

Well it's the start of another school year for us all and also the start of a new job and challenge for me in my new role as Assistant Director, which I am looking forward to. I have spoken to many of you who attended the most recent co-ordinators' meetings about the manner in which I wish to work within my role. This is primarily to support you, by working directly with you and the children in your school, so as to acquire a real sense of your communities and the challenges that face you. I feel that this will then enable me to provide effective support at all levels. As well as the above I also hope to be able to support inset on either an individual or cluster basis.

As a result of my permanent appointment I have now acquired a direct mobile phone number on which I can be contacted which is 07 . Please feel free to contact me and I promise that I will get back to you as soon as possible. It would be useful if when leaving a message you indicate when it would be best to catch you as I know many of you are teaching.

UPDATE ON REVISED 'HERE I AM' SCHEME – 'COME AND SEE'

Unfortunately there is still no news of when the revised scheme will be published. It was originally being written by the body known as the National Project led by Sr Vicky Hummel. This group is apparently disbanding and therefore it will be left very much to Vicky Hummell herself to continue the work, It was hoped that Harper and Collins would publish any new scheme however, this is not now the case and further negotiations are underway. The above information will be discussed and relayed to the Bishop.

THEOLOGY FOR TEACHERS (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED)

The aim of this course has been to enhance teachers overall knowledge of the Catholic Faith which hopefully impacts on teaching. The course has so far been delivered to schools in the Bristol, Gloucester and Wiltshire areas and is now about to commence in the Swindon area. The course is run over **4 sessions from 4-30 to 6-30** and is open and beneficial to both **primary and secondary teachers** (especially those perhaps not specialising in RE). There is no cost (which is a rarity nowadays) and the Bishop supports this course and leads 2 of the sessions. Recognition of attendance is provided by way of a certificate which displays a commitment for personal development. All who have attended have said how excellent it is. Many schools have allocated these twilight sessions as staff meetings. So when and where are these sessions?

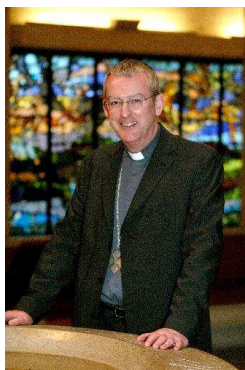
They will be held at St Joseph's College in Swindon on: 28th September, 12th October, 10th November, 24th November.

Those wishing to attend should contact Jenny or Sandra at the Diocese as soon as possible.

The Pope's Visit to England

I know that many schools are taking some of their pupil's to the 'Big Assembly' on the 17th September, however this will involve only a tiny minority of pupils. Please look at the resources available on the Catholic Education Service website, www.cesew.org.uk . Some of these will need adapting to your own needs but they are useful as a starting point.





**NQT CONFERENCE 21ST OCTOBER TORTWORTH COURT
HOTEL 9-30 –3-30pm**

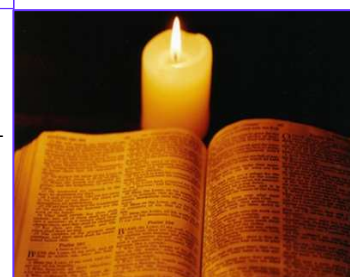
An opportunity for NQT's to meet one another, the Bishop and Diocesan staff, get to know the aims and expectations of working in a Catholic school and deliver RE lessons in an effective quality way. **To book a place contact Jenny or Sandra on 0117 9025593**

BRINGING SCRIPTURE ALIVE (highly recommended)

October 14th Tortworth Court Hotel 9.30am-3.30pm Cost £60 including lunch

This course will be run by Fr Dennis McBride. Those who have been privileged enough to hear Fr McBride speak before will know his capacity for holding an audience and for bringing scripture alive. This course will be of great benefit for all teachers it is not necessarily for Coordinators. Owing to costs we have to charge £60 for attendance but discounts are available for schools sending more than one member of staff.

If you would like to book a place on this course please contact Jenny ASAP.



RESOURCES

'When Somebody Dies' is a resource produced by the Rainbow organisation and is designed to help support schools in dealing with the death of a member of the community or helping support children through bereavement in their own families. It costs approximately £15 has a CD resource and can be ordered from Rainbows South Yorkshire, Hallam Centre, St Charles Street, Sheffield, S93WU More details about the organisation and the resource can be found at <http://www.rainbowsgb.org>

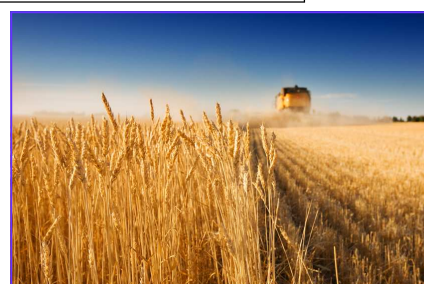
'Badgers Parting Gift' by Susan Varley (available on Amazon for £3.74) A great story book to use with children to also support bereavement.

Parishes in Communion

Many of you will be aware of this document, a copy of which should now be in schools (possibly in the Heads office). This document is a follow on to 'People of Hope' and outlines the proposed changes in parish structure but also ways of working together. Parish changes will have an affect on schools, partly because of changes to the organisational structure of parishes but also because we are being asked to find new ways of working together. During the next year we will be running programmes for both parishes and schools on how we work effectively together. This is a document that all staff should be made aware of and discussions related to it should be held with staff and Governors.

HARVEST IDEAS

Good ideas and scripts available on www.schoolassemblies www.teaching ideas then search harvest 'Good morning')



PERHAPS DISPLAY IN THE STAFFROOM

**I Corinthians, Chapter 13:
A Teacher's Paraphrase**



If I could explain everything perfectly to my students, but did not love each one of them, I might as well be talking to an empty room. If I could find all the answers to educational problems and did not love, my efforts would be futile. If I could buy every kind of educational aid and sacrificed to do so, but did not have love for my students, it would be a complete waste.

Love is patient when it is necessary to repeat a concept over and over to a student who is having difficulty. Love is kind when an irate parent accuses and berates other teachers or me. Love is not jealous when the other teacher has an entire class of well-behaved and extremely intelligent children while mine are not so great.

Love is not proud or boastful when my students improve greatly and really want to come to my class. Love is willing to yield my schedule and plans to fit in with the needs of others. Love does not scream at my class when they misbehave, but seeks to help them understand the importance of self-discipline.



Love does not broadcast all of my students' problems and misdeeds to those in the lounge. Love keeps trying even when it seems a student will never understand long division or the difference between an adverb and an adjective.

Teaching methods, bulletin boards, textbooks, yes, even computers, will eventually be discarded, but love is everlasting. These three things I have learned through teaching: endurance, patience and love. And the greatest of these is love.

Fr. Ron Nuzzi

Just a thought

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.
Joshua 1:9*

KEY FEASTS TO CELEBRATE

- Wednesday 8th September
Birth of Mary
- Tuesday 14 September
Triumph of the Cross
- Sunday 31 October
All Saints
- Tuesday 2 November
All Souls
- Sunday 21 November
Christ the King



FINALLY

If you have suggestions for display or the name of any good resources or indeed any reports or pictures of successful lessons or events that can be placed on the newsletter please send to me at: coleen.collett@cliftondiocese.com

