



*“Lord I pray that something will happen to me this Lent.  
I know I need to change  
For the visions that once swept the leaden skies of monotony have dimmed and faded  
And I would see them again  
Forgive me for the times I was too busy to pray  
For the decisions I made without reflection  
For the times I blamed you when things went wrong,  
For the times that stress, anxiety, fear, guilt or failure  
kept me from allowing you, to be the centre of my life.  
Lord do for me what I cannot do for myself  
Change me; lead me to a new tomorrow  
With a new heart and a new spirit, yours  
and so transform me into your likeness.”*

From the Loreto Prayer Book

Many of you will know that for my family the start of the New Year was a time of sadness with the unexpected death of my mother in law. I know that for some of you as well the New Year was not perhaps all you hoped for. As we enter into Lent, in the midst of what I know is an incredibly busy and perhaps stressful time for RE departments, I hope you have an opportunity to make the time for your own journey, where all our broken dreams and hopes are transformed and made new again by Christ.

### Department News

We welcome to the diocesan team Colleen Collett. Colleen brings a wealth of experience in leadership and management after being a head in two very successful primary schools. Colleen will join the team full time as of September.

### Heads of RE Day Wednesday 10th March 2010.

This will take place at Brownhill Convent in Stroud and Bishop Declan will be attending the day. We commence at 10.30am (tea and coffee from 10.00am) and will finish at 3pm. The day is an opportunity to begin a discussion with the Bishop about RE and the opportunities and challenges you face. There will be a charge made of £25 which includes lunch. **Please confirm attendance with Jenny** on 01179025593 or e mail [jenny.fitzgerald@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:jenny.fitzgerald@cliftondiocese.com)

### 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.

### **Religious education in English schools: Non statutory guidance 2010**

The new guidance is now published and can be downloaded from:

**[www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications)** Search using ref: DCSF-00114-2010

Although there is much in the document that is worth reading and to be welcomed it is worth noting that Religious Education in Catholic Schools must be in accordance with our trust deed. The syllabus used needs to be approved by the governing body. The levels of attainment in use should be those set by NBRIA and available from the CES website. The document outlines what is considered to be the major aims of RE one of which is: to teach pupils to develop respect for others, whilst this is a laudable aim it does not mean that we consider all views to be equally valid. Please remember the document '*Catholic Schools, Children of Other Faiths and Community Cohesion: Cherishing Education for Human Growth*' published by The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. If you haven't yet read this please do order a copy. To order a copy of this new publication, which costs £5 please download the order form from the CES site [www.cesew.org.uk](http://www.cesew.org.uk) and send with payment to the Catholic Education Service for England and Wales, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX.

### **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](mailto: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.
- **From Easter to Pentecost: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 4.30 - 6.30pm at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Fishponds, Bristol.** 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> March, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 21<sup>st</sup> April, 5<sup>th</sup> 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

## Resources

- 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 of our Saviour, Jesus Christ." You can find details of this book and others on his website [www.denismcbride.com](http://www.denismcbride.com)
- <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](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](http://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](http://www.appleseeds.org) this site is a very useful one for finding quotes/prayers/stories on a variety of topics.
- [www.filmclipsonline.com](http://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](mailto:mail@sces.uk.com) they are very quick to send an order form and resources.

*Jo Lindsay, Head of Religious Formation, St Bede's Catholic College. January 2010*