



EAST ANGLIA DIOCESE SCHOOLS' NEWS DECEMBER 2017



Editor's Note

Dear colleagues,

We have come to the end of another very busy term. We thank you for all of the hard work you do within our Schools. May the Blessings of Christmas be with you today and always.

From the School's Team

John 1 : 1 – 18

“The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us”

Today, our giving, receiving and exchanging of gifts is a mirror of the most marvellous gift of all. God became man that we might become children of God. St Augustine said: “To make us worthy of this perfect gift, he, equal to the Father in the form of God, became like us in the form of a servant, and he reforms us to be like God. The only Son of God became a son of man that many sons of men might become the sons of God.” Christmas Day is the mystery of this marvellous divine exchange. We enter this mystery by humbling ourselves, by becoming little, like children. We welcome the baby born in the manger in Bethlehem as the Lord God, the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

Lord, I bow down before the mystery of the Eternal God made man and gaze on the beauty of the baby born in humble poverty, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in the manger.

Walk with Me – A Journey of Prayer for Advent 2017 Watching, Listening and Welcoming.

Below you will find some reminders and other items of useful information. Remember, we want to share your news, so please tell us about special things happening in your school or anything we can celebrate or acknowledge together.

Please remember to forward these Newsletters and those sent by the CES to your governors. Send your news to ssc@rcdea.org.uk.

Schools Celebration

Wednesday 21st September 2018 - St John the Baptist Cathedral, Norwich, more details in the new year.

Safeguard the future of Catholic education Reminder

The Diocese of East Anglia is asking Catholic Education supporters to call on the Government to meet its manifesto pledge to lift the 50% cap on faith admissions for new religious schools. The move has come as the **Catholic Education Service** warns that **Education Secretary Justine Greening** is considering a U-turn on the manifesto commitment which effectively bans any new Catholic schools opening.

The diocese is currently working on applications for up to eight new free schools across East Anglia, which would be prevented if the faith cap was not abolished.

Helen Bates, Assistant Director (Schools' Service) for the diocese, said: "Last year the Government promised to lift the 50% cap on faith admissions for new religious schools. This policy had proved to be an effective ban on any new Catholic schools as the Bishops' Conference ruled that opening a Catholic school that could potentially turn away Catholics in favour of non-Catholics was against Canon Law.

"Last September the Government acknowledged the cap was unfair to the Catholic community and pledged to scrap it. The Conservatives included a commitment to remove it in their manifesto. Unfortunately, the feedback we are getting is that the Secretary of State for Education is thinking about U-turning on this manifesto commitment.

"The Catholic community now needs to make its collective voice heard and tell the Secretary of State that this level of discrimination against Catholic schools, parents and children is unacceptable," said Helen.

"As such we are urging Catholics to write to the Secretary of State and their MP expressing their concern that this promise to our community could be broken."

An email can be automatically generated by **clicking on this link**.

"It would also be appreciated if you could share this link with as many people as possible," said Helen. "Many thanks in advance for all your support."

Reminder The CES Schools census commences on 18th January in England. You should have received correspondence from the CES regarding completion. If you have any problems do not hesitate to contact Jane at the diocese, ssc@rcdea.org.uk.

CAFOD Volunteer Centre

Join the CAFOD team and get directly involved in bringing poverty to an end.

We are currently looking for volunteers to visit Catholic Schools in the Diocese of East Anglia. You will be leading assemblies and interactive classroom sessions.

Resources and training are provided and travel expenses paid. If you are interested in volunteering or want to find out more. Please get in touch with Jane Crone, Community Participation Coordinator, Diocese of East Anglia, Cafod Volunteer Centre, Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, 12-14 Grange Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DU. Tel: 01223 358552, Email: jcrone@cafod.org.uk, Website: www.cafod.org.uk.

A DVD and textbook 'Exploring the Mass' by Cardinal Vincent Nichols is now available for Video, sample pages and order forms please visit 'Exploring the Mass' on www.tere.org

Invitation to Mission Programme 2018

The Columban 'Invitation to Mission Programme' is now into its 4th year. Nearly 30 people have taken part in this learning experience, growing in faith and understanding through preparation in the UK, a 10-day visit overseas and follow up on return. Please read their blogs for a taste of their experiences on the regional Columban website:

<http://www.columbans.co.uk/join-us/invitation-to-mission/> Dates for 2018 Prep day 10am – 4.30pm 20th January 2018 in Solihull, Prep overnight 7pm 16th Feb – 4.30pm, 17th Feb. Birmingham/Solihull. They are keen to invite applications from friends of the Columbans in the UK and people engaged in interreligious dialogue, education or justice and peace. Participants need to be adults under the age of 60, physically and mentally well enough to take part in the programme, including eating different foods in different climates. For more information about what they do please visit www.columbans.co.uk

Conference Dates:

- Headteachers' Pilgrimage – Ravenna 14th – 16th June 2018
- Deputy Heads Pilgrimage – Padua, 21st – 23rd June 2018
- Primary RE Day – Friday 16th March 2018 – Conference Centre, Poringland
- Primary RE Day – Friday 6th July 2018 – Conference Centre, Poringland
- Headteachers Autumn Conference – Tuesday 30th October 2018 – The Conference Centre Poringland
- Deputy Head Teachers Autumn Conference – Monday 19th November 2018 – The Conference Centre, Poringland