



Catholic Association
of Teachers Schools
& Colleges



Mission Statement

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

The Vine



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

LOOK INSIDE FOR A NEWS UPDATE

ON THE FOLLOWING:

CAFOD

AGM

CATSC AT THE EDUCATION SHOW

DR JOHN LYDON, SENIOR LECTURER IN THE

Summer Term 2015

**A Message from the President
for all those working in Catholic Schools and Colleges in England and Wales**

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The Summer Term is buzzing along as the daffodils have flowered and now moved on to be replaced by the May blossom currently filling the trees and cheering us on our way to the promise of a great summer ahead -we hope!

The Easter celebrations we have witnessed around the world have been awe inspiring with Pope Francis once again helping us to think about the poor and suffering. We watched him washing the feet of prisoners particularly a female prisoner and her baby. Pope Francis in his daily life epitomises the teachings of Jesus and helps us all to focus on this in our work and daily lives. He helps all workers and leaders to understand humility and bringing God's love to all whom we meet. His proclamation on Divine Mercy Sunday that 2015-2016 should be an extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy once again guides us to becoming more understanding and forgiving of others in our lives.

The Summer Term is a very busy one as we encourage the children and young people we teach to succeed in their final assessments for the year. Stress levels for lecturers, teachers, students and pupils are always high as the schedules begin to close in on everyone. Staying focused on everything can become overwhelming- that is when the power of prayer can help us to "get through" the difficulties of marking, writing reports and all the other essential paperwork connected with school life during this term. We will all have our favourite prayers and systems of prayer time but I have found that somehow saying the "Hail Mary" at any time and concentrating on Mary's life can put my own difficulties and concerns into perspective and assist me through the next stage of my work. We remember that Mary said, "Yes" and then stepped into a most incredible journey! Please all stay well and remember what a GREAT JOB you are doing teaching and guiding the young towards leading a good life.

The challenge to meet the requirements of all the outside agencies is ever-present and ever-changing. The guidance and advice to meet and match most of those requirements can be found on the CES web-site but if you have any difficulties please call the CATSC Helpline for advice.

I wish you all a great Summer Term, with lots of sunshine and happy contented children. As Jesus said to his apostles, "Peace be with you all"
God Bless,

**Mary Sainsbury
President of CATSC**

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Catholic Association of Teachers Schools and Colleges

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 13th June 2015

at

St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School Sontley Rd Wrexham LL13 7EN

starting at 10.00a.m.

Would all members please note that the AGM is open to all members and that should they have any motions they wish to have raised they should inform the secretary two week prior to the meeting taking place.

AGENDA:

- 1) Opening Liturgy
- 2) Apologies
- 3) Minutes of previous meeting
- 4) Matters arising
- 5) Correspondence
- 6) Officer Reports
 - a. President
 - b. Vice-President report
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer
- 7) Executive Officer Reports
8. Annual Study Conference
9. Election of Officers
Election of Hon Secretary
- 10 Installation of New President



Please come along and share your views and opinions with us!!!

CATSC at the Education Show



As you will know CATSC was represented the Education Show held at the NEC Birmingham last March. Sharing our stand were representatives from Mission Together and CAFOD. As a result there was a strong Catholic presence at the show which was attended by well over 10,000 visitors over the course of the three day duration.

The stand was manned by volunteers from the Executive Council, Mission Together and CAFOD who willingly gave up their time and energy to promote the different organisations with all visitors.

Our very popular green shopping bags were once again a real feature of the show and were evident right across the whole week. As part of the contacts we made we are publishing in the next few editions some articles about some of the companies and services which we believe might be of interest to some of our members.

The Education Show organiser and the CATSC president Mary Sainsbury would like to thank most sincerely all those who gave up their time to support us over the three days of the show.



In June Unitalk launch an exciting new product which will have an impact on the lives of teachers, students, pupils and parents internationally especially those struggling with language barriers Teachers, who often struggle to communicate with foreign language pupils and parents, can however with this unique patterned communication software engage in basic conversation by selecting a pre-set sentence from a library of thousands in a variety of languages. Likewise the pupil or teacher can ask important questions, can understand simple thing like fire policies and enable children being able to engage with others in their class promotes inclusion and makes them feel a welcomed member of the community. The communication tool will be available for any age group and the latest edition has an emergency text facility that can contact the parent in their language should there be an emergency. For further information please contact UNITALK on www.unitalkltd.com



CATSC TREASURER TO SPEAK AT MAJOR EDUCATION CONFERENCE IN ROME

Dr John Lydon, Programme Director for Catholic School Leadership at St Mary's University, Twickenham, and CATSC treasurer has been invited to present a paper at the November 2015 Congregation for Catholic Education World Congress, in Rome this coming November. The conference entitled "Educating Today and Tomorrow: A Renewed Passion" organised by The Congregation for Catholic Education have asked Dr Lydon to present his paper "Initial and Continuing Formation of Teachers" at the Congress, which is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Declaration on Christian Education "Gravissimum educationis" which coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities "Ex Corde Ecclesiae."

The Conference will be held in the Paul VI Audience Hall at the Vatican in Rome and the Mariapolis Centre in Castel Gandolfo. It will offer an opportunity for speakers and delegates from across the world to examine fundamental issues of education. Dr Lydon is the only speaker



CATSC NEWS UPDATE Annual Study Conference

This year's conference was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Chester. The speakers at the conference also fulfilled the expectations of all who attended with Fr Eamon Mulcahy and Richard Varey providing us all with very thought-provoking challenges and stimulus for future actions with lots of humour to encourage us on our journeys.

The seminars and workshops led by Sr. Ann of the Marist Centre in Manchester, Professor Gerald Grace and Barbara Byrne along with the exhibitors particularly Redemptorists Publications also supported delegates in discerning more about their Faith and how to be more successful in our roles in colleges and schools. The liturgies which encompassed the whole conference encouraged us in our vocations as Catholic Teachers.

Your CATSC Executive Council Members have all been busy during the Spring Term in leading and assisting at the Secondary Leaders' Conference-London at the end of January, the Annual Study Conference at Chester in February and the National Education Show at Birmingham in March. Different members carry out various tasks but all work very hard and support each other with practical help, ideas and enthusiasm. Most who attend the conference are aware of the work that our Conference Organiser Becky Juskiewicz does but this year we asked Becky to write an article on her work as the Conference Organiser. It is printed below. Finally as your President I would like to formally say THANK YOU to them all for their support whilst I have been President during the last two and a half years.

A View from the other side of the CATSC Annual Study Conference

It started with Clare Short. Well, kind of. I was asked to meet her in the Holiday Inn Hotel Reception because she was due to be speaking at the CATSC Annual Study Conference a few years ago. Actually, all I could focus on was the fact that I was wearing jeans. I was sure my Mother would not approve of me meeting a VIP without having dressed up for the occasion.

That was my first job I suppose; having been the sort of person my whole life who volunteers for everything it wasn't a surprise when Peter Capper asked me if I would take over the running of the CATSC Annual Study Conference. I thought about it for a few weeks but I eventually agreed. I thought it was beyond me and the amount of time I could devote to it really, but I also thought that it was vitally important, given the ongoing changes within and changes of opinion regarding Catholic education, that it continued in its current format.

This was in 2008 – I was more than a little intimidated by the group of people I had met at my first CATSC Council meeting because they were academic, eloquent and articulate. At the Conference this year, Richard Varey alluded to the idea that one day, someone would appear and 'find him out'. I felt a bit like that. How could I be responsible for all this? For them??

After I had accepted, it was time to start planning; the NEC Crowne Plaza was the venue in 2009 and the next few months involved lots of paper, spreadsheets, meetings and some interesting conversations about meals and booking. I remember having to book a meal at the last minute at

the hotel for fifteen members of the Ten Ten Theatre Group before the Conference started. A big ask on a Friday night! Luckily, they didn't mind sitting on stools in the bar area. Once the Conference started, I realised that the planning had been worth it – there were some issues over room bookings (and the person responsible was magically off sick on the Friday that we arrived) and the food wasn't brilliant but the Conference itself was great and I enjoyed being responsible for its planning. The Sister with a large gin and tonic locked out of her room (she was more concerned about her drink) and the homeless woman I discovered sleeping in a car on the car park notwithstanding, everything ran smoothly.

Since then there have been six conferences and three Presidents. There have been hotel visits, both successful and unsuccessful (one Events Manager passed out on us in a hotel once and we thought she'd had a stroke – she had just overheated! A few wet towels and a dash down the stairs to Reception for first aid and she was fine) in several cities around the country. There have been excellent and varied speakers and lots of laughter, eating, drinking and dancing. The workshops and discussion groups are both expertly run and motivational for the delegates who attend them. People who come now associate me with the phrase, 'We are not expecting a fire drill....' because I have said it so often.

However, I am concerned that numbers of delegates for the Annual Study Conference are dwindling – schools are not dedicating money from their budget anymore for this as it is not seen as a priority for them and they have so many other things they need to pay for first. In fact, many delegates now pay for themselves as a result. These days, I think it is even more important that events such as the Conference do continue as it is a chance for everyone to be together and to listen to and appreciate speakers who can inspire them in their work, especially as we work in Catholic schools. We need some solidarity and the Conference provides an opportunity to do just that.



NEWS UPDATE

Nepal earthquake resources

cafod.org.uk/education/Nepal

A film, prayer and donation form to help schools to learn about, pray and fundraise for the people affected by the Nepal earthquake.

Celebrating Oscar Romero

cafod.org.uk/primary/romero

cafod.org.uk/secondary/romero

Look out for the poster being mailed to all schools in May to mark the beatification of Archbishop Oscar Romero, and explore Romero's life and legacy, and CAFOD's work in El Salvador, with our online resources.

One Climate, One World resources

cafod.org.uk/primary/climate

cafod.org.uk/secondary/climate

Explore why extreme weather is pushing people deeper into poverty, and join our campaign to take action as a school.

People of God website

cafod.org.uk/peopleofgod

Visit CAFOD's exciting new website to support People of God: Called to Serve - a national 11-14 RE framework launching for Year 7 in May.

Finally I successfully completed walking 200 miles of the Camino on Saturday 25th April despite suffering from a dose of Spanish tummy, a shin splint injury and tendonitis. Many thanks to all who sponsored and prayed for me. Hopefully when I have collected in all the sponsorship money I will have raised almost £3,000 for my two elected charities. God bless you all.

