

## **Secondary Schools Newsletter September 2008**

*Compassionate God  
As your outstretched hands held a crucified world  
So let our hands convey the touch of love.  
As you embraced our vulnerability so cradle our hopes and fears.  
Reach out to our frailty,  
Release our pain  
And in your tenderness bring healing to our brokenness  
That in our weakness we may find strength  
And in our poverty, the unfurled riches of your resurrection*

Annabel Shilson-Thomas from "Images of Prayer" CAFOD

### **Faith Alive and WYD**

These two events took place at the end of the summer term. The Clifton Diocese Web Site has reports on both of these events from the young people who took part in them. The Bishops' conference site also has reports from some of the many pilgrims who took part in WYD. If you read the tablet this summer then one of the most moving accounts was a letter from Fr Michael Taylor, a priest from Queensland, describing the vigil on Randwick racecourse he talks about the enormous sense of vitality and hope that shone from the pilgrims from so many countries, he goes on to say that such joy and such faith could not help but transform and heal he adds "In the world's darkest hours young people do not want their church to be asleep". Presenting the gospel message of hope in a way that really connects with the lives of young people is the challenge that faces us in the year ahead. By ourselves we cannot do this but as the prayer says God embraces our vulnerability and by being people of prayer in our weakness we find strength.

### **Forthcoming Events:**

- **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2.30pm -4.00pm.** A meeting with Mary Riddiford the lead officer for NOCN. This will be held at Alexander House. It is essential that those schools intending to deliver the NOCN general programme for 6<sup>th</sup> form students attend this meeting however all are welcome to attend. NOCN are going to extend this programme to the 14-16 age group to offer a course for those students taking part in a mainly vocational course of study and for whom the GCSE in RE may not be appropriate. Details of the NOCN requirements can be found on the CES website.
- **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September NQT Day to be held at Alexander House.** This day is for all NQT's and those new to Catholic Education. It gives a basic introduction to the diocese and the nature of Catholic Education. Please encourage colleagues to attend.

- **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. The annual Head teachers' Conference.** The theme this year is the catholic beliefs and approaches to the environment. It will be held in Bath. Details of this have already been sent out.
- **October 7<sup>th</sup> Heads' of RE meeting. To be held at St Bernadette's school.** St Bernadette's have very kindly agreed to host the next heads of RE day. **This day will focus on the learning to learn programme and using hand held technology to promote interactive techniques and facilitate all aspects of learning.** The day will include a demonstration by year 7 pupils and a discussion with them. The day begins at 10.30am, with tea and coffee from 10.00am and will end at 3pm. This is a valuable opportunity to look at how one school is promoting learning and to learn from their experience. Other members of the department are welcome but in order to help St Bernadette's with the arrangements you must indicate in advance numbers for the day. Please complete the booking form at the end of this newsletter. Please note there is a £5 charge for catering.
- **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 4pm to 7pm Preparing for Advent.** An exploration of how we help young people celebrate advent and grow in their understanding of the season. This will be held at Alexander House and costs £25 per person. Further details will follow separately. Please book directly with Jenny on 01179025593 or e mail [jenny.fitzgerald@cliftdioocese.com](mailto:jenny.fitzgerald@cliftdioocese.com)
- **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November. Clifton Cathedral 7pm Mass for all those who work in or to support the cause of Catholic Education.** Main celebrant Bishop Declan. Please support this event and encourage as many staff, governors and parents as possible to attend. It is the one chance that we have to gather as a diocese to renew our commitment to catholic education. As usual there will be refreshments in the apostles' room afterwards. All parishes have been informed about this event and sent posters.

### **The Year of St Paul**

As you are already aware this has been designated the year of St Paul. In order to support your work in this area there will a joint chaplaincy/heads of RE day in the spring term to look at the teaching of St Paul and its relevance today. Further details will circulated separately.

Many thanks for all you do

Ann Fowler  
Secondary RE Adviser

I/We will /will not be attending the Heads of RE day at St Bernadette's on October 7<sup>th</sup>  
Name(s).....  
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School.....  
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