

## Secondary Schools Newsletter March 2005

I know that this term is an extraordinarily busy one for all RE departments. Not only is there the pressure of final preparation and revision for exams but also for the first time most schools are working during Holy Week. In the midst of all this it is difficult to hang on to our own need to use Lent as a time of prayer and change. Difficult to find time for our own prayer when we are organising prayer for so many!

*What use this rush, this hurry?  
This burden of earthly cares and duties?  
God's purpose stands firm,  
And you his little one,  
Need only one thing  
To trust that He is able and willing  
To supply all your needs  
This is faith  
Rest your burden's on Him,  
And you His little one  
May live in safety by Him  
This is the essence of it all  
God is  
God loves you,  
God carries your burdens.*

(attributed to Tukaram 1608-1649 a Hindu writer)

The only response I can really make to that prayer is "Lord I believe, help thou my unbelief".

You may find the following websites and books of some use

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/religion/christianity/lent.shtml>

<http://www.refuel.org.uk/curric/festivals/lent/>

<http://www.christian-aid.org.uk/worship/resources/lent/>

<http://www.culham.ac.uk/>

(This is a superb site and has an assembly section if you follow the links)

<http://www.cafod.org.uk/resources/worship>

(Again a very good site, follow the links for good ideas)

<http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/>

(Once on the site click on Spirit of the Season to find some good material for Lent)

All these websites then link you through to other information

## Books

Stages on the Way:	Wild Goose Worship Group
Stations of the Cross for Teenagers:	Gwen Costello
Together on Our Way:	Joseph Donders
Forty Days Plus Three:	John McIlhon

(Not suitable for most students, but may give you ideas)

**Access the De La Salle web site for more inspiration**

## Secondary Schools Mass April 21st

Thank you to all of you who replied promptly and have undertaken to help.

As you are aware this year is the year of the Eucharist and it is particularly important to try and help our students grow to understand the full richness of the Mass. I hope this mass will be a real celebration but since it is impossible to call everyone together for a practice it is also in part an act of faith! In general all schools are being asked to do the following:

- **Turn up!** Preferably with about 50 students, otherwise the cathedral looks empty. I know that it may be difficult to bring older students who are preparing for exams so any year group or any mixture is fine
- If possible be in place no later than 10.45am.
- Will all schools choose two students to represent their school in the opening procession and arrange for them to carry a symbol of their school, at the end of the celebration they will also process out.
- Please invite any clergy associated with your school to come with you and concelebrate.
- The list of hymns will be sent in advance. A couple of schools have agreed to take responsibility for the music, but if you have musicians who would like to join in they would be welcome
- If music departments are willing to practice the music with students I would regard it as an added bonus. It would be nice if we made a “joyful noise unto the Lord”
- Specific schools have been approached to do various parts of the liturgy and I am very grateful for your help.
- The booklet will follow later this term

## Attainment Levels

As you are aware there have always been problems in using these levels since they are not truly progressive. NBRIA has taken the levels back to rework them. They will be then sent out on a trial basis for a year before being formally adopted. The new levels *should* be available from June.

## Coming up

### 14<sup>th</sup> March 2005. Boy's achievement Course.

An in depth analysis of gender differences in learning, together with key strategies to narrow the gender gap. This course is being led by Geoff Hannan

Please book on as soon as possible. You can be invoiced in the next financial year if you wish.

### **18<sup>th</sup> 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, (or enclosed if you are reading a paper copy!)

### **22<sup>nd</sup> 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. Further details will be posted on the web site as soon as possible.

The venue for both these courses is Alexander House.

### **Continuing projects**

- The last newsletter contained details of the work of the vocations team and a competition being organised by the team during this term. If your school can support the work of the team they would be grateful. If you have lost the details please check the website for the last newsletter.
- Inspection! Details about how section 23, shortly to become section 47, is to be funded are still being worked out. Details will be sent out when the CES have completed their negotiations with the government. The process will however rely heavily on self review documentation.

Many thanks for all your help.

Ann Fowler  
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