

ABLAZE

The A&B Newsletter for Primary & Secondary
RE Subject Leaders & Heads of Department

SPRING 2026

Welcome to the Spring edition of Ablaze - info and updates for Primary and Secondary RE Subject leaders and Chaplains.

Pope Leo has proclaimed a **Franciscan Jubilee Year** for the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi. Find out more here:

www.indcatholicnews.com/news/54128

Let us know your ideas for marking this and celebrating this wonderful Saint -especially if your school has Saint Francis as its patron!



Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions – we always love to hear from you – especially to hear about the great ways that you are all working to lead all our young people closer to Christ.

Anna Flood

Primary Catholic Ethos and RE adviser

E: anna.flood@abdiocese.org.uk

Emma Sharp

Primary Catholic Ethos and RSE adviser

E: emma.sharp@abdiocese.org.uk

Dave Legrand

Secondary RE Adviser

E: dave.legrand@abdiocese.org.uk

Theresa McNamara

Chaplaincy Adviser

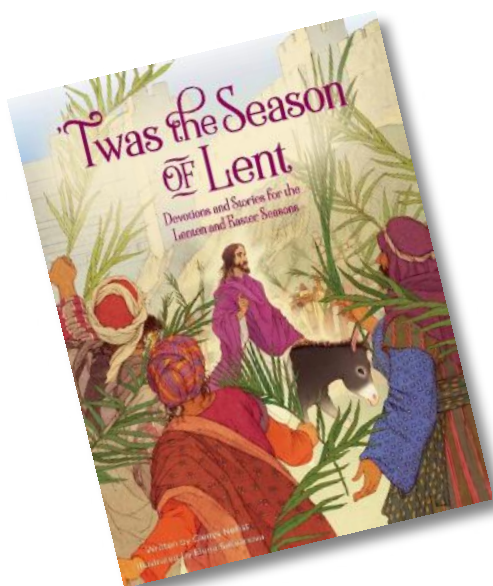
E: theresa.mcnamara@abdiocese.org.uk

LENT

Walk with a Traitor this Lent!

CAFOD are inviting us to do our big Lent walk – get some inspiration to get involved from Traitor winner Harry Clark – find out more here:

<https://youtu.be/DZxuQcdKtNw>



SVP Heart-to-Heart Lent campaign – youth resources available now

As we prepare for the season of Lent, the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is inviting all schools and parishes to take part in the SVP Heart-to-Heart Lent Campaign.

Inspired by Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati's message Verso l'Alto (To the Heights), they are encouraging children, young people, and adults to keep climbing towards a life of deeper faith, friendship, and service.

The Lenten theme centres on Loneliness and Befriending, which lies at the heart of the SVP's mission. Across all ages, they are inviting everyone to connect more deeply with others by stepping away from everyday distractions and taking time for meaningful, attentive conversations.



Lent Devotional

*'Twas the Season of Lent when for 40 whole days,
God's people were trying to think of ways new ways,
To be more like Jesus – to love, care and give –
In hopes that they'd choose the right way to live.*

If you're looking for a great new devotional to share with the children this Lent, I recommend **'Twas the Season of Lent'** by **Glenys Nellis**, author of 'The Wonder That Is You', and the 'Love Letters from God' series. It is told in the lyrical style of Clement Moore's iconic poem—'Twas the Night before Christmas' and explores what the season of Lent is all about and how we can draw closer to God during this time.

Campaign Resources:

They are offering resources for each age group to use throughout Lent, with the aim of bringing communities together and helping lift people out of loneliness. There will be time to reflect on different encounters in Scripture and to take part in activities that encourage reaching out to others.

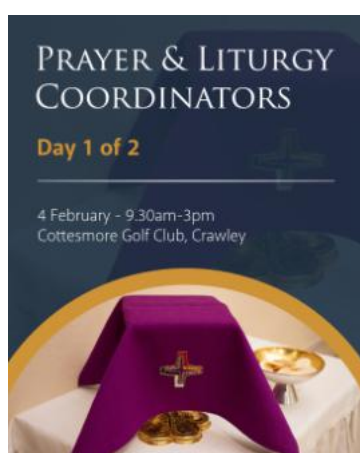
- Mini Vinnie resources (Key stages 1 and 2)
- Youth SVP resources (Key stages 3, 4 and 5)
- SVP1833 resources (Young Adults)
- SVP Adult Members resources

If you have any questions about the campaign, or if you are interested in setting up a Young Vincentians' group, please email:

E: youngvincentians@svp.org.uk

CPD

As always our full CPD and training programme and booking details can be found on our website here:
www.abdiocese.org.uk/education/catholic-leaders-cpd



Don't Miss....Greg Finn from Mark 10 Mission!

We are delighted to be welcoming Greg Finn from the wonderful Mark 10 Mission who will be leading our **Prayer and Liturgy Leaders Day** on **Wednesday 4 Feb.**

Greg will be sharing his inimitable gift of how to break open the scriptures to enable our young people to hear God's word in a way that speaks to them.

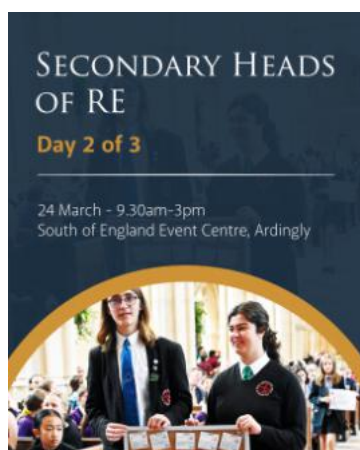


Wonderful Wells Wisdom

RSE Primary and Secondary Conference 3 March

We are absolutely thrilled to welcome David Wells to our RSE conference on **3 March**. David will lead us in a day together to reflect on 'Understanding human dignity as a basis for leadership, behavioural policy, and wellness.'

Make sure you've booked your place.



Primary RE Leads and Secondary Heads of RE Day

Make sure you've booked your place to join us for our Primary RE leaders and our Secondary Heads of RE – which will take place on **24 March** at the South of England Event Centre – look out for our email shortly with more details of the day.



Godly Play and the RED

Led by Dr Sue Price from the Margaret Beaufort Institute and Andrea Harrison from Godly Play UK with Dr Mo Glackin, CES.

Join us on **3 March 2026 at 4pm** for an inspiring **webinar** for Religious Education teachers and leaders.

This session introduces Godly Play, a creative and reflective approach to Christian formation. Participants will hear how storytelling, play, and sacred spaces can deepen spiritual understanding and support lifelong Christian learning for the youngest and oldest children.

For further information and to sign up for this free webinar, please use the Eventbrite link [here >>>](#)

ANCHORS AWAY!

The Good Shepherd Celebration 2026



We are looking forward to welcoming all our schools again to our Good Shepherd celebration being held at Worth Abbey on 18 June.

We would like to remind our schools that this year's celebration will be A Legacy of Hope – centring on the legacy that each of our schools works to hand onto their pupils – as unique graduates of their school's individual charisms and mission.

With this in mind, we remind our schools that the offering that they are invited to bring forth as part of the celebration is an anchor of hope (gifted to each of our schools at our leader's day last term) uniquely decorated to reflect your individual school's charisms, mission and legacy. This may, for example, be linked to the patron saint of your school – their lives and the charisms, virtues and values that they inspire in our children. Think about the words they spoke, the actions or stories of their lives and symbols that represent them – and get creative!





This Spring CAFOD remind us:

It's not too late to make your **Jubilee Pledge**; and CAFOD have suggestions on how to live out the Jubilee Pledge this year.

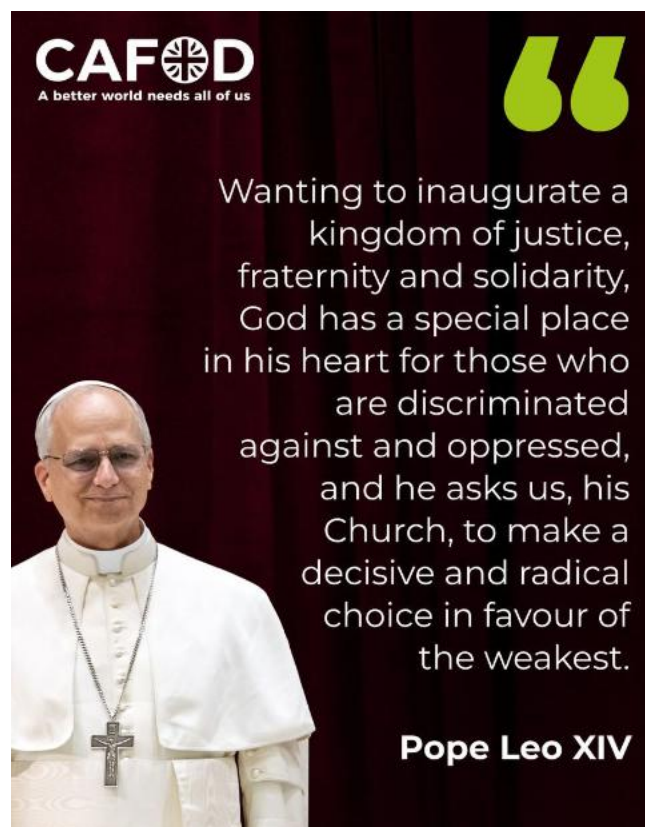
cafod.org.uk/jubilee-schools/jubilee-pledge

Take part in CAFOD's **Big Lent Walk**. Find more resources here: cafod.org.uk/blwschools

Coming soon: A new animation introducing Pope Leo's first Apostolic Exhortation, *Dilexi te*.

There are new **school visit workshops** for Primary and Secondary schools. Contact your local CAFOD representative or email E: schools@cafod.org.uk to find out more and book a school visit.

- **Primary:** A better world needs all of us: Getting to know our global neighbours and exploring CST.
- **Secondary:** St Oscar Romero: Truth in the Media.



Wanting to inaugurate a kingdom of justice, fraternity and solidarity, God has a special place in his heart for those who are discriminated against and oppressed, and he asks us, his Church, to make a decisive and radical choice in favour of the weakest.

Pope Leo XIV



CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

The wonderful people behind the **Saint Oscar Romero Award** have developed some amazing resources to support schools with working towards their awards including:

CST PowerPoint Slides - These CST slides offer simple, accessible ways to introduce or revisit Catholic Social Teaching through definitions, scripture and reflection prompts.

CST PowerPoint Resource Slides - These slides help schools capture and celebrate CST in action—pupil voice, artwork, mission outcomes or reflections.

Celebration of the Word Resources - These resources support a simple celebration of the word rooted in CST, suitable for classes or class-school gatherings.

Primary School Curriculum Templates - These templates outline how CST might be woven through different subject areas.

www.romeroaward.co.uk/resources



RISE THEATRE

Rise theatre are now taking bookings for an exciting Catholic Social Teaching themed primary school theatre day.

Treasure Within is a dynamic, all-day experience for primary schools that creatively brings the **seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST)** to life through live theatre, music, classroom activities, and immersive workshops.

The story follows a school child who sets off on a modern-day treasure hunt to discover and apply the CST principles, with help from the whole school audience and even a few familiar saints along the way.

[Click here to watch the Treasure Within trailer >>>](#)

This new day is packed with drama, music, and meaningful reflection – all designed to support and enrich your CST curriculum.

Schools can email to reserve a date:
E: admin@risetheatre.co.uk

www.abdiocese.org.uk/education

The Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878