

THE VINE

Advent 2017

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

A warm welcome to this Advent 2017 edition of the 'The Vine'. As always, thank you for your commitment to Catholic education and the witness of Christ you provide daily to children, parents/carers and to colleagues being a 'light in the darkness'. Advent begins with the clarion Gospel call to "*stay awake*" and "*stand ready*" to meet Jesus Christ. Catholic education, sharing in the universal mission of the Church has, from its beginnings, always lived, not only in the radiant light of Christ's first coming, but in His coming to us now in the Sacraments, above all in the Holy Eucharist, and in the sure hope of His glorious return at the end of time (cf. Lumen Gentium n.48). This is the context in which we have met the challenges of history and have always looked confidently to the future whatever the opportunities and difficulties are of the educational landscape.



Following my election in June 2017 as the President for the next two years, I would like to stress that I will endeavour to continue to support and encourage all Catholic teachers who work in Catholic schools and colleges but also those colleagues who are Catholic teachers working in community schools or other settings. CATSC is here to represent and support you all.

Working with the Executive I will ensure that we as an organisation continue to provide the Vine Newsletter and will present articles to the Networking Journal that you will find enriching to both your teaching and in your own personal Faith Journey. The editors of the Vine and Networking kindly request articles from all schools and members that celebrate our rich, vibrant and living Catholic faith in 2017. Members of the Executive Council will represent you at meetings with teachers from other countries especially at meetings of WUCT (World Union of Catholic Teachers) and within our own country in sharing both their expertise and enthusiasm.

The Association website has been updated and we would ask you to use both our Twitter and Facebook accounts to share your ideas, experiences and teaching resources. We will then incorporate your pieces on the website for others to use and so extend good practice across England and Wales. Please use the CATSC Dailies in your schools and classrooms and Tweet how you are using them in your setting.

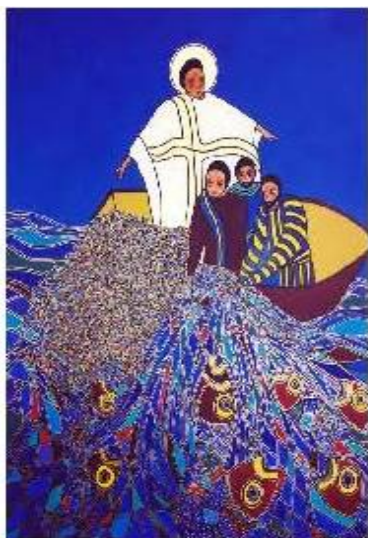
In 2018 we will be holding one conference on the 2nd to the 3rd March at the Crowne Plaza, Chester. I am delighted to announce that the principal speaker is Jonathan Doyle, an internationally renowned and inspirational educator and speaker from Australia. The Conference is for colleagues working in all sectors and phases and I wholeheartedly recommend it to you all. The theme is '**Casting our nets into the deep as Catholic Educators**'. Would those members who are Head Teachers please remember our NQTs, RQTs, Middle Leaders, Support Staff and Governors as well as SLT members when allocating places on the Conference as they also deserve the opportunity to refresh and deepen their vocations. **Bookings are now open and can be placed online at: <http://www.catsc.org/catsc-conference-2018.html>**

The new Handbook arrived in schools and colleges at the end of October so you can see who all these enthusiastic people are. If you can't locate the Handbook in your school, a digital version is available on the CATSC website: <http://www.catsc.org/handbook.html>. Please also feel free to Twitter your comments and ideas and use the CATSC Facebook pages.

Finally, Advent is a special time of grace for us all to recognise the mission entrusted to us in the light of the Saviour born for us; the Saviour who is so close to us in the Holy Eucharist; the Saviour who will finally return in glory. Throughout the new liturgical year, I pray that we may all be renewed in our mission! Thank you for the generosity of living your vocations as Catholic educators and I hope CATSC will continue to provide support and encouragement in your work.

Wishing you the great joy of Advent and Christmas ~ John Nish, National President

CONFERENCE: READ THIS! BOOK IT*! LOVE IT!



'Put out into the deep.'

In the midst of all the busyness of a modern Catholic school or college how can you help be revived, encouraged and inspired to give your best?

Annual Conference

**7:30pm Friday 2nd March
until
6:00pm Saturday 3rd March 2018**

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Chester

Principal Speaker

Jonathan Doyle – Founder and Director CHOICEZ Media, Australia

www.jonathandoyle.co

What could Catholic leaders and teachers accomplish if they truly accessed the power of their vocation?

How do burnout, exhaustion and cynicism happen and what can we do about it?

What is the ultimate mission of Catholic education after all?

What are some of the key things that should be happening inside a vibrant Catholic school or college?

What happens when we have the 'wrong tools and the wrong fuels'?

What do Catholic educators and support staff need to do to fulfil their mission with energy and grace?

What are the simple strategies that every teacher can begin that will create genuine change in their own life and the wider school or college community?



OUR PROGRAMME ALSO INCLUDES:

Holy Mass, liturgies, Catholic education updates and workshops, conference dinner, breakfast and lunch, fellowship and free time in the wonderful setting of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, in the historic city of Chester.

Our sole Conference for 2018 - for school and college teachers, leaders, chaplains and teaching assistants - new 24 hour format - new style delivery

*** BOOK ONLINE NOW AT WWW.CATSC.ORG**

ONE OF CATSC'S SERVICES... DEDICATED TO YOU

Did you know that with the help of your subscriptions, CATSC runs a **HELPLINE**? It is a unique service for the Catholic Association of Teachers Schools and Colleges. It was formed in 2000 to meet the growing needs of Catholic Teachers, and is open for people who work in Catholic Schools or people who are Catholic Teachers.

There are many difficulties which face people in Education. If you feel that you need help, advice or guidance please do not hesitate to **call the Helpline**. It may be a small problem, it may be a large problem - the Helpline is there to **HELP**.

The Service is Confidential and is offered on behalf of CATSC: 0845 601 3210

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER FOR UP TO THE MINUTES NEWS, VIEWS, IDEAS AND REOURCES FOR THE BUSY CATHOLIC TEACHER ~ including our CATSC DAILIES, rich scriptural and prayerful words blended with images, ideal for meditative use in classrooms and at staff gatherings, meetings, etc.

GO TO @CATSCEW ON TWITTER

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR HANDBOOK 2017 - 2018??

It contains lots of useful information including contact details for Executive members, dates and events for the year, and LOTS MORE!!

Third Forum of International Lay Catholic inspired Organisations, 11^{to} 12th December, 2017

Dr John Lydon, member of our Executive Council, will participate in the Third Forum of International Lay Catholic inspired Organisations to be held in Villa Aurelia, Rome between 11th - 12th December, 2017. John Lydon will be representing the major international Catholic NGO, the World Union of Catholic Teachers (WUCT) which advocates for Catholic teachers across the globe and has consultative status with UNESCO. Earlier in the year, Dr Lydon was appointed to the Forum as an expert in Catholic education. The theme of the Forum 2017 is *Catholic-Inspired Organisations: Promoters of Humanity in a Transforming World*.

The aim of the Forum 2017 is to consider how the international Thematic Experts network can contribute to strengthening the Catholic voice and religion in the political-economic debates, as well as identify the core societal challenges in a world that is currently in a profound state of transformation. These are impacting on traditional moral values and are affecting the very social fabric of our society. The responsibility the Catholic Church and its NGOs to strengthen its voice in its service to humanity in civil society has become increasingly significant and how to develop new approaches to ensure better care of the common good. **GOOD LUCK, JOHN**



PHOTO: Dr John Lydon with Christine Roche, President of the International Catholic Cooperation Centre for UNESCO /Centre Catholique de Coopération avec l'UNESCO (CCIC) at the Catholic-Inspired NGO Forum Conference 2017 Planning Meeting held in Villa Aurelia, Rome in May.

News and Resources from our valued partners



Advent calendar

Our new PowerPoint Advent calendars for children and young people include daily stories, reflections and actions to take during Advent.

Download the accompanying template baubles to create reverse calendars full of life-changing actions! cafod.org.uk/primary AND cafod.org.uk/secondary

WORLD GIFTS

Take a look at our new range of *World Gifts*. These charity gifts of unusual, ethical presents such as goats, water for a family and solar lamps, support people in developing countries to break free from poverty. Use our assembly and fundraising resources packed with fun festive activities to help you raise money for *World Gifts*. cafod.org.uk/schoolsworldgifts

ACCE update

This year ACCE is celebrating its Silver Jubilee, serving chaplains in primary and secondary education since 1993. Don't miss out on our 25th anniversary conference!

Theme: *Blessed are you*

Conference date: 11-13 June, 2018

Venue: Hinsley Hall, Leeds

Cost: still only £300

Advent and Christmastide



Missio has produced a series of *Secondary assemblies* to accompany **each week** of Advent.

Primary resources: *Mission Together* encourages children in England & Wales to pray, fundraise and become missionaries themselves - **children helping children**.

All the materials are available from the [Mission Together website](http://www.missiontogether.org.uk).

VISIT <https://www.missio.org.uk>



Catholic Association of Teachers, Schools and Colleges

MISSION STATEMENT

"Providing quality professional support to Catholic teachers, schools & colleges"

Guest Editor ~ Maria B. Rimmer, Immediate Past President