

Chaplaincy Newsletter January 2010

*God of light and life,
we have a vision of a shining new world,
of lives transformed and people inspired
as the shackles of poverty are shattered,
and your people are set free.*

*We have a hope of enough for everyone,
of a world where your gifts are fairly shared
and your creation flourishes
as the barriers of injustice are broken down.*

*Spirit of God, transform us
so that we can transform the lives of others.
Work through us so our vision becomes reality.*

*Convert our hope to truth,
so that all humanity may flourish
and all the earth cry out with joy.
Amen*

Catherine Gorman/CAFOD

This prayer and other resources for Lent are available from Cafod's website. As we enter into the season of Lent, I hope that for you personally it will be a time of growth, transformation and hope.

Give it up for Lent

This is Cafod's campaign for this Lent. Please try to support this personally and encourage your school to join in. They have an excellent website to support this campaign including some good video material <http://www.cafod.org.uk/extra/giveitup> Even better could the school join forces with the parish to run a joint campaign? Please try to involve parents as well as pupils.

Taize and WYD

There will be a diocesan pilgrimage to Taize in July this year. Full details including posters are enclosed with this newsletter. Please encourage older pupils to consider this opportunity to try something different, make new friends, reflect on their lives and their relationship with God. The initial WYD meetings were very successful and we have had a lot of interest. We are still anxious to promote this event in order to have as large a cross section as possible of young people from the diocese at this event. If you would like me to come to the school to talk to groups of pupils about this event I would be happy to do so. Details of the event are enclosed.

Sex and Relationships Education

After lobbying by the Catholic Education Service the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, the Rt Hon Ed Balls MP, tabled an amendment to the Children, Schools and Families Bill on 10 February 2010 designed to protect the ability of schools with a religious character to teach Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education (which includes Sex and Relationships Education (SRE)) in accordance with the ethos of the school. The amendments occur on page 14 line 6 and are to be inserted at the end of clause 2. The inserts read:

'(7A) Subsections (4) to (7) are not to be read as preventing the governing body or head teacher of a school within subsection (7B) from causing or allowing PSHE to be taught in a way that reflects the school's religious character.

(7B) A school is within this subsection if it is designated as a school having a religious character by an order made by the Secretary of State under section 69(3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.'

A link to the full bill can be found on the CES website.

It is important that as a school community you have confidence in your relationship programme. It must be in accordance with the beliefs and teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, (*this does not mean that we leave topics out or fail in our duty to help pupils evaluate and critically reflect on current issues in society*) and it should be clear to all staff involved in the delivery of any part of the course what the teaching of the church is and why we hold those beliefs. In the previous newsletter I mentioned a course on offer from the Scottish Bishops; St Bede's did a very brief trial of this material and their review is attached to the end of this newsletter.

Expressions 2010:

Expression 2010 is for young people aged around 14 to 25. **It takes place in Salisbury from Friday 16 to Sunday 18 April.** Expression 2010 brings together teenagers and young adults who are questioning and searching for faith or seeking to discover Jesus Christ more fully in their lives; opening and refreshing pathways to God at the heart of the Catholic Church. Participants are asked to make a donation for the weekend, depending on what can be afforded.

Further information about [Expression 2010](#) by calling 01722 333581.

Dates for your Diary

- **National Congress for Catholics working with young people. Saturday February 27th** at the Friends Meeting House, Euston, London. 11am - 6pm. Arrivals and market place of resources from 10am. The Catholic Youth Ministry Federation (CYMFed) is inviting everyone who is involved in youth ministry to the first CYMFed Congress. The line-up of speakers includes Bob and Maggie McCarty, Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, OP, Abbot Christopher Jamison, OSB, and David Wells. Each of these speakers will be bringing ideas and support to all those looking to connect young people with the church – especially Youth Leaders, Parish Volunteers, Chaplains, Catechists and Priests. If you are interested, (I will certainly be attending) then you can find further details and book yourself a place by contacting CYMFed Congress, c/o St Vincent's Centre, Castle Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 2ED or Email congress@cymfed.org Tickets cost £14. A new youth advisory body has been set up to "form and serve the Catholic Youth Ministry community in England and Wales." The Catholic Youth Ministry Federation (CYMFed) brings together Youth Service Directors, representatives from New Movements, Organisations and Religious Orders working nationally with young

people, and Bishop Kieran Conry in his capacity as Bishop for Youth. Bishop Kieran Conry said: "CYMFed is a great initiative, which the Bishops are very pleased to support. Working with CYMFed it is easy to see the hope, dynamism and purpose that are present in what we are offering for young people within the Church. Having CYMFed as our key advisers in this area means that the Bishops are directly in touch with those working with young people across the country, and this is an invaluable resource for us."

CYMFed has already attracted a £9,000 grant to develop an online training programme for those working with young people at Parish, Deanery or Diocesan level in partnership with Ushaw College. The course will be modular, very accessible, and it is hoped launched in September 2010.

➤ **Training in Completion of SEF.**

This will be delivered on 24th February, **either** from 9.30am to 12am **or** 1pm to 3.30pm. If you plan on attending this course please register with Jenny. There is no charge.

➤ **Chaplaincy Day: March 2nd Alexander House 10.30 start**

➤ **From Easter to Pentecost: Wednesday 24th March 4.30-6.30pm at.**

This is a short session which looks at activities that might help focus pupils' attention on this season of the church's year and the importance of the resurrection. It will also try to tie in a community catechesis approach so that parents and parish are involved. The course costs £25 which involves all materials. Please let Jenny know if you plan on attending.

➤ **Secondary Schools Mass Thursday June 24th 2010 at Clifton Cathedral**

I still need a school to volunteer to do the music! Please make a note of this date and try to attend. I know for some schools Clifton is a long way but this is the only opportunity in the year for representatives from all schools to gather together. Please try to bring your pupils to celebrate together and with Bishop Declan

➤ **Theology for Teachers**

After a very successful run in Bristol this course now moves to the Gloucester area. This is an opportunity for those staff who are not RE specialists but need to have a greater understanding of Catholic belief, for example pastoral leaders, to improve their knowledge. The course is in four parts covering different aspects of Catholic Theology:

- 1 Creation - Made in God's image and likeness
- 2 Incarnation - God in all things
- 3 Redemption - Revealing the Face of Christ
- 4 Church - Communion of God's People

Some of the sessions will be led by Bishop Declan.

The sessions take place on 11th March, 25th March, 21st April, 5th May at St Peter's high School Gloucester and will run from 4.30pm to 6.30pm

Everyone is welcome

Refreshments will be provided and a certificate will be achieved the end of the four sessions. In the summer term the course will be taking place in Trowbridge.

Resources for Lent

- Fr Mc Bride led a retreat day for Head teachers in Ammerdown in January. His explanation of scripture was completely engrossing and I think everyone there was really moved personally by the way he brought the scriptures alive. We hope to hold a conference with Fr McBride later this year but in the meantime I recommend all of his books but in particular for Lent his book 'Waiting on God'. This book looks at the

models of waiting in the biblical story, examines the ordeal of fear and anxiety in the midst of life, and offers a way of living the prayer of the Eucharist - "We wait in joyful hope for the coming our Saviour, Jesus Christ." You can find details of this book and others on his website www.denismcbride.com

- Stages on the Way: Wild Goose Worship Group ISBN:1-901-55711-1 This is an excellent resource book with many original and prayerful ideas
- Stations of the Cross for Teenagers: Gwen Costello available from www.rpbooks.co.uk
- Lent and Easter Readings from Iona Neil Paynter
- Some more general assembly books that might be useful are: 'Holiday and Seasonal Ideas' by Carole Goodwin and Marilyn Kielbasa ISBN 0-88489-605-6 and a set of books by Margaret Cooling More assemblies for Primary Schools. Although primary you might find that some of these ideas adapt to Secondary.
- <http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk> go to the main site and follow the links for Lent to find useful material
- Latin American stations of the cross. This can be found on <http://www.alastairmcintosh.com/general/1992-stations-cross-esquivel.htm> and can either be downloaded directly as a powerpoint or images can be downloaded as pdf files. This is a dramatic version of the stations in a contemporary setting. This would work as a reflection but also as a starter in RE to exploring what the stations mean today. As another resource you could also look at the Stations of the Cross in Lodwar Cathedral, Kenya they are available from http://dlibrary.acu.edu.au/research/theology/ejournal/aejt_7/lodwar.htm or just put African stations of the Cross in Google.
- www.transforminglives.org.uk this is a useful site for anyone interested in the contribution that Christian teachers can make in Britain today. Its aim is to raise the profile of teaching as a Christian vocation.
- www.appleseeds.org this site is a very useful one for finding quotes/prayers/stories on a variety of topics.
- www.filmclipsonline.com Film Clips Spirit of America is a non profit organization dedicated to providing short film clips from major motion pictures to America's teachers for use as teaching resources. Please note I haven't checked the legal situation as far as the UK is concerned. The site is well organised and enables to find clips to support moral education rather than faith education.

Many thanks for all you do

Ann Fowler

Scottish Catholic Education Resources

'Called To Love' Review of the Course and Resources

How the course works

We have used the 'Called To Love' resources which are produced by SCES as part of the resources used to plan and deliver our Year 9 Relationships and Sex Education Course (12 lessons long). The Called To Love resources are produced for each year group running from S1 – S6 (although the years are slightly different from the English system, so you may need to order two booklets such as S4 and S5 to select appropriate tasks for Year 11s). SCES provides a teacher notes booklet (which includes all the worksheets in the student booklet plus lesson ideas) a student booklet for each year, a teacher's CD of resources (with powerpoints for class use and ICT versions of worksheets) and a training CD that can be used for staff and governors to introduce the course.

The student/ teacher notes booklets are:

- S1 Created in Love
- S2 Growing in Love
- S3 Living in Love
- S4 Committed in Love
- S5 Faithful in Love
- S6 Responsible in Love

We purchased S3, 4 and 5 as well as the Teacher's Resources CD. The teacher booklets are £11.95 each, the student books are £3.95 each. The training disk and teacher's resources disk are £25 each. They also provide leaflets for parents.

The course works on a 12 lesson scheme, with the same theme for each lesson over each year group, so for example, in S2 lesson 6 is about communication. Lesson 6 is also about communication in S3 – 5. Sexuality is addressed in lesson 7 of each booklet, just in greater depth. So it's a spiral curriculum.

Benefits of the course

- Lots of good ideas for starters
- Good "discussion" based tasks.
- Powerpoints can be adapted and have clear teaching.
- Grounded in Catholic theology.
- Some good resource sheets.
- I consider the activities in this course to be better than those in the Birmingham 'Who I am/ Here I am' scheme.
- The spiral curriculum approach means that you can select tasks from across different books that suit the particular developmental needs of the pupils you are teaching.
- The resources do make links between alcohol and sex, and also have an emphasis on good communication skills, relevant to all of our pupils.

Things to be aware of:

- No course that is bought from the shelf will be exactly suitable for your students, you need to adapt it.
- It could do with some supporting video clips.
- The section on the Scottish law and sex needs adapting for English law.
- Some of the worksheets have Scottish regional wording that needs adapting (e.g one refers to a 'carry out' instead of an 'off licence').
- It might not be appropriate to use as a spiral curriculum if you are teaching Relationships education to each year group, as this may become tedious to some groups to do 'rights and responsibilities' twice etc.

For more information, check out their website: <http://www.sces.uk.com/> and select 'Called to Love' from the drop down menu on the 'Resources' Section. If you email them on mail@sces.uk.com they are very quick to send an order form and resources.