



The Vine

Advent 2015



SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

CAFOD

UPDATE

REPORT FROM

WORLD

CONGRESS

ON CATHO-

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



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to this Advent 2015 edition of 'The Vine'. Thank you for all that you do to ensure that children and young people in our schools and colleges experience the adventure of Advent, as they prepare to celebrate— in due course— the joy of the Christmas feast. We go above and beyond the tangle of tinsel and the babble of baubles that so often now precede what has become the "Winterville" beloved of marketing gurus and advertisers, all busy chasing the most 'watched advert' slot on our screens. Be in no doubt that your measured witness to all that is special and sacred about the Christmas feast, all your steady and careful preparations for the advent of the Christ child— speak powerfully and prayerfully to those in your care.

This year Advent and Christmas are underpinned by our journey into the Jubilee Year of Mercy. This extra 'layer' will blend in and provide fresh nuances for our work. Pope Francis in his address to educationalists across the world at the World Congress on Catholic Education said 'Think through once again and teach the spiritual and corporal works of mercy so that children not only know them but are provided with the opportunity to engage in them in their daily lives'

So let this be in our minds and in our hearts as we anticipate the end of term. I wish you a relaxing and refreshing Christmas break, the opportunity to re-charge the batteries that make you tick: your sense of vocation, your faith and your commitment to the Common Good. For the many ways, often unseen in which you contribute to the nurture of your pupils and students, THANK YOU.

Peace and joy to you across Christmas and for the New Year

Heddwch a Llawenydd I chi dros y Nadolig a'r Flyddwn Newydd Da

*Mrs. Maria B Rimmer
President of CATSC*

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CATSC NEWS UPDATE

As we enter the season of Advent it appropriate that we update all our members of important events that are planned for the forthcoming year. Therefore printed below is a list of all the important dates and venues of activities that CATSC is involved in.

**28th - 29th January 2016 Secondary Leaders' Conference
London**

**6th February Executive Council Temple Primary School,
Smedley Road, Cheetham, Manchester, M8 8SA**

27th – 28th February Annual Study Conference Chester

17th - 19th March Education Show NEC Birmingham

**11th June AGM & Executive Council Meeting
St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School, Sontley Road,
Wrexham LL137EN**



CONFERENCE NEWS

Please see enclosed the booking forms for both our annual conferences. As you will notice we have been able to obtain some high quality speakers and intend to provide a stimulating and enjoyable experience for all who attend. This year CATSC celebrates the 20th year of its existence and what to ensure that both conferences are extremely well attended. Why not come along and experience a CATSC conference at first hand and find out more about us as an organisation.

On behalf of all on the Executive Council may I thank all those schools who have forwarded their subscription for this year. Currently over 950 have returned their membership forms which is much higher than this time last year. If you haven't yet renewed your subscription or know of Catholic schools in your area that are not members then please encourage them to join. It would be wonderful as we celebrate our 20th anniversary this coming summer if we could achieve a membership of 1,500 schools which would be a record. Many thanks for your continued support.

Celebrating the Year of Mercy



As President Maria Rimmer reminded us Pope Francis has recently asked that we teach the children and young people in our care the 7 Spiritual and the 7 Corporal Acts of Mercy and also most importantly provide the children with the opportunity in their daily lives to actually engage in activities that help them to implement them. If any schools have good ideas about how to do this then please get in touch and we would be happy to publish them in our next edition. Please email andrew.sowerby@yahoo.co.uk

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Admonish the sinner
- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive all injuries
- Pray for the living and the dead

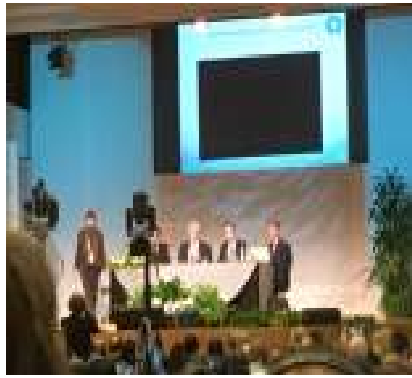


The Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

THE WORLD CONGRESS ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION “Educating Today and Tomorrow a Renewing Passion”

As we reported in the last copy of the Vine, Dr John Lyndon, the current treasurer of CATSC and a leading expert on the formation of Catholic teachers made a keynote presentation at the World Congress on Catholic Education held in Rome and Castel Gandolfo to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Gravissimum Educationis the document on education issued by the 2nd Vatican Council and the 25th anniversary of Ex Corde Ecclesiae the Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities’ identity and mission. Following the presentation which was very well received John took part in a wide ranging discussion upon the issues facing the education and formation of Catholic teachers for the 21st century.



The congress which was attended by a large CATSC delegation attracted teachers and educationalist from across the globe. The focus of the four day congress was

on the challenges that those working in Catholic Schools face on a daily basis. These included looking at how schools maintain their identity and mission in challenging circumstances, how Catholic schools continue to provide an holistic education based upon the teachings of Jesus Christ, the way in which Catholic teachers are educated and trained in order to carry out their vocation and finally how Catholic schools continue to meet the needs of the marginalised and work towards the provision of the Common Good.

There were a tremendous number of inspiring speakers who spoke powerfully about their work often in areas of great danger.

Contributions were made by teachers from the Lebanon, India, Hungary, Australia and Bosnia Herzegovina. All provided a clear mes-

sage that Catholic Schools must provide an education that is rooted in gospel values and teaches children the importance of respecting other cultures without losing a sense of their Catholic identity. The congress concluded with Pope Francis holding a question-and-answer session with a select few of the people taking part, fielding queries on a wide array of topics

ranging from the challenges of maintaining Christian identity in an educational setting across all social, political and cultural contexts, to the dissolution of the ties that historically have bound together family, school and society, to the specific challenges to education posed by the “piecemeal III World War” being fought around the world, to which Pope Francis has made repeated reference. “Today there is a tendency toward a neopositivism,” said Pope Francis, “that is, to educate in immanent things, and this both in traditionally



Christian countries and in countries of Pagan tradition.” He went

on to say, “Transcendence is what is wanting – for me, the greatest crisis in education, in order that it be [truly, authentically] Christian, is this closure to transcendence.” The Holy Father went on to say, “To prepare hearts, that the Lord might manifest Himself,” is the true mission of the teacher and the goal of all education worthy of the name. Using the example of St. John Bosco’s “emergency education” in response to the Masonic threat in northern Italy in the 19th century, Pope Francis said, “There are three languages: the language of the head, the



language of the heart, and the language of the hands; education must go forward by these three ways; instructing in how to think, helping students to feel well; accompanying students as they do [what they have learned or are learning to do].” He added, “The three languages must be in harmony: that the child, the student think [about] what he feels and does, feel that which he thinks and makes, and do that which he thinks and feels.”

The Holy Father concluded with an appeal and an assignment for the educators present and for all their colleagues, everywhere: to respond to the brutalities of war in contemporary life, by committing themselves anew to learning and teaching mercy,

Advent calendar

Download the PowerPoint calendars for children and young people for daily stories, reflections and actions at cafod.org.uk/primary or cafod.org.uk/secondary

Make a Splash!

Planning for next term? Our Lent Fast Day resources focus on water projects in Uganda. Look out for CAFOD Lent 2016 packs and online resources in January to get involved in Make a Splash! for Lent.

Refugee crisis in Europe

Watch our film about children's dreams, and use the PowerPoint, prayers and information sheet to explore the refugee crisis in Europe with children and young people. cafod.org.uk/education

Laudato Si'

Respond to Pope Francis' call to care for the earth – use CAFOD's animation for children and young people on Pope Francis' encyclical. cafod.org.uk/primary/climate
cafod.org.uk/secondary/climate

People of God

Visit CAFOD's website to support People of God: Called to Serve - a national 11-14 RE framework launching for Year 7 in May. Find films, lesson ideas and PowerPoints to support your work. cafod.org.uk/peopleofgod

Step into the Gap

Applications are now open for the CAFOD gap year scheme. Please share with anyone aged 18 – 30, passionate about global justice and who are looking to put

Ideas for Advent

The Advent Wreath

As we enter the season of advent all teachers should be ensuring that within their classroom there is not only a Catholic Advent calendar but also an Advent wreath which can be used for most daily acts of worship. I came across this short advent prayer which teachers might like to use with the children throughout the advent season.

Prayer of Blessing for your Advent Wreath

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son,

Jesus Christ:

He is Emmanuel, the hope of all people,

He is the wisdom that teaches and guide us,

He is the Saviour of every nation

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us

as we light the candles of this Advent wreath.

May the wealth and its light be

a sign of Christ's promise to bring salvation.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

