



# The Vine



The Catholic Association Of Teachers, Schools and Colleges

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

A warm welcome to this Lent 2018 edition of the 'The Vine'. It is my pleasure to update you on the work of CATSC since the last edition of the Vine in December. First, I am delighted to announce that CATSC's membership continues to grow with new schools and individual members joining this year. Currently we serve over 65% of Catholic schools and colleges in England and Wales. On behalf of the Executive Council, may I extend a very warm welcome to all new members and hope that you will enjoy the benefits of CATSC's resources through Conferences, website resources and our social media platforms.

As President, I have had the great honour and privilege of representing CATSC members at two international events since the last edition of the Vine. The first being at the World Union of Catholic Teachers (WUCT) Council meeting held in Oradea, Romania. Seminars and lectures highlighted and reflected on the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teacher. The second event, again as a result of CATSC's involvement with WUCT, I was invited to attend a five day programme on the teaching of Holocaust Studies to children at the International Holocaust Memorial Centre - Yad Vashem in Jerusalem with three other CATSC Council members. Both events provided opportunities for international collaboration, association and alliance as Catholic teachers. Both events were very special occasions and prayers and Holy Mass was offered for all those working in our member schools and for Catholic teachers globally. Articles and resources will be shared from both events in this edition of the Vine and also in our partner publication, 'Networking'.

Both of these meetings led me to reflect on the meaning and value of association. It is a value not to be taken for granted, but always to be cultivated and moments of encounter such as our forthcoming Conference in Chester from 7:30pm on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March until 6:00pm on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March serve and cultivate this purpose. During Lent, we are asked to turn back and reflect on our relationship with God, and our purpose in creation. What is my purpose and how is my vocation as a Catholic educator serving God and my sisters and brothers? The CATSC Conference is the ideal opportunity, during Lent, to do just that. This year I am delighted that Jonathan Doyle ([www.jonathandoyle.co](http://www.jonathandoyle.co)), an internationally renowned Catholic educator and life coach will lead us in 24 hours of 'Going Deeper as Catholic educators'. Jonathan will be exploring themes such as: 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 Catholic educator can begin that will create genuine change in their own life and the wider school or college community? What a powerful way to journey through Lent, in association, as we prepare for the joy of the Resurrection and walk together in hope. I urge you, if you have not done so already, to book a place (or book as a school/college collective) at Conference ([www.catsc.org](http://www.catsc.org)) to renew your will to make association, with the recollection of our inspiring principles, in reading the signs of the times and with an open outlook towards the social and cultural horizon of Catholic schools and colleges in 2018. Use the associations and themes of conference as fuels and tools to delve deeper into your talents that have been placed in your hearts and hands as an educator and explore how these talents can further bear fruit.

Furthering the association theme, I also urge you to support the Catholic Church in England and Wales campaign to safeguard the future of Catholic Education. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap, which prevents some schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. By her admission, the previous Secretary of State for Education, Justine Greening, has said the rule has been ineffective and adversely Catholic families. By forcing Catholic schools to turn away Catholic school children on the basis of their faith, the very principle of a Catholic parent's right to choose a Catholic education is under threat. Please visit the following link to take action: <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap>.

Wishing you all a blessed Lent that is both reflective and transformative and I hope to see you at Conference in Chester.

God bless.

John Nish.

National President, CATSC

[www.catsc.org](http://www.catsc.org)

## DR. JOHN LYDON PRESENTS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN MELBOURNE



Dr John Lydon, Programme Director of the MA in Catholic School Leadership, St Mary's recently presented at an international conference hosted by Australian Catholic University (ACU) in Melbourne in November. Evocatively titled *Inspiring Leaders in a Globalised 21st Century*, the purpose of the conference was to engage with international and national leaders and researchers to discuss and debate the nature, practice and formation of contemporary Catholic school leadership, while identifying new global trends. This was to achieve the objective of developing a critical and integrated understanding of school leadership in a globalised world.

The conference included keynote addresses by international speakers, including Dr John Lydon, drawn from the England, Scotland, Ireland, the United States and Australia. Exciting and innovative discussions concerning a proposed Global Masters in Catholic Leadership aimed at providing a unique experience for students wishing to combine study locally and internationally. Underpinning the Global Masters project is the idea that universities such as St Mary's and ACU are part of a global Catholic network of universities (the International Federation of Catholic Universities) and would enter into a partnership with each other. International students would not only benefit from a shared curriculum but also an enriching research environment at St Mary's. There is also the possibility of flexible options of summer schools, internships and linking in with ACU's Rome Study Centre.

Dr Lydon said 'participants of the conference were most appreciative of the opportunity to engage and learn more about what is happening with regard to Catholic leadership and Catholic schools internationally and identifying commonalities. Therefore, the conference was very enriching indeed from comparative research and practice perspectives'. In addition, he added that 'committed discussions around a Global Masters are not only critical to meeting the needs of the Catholic education sector, but such a degree pathway would provide St Mary's University with the flexibility and responsiveness to an increasingly competitive global postgraduate market. This degree is designed to meet the need of ethical leadership to be applied in ever complex international environments and mobile transitional communities'.



### CAFOD update

#### Lent 2018 resources for schools

Poverty is not part of God's plan. As a Christian community, we should not give up on the poorest people. That's why CAFOD is asking children and young people to *give it up* this Lent and take on the challenge to build a better world.

The idea is simple; choose something, *give it up* and donate the money you save. Then watch your fasting transform into something amazing, like clean water or a vegetable garden, to help communities living in poverty.

Visit the CAFOD website to find resources including:

- Films
- Assemblies
- Ash Wednesday liturgy
- Stations of the cross reflections
- Fundraising tools

[cafod.org.uk/schools](http://cafod.org.uk/schools)

#### RE resources: 11-14 and GCSE RE

CAFOD's GCSE Religious Studies resources are mapped to the exam specifications and include films and activities. There are also resources to support 11-14 RE curriculum.

Register for free: [cafod.org.uk/re](http://cafod.org.uk/re)





**Maria B. Rimmer, CATSC Executive Council member, and Immediate Past President, participated in this year's Annual General Meeting of the World Union of Catholic Teachers [WUCT] in Oradea, Romania, in November 2017. She accompanied our President, John Nish, and Treasurer, Dr John Lydon (one of the principal Speakers), and offers this short piece for The Vine.**

**WHEN? SATURDAY 11th NOVEMBER - DAY FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

**WHERE? AULA MAGNA, Oradea's Seminary**

**THEME: Love, courage, competence, and far-sightedness to accept the educational challenges of today and tomorrow.**

Naturally, we opened the formal session of our Conference on Saturday in prayer. As befits the Conference of the World Union of Catholic Teachers, we prayed *The Lord's Prayer* ~ in five languages: Romanian, Latin, English, Italian, and French. This reflected our Conference delegation, where we heard Speakers from Italy, Belgium, England, The Philippines, and Romania. Our gathering was augmented and significantly enriched by the presence of some 100+ teachers from *the Greek Catholic High School in Oradea* ~ whose school we had enjoyed the privilege to visit the previous day, along with a visit to *Don Orione High School*, also in the city of Oradea. These visits were a tremendous opportunity, offering rich insights and affirmations of our common vocation as teachers. It was so humbling to see how much the work of all the staff in these schools does to enrich and nurture the development of their pupils - with such sparse resources. A fitting opportunity to precede the formal Conference, which sets aside time for reflecting on and celebrating our collaboration, international association and mutual striving for the common good.

*WUCT President, Mr Guy Bourdeaud'hui, advised that our Conference would make a "modest contribution" to the impact of all of us as being better teachers each day, and reminded us that WUCT seeks to stretch a helping hand, and tries to offer some inspiration. He stated that "the realisation of our goals", would be "the responsibility, commitment, application and good will of each of us". Thankfully, these qualities were present in abundance across the Visit!*

*We were addressed by a number of Speakers, and participated in exchanges, after each input. Speakers included: CATSC's Treasurer, Prof. Dr John Lydon, who offered a thorough presentation on **The Catholicity of Leadership ~ Context And Challenges**, with presentations also from Prof. Dr. Italo Fiorin, Lumsa, Roma – Director of the International School of Higher Education; Prof. dr. Belen Tangco, St. Thomas' University, Philippines; and Prof. dr. Ionut Popescu, Directeur Oradea's Greek-Catholic University.*

**To be continued... Please make sure you get your school's code to access your DIGITAL COPY of *Networking Journal*, in school 15<sup>th</sup> March. Thank you**



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daily display resources  
@catscew

(available  
from our  
website,  
twitter and  
facebook)

## The CATSC Dailies



Join our NEW facebook group  
Catholic association of teachers, schools and colleges (catsc) uk





## '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?*

## CATSC Annual Conference

7:30pm Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March until 6:00pm Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018

**Crowne Plaza Hotel, Chester**

**Principal Speaker**

**Jonathan Doyle**

Founder and Director CHOICEZ Media, Australia

[www.jonathandoyle.co](http://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.**

**Booking details: [www.catsc.org](http://www.catsc.org)**



## FREE LENT RESOURCES

The Lent season is nearly here, and what better way to prepare for the season than to download our free Lent Materials.



### STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

This year we have also produced Stations of the Cross for secondary schools.

Students can follow in the footsteps of Jesus' passion as they learn how Missio is helping to relieve the suffering of those living in poverty, turmoil or conflict around the world.

Please visit [missiontogether.org.uk](http://missiontogether.org.uk) to download resources

