



Secondary Schools Newsletter April 2005

Welcome back. I hope you managed to get a break however short and didn't have to spend all your time marking or chasing coursework. If you haven't already done so now might be a good time to start thinking about non coursework options!

The following is an extract from "Stages on the Way" by the Wild Goose Worship Group. This book is an excellent resource for Lent and Easter.

*Lord, bring new life,
Where we are worn and tired;
New love,
Where we have turned hard hearted and cynical;
Forgiveness,
Where we feel hurt
And where we have hurt others;
The joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit,
Where we are prisoners of ourselves
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

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Pope John Paul

The death of Pope John Paul was announced as I began the newsletter. We remember him in our prayers and thank God for the gift of his life. We also pray for his successor; that he will be a person of compassion, open to the power of God's spirit and responsive to the dreams and hopes of those within the church and without.

April 21st 2005 Secondary Schools Mass Clifton Cathedral

Theme: Building God's Kingdom

Firstly thank you for your help; I know how busy you all are. Secondly an apology in advance if I have you down for anything you didn't volunteer for or I have left you out if you did. Please ring and I'll attempt to correct it! **Copies of all the arrangements have been sent separately to heads. This is about our identity as Catholic Schools and should not be simply the responsibility of the RE department!**

Some General Points:

- Please bring as many students as you can. The cathedral is very large as you know and it would be nice if we made an impression on the space. Please make parents, priests and governors aware that they are welcome. If you have a priest associated with your school it would be nice if they came with you.
- Coaches should enter via Clifton Park road and students enter through St Paul's Door. (Marked on map). Coaches will then be asked to park on the Downs. The exception to this is St Rose's students. Their minibuses should enter the car park at the West Door where they will be able to drop students off and then park. Cars will be able to use the lower car park. Please be in place no later than 10.45 am.

- Stewards will be on duty and will direct you to the appropriate places.
- Readers should make their way to the front of block D. Those taking part in the procession should assemble in the corridor by the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.
- The booklet for the mass will be sent electronically to your school. Spare copies will be available at the cathedral. Please print copies for your students. If you have musicians who would like to play please let me know.

The Plan!

- Opening Hymn: “The Kingdom, (*The Kingdom*) of heaven
- Entry Procession representatives of all schools carrying symbols of their school
- Introduction and welcome by Bishop Declan
- Penitential service led by St Bede’s
- Gloria: sung (to be advised)
- Reading and responsorial psalm: St Benedict’s
from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians Ch3 V14-19
(sung) “Yahweh I know you are near”
Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord” v1, 2
- Gospel: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew Ch7 V21-29
- Homily
- Bidding prayers: Read by students from St Bernadette’s and St Peter’s
- Offertory procession: Led by students from St Rose’s
(note this will involve a reader explaining what the items being brought up mean)
We will then sing Blessed are You. (**Verses led by Priests?**)
- Holy, Holy (sung) Echo
- Eucharistic Prayer
- Our Father
- Sign of Peace
- Lamb of God (sung)
- Communion Hymn led by St Thomas More Students
- Final Hymn: Shine Jesus Shine

Reading
Responsorial Psalm
Alleluia (sung) “Alleluia,

Boy’s achievement Course.

This day led by Geoff Hannan was very informative. If you did not have a representative of your department taking part in the day I would be happy to come and talk through some of the insights and strategies discussed.

Coming up

18th April CJM Music Power Point and liturgy

This is a new venture by CJM and they are hoping to show how power point can be used more effectively to enhance liturgy. The course is not intended for complete beginners but they will take people who have never used power point. All participants will require a laptop. Further details can be found on the events section of the website.

22nd June 2005. Head’s of RE Meeting

This will look at Relationship Education. There will be a presentation on the Birmingham scheme and a scheme devised by Marriage Care. Because we have a speaker there is a charge of £45, which includes lunch. During the day there will be an opportunity to look at the work of The

Clifton Catholic Children's Society and tour their new premises. They are anxious to develop closer links with schools and further information on this will be provided on the day.

Service level Agreement.

This has now come into operation. All VA Secondary School RE departments are entitled to two days of my time. How you want to use this is up to you (within reason!). The following are suggestions;

- To work with individual teachers or NQT'S
- To carry out classroom observations
- Inset on various aspects of Teaching and Learning
- To support or develop retreat programmes
- To help the department prepare for inspection

Please note a full review of a department normally takes three days, you may use your allocated two towards this if you wish. Whole school inset is charged separately. I would appreciate it if you would book your time in advance though I would always try to respond to emergencies.

RE Teachers

We need more! If you don't already do so please will you consider taking students on placement next year? It can be an effective way of encouraging more people into the system.

Next year

The first heads of RE meeting next term will be on Attainment Levels and assessment. A booklet containing all dates and courses for next year will be issued to schools shortly.

Many thanks for all your continuing work.

Ann Fowler

Secondary Schools Adviser

BOOKING FORM
22nd June 2005. Head's of RE Meeting

I will / will not be attending the Heads of RE Meeting on 22 June 2005.

Name

School

Please indicate if you have any special dietary requirements

I enclose cheque for £45 to cover the costs (including lunch)

or

Please invoice the school for £45