



Diocese of Salford. Department for Education.

Primary RE Leads Update. **Spring 1 2026.**

Opportunities for Professional Development.

Supporting the Implementation of the Religious Education Directory (RED) in Primary Schools through Lighting the Path.

Dr Nancy Walbank will work with RE Leads supporting the implementation of the RED through the OUP resource Lighting the Path.

Nancy will be focusing on an overview of the Branches, looking at the thread that runs through the branches to support teaching, learning and assessment.

There will be an opportunity to discuss the scheme Lighting the Path and ask Nancy questions about the resource.

Time will be given to share books. We are asking schools to bring books for Year 1 and 2 pupils.

Part of the session will look at using story telling to support the RED and the teaching of RE across EYFS and Key Stage 1.

Venue: Oldham Athletic Football Club.

Wednesday 4th February 2026. Registration from 9am. Session from 9.30am – 3pm. Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

To book please complete [Primary RE Leads Tickets, Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Closing Date to book on Monday 26th January 2026.



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Cluster Briefings:

There will only be two Primary RE Lead Cluster briefings in the spring term due to other training commitments.

The sessions will be on **Wednesday 4th March and Thursday 5th March online from 3.30pm until 4.45pm**; you can join a session that fits your schedule. You do not need to book on a session, ***links will be sent out the week before the session.***

Agenda:

National updates: RED, CSI, Prayer and Liturgy Directory.

Resources Updates: Emily Cahill—Laudato Si Update. Kath Ansley—Caritas Update.

CPD update for Summer Term 2026.

Save the Date.

Implementation of the RED for Key Stage 2 Teachers using Lighting the Path.

Dr Nancy Walbank will lead the sessions for Key Stage 2 Teachers and RE Leads in preparing to teach the Religious Education Directory (RED) through the scheme Lighting the Path. RE Leads are welcome to join year group teachers on these sessions. The sessions will look at the content and structure of the RED and then focus on subject knowledge and teaching and learning specific to those year groups.

Eventbrite links will be available for booking in the spring 2 newsletter.

Wednesday 22nd April – Year 3

Wednesday 29th April –Year 4

Wednesday 20th May – Year 5

Wednesday 10th June – Year 6



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Other Opportunities / Dates:

Date: Saturday 31st January 2026. 8.45AM-4..50PM. Strictly RE

Venue: Voco St John's Hotel Solihull

Theme: Authenticity – Real voices, real RE, Belonging – Together in RE & Challenge – Aim higher, reach further.

[StrictlyRE 2026 – NATRE](#)

Updates / Reminders.

New to Leading RE.

If you are new to leading RE please email me at catherine.moss@dioceseofsalford.org.uk so the database can be updated. I will also arrange to visit school to provide any support needed.

Curriculum RE 2025 / 2026.

The Year 5 / 6 branch Galilee to Jerusalem is now available in the [Resource Centre](#) and the next branch Desert to Garden will be available in February.

CSI inspectors are aware that schools will be trialling and developing both the OUP scheme and the pilot resources in this coming academic year and schools in the CSI inspection window are encouraged to begin implementation of the RED and model curriculum.

Other Faiths—Branch 6 Dialogue and Encounter is where pupils will engage with a discrete study of other faiths, religions and worldviews. Branch 6 will not be available for Key Stage 2 in this academic year, so in this time of transition to the RED schools may wish to continue with the Other Faiths units from Come and See they can also use the resource produced by Arundel and Brighton [Branch 6 Resources - Google Drive](#)



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Visit of Relics of Carlo Acutis.

In January, the relics of St Carlo Acutis will be visiting the Diocese of Salford. Schools are welcome to attend **one** of the sessions to venerate the relics. We are currently able to offer every school places for 5 pupils and 2 members of staff. 50 schools will be able to attend each of the sessions.

Please use the links below to book onto your preferred session. Please ensure you fill in the entire booking form, stating the number of pupils and staff who will be attending. Closing date is **Friday 12th January**. A risk assessment and information about the session and parking will be sent to schools week commencing 19th January.

Thursday 29 January - St Mary's of the Assumption, Burnley - 9.30am-11.30am.

[Visit of the Relics of Carlo Acutis Tickets, Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Thursday 29 January - St Mary's of the Assumption, Burnley - 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm.

[Visit of the Relics of Carlo Acutis Tickets, Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 12:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Friday 30 January—St Patrick's, Collyhurst—9.30am—11.30am.

[Visit of the Relics of Carlo Acutis Tickets, Fri, Jan 30, 2026 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Friday 30 January—St Patrick's Collyhurst 12.30pm



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Prayer and Liturgy Newsletter.

Attached to this email and available on the Prayer and Liturgy section of the Resource Centre is the Spring 1 edition of our Prayer and Liturgy newsletter. The resources listed cross all age-phases from primary through to secondary, hence they will need checking that they are age-appropriate and may need adapting to suit each of our schools across the diocese. Please can you share this resource with all staff in your school.

Rachel Thompson is producing weekly PowerPoints designed to support staff and pupils in preparing and leading prayer in schools, these have been produced for both primary and secondary settings so will need adapting to be age-appropriate. Following the four-part structure the Prayer and Liturgy Directory encourages, Gather, Word, Response and Send are identified on each PowerPoint see <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/resource-centre/education/collective-worship/>

Thank you to Fr James Manock who has produced a school ordo for Spring term to support schools with Liturgical Prayer (see Ordo attached to the email).



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Message from The Laudato Si Team:

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a relaxing and peaceful Christmas and are ready to start the new term.

Green Christmas:

We are collecting any unwanted Christmas cards so we can reuse and repurpose them rather than simply recycling them. If you are nearby, you can call in and drop them off with us so our groups can create something beautiful and new.

We have teamed up with Just Helping and Moya Cole Hospice (formerly named St Ann's Hospice) once again to collect your unwanted Christmas trees. If you have finished with your Christmas tree and would like it collected and brought to the Laudato Si' Centre, please follow this link: Christmas tree recycling - [Moya Cole Hospice](#)

Forest School Training:

After the success of the Forest School training days in Autumn 2, we are pleased to announce a new course at the end of the summer term at the Laudato Si' Centre. The dates for the eight day training course are:

20th – 24th July and the 18th–20th August. We appreciate that these dates are in the summer holidays and might not work for your staff but we wanted to let you know so you have the option. Please email laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk to secure a place or if you have any questions.

Laudato Si' Award:

We are delighted to, once again, announce the Laudato Si' Centre Award for schools in the summer term. Even though the closing date is a long way off we wanted to flag this early so that you can start thinking about which pupil / group are showing their care for creation.

The closing date is **Friday 22nd May** and the entry form will be emailed out in Spring 2. The shortlisted children will be invited to a morning on 2nd July, 2026 at Wardley Hall where we will announce the winner from the shortlisted group. The children will also be shown around the Laudato Si' Centre as part of their morning. The winner's school will receive a free morning visit 10.00–12.00pm on the 30th June 2027.

Emily Cahill

Laudato Si Centre Environment and Learning Officer Department of the Environment

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Message from Caritas:

This Lent, your small change can make a big difference.

Caritas Salford's traditional St Joseph's Penny appeal will once again return during Lent. Your school's donations and prayers will make a real difference to the lives of the local people in Greater Manchester and Lancashire that we support – people in our local communities facing poverty, homelessness and isolation.

Visit our website <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/campaign/st-josephs-penny/> to order your boxes and to download school prayer resources. Collection of boxes can be arranged from our office at Caritas House, Manchester M4 4FA or from the Senior School Leaders' conference at the Dunkenhalgh in February.

If you have become a cashless school, you can still take part!

Why not hold a **#BeeThere talent show**, just like the Caritas bees did this Christmas and raise money through a JustGiving page? <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/caritaslent2026>

And if you, or someone you know in your parish or family, have memories of St Joseph's Penny gone-by, we'd love to hear from you. Simply email Claire at comms@caritassalford.org.uk

Caritas Sunday 24 & 25 January 2026

Guidance note for schools with Caritas ambassadors can be found attached to the email on how schools can take part.

Keeping Up to Date:

(Please share with all your staff)

Website <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/education/>

Login area for all staff. Log-in details available from

education@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Please contact me (Catherine Moss) catherine.moss@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

and Millie Burton millie.buton@dioceseofsalford.org.uk with contact details for new RE Leads.

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