



Diocese of Salford. Department for Education.

Primary RE Leads Update. **Spring 2 2026.**

Opportunities for Professional Development.

Cluster Briefings:

Please see below the dates for Primary RE Lead Cluster meetings. The meetings will begin at 3.30pm until 4.45pm. There are three Zoom sessions available. You do not need to book on a session, we will send a Zoom link out on the Monday before and you can join a briefing to fit your schedule.

Wednesday 4th March 2026- Primary RE Lead Cluster Briefing.

Thursday 5th March 2026 - Primary RE Lead Cluster Briefing.

Agenda:

- ◇ National updates: RED, CSI, Prayer and Liturgy Directory.
- ◇ Resources Updates: Emily Cahill—Laudato Si Update. Kath Ansley—Caritas Update.
- ◇ Update on the Year of St Francis
- ◇ CPD update for Summer Term 2026.

Implementing the PLD through the OUP scheme -Lighting the Path in Key Stage 2.

Dr Nancy Walbank will lead year group teachers and RE Leads in an overview of the RED and OUP scheme. In each session Nancy will focus on the branches for that year group looking at subject knowledge, progression and assessment across the year. The sessions are online and will run from 2pm until 4 pm.

RE Leads are welcome to attend each of the sessions with year group teachers.

To book a place, please click on the links below. Links to the online session will be sent out on the Monday before the session

Wednesday 22nd April 2026 – Year 3: [Implementation of the RED for KS2 Teachers using Lighting the Path - Y3 Tickets, Wed, 22 Apr 2026 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Wednesday 29th April 2026 –[Year 4: Implementation of the RED for KS2 Teachers using Lighting the Path - Y4 Tickets, Wed, 29 Apr 2026 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Wednesday 20th May 2026 –[Year 5: Implementation of the RED for KS2 Teachers using Lighting the Path - Y5 Tickets, Wed, 20 May 2026 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Wednesday 10th June 2026 – Year 6: [Implementation of the RED for KS2 Teachers using Lighting the Path - Y6 Tickets, Wed, 10 Jun 2026 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#)



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Schools in the CSI Window 26-27

On **Wednesday 11th March**, there will be an online session led by Martin Johnson for schools in the 2026-2027 CSI window.

The session will take place from 1.00pm-3.00pm.

An email from Millie Burton will be sent to Headteachers with the link to join the session.

This will be sent directly to all schools who are in that inspection window.

Spring 1 CPD:

Thank you to all RE Leads who attended our Spring Meeting led by Dr Nancy Walbank on Supporting the Implementation of the Religious Education Directory (RED) in Primary Schools through Lightning the Path. The resources from this session are available in the Spring 2026 [RE Leaders - Roman Catholic Diocese of Salford](#)

Other Opportunities / Dates:

ATCRE Virtual Conference

Mon 2nd March to Thurs 5th March 2026: A Seed of Hope

Four fantastic seminars over four days delivered by experienced educators.

Each session starts at 4.30pm and last 45 minutes.

For more details of the conference including seminar titles and speakers, click [here](#).

Contact Details For Rachel Thompson:

PRAYER AND LITURGY CPD

A variety of CPD packages are available and can be tailored to your school. Recent CPD has included:

- Understanding the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- Key elements of prayer and liturgy in school
- Developing staff confidence
- Practical examples of prayer to use in school
- Experiencing and exploring resources
- Developing pupil leadership

rachelthompson@hotmail.com



Rachel Thompson

After studying theology, Rachel's career has been in teaching, youthwork and chaplaincy. She was Head of RE for fifteen years and lead for Catholic Life and Mission on SLT. Rachel is the Children's Editor for Redemptorist Publications. She has many years experience as a catechist and in leading both the music group and children's liturgy in her parish. Rachel is a CSI Inspector, primary school RE link Governor and is currently working with the Salford Diocesan Education team, leading on prayer and liturgy.

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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 Desert to Garden is now available in the Resource Centre and the next branch To the Ends of the Earth will be available before the Easter holiday.

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 is available for pupils in EYFS and Key Stage 1 through Lightening the Path. 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](#).

Relics of Carlo Acutis:

It was a pleasure welcoming schools to the visit of the Relics of Carlo Acutis.



The photograph shows the prayer intentions from the visit to our diocese and taken back to Assisi and left with St Carlo Acutis. Mass was offered for all these intentions.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the visit and helped make this a memorable few days.

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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 2 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.

Attached to this email is the Celebration of the Word planning sheet with evaluation attached. The planning sheet has not been changed, just the evaluation questions added that we shared at our PLD day earlier this year.

Rachel Thompson has produced weekly PowerPoints up to Holy Week, 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:

Laudato Si' Award:

We are delighted to announce the Laudato Si' Centre Award for schools are now open. Is there anyone in your school who goes above and beyond for caring for creation? Is there a group that connects nature and prayer or who stand up in school assemblies to think about how we look after our common home? We want to hear from you! The closing date for submitting your entry form is **Friday 22nd May**. 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**.

Stations of the Cross:

During Lent, I know many of you will lead your classes through Stations of the Cross. Consider taking them outside for some / all of it. Attached to this email is an example of how you can transfer the stations to be delivered in God's beautiful creation.

Easter gardens:

In order to celebrate this time of year, you may want to create Easter gardens in class or at home. Follow our *How To Guide (attached to the email)* to see how we can do this by repurposing materials we already have rather than buying new items.

Emily Cahill. Laudato Si Centre Environment and Learning Officer Department of the Environment

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Message from The Laudato Si Team:

Bookings: Thank you to all of our schools who have chosen us to work with your Laudato Si' groups, year groups and sacramental children. To keep up with demand, we have now opened up the calendar for **25/26 bookings**. Please get in touch if you have a specific date in mind to avoid disappointment. You can see more detail about our offer via this link to our brochure Laudato Si' Centre brochure

Please note that for all future visits, the way our invoices are issued at the diocese is changing slightly and we will now be issuing invoices before the visits take place so that we are in line with other diocesan departments. If you have any questions about this, please get in touch.

Holiday club: The Laudato Si' team is delighted to announce that we will be hosting a holiday club in the summer. The club will run from the 28th July to the 1st August, 8-4pm, for 8-12 years olds. The club will consist of fun filled Forest School, gardening and craft activities. The final details are being locked down this half term and then we will put together a flyer to advertise the event. We would be very grateful if you could circulate this information in the summer term to your school community once you receive the flyer.

We will also be running some one off Family Fun Days at the Laudato Si' Centre during the summer holidays where families can take part together in the woodland and garden activities. More information will follow in the summer term.

Laudato Si' Award: Last year we hosted our inaugural Laudato Si' Centre awards and we are so pleased to announce that they will be back this year. We know that there are so many examples of incredible practice throughout our schools in the Diocese of Salford and we want to hear about it! The competition will go live during Laudato Si' Week with winning entries being chosen later in the summer term. We hope that many of you will take part to celebrate the achievements of your groups in school. Look out for the nomination form but for now, start thinking about which child/ren you are going to put forward who deserve recognition for the work they do around school to care for creation. We will accept photographs of work as well as written evidence. Good luck!

Emily Cahill. Laudato Si Centre Environment and Learning Officer Department of the Environment E: emily.cahill@dioceseofsalford.org.uk M: 07553 761248

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Message from Caritas:

Caritas Salford **#BeeThere**

We have been overwhelmed by your kindness once again. Circa 30,000 toiletries were donated as you lit the Advent wreath each week before Christmas. These items will now be provided to families at our food pantry, and to individuals coming to our centres for a hot shower. Thank you so much! In addition, our diocesan schools raised over £7,000 through their activities such as Stars in their Hives talent shows, non-uniform days, concerts, parties and big sleep outs.

Please follow this link to see the difference you have made to local people, like Kevin who was sleeping in his car when he came for help. www.caritassalford.org.uk/thankyou

Thank you to all schools who are choosing to support Caritas' St Joseph's Penny Appeal this Lent. We simply couldn't carry out all the work that is needed to help local people without you

Did you know the St Joseph's Penny was established to encourage children to donate one penny to others who were in need of a helping hand as part of Lent almsgiving? You should be really proud that you're part of this legacy which is 122 years old this year. We have been asking people across the diocese to share their memories of it, so you might want to link up with your parish and do the same.

And it's not too late to get involved. Over 100 of our schools have either set up a [JustGiving](#) page, collected boxes, or let us know that they'll be using another method to try to end local poverty and homelessness this Lent. Why not set a target as a school or class to try to raise enough that could pay for one of the items in our [virtual gifts catalogue](#)? Or join up with your parish to do the same. Please contact Kirstie for more information by email fundraising@caritassalford.org.uk and direct line 0161 817 2281 or order your boxes online [here](#).

We are proud that St Joseph's Penny has been running in our diocese for 122 years - children helping other children, families and individuals. We would love to hear stories from your school community - parents, grandparents, staff and children - about their memories of collecting for St Joseph's Penny over the years. Please email comms@caritassalford.org.uk with your stories and memories.

Please access all our St Joseph's Penny resources including a liturgical prayer resource on our webpage. Just scroll right down to the bottom of the page.

[St Joseph's Penny Lent Appeal | Caritas Salford](#)

Would your pupils like to be involved in our **Lenten Thought For The Day** and get a shout out for your school on social media? It couldn't be easier. Who will they pray for? What are they giving up or doing more of during Lent? How will they give to others? Please email your pupil's Lenten promises (max 25 words) to k.ansley@caritassalford.org.uk

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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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