



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
**ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON**

ST PHILIP HOWARD CENTRE, 4 SOUTHGATE DRIVE, CRAWLEY, RH10 6RP

4<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to the new term and the joys of a new year.

The words of the ancient blessing offered to Aaron express a hope for each other and for ourselves at the beginning of a new year:

"May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace." (Numbers 6:22-27)

### **Pastoral Plan**

Bishop Richard has issued a new Pastoral Plan for the Diocese. "The Word Who is Life: The Call to Mission" marks an important new stage in the development of diocesan parish structures, highlighting how our community of faith can embrace this important time of renewal, forging diocesan parishes into communities of saints and strong, lively and welcoming schools of discipleship.

[Pastoral Plan | Our Diocese \(abdiocese.org.uk\)](https://www.abdiocese.org.uk)

Bishop Richard will be hosting a Pastoral Plan Webinar for people across our diocesan community on **Wednesday 10 January at 7.30pm**. There is no need to register for this event, please use the following the link to join the webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86457734895>.

All are very welcome to attend.

At this time of renewal, we are asked especially to pray for our diocese.

Lord, the Word who is life.  
May all the people of our Diocese  
grow in openness  
to the power of the Holy Spirit,  
so that through a growth in understanding and courage,  
and truly open to your call,  
we may bear powerful witness  
to all around us,  
for you are Lord for ever and ever.  
Amen

### **Prayer & Liturgy Directory**

We have changed the delivery of the Prayer & Liturgy Directory training from in-person briefings to a webinar and we hope this news will be well received. We recognise that coming out of school at the end of the day adds a further pressure to staff workload and we are confident that we can effectively deliver what we need to through a webinar.

### **DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE**

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Anyone who had signed up for one of the four briefings has been notified and monies refunded.

**The webinar will take place on March 5<sup>th</sup> from 4.00–5.30pm** and it will be recorded so that anyone unable to attend can view it afterwards. Bishop Richard will also speak about the new Pastoral Plan and the opportunities this presents to schools.

There will be the facility to submit questions beforehand which we will then seek to address during the webinar.

The webinar is for Head, Governors, Heads of RE and RE Leads, Chaplains, and Prayer & Liturgy coordinators, as well as clergy.

Sign up is on ChurchSuite using the link below: –

[Prayer and Liturgy Directory Webinar \(05-Mar-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#) and the link for the webinar will be sent out 24 hours in advance.

The Prayer and Liturgy Directory is available to download [116.pdf \(catholiceducation.org.uk\)](#)

The second part of the training this academic year will be for Prayer and Liturgy Coordinators on July 3<sup>rd</sup> at Ladywell, and more details about this will be outlined in the webinar. Sign up is open on ChurchSuite, using the link below: –

[Prayer and Liturgy Directory Coordinators Training \(03-Jul-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

#### In January

##### The Epiphany of the Lord

Primary resource: [The Mark 10 Mission – New Episodes](#)

Secondary resource: [Epiphany liturgy for secondary schools \(cafod.org.uk\)](#)

##### Christian Unity Week

[Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024 \(ctbi.org.uk\)](#)

##### Holocaust Memorial Day

[Holocaust Memorial Day Trust \(hmd.org.uk\)](#)

##### The Conversion of St Paul

[Conversion of St Paul – Mission Together](#)

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### **Retirement**

As I mentioned in an earlier letter, Simon Parr retires from the Education Service at the end of February. Simon has been Education Officer for twelve years and prior to his appointment in Arundel and Brighton diocese, he was Assistant Director of Education in Southwark diocese and has a long history of service to and understanding of Catholic education. His primary role has been the formation of school admission arrangements and ensuring the sufficiency of suitable Catholic school places across the diocese. In carrying out these responsibilities, Simon has worked closely with all four local authorities as well as with school leaders and governors and has done so with the utmost professionalism. Simon's attention to detail and timely response to queries has been valued by schools, and his warm, humorous, and collegiate nature has been appreciated by all of us who have had the pleasure of working with him. He has been an integral part of the team and will be missed by us all. We wish him well for a happy and healthy retirement.

### **Thank you**

Martin Brannigan has stood down as Head of St Alban's to care for a close family member. James Kibble, CEO of Xavier CET writes: "Those who have been associated with St. Alban's for any period of time will appreciate the transformative journey that the school has been on over the last 14 years under Mr Brannigan's leadership. We are grateful to him for everything that he has contributed to the outstanding provision and facilities that the children benefit from today and we wish him further success and much happiness in the future."

We wish Martin well for the future and add our thanks for his service to the community and the diocesan family of schools.

### **Welcome**

Welcome to Lucie Brown who takes up the acting Head of School role at Annecy Catholic Primary School, Seaford, to Anita Philbrook, Interim Head at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School, Rottingdean and to Zelia Munnik, who is Executive Headteacher at St Alban's Catholic Primary School, East Molesey.

Best wishes and prayers for them and for Paul Barber, as he takes up post as Principal of St Richard's Catholic College, Bexhill.

With every best wish for the new year.

Julie Oldroyd - Director

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