

Newsletter



12th March 2025

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Refelction

Beloved Friends, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year, we are reminded that Lent is a sacred season of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving when, in our different ways, we draw closer to Jesus Christ as we seek to transform our lives. During the Lenten Season, especially in this Jubilee Year of Hope we are once again encouraged to make the time to attend the stations of the cross in our schools and local parishes. The Stations speak to us in our everyday lives, especially during this Jubilee Year when we turn our attention to a God who walks with us through the challenges of life.

I am pleased to see that many schools across the Archdiocese have launched their various Jubilee Pilgrimage plans in inspiring ways, especially in establishing a culture of welcome. Many positive reports from children, parents, and families tell me how much your Jubilee school initiatives are rekindling their faith. I am sure, you are all receiving your various Jubilee stamps when you visit the designated Jubilee Churches. I would like to thank you, commend you, and encourage you to keep up the good work.

As we journey through the Holy Season of Lent, let us be reminded of the various feast days that are coming soon Saint Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland, on 17 March; and Saint Joseph, the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on 19 March. As we celebrate these various saints, let us be inspired by them as we continue to pray for Pope Francis.

Canon Victor Darlington
Episcopal Vicar for the Southeast Area,
Commissions for Promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion,
Education and Director of Caritas, Archdiocese of Southwark



Funeral for Sarah Griffin

Sarah's funeral is to be held next week, Tuesday 18th March at 10.30am at St Peter's Catholic Church Woolwich, please keep Sarah's family and colleagues in your prayers and may Sarah rest in peace.

Festival of Hope

Schools are invited to attend 'A Festival of Hope' at Aylesford Priory on 25th June 2025 from 9am until 3pm.

This event is targeted at children in Year 4 or Year 5 and the children will have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities, including singing, liturgical dance, arts and crafts and football, as well as have time for prayer and reflection. There are no food facilities so the children will need to bring a packed lunch.

This will be a fantastic opportunity to gather together to celebrate the Jubilee of Hope together and we are really looking forward to seeing lots of schools there.

[Click here](#) to view more details and book your places.

WorkNest

Please find below details of WorkNest free resources.

Managing Sickness Absence | proven strategies to reduce disruption

In this live one-hour webinar on the 20th March at 2pm, WorkNest's legal and HR experts will guide you through four common absence scenarios. <https://worknest.com/training/managing-sickness-absence-proven-strategies-to-reduce-disruption-partners/?v=ADOSW>

Virtual Mock Health & Safety Criminal Trial

Join WorkNest on the 27th March at 9.30am for a FREE Virtual Mock Health & Safety Criminal Trial. This unique virtual event will provide first-hand insight into what happens when a company is charged with a breach of health and safety law. <https://worknest.com/training/virtual-mock-health-and-safety-criminal-trial-partners/?v=ADOSW>

Guide to Health, Safety and Fire Changes 2025

In this guide, WorkNest explore the key changes employers can expect within the world of health, safety and fire in 2025. https://worknest.com/apps/access-your-content-partner/?doc=https://wn.worknest.com/l/398692/2025-02-17/djh289/398692/1739790227569mZTUO/Guide_to_Health_Safety_and_Fire_Changes_2025.pdf?v=ADOSW

Contracts and Handbooks Made Simple | advice for small businesses

In this webinar, WorkNest's Employment Law experts provided an essential overview of contracts and handbooks. <https://worknest.com/apps/access-your-webinar-partner/?doc=https://worknest.com/services/contracts-and-handbooks-made-simple-advice-for-small-businesses-on-demand/?v=ADOSW>



Celebration of Service Mass

Archbishop John looks forward to meeting headteachers at the Mass to celebrate Catholic Education and those who serve as leaders that will be held on 18th June 2025 at 4pm. All headteachers are encouraged to attend and pupils are also welcome. Heads are invited to bring a future leader with them be it a member of the teaching, support or administrative staff who you wish to encourage into leadership in their area of school responsibility.

Please [click here](#) to view more details and book.

Survey on SEND Needs in Schools

The CES has created a survey for headteachers and deputy headteachers to complete regarding SEND needs in schools. The purpose of this survey is to gather valuable insights to inform our ongoing work with the Government on SEND. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CES-SEND-survey-2025>

In order that we influence change at the highest level, please complete this CES survey, the deadline for response is 3rd March 2025. The more information we can provide towards the national picture the more likely change can begin.

National Youth Strategy - Govt survey open until 16 April

The Government is seeking the views of 10-21 year olds, and those up to age 25 with SEND, to shape its [National Youth Strategy](#).

A [survey](#) as part of its national listening exercise is open until **16th April 2025**. Young people are encouraged to share their views on support services, facilities, and opportunities they need "outside the school gates", and it is itself a good opportunity for pupils themselves to engage with Government services.

VASCA funding

Schools with an academy order at the start of September 2024 that we expected to convert into a CIF eligible trust by 1st 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>



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.

The Well

The Well learning platform has had a number of new courses added under the leadership section. If you are unable to access The Well please email clairewilliams@rcaos.org.uk and we will provide you with login details.

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



Recruitment

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

Headteacher, Laleham Lea School

Purley

Closing date: 14th March 2025

Early Years Phase Leader, St Thomas of Canterbury School

Mitcham

Closing date: 12th March 2025

School Exams, Assessment and Data Officer, St Ursula's Convent School

Greenwich

Closing date: 20th March 2025

Assistant Headteacher, St Anselm's Catholic Primary School

London

Closing date: 24th March 2025

School Administrator with Responsibility for Reprographics, St Ursula's Convent School

Greenwich

Closing date: 24th March 2025

Head of Music, Bishop Thomas Grant School

London

Closing date: 26th March 2025

Class Teachers, St James the Great RC Primary and Nursery School

Thornton Heath

Closing date: 27th March 2025

Teacher of Modern Foreign Language, St Ursula's Convent School

Greenwich

Closing date: 28th March 2025

Chief Executive Officer, Sancta Familia Catholic Academy Trust

Closing date: 31st March 2025

Assistant Headteacher & SENDCO, St Ursula's Convent School

Greenwich

Closing date: 3rd April 2025

Events & Training

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](#)

Summer 2025

New to Catholic Schools

Tuesday 29th April 2025, 10am-4pm. £25

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, 7 St Joseph's Street, SW8 4EN

[Book](#)



Catholic Leaders Drop in

Multiple dates & venues

[Book](#)

Safeguarding for Governors

Wednesday 30th April 2025. 5.30-7pm

Zoom

[Book](#)

Good Shepherd Mass

Thursday 1st May 2025. 1.45pm

St George's Cathedral

[Book](#)

Governors' Gathering

Wednesday 7th May 2025. 4-5pm. Zoom

Thursday 8th May 2025. 5-6pm. Zoom

[Book](#)

New to Primary Religious Education Leadership – Day 3

Thursday 8th May 2025. 9.30am-4pm £25

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

[Book](#)

Save the Date!

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

News

Donhead Prep School – Walking together in Hope



Donhead Prep School in Wimbledon is enjoying the celebrations for the Jubilee 2025. The theme of Pilgrims of Hope was launched in our whole school assembly

[Continue reading.](#)

Door Garlands of Joy and Hope

Each class in St Mary's Catholic Federation, Carshalton, made door garlands for around the school. These beautiful creations launched the Jubilee Year of Pilgrims of Hope.

[Continue reading.](#)

