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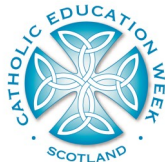
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SCES News



SCES is established to promote and support Catholic education throughout Scotland.

January 2017



Catholic Education Week 12th to 18th February 2017



Pupils and staff from Our Lady and St. Patrick's High School at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King in Liverpool as they joined the other Notre Dame Schools in the UK at a celebration of the 200th Anniversary of St Julie Billiard, founder of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

Developing as a Community of Faith & Learning

Developing as a Community of Faith & Learning

The theme for **Catholic Education Week 2017** is taken from 'Developing In Faith', the resource developed by CHAS, CHAPS and SCES to assist Catholic schools in their evaluation and planning. This theme highlights that: ***"What makes the Catholic school distinctive is its attempt to generate a community climate that is permeated by the Gospel spirit of freedom and love"*** (Declaration on Christian Education 1965). In this edition of our newsletter, we hear from the people who are working in partnership with pupils, staff, parents and parishes, to build our schools as communities of faith and learning.

We hope that the resources on the SCES website (<http://sces.org.uk/catholic-education-week/>) will generate some ideas and activities to learn about and act upon this theme. We would love to hear from your school about all of the things that you do to mark Catholic Education Week, so please send in your photographs and stories and we will share them on our website.

"Developing as a Community of Faith and Learning" is just one of the themes that schools are currently reflecting upon through their school improvement plans. From February 2017 all schools will be invited to share how they are putting into action the Charter for Catholic schools, and the ways in which they have been using their chosen theme from 'Developing In Faith' to reflect upon their next steps. We look forward to hearing about all that you are doing.



Pope Francis Faith Award

We asked Liz Dornan, a SCES volunteer and co-ordinator of the Pope Francis Faith award, to tell us some of the ways that the award helps build the community relationship between home, school and parish. Here's what she said: **“Asked why I stay involved with the Pope Francis Faith Award now that I am retired from teaching, my answer is easy – it is making a difference! As the Award enters its fourth year and I deal with enrolments from all over the country it is a joy to see and hear the great things that are happening with our P6 & P7 pupils. Girls and boys are being given roles of responsibility in parishes, participating in choirs, prayer groups, leading assemblies, proclaiming the Good News at Children’s Liturgy, assisting siblings in sacramental preparation, learning about the variety of work done by parish groups - the list goes on and on! Through displays in churches parishioners are learning about the schoolwork being carried out by pupils as they put the Gifts of the Holy Spirit into action. Parents are being encouraged to be more involved in the parish community and some admit that they are being re-evangelised by their children. Priests report appreciation of the pupil and parental involvement in the life of the parish. Pupils who are not baptised Catholics love being able to be involved and gain the award albeit without the addition of a parish commendation. Staff in schools write to say how much they appreciate the resources which enable the pupils and parents to work together to understand the importance of living out our faith on a daily basis. Recognising how hard everyone else is working why would I not want to do what I can to help something so wonderful?”**



Parent Involvement Working Group

One of the strongest partnerships that Catholic schools have is with their parent community. Tony Coultas has served as the chair of the Parental Involvement Working Group since it was established in 2011. As he hands over the role to a new chair, he offers these words of reflection on the continuing desire for parents to be involved in their children’s faith development. “I have been chair of the Parental Involvement Working Group since it was established in 2011. My children have now all left school and I am handing over the role to another parent, so this is a good opportunity for reflecting on what we have achieved in the last 5 years.

The Group was set up to enable and encourage parents to play their full part and to deepen parents’ understanding of the purpose and value of Catholic education. It has provided advice to SCES on parents’ views and parental involvement, it has represented Catholic parents’ views in different ways, it has organised events for parents and produced a variety of resources for parents and for Parent Councils. In a sense, these first five years have been about listening and learning what works. There is a challenge now to ensure that parents do play a fuller role in Catholic schools and Catholic education, that we achieve something of a step change. That change is needed for two main reasons. Firstly the Scottish Government agenda on attainment will have impacts in school organisation, leadership and teaching. I think that we are in for a period of change and the Government is committed to increasing the engagement of parents as one of the principal means of achieving that change. They are committed to increasing the engagement of parents because the involvement of parents in the education of their children has proven benefits for attainment. Secondly, like other public services, the Government is looking to those who use the service – in the case of education, children, young people and parents – to help create better services, be more active ‘consumers’. Increased parents’ rights and social media play a part in encouraging parents to be more active. So in Catholic schools too we need to be more ready to engage parents and provide a stronger parent voice. That is especially true in ensuring that parents can play a fuller role and be more vocal in wanting an explicit faith-based education for their children. We need to work harder to make sure that parents are active in making Catholic schools communities of faith and learning.

That is challenging. The Parental Involvement Working Group knows that. One of the clear messages that parents gave us was that they did not feel confident about playing a role in the school and especially in building the school as a community of faith. The good news is that we now have a platform from which we can build. The Parental Involvement Working Group has been blessed with a number of parents who are committed to rolling up their sleeves and working on behalf of other parents. I am so grateful for all that they have done and continue to do, but we can do more to build on this. One idea that we are taking forward is to build a stronger network of Parent Councils. Many Parent Councils have used the school cluster – a secondary school and its associated primary schools - to build wider communities and I think that we could make more of these wider school communities to build parental involvement.”



CALLING ALL PARENTS: Parent Involvement Working Group are organising an event for all interested Catholic parents with children currently at school. This Gathering for Catholic Parents will take place on **Saturday 21st January** between **10am and 12pm** in **St. Francis Xavier Church Hall**, Taylor Avenue, **Carfin**. During this event parents will have the chance to talk to each other about the matters which are important to them regarding Catholic education and to discuss ways in which they can contribute to the Mission of their child’s Catholic school. further information please visit the SCES website.

Update

Setting Out On The Road

An introductory course on teaching Religious Education in Catholic schools



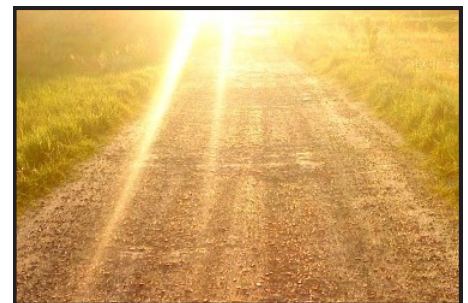
“Throughout this journey my faith has been a part of my life, sometimes a weak part and other times a very strong part of my life. Through my participation in this course I have relit my enthusiasm and reconnected with God, this had waned slightly, life had gotten in the way and I had forgotten to bring that back to Jesus. If I have gained nothing else from this experience it has been falling in love with my faith all over again and taking this love into my life but particularly in all aspects of my teaching.”
(a participant on Setting out on the Road course)

John Brown, former HMIe and a tutor shares his reflection on the first year of “Setting Out On The Road”:

“Tutors have journeyed with participants over the year of the course and it has been a great privilege to do so. Almost all of the participants have expressed similar thoughts to those above and have agreed that the course was inspiring, challenging and thought-provoking. I have been privileged as a tutor to read and assess my group’s reflections and practices throughout the year and witnessed participants’ growth and development in their understanding of the theological concepts within This is Our Faith and the learning and teaching aspects of the programme.



During the year, participants had to submit a series of assignments; some were reflections on a theological topic others included lesson plans with evaluations. As a tutor, I had to evaluate and give them feedback. It was heartening to see improvements in lesson planning, especially from those who had just started their teaching career. All participants showed greater understanding of core learning, learning intentions and success criteria as the year progressed. However, my greatest pleasure came from reading the reflective tasks because some of the short essays were highly personal but demonstrating a strong understanding of the faith elements they were being asked to think about. My experience of being a tutor has been excellent and my only hope is that my comments during the course have helped the participants to grow as Catholic teachers. I am sure that this is a hope that all the tutors, without whom the course would have been less successful, would echo.



It was also a great privilege to be present when the first group of participants received their Certificate in Religious Education from Archbishop Tartaglia. The informal reception afterwards was a true reflection of the atmosphere of mutual support that participants had built. Over a cup of tea they introduced one another to their families and shared the stories of how they had also been on a learning journey, supporting their loved ones as they juggled their commitments in order to achieve the certificate. One husband summed it up nicely when he said that he should receive a certificate as he felt that he had ‘done’ the course as well!!”

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON “SETTING OUT ON THE ROAD” CONTACT SCES:

mail@sces.uk.com



Dr. Leonard Franchi was appointed as the first Director of the St. Andrew's Foundation in June 2013. As he moves on from this post he offers a brief summary of some of the work he has been involved in:

"The St Andrew's Foundation for Catholic Teacher Education was launched formally in June 2013, since that time I have worked towards establishing it as the hub of the University of Glasgow's commitment (or mission) to Catholic teacher education. The Foundation has a number of important functions: it oversees the formation of teachers who wish to serve in Catholic schools and is a point of contact for those interested in Catholic education more generally. One of its key responsibilities is the

*annual Cardinal Winning Lecture. Formerly known as the Catholic Education Week Lecture, it now happily bears the name of one so passionate about Catholic education! These lectures have grown in popularity in recent years, with many schools bringing senior pupils to listen to the internationally acclaimed speakers. As befits an institution in an ancient university, we build links with our partners at home and abroad. Members of the Foundation sit on the Executive of SCES and CHAPS; we are involved on Widening Access bodies in Scotland and have formal links with the *World Union of Catholic Teachers* and the *Association of Catholic Institutes of Education*. While my time as director has ended, the work of the Foundation continues to develop. Looking ahead, members of the Foundation are keen to contribute to events marking the centenary of the 1918 Education (Scotland) Act as well as making an impact on practice through our scholarship activities. Please have a look at our website where you will also find links to our presence on Facebook and Twitter: <http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/education/standrewsfoundation/>*

University of Glasgow

Fr. Stephen Reilly, Co-ordinator of Spiritual and Pastoral Formation at the University found some time to tell us about his new role and some of the exciting initiatives at the School of Education:

"I have been in the post of Co-ordinator of Spiritual and Pastoral Formation for a year now, taking over the role from Fr John Bolland who had fulfilled the role to great effect over the previous years. The role involves a lot of teaching, helping future Catholic teachers to achieve the Catholic Teaching Certificate and to understand their faith better, giving them confidence and skills to pass on the faith to their pupils. I am excited that the School of Education is also now offering the course leading to the Catholic Teaching Certificate at Strathclyde and Edinburgh universities this year, as well as at Glasgow.

As well as teaching, my role is a pastoral one, and I am delighted that many students have joined the new Student Pastoral Planning Team (SPPT). This group has already organised pilgrimages, retreats and talks for fellow students. A highlight of the past months was the Holy Doors Challenge in aid of the Classrooms for Malawi charity. 15 students and staff visited all 8 cathedral holy doors in Scotland in 24 hours, using only public transport. In addition, 10 students and staff, who are all musicians or singers, have travelled to Lourdes this summer with HCPT to support the work of Hosanna House, and I hope they will form the nucleus of a music group to play at Masses in the School of Education. We also managed to fit in a walking pilgrimage to Schoenstatt shrine, on the hottest day of the year! Ideas emerging from the SPPT include a pilgrimage to Rome, and a film and discussion club.

I sincerely hope that the students will have a living experience of church, through prayer, pilgrimage, service and parish involvement, as well as growing in knowledge of the faith and confidence in its proclamation. If you are planning to come to Glasgow University, or know someone who is, get in touch with the Catholic chaplaincy or our pastoral planning team and get involved!"





SCI AF



A message from Alistair Dutton, Director of SCI AF

“Our schools work is a vital part of our overall mission at SCI AF. I believe that, together, we can build a just world and that’s why I love working for SCI AF. I have seen with my own eyes the awesome fundraising that takes place in Catholic schools across Scotland for SCI AF and on behalf of the tens of thousands of people we help every year, I say a heartfelt thank you. Every village well you fund and every farmer you support makes a big difference for families and communities in the countries we work in.

Fundraising is, of course vital but it is also very encouraging to see so many schools using resources that we produce which aim to teach young people about international development. All reflect Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching. It is gratifying that we, as a Catholic community can learn, pray and fundraise to support our sisters and brothers around the world .



During our anniversary year we celebrated Mass in every diocese (with a number of schools participating), held fundraising events and had two parliament receptions. I took the opportunity to visit a number of schools to thank the students and staff, as I cycled a 1000 miles across Scotland on pilgrimage.

A massive thank you to all staff, pupils and parents who make up the school community. Your prayers, study and fundraising are appreciated and vital to creating a more just world.

God Bless, Alistair Dutton

You’ve heard from Alistair but I also want to say a big thank you for all your help and especially recently for your fundraising efforts during Lent 2016 for the WEE BOX appeal. I have had the pleasure of making over 70 school visits in the 2015/16 academic year. I’m very grateful for the feedback and support we receive from teachers and educational professionals which then helps to influence the resources we write for the Catholic school community.

We have delivered lessons and workshops about our development work, climate change, Laudato Si’, Catholic Social Teaching and of course the WEE BOX appeal. We have had schools take part in our ‘Talented Fundraisers’ enterprise project based on the Parable of the Talents and others have worked with us for their Caritas Award. Most importantly to me, it’s a real privilege to work with young people on such important issues, while Scripture guides us and shapes our actions.

‘Water is Life’ is a new Primary 5 resource that focuses on the impact of the global water crisis and the sacredness of water in Scripture. For more information about the resource or to enquiry about school visits, please email mbooker@sciaf.org.uk
Thanks again and I hope to see you soon.

Mark Booker, Schools Officer



Water is life: The new resource for schools from SCI AF

MISSIO



Pupils and staff from St. John Ogilvie High school set off for Zambia visiting those who care for the sick, look after orphans, teach children and many other initiatives through the programmes run by Missio Scotland's mission partners. Given the success of the inaugural GIG mission experience, Missio Scotland is already putting the wheels in motion to plan next year's trip, where hopefully, the next group will gain as much from the experience as this year's have done."

This year Missio Scotland launched an initiative to give pupils the chance to experience 'Mission'. Sr. Stacey from Missio shares the story of the students from St. John Ogilvie High School who travelled to Zambia as part of the charity's Get Involved Globally (GIG) mission experience programme.

"The purpose of these mission experiences is for the participants to experience life, faith and justice from a new perspective and return home inspired to live a personal sense of 'mission' in Scotland. A mission experience aims to touch the heart, engage the mind and nourish the spirit and sees participants spend time with the local - community, share stories and be with people—including

Missio Scotland
Pontifical Mission Societies

Chloe's story

"I had the pleasure of going on a Mission Experience to Zambia in June 2016, with a group of 6 students and 4 adults. Zambia was faith strengthening for me—talking to the girls and boys I met at St Patrick's Primary and Guardian Angels made me realise how much they want to learn, how much they love school and know the importance of their education. This then made me realise that I took my education for granted and wish I realised this sooner. I enjoyed every aspect of our trip to Zambia, from the primary schools to the Sunday morning Mass. The Mass lasted two hours although didn't seem it at all with the choir leading the singing showing that Zambia loves to sing! The Mass was attended by a lot of devoted people, some of whom had driven or walked miles just to practise their faith—this was very inspiring to me.



Chloe & Ellie painting the nursery in Zambia

"GIG genuinely was a very eye opening experience that I believe has changed me significantly, making me more appreciative and patient. Seeing the young children so happy with how little they have will live with me forever and in turn has made me more appreciative of what I have. The smiles and laughs of the children will be with me forever and the welcome we got from both primary schools and the high school were unforgettable. I would go back in a heartbeat and recommend it to anyone who is thinking of going and hope that you love Zambia as much as I do."

To learn more about the work of Missio Scotland and how your school can participate in GIG visit:



www.missio.scot, like us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/missio.scot> and follow us on Twitter @Missio_Scotland.

News from SCES

It has been a time of change at SCES. At the end of July 2016 Michael McGrath, the first director of the Scottish Catholic Education Service, retired from his post. The impact of his dedication and commitment to Catholic Education is immeasurable and he was awarded a Papal Knighthood from Pope Francis in recognition of his services in Scottish Catholic Education. He was presented with the medal by Bishop Toal at the closing of **St Columbkille's Church** parish mission alongside Fr Hennessy. The SCES team continue to be grateful, that even in retirement, Michael continues to support Catholic Education by sharing his wisdom and guidance.

The new director of SCES, Barbara Coupar, has already been actively working with Scottish Government and Education Scotland to maintain the excellent relationships that Michael forged with them. Barbara has also been getting to know the many partners, Church agencies and volunteers who work alongside SCES in developing and promoting the positive contribution that Catholic schools make to Scottish society.



Josephine Hughes joins SCES as our new R.E. adviser



Michael receiving his Papal Knighthood

Some words of introduction from our new R.E. adviser...

My name is Josephine Hughes, and I have recently been appointed as RE Adviser to the Diocese of Motherwell and to the Scottish Catholic Education Service. After twenty very happy years of service as Principal Teacher of Religious Education in St Ninian's High School in Kirkintilloch, I am both delighted and excited to be taking on a new challenge. Scottish education has gone through many changes over the past few years, and continues to do so. The constant in our schools, however, is that all teachers want the best for their pupils, and in our Catholic schools we believe that a vital part of this is to nurture our young people within an ethos and environment founded upon the teachings of Jesus and the traditions of the Church. I believe that it is this solid, tried and tested foundation that has helped our Catholic schools to welcome and embrace change and innovation so successfully.

I look forward to being part of this ongoing growth. Catholic education is now well placed for future challenges: we have the support of new professional documents to help us not only with an effective and robust curriculum for RE in Catholic schools, but with ongoing professional and personal development and with the planning and evaluation processes which ensure the best possible learning experiences for our staff and our young people. While there will, inevitably, be challenges, we are better placed than ever to meet them, to overcome them where possible, and to learn from them.

For me, personally, the thing I am most looking forward to is coming into schools and seeing the excellent work that is being done. A number of schools have already been good enough to invite me to visit them; to meet with their SMT, to see the work of the RE department, or to attend assemblies or Feast Day celebrations. I have been made to feel most welcome, and hugely heartened by the level of professionalism and commitment clearly evident. I am so looking forward to working with you, learning from you and helping you where I can.