed in full here: <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/recruitment/>

Headteacher, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

New Malden

Closing date: 24th February 2025

Lay Chaplain, St Paul's Academy

Abbey Wood

Closing date: 28th February 2025

Deputy Headteacher, St Anne's Catholic Primary School

London

Closing date: 7th March 2025

Chief Executive Officer, Sancta Familia Catholic Academy Trust

Closing date: 10th March 2025

Headteacher, Laleham Lea School

Purley

Closing date: 14th March 2025



Events & Training

Greater Depth in Religious Education

Tuesday 25th February 2025. 3.30-5pm. Zoom

[Book](#)

Buildings Termly Update

Tuesday 4th March 2025. 2pm-3pm. Zoom

[Book](#)

Effective Support and Challenge for Governors

Tuesday 4th March 2025. 5.30pm-7pm. Zoom

[Book](#)

Prayer and Liturgy – Part 2

Multiple dates & venues

[Book](#)

Finance for Governors

Wednesday 12th March 2025. 5.30-7pm. Zoom

[Book](#)

Induction for New Foundation Directors, Governors and Clerks

Wednesday 19th March 2025. 4-5.30pm or
Monday 24th March 2025 5.30-7pm

Zoom

[Book](#)

Oscar Romero Award Trust Mass

Thursday 27th March 2025. 12.30pm

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

[Book](#)

Aspiring to Governance

Thursday 27th March 2025. 5.30-6.30pm. Zoom

[Book](#)

Save the Date!

Good Shepherd Mass (Secondary schools) - St George's Cathedral 1st May 2025 1.45pm

Celebration of Service Mass - St George's Cathedral 18th June 2025 4pm

Headteachers' Conference 2025 -Ashford International Hotel - 20th and 21st November 2025.

Save The Date!

 Diocesan Jubilee Day - Festival of Hope
A day of celebration for primary schools

25th June 2025 9am-5pm

Aylesford Priory

 Education Service
ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHGARK

Aspiring Leaders Sessions

Over the spring and summer term there will be seven twilight sessions at the St Edwards House (Education Service office) from 3:30 to 5:30pm. We are aware it is hard to release teaching staff which is why we have made it afterschool, but leaders may need to leave a little earlier than the end of the school day to arrive on time and we would really support your support with this. We would really appreciate it if heads could identify delegates and then book on the [aspiring leaders page](#).

Word on Fire Bible Conference

The forthcoming Bible conference in London next month, organised by Word on Fire, an organisation founded by the Rt. Rev. Robert Barron, Bishop of Winona-Rochester in the United States.

Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible, takes place 21-22 February 2025, at the Excel Centre in London, with speakers including Bishop Barron, N.T. Wright, Professor Tracey Rowland, among others.

Find out more: <https://events.wordonfire.org/the-bible-event>

The Big Lent Walk

Join us for the Big Lent Walk in 2025! By taking on the challenge of walking 200km in 40 days, you will be part of a massive team supporting people as they overcome poverty. We are incredibly excited about the Big Lent Walk 2025 and would love you to join us as we walk, run, roll, or stroll 200km in the 40 days of Lent. Sign up at www.walk.cafod.org.uk. You can also join as a Parish or School, just use the same link, and choose from the sign-up options.

Upcoming School Grants

[Kellogg's Breakfast Club Grants](#)

£1,000 grant - Priority for schools with over 40% of pupil premium eligibility - No deadline

[Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust](#)

£100 - £100,000 - Project schemes directed towards capital expenditure - No deadline

[Foyle School Library Scheme](#)

Up to £10,000 - Grant to help buy books, e-readers, library software, IT equipment and furniture - No deadline



CAFOD Visit to St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

On Tuesday CAFOD delivered a workshop to year R, 1 and 2 at St Augustine's Catholic Primary School in Tunbridge Wells.

[Continue reading](#)



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Celebrates 125 Year Anniversary!



It was an absolute privilege for St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Gomm Road, to have The Most Reverend Archbishop John Wilson celebrate Mass with their school community on Friday 31st January 2025 in honour of their 125th Year Anniversary.

[Continue reading.](#)

