



# The Vine



VOLUME 18 | AUTUMN TERM 2013

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

LOOK INSIDE  
FOR A NEWS  
UPDATE

ON THE  
FOLLOWING:

WUCT

PRESIDENTS  
MEETING

R.E COUNCIL  
UPDATE

CAFOD NEWS  
INFORMATION

AND

BOOKING  
FORM

FOR

CATSC/CESEW  
SECONDARY  
LEADERS

CONFERENCE  
30TH-31ST JAN



## A Message from the President

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

In November 2012 I was asked to become the Acting President of CATSC in succession to Andrew Sowerby who had held the post for the previous three years. Following my election in June 2013 as the President for the next two years, I would like to stress that I will endeavour to continue to support and encourage all who work in Catholic schools and colleges and especially those who are a part of CATSC (currently this comprises of 60% of all schools in England and Wales.)

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 in both your teaching and in your own personal Faith Journey. Once again CATSC will have a stand, shared with CAFOD and Mission Together, at the National Education Show in Birmingham next March.

Individuals 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 Research and Development Award Grants will continue to promote academic study and research into aspects of Catholic teaching so helping to develop our understanding and practice.

The Association website is to be up graded and we would ask you to use both our Twitter and Facebook accounts to share your ideas, experiences and good teaching resources. We will then incorporate your pieces on the website for others to use and so extend good practice across the country.

The Secondary Leadership Conference and the Annual Study Conference, for all sectors and all levels, have already been planned and I whole heartedly recommend both conferences to you all. Would those members who are Head Teachers please remember our NQTs, RQTs, Middle Leaders and Support Staff when allocating places on the Annual Study Conference as they also deserve the opportunity to refresh their vocations in school .

On the Executive of the Association we have dedicated people who come from different parts of the country and who represent all sectors of education covering from the youngest of children - teachers who work with nursery age children through to lecturers training Post Graduate students, Advisers and the Catholic Agencies.

We are here to provide help and further the development of teaching and learning in Catholic Schools and the faith journeys of all concerned, both the pupils and teachers. The new Handbook will by now have arrived in your school so you can see who all these enthusiastic people are. Please feel free to Twitter your comments and ideas and use the Facebook Account.

Finally may I wish you a Holy and a Happy 2013-2014 School Year in all your establishments and hope that by the end of the year I will have at least been to visit your diocese and met your representatives or maybe even met you!

God Bless,  
**Mary Sainsbury**  
**National President**

## VOLUME 18 | AUTUMN TERM 2013



### *MORE THAN JUST AN EDUCATED GUESS*

Dr John Lydon, CATSC Treasurer, represented the Association at the launch of a report on “Faith Schools” entitled “More Than an Educated Guess: Assessing the evidence on faith schools,” commissioned by THEOS, a think tank which seeks to inform the debate about the place of religion in society. The launch was attended by representatives from all the major faith groups together with the Chief Executive of the British Humanist Association. The report summarises research with a view to informing debate around their place in a plural society and their effects on students.

The report, focusing specifically on voluntary aided and voluntary controlled faith schools, encompasses four key areas:

- Are faith schools socially divisive?
- Are faith schools exclusive and elitist?
- Is there a ‘faith schools effect’?
- Do faith schools offer a distinctive religious experience?

Readers of the Vine are encouraged to read the report which addresses the above questions systematically. I will, however, quote the report’s conclusion to the first question: “The evidence suggests that faith schools in general do not promote social division on racial and ethnic lines. Faith schools are ethnically diverse spaces. They have drawn on the discourse of social capital to emphasise their commitment to immigrant social mobility.”

This resonates with the CESEW Census data of 2012 which showed that in England the proportion of pupils of minority ethnic origin, defined as those not in the white British category, continued to increase: to 27.6% in primary schools and 23.2% in secondary schools. In the Catholic sector proportions were higher: 33.5% in primary schools and 28.7% in secondary schools.”

Dr Andrew Morris, representing the Bishops’ Conference of England & Wales, suggested that, while the direction of travel for Catholic schools in the future may be towards a more inclusive mission, he reiterated the findings of the CESEW census in regard to Catholic schools being more socially and racially mixed

#### CAFOD Update October 2013



Would all members of the association please try to support the following CAFOD events in the coming weeks?

#### **Upcoming dates:**

November 12th: Stewardship of Creation day for Chaplains, Bristol

November 15th: Stewardship of Creation day for Chaplains, Liverpool.

Places are still available. For more information and to sign up, please contact Susan at [Skambalu@cafod.org.uk](mailto:Skambalu@cafod.org.uk)

#### **Resources:**

Hungry for Change campaign – Please take action against hunger by joining CAFOD’s Hungry for Change campaign. Already taken action as a school? Please send your loaves and fish actions to CAFOD to be counted and included in the campaign.

New Advent Calendar: Downloadable interactive powerpoint, perfect for form time. Each day, invite students to click on the correct date on slide 1 and be taken to a story, prayer and action for the day.

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

Syria crisis: New films from Syrian children describing their dreams for peace, available to be used with presentations to help teaching about the crisis in Syria. [cafod.org.uk/secondary](http://cafod.org.uk/secondary)

**THE RE COUNCIL OF ENGLAND AND WALES UPDATE**

CATSC continues to be represented on the RE Council for England and Wales. Following the recent OFSTED report on RE entitled RE: Realising the Potential, the Chair of the RE Council, John Keast OBE, made the following comment: "Despite the good practice and the improvements RE has seen over past years that OFSTED refers to, it is not pleasant to see the evidence of weakness and inconsistency spelled out with Ofsted language and authority. The report does make compelling reading, however, and I hope marks the point from where RE starts to begin its recovery."

The RE Council regards its RE Review as a key component in the recovery of RE in England and Wales. The full report includes the curriculum framework, a discussion of the wider context for RE and a series of questions to inform future work and development, as well as the recommendations of the Expert Panel report and the evaluation of the Review. The report will be available in printed form as well as free to download from the REC website. (<http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk> ). The Council is keen that as many RE teachers and senior leaders as possible join in conversations about the future of RE. With this in mind dissemination events will be held in York, London, Liverpool, Oxford and Bristol during November. The schedule is as follows. All events will take place from 5.30 to 7.30 with refreshments provided beforehand. To book a place please contact: [sophie@religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk](mailto:sophie@religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk) as space at each event is limited. Admission is free of charge but ticketed.

VENUE	DATE	CHAIR
Institute of Education, London	Tuesday 5th Nov	John Keast OBE
York St John University	Wednesday 6 Nov	Professor Julian Stern
Oxford University Press, Oxford	Tuesday 19th Nov	John Keast OBE
Liverpool Hope University	Thursday 21st Nov	Joy Schmack
University of Bristol	Thursday 28th Nov	Dr Janet Orchard

We would encourage as many of our members as possible to attend these events in order to engage in conversations about the future of Religious Education in England and Wales.



**Dr John Lydon**  
CATSC Treasurer and Representative on the RE Council

**"White Smoke for the Work of WUCT"**

Following a difficult year the presidents of all member countries unanimously voted for the continuation of WUCT at their recent meeting held in Rome over the weekend of the 21st and 22nd September. The Executive Council of WUCT were also re-elected for three year period. Consequently Guy Bouardeaud'hui of Belgium who had been elected as president for one year only at last year's meeting remains as president and Giovanni Perrone remains as secretary. CATSC is delighted that its treasurer Dr John Lydon has also been re-elected as treasurer of the organisation.

The meeting heard reports of the work done by the two commissions set up at last years meeting in order to further develop and strengthen the work of the organisation and most importantly search out new members so as to strengthen the organisation's financial position.

WUCT (The World Union of Catholic Teachers) has been a long established organisation within the Vatican and works hard to promote the needs of Catholic teachers across the world. Interest in its work has deteriorated in recent years but those present were greatly encouraged by the efforts of the Executive Committee who had striven hard to raise awareness of its existence both in the Vatican and at UNSECO in Paris. Please read our president's account of her visit to the meeting in Rome elsewhere in this edition

## **WORLD UNION of CATHOLIC TEACHERS** **A Presidential Experience**

When I agreed to be the President I had no idea that one of my first responsibilities would be to attend a meeting of WUCT in Rome. What a marvellous experience I had meeting people from around the world who like me want to work in spreading the “Good News.”

Rome is one of my favourite places in the whole world, the weather was beautiful and for a small amount of time we were able to visit a beautiful church of St. Clement and St. Cyril- Three churches built on top of each other . We had an expert guide who brought the whole experience to life for us all.

At the meeting we had representatives from Argentina, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Italy as well as CATSC. We discussed matters at great length and met with our administrator in the Vatican Dr Beatrix Klakowicz and Bishop Zin who spoke to us at length from on behalf of the Congregation for Education in the Vatican. He came with good wishes from the Congregation and a blessing for all the work which you all do as teachers throughout the world. We had lectures from a philosopher about how we learn and one to help us truly understand some of the Vatican documents on education.

At all times we were working in at least three different languages! Thankfully Guy Bourdeaud’hui, the World President from Belgium and Bishop Van Loo our Chaplain were experts in running translations!!

We prayed together as a group and we shared Mass together. As the,” new kid on the block”- I was most humbled to be asked to read at the Mass (also celebrated in 3 different languages). We ate together and shared professional and family stories. We came away with promises to make develop links with other countries so that they too become part of the WUCT family. At the moment we are developing a friendship with a school in Uganda. Any other links people have please let me know soon.

Our meeting place was in view of the dome of St. Peter’s Basilica, all the time this kept me firmly based in my thinking that our work is to spread the teaching of Our Lord and share his teachings with as many people as possible in our lives and in our professional world.

The meeting was a great success and each one of the people present will be endeavouring to gain links throughout the world. If you have any ideas for links please talk to me as soon as you can so I can try to get other countries to join WUCT.



A young teacher collected well known proverbs. She gave each child in her class the first half of a proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb. It's hard to believe these were actually done by year two pupils but there are some good ones. Nonetheless, their insight may surprise you. Here are just a few.

Don't bite the hand that looks dirty

Two's company threes the Musketeers

A Idle mind is the best way to relax

You can lead a horse to water but how?

## News from Around the Diocese



On 17th September Bishop Brain commissioned over 150 newly qualified teachers to work in schools throughout the Diocese of Salford. As he handed them a copy of the booklet "Christ at the Centre" and reminded all present in his homily of the vitally important role that teachers play in the life of children and young people, I remembered the advice that I was given over thirty years ago by the then Archbishop Winning. He told us as newly qualified teachers we had to constantly feed the minds and hearts of the young people and children in our care, that we might never see these young flowers flourish, but it was our responsibility to constantly feed them.

I am sure that across the country there are thousands of young teachers who are just beginning their careers and who have attended events similar to the one held in Salford. As they begin the first, of many schools years, I would like to encourage them all to take note of the following advice that Karan Bilimoria, founder and chief executive of Cobra Beer received from her father when she began her work. She wrote "My father had had a long and distinguished career in the Indian Army and rose to become commander-in-chief of a million men. He was a soldier's soldier and his men adored him. His manner was strict and firm, but he was very friendly. He appreciated and trusted people and gave them freedom.

"Come and see me in my office if you want to talk to me about work" he said. So I made an appointment with his ADC and went to see him. He had a huge office and I felt very small.

"You are starting out and you will be given a lot of tasks to fulfil" he said. "The first thing is always to do something to the best of your ability. Then the second time you do it, give it that little bit extra". What he was saying was: "Take the initiative; be innovative; be creative. Always go the extra mile."

So I would encourage all NQT's across the country, as they begin their careers to always go the extra mile for the children in their care, not to worry whether it has made a difference but to remember as Bishop Brain said to put Christ at the centre of all they do and remember that God will always be there to guide them through the difficulties and challenges that lay ahead.

**Andrew Sowerby**  
**Editor**

St Theresa of Liseux the Little Flower believed in simple prayers. Pope Francis has provided us with a simple prayer to use with those we teach and work with. My thanks go to Elizabeth Sowerby from St Winifred's Stockport who provided us with this idea to share with you.

## **Pope Francis' Five Finger Prayer Guide**

Throughout this meditation, we invite you to offer up a private prayer for those who your fingers fit the most.

### **The Thumb**

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The thumb is the closest finger to you. So start praying for those who are closest to you. They are the persons easiest to remember. To pray for our dear ones is a 'sweet obligation.'

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### **The Index Finger**

Pray for those who teach you, instruct you and heal you. They need the support and wisdom to show direction to others. Always keep them in your prayers.

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### **The Middle Finger**

The middle finger is the tallest. It reminds us of our leaders, the governors and those who have authority. They need God's guidance.

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### **The Ring Finger**

Even that it may surprise you, the ring finger is our weakest finger. It should remind us to pray for the weakest, the sick or those who are plagued by problems. They need your prayers.

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### **The Baby Finger**

Finally we have our smallest finger, this finger should remind you to pray for yourself. When you are done praying for the other four groups, you will be able to see your own needs but in the proper perspective and you will be able to pray for your own needs in a better way.

*We use our hands to pray in a lot of ways, use this 'little way' to help you and those around you to deepen our relationships with God.*

O Little Therese of the Child Jesus,  
Please pick for me a rose from the heavenly garden  
And send it to me as a message of love.

O Little Flower of Jesus, ask God, today, to grant  
The favours I now place with confidence in your hands...  
(Mention in your mind and heart the specific request)

St. Therese, help me to always believe, as you did, in God's great love  
for me,  
So that I might imitate your "Little Way" each day.  
Amen.





**CATSC/CESEW Conference**  
for  
**Leaders of Catholic Secondary Education**

***Thursday and Friday, 30-31<sup>st</sup> January, 2014***

Thistle Hotel, Marble Arch

***“Where All Are Valued”***

5th October 2013

Dear Colleague,

We are delighted to confirm this year's Secondary Conference theme, "Where All Are Valued". Thank you for the support you give to CATSC and, for those new to Secondary Leadership and receiving this mailing for the first time, a warm welcome to a supportive group of colleagues and friends. Evaluations of our annual residential Conference strongly demonstrate that it is valued by all as a significant opportunity to gather, reflect, refresh and renew as Secondary School Leaders from Catholic and joint Church schools.

As the Year of Faith nears its close, we offer you an opportunity to book yourself onto an event which does not pander to ad hoc political announcements, national initiatives, and local pressures, but one which allows the counter-cultural voice of the Gospel to be heard, and the values of our Catholic schools to be articulated and celebrated. This year's Conference will allow us to explore that distinctive value set which offers a genuine premium for our pupils, that which makes us "different".

Our speakers so far include Bishop Kieran Conry, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, Fr. Christopher Jamison, OSB, Director of the National Office for Vocation; Lord Nash, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools; Paul Barber, Director of the Catholic

Following overwhelmingly positive feedback about last year's venue, we return to the Thistle Hotel, Marble Arch, with the ease and comfort of door-to-door coach travel to and from the Conference Mass at Westminster Cathedral.

## The Booking Form

I enclose a booking form with this mailing, and recommend this as the one bit of red tape worth completing straight way! To book places and to pay for these, Booking Forms **must** be sent directly to David Dawson, our conference administrator. He will accept cheques made payable to '*The Catholic High School, Chester*'. We use a school bank account because this is independent and audited. Schools which require an invoice will be sent one as soon as possible.

The Conference opens at 10.00 am on 30<sup>th</sup>, and it closes at 1.30 pm on 31<sup>st</sup> January. It is worth pointing out for newcomers that there is a well-established tradition for many to gather on the eve of the Conference [Wednesday January 29<sup>th</sup>], to check-in and then meet up informally in the Foyer, or at the Bar, to go out and enjoy a meal in London, and a further refreshment or two! So, there is a great value option for an **additional night at the hotel**, prior to the Conference. This is bookable on the attached form, although there is a limited number of rooms for this option. **First-time delegates** are entitled to a **discount** on the main conference, but not for the additional night.

The conference, promoted jointly by CATSC and the CESEW, is one where delegates' evaluations have consistently reported many positives, including the quality of the speakers, the opportunities to debate and discuss, the time set aside to allow us to relax and network, the quality of the accommodation and meals, as well as time for prayer, and an opportunity to worship together, at our Conference Mass at Westminster Cathedral.

We hope that Headteachers will consider sending new members of leadership teams to the Conference, and we very much hope that all Heads will be able to join us, as well.

Warmest regards,

**Maria B. Rimmer**

**Headteacher, St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School, Wrexham**



**NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR SENIOR LEADERS OF  
CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

**“Where All are Valued”**

**Thistle Hotel, Marble Arch, London**

**Thursday 30 January 2014 and Friday 31 January 2014**

**CONFERENCE FEE £299.00 (Includes accommodation on Thursday night)  
Additional Bed and Breakfast on Wednesday 29 January £155.00**

**BOOKING FORM**

**Please complete using BLOCK CAPITALS**

<b>School Name:</b>			
<b>Title:</b>	<b>First Name:</b>	<b>Last Name:</b>	
<b>School Address:</b>		<b>Tel Number</b>	
		<b>E MAIL ADDRESS (PLEASE PRINT)</b>	
<b>Post Code:</b>		<b>Diocese:</b>	
<b>HAVE YOU ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE BEFORE?</b>		Yes/No	
Conference Thursday 30 January and Friday 31 January (Includes accommodation on Thursday night)	Yes/No	£ 299.00	£
<b><i>Additional</i></b> Bed and Breakfast Accommodation on Wednesday 29 January– plus £155	Yes/No	£ 155.00	£
Is this your first conference? Fee for <i>first time attendance</i> for 30 and 31 January (inc. Thurs night) is £249	Yes/No	£ 249.00	£
If you are not staying overnight the fee for Day Delegate is £179 on Thursday, and £99 on Friday. (£278.00 for both days- no accommodation)	Thursday Friday Both	£ 179.00 £ 99.00 £ 278.00	£
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>			£
<b>Special Needs:</b> Dietary			
Access, mobility, etc.			

To reserve your place, complete this booking form and return with a cheque for the full amount, (including the Wednesday B&B rate if required) by 15 December, to Dave Dawson at 8 Baskerville Road, Swindon, SN3 5DD. Tel 01793 337531 or (Mob) 07946068741

E Mail: [dtdawson100@hotmail.com](mailto:dtdawson100@hotmail.com)

Cheques should be made payable to 'The High School, Chester', Full payment **MUST** be received in advance of Conference. If full and final payment is not made **by end of 17 January 2014** then the place will be withdrawn. Do you require an invoice? Yes / No

Attendance Certificates will be issued at the Conference, on request. Further information will be issued to all attending.