



# THE CARDINAL'S VIRTUES

## THE OFFICIAL ETHOS NEWSLETTER OF CARDINAL HUME

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## WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ETHOS

Dear All,

Courtesy of Head Teacher Nick Hurn we are delighted to present to you the seventh volume our school newsletter the 'Cardinal's Virtues.'

We do hope that you enjoy it as much as previous editions and that the hard work that has gone on behind the scenes by people too numerous to mention has produced a newsletter equal to past endeavours. It is also our dearest hope that this Christmas finds you all truly blessed in the spiritual awakening revealed to us all in the person of Jesus Christ. Whether this is at the beginning of a new journey in Christ or the continuation of one that steps firmly into the future.

The aim, as always, is to highlight to you the parents, guardians and parishioners, all the great work that is being undertaken at Cardinal Hume Catholic School. Student success can never be limited to the academic, though we are fully aware of its importance, but at Cardinal Hume Catholic

School we believe the development of the whole person and their unique talents is of equal importance. An outstanding school community allows students to flourish and develop in a number of ways and it is this approach to education we seek to nurture at Cardinal Hume Catholic School. Indeed it is this approach we hope is reflected in every page of the 'Cardinal's Virtues'

We hope you enjoy reading this seventh volume of our newsletter and would like to thank you all for your great support and prayers, which play such a great role to our success in spreading the gospel message to our young people.

If you feel you would like to contribute to the 'Cardinal's Virtues' in any way, please do not hesitate to contact, Director of Ethos Damian McCann at [dmn@cardinalhume.com](mailto:dmn@cardinalhume.com) or the Chaplain Mrs Proctor by phoning the school.

*D. McCann*

MR DAMIAN McCANN  
DIRECTOR OF ETHOS

### MOONLESS DARKNESS STANDS BETWEEN

Moonless darkness stands between.  
Past, the Past, no more be seen!  
But the Bethlehem-star may lead me  
To the sight of Him Who freed me  
From the self that I have been.  
Make me pure, Lord: Thou art holy;  
Make me meek, Lord: Thou wert lowly;  
Now beginning, and always:  
Now begin, on Christmas day.

Gerard Manley Hopkins  
The Poems of Gerard Manley Hopkins

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# MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

ON JULY 16TH 2014 CARDINAL HUME CATHOLIC SCHOOL, COURTESY OF HEAD TEACHER NICK HURN, WAS PRIVILEGED TO HOST BISHOP SEAMUS, CLERGY AND LAITY OF THE DIOCESE, AS THE BISHOP OUTLINED HIS 3 YEAR PLAN TO SECURE AN ACTIVE AND FLOURISHING CHURCH. TWO SESSIONS, ONE AT 11AM AND THE OTHER 7PM, SAW THE BISHOP EXPRESS HIS VISION AS TO HOW THE CHURCH COULD BEST SERVE THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH EAST. THE UNDERLYING MESSAGE, AMIDST THE MANY ISSUES THOROUGHLY DEALT WITH BY THE BISHOP, WAS THE IMPORTANCE THAT CLERGY AND LAITY CONTINUE, THROUGH POSITIVE DIALOGUE, WORKING TOGETHER TO SECURE AN ACTIVE AND FLOURISHING CHURCH IN THE NORTH EAST.

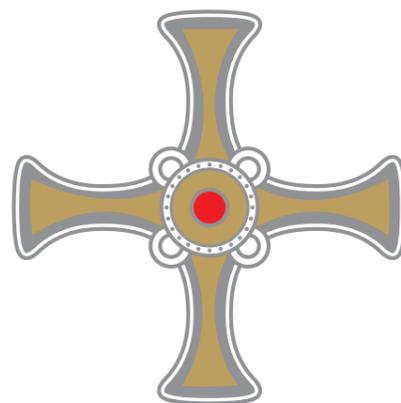
When we start to look at this key message, it is not something startling or new, but something that first found its formation of thought back in the 'new Pentecost' of Vatican II. Indeed the unity of Church that Bishop Seamus spoke of could be traced back further to Pope Pius XII in his encyclical *Mystici Corporis*. In this, Pope Pius XII spoke of the Church as being more than an institution, everyone is equally part of the Church, clergy and laity are all part of the Church that is the 'Mystical Body of Christ'. The Church according to Pope Pius XII was not just priests or bishops; it's all of us.

This type of thinking of Church as a 'unity of all' inspired Pope Paul VI in his own encyclical *Ecclesiam Suam* (The Church in the modern world). In this letter, published in 1964, Pope Paul VI speaks of why it is important that the Church and 'the world' form a strong relationship based on love and respect. After all, the Church exists to serve the world so the development of such a positive relationship not only benefits the Church in its own mission, but can help give clarity as to how the Church can assist in enabling people to understand their own part in God's plan, and in doing so, fulfil their potential as God's creations.

The word 'dialogue' in particular stands out in this encyclical, showing us how the Church can continue to move forward with the world. A dialogue that would lead to the understanding between the Church and the variety of other faiths and ideologies that exist in the world. The idea that through dialogue, the key components of trust and understanding can be the first seeds that lead to fruitful relationship.

This dialogue of course is not just something that Pope Paul VI believed should exist between the Church and the world, but also within the Church itself. This internal dialogue could prove to be the most difficult in some cases but it is only through this dialogue that the Church can move forward. A good starting point would be the recent questionnaire

on marriage and family life in preparation for the upcoming 'Synods on Family' in 2014 and 2015. But it must be in this open questioning that anything approaching credible dialogue should take place. It could be argued that if it is not challenging and to some extent difficult, it could be argued that it is not worthwhile. Indeed, with regards to the questionnaire about marriage and the family, it has already been acknowledged that some aspects of the Church's teachings are not accepted by some Catholics. This is blamed by some on poor formation and the influences of the problems caused by secularism and relativism. A point of view but hardly the full picture others may state in response.



## Church in Hexam and Newcastle

However, the important aspect of the recent questionnaire is the open dialogue that enables discussion on whether the faithful not falling in line with parts of current Church teaching is not just the result of poor formation but rather that it is a teaching that makes no sense to the people of God in the context of their daily lives. The difficult question of doctrine versus pastoral care. There is no easy dialogue or answer in all of this, but what does clearly exist, is the great opportunity for us all as Church to engage in a dialogue that reflects directly into the heart of 'sensus fidei' and 21st century Catholicism. Indeed, as we already have seen at the end of the recent Synod on

the Family, the open and frank dialogue that Pope Francis wanted and was so prevalent throughout the synod is now leading to a real debate on marriage and family life within the Church.

It was part of this process of dialogue that Bishop Seamus brought us all into as Church when he spoke at Cardinal Hume Catholic School on July 16th 2014. He called us together as Church to work together with a common aim, something that can only be achieved through positive, respectful dialogue. The days of active clergy and passive laity have gone; we are all called in some way to take up part of the load in bringing Church forward in modern times. A good example of this at Cardinal Hume Catholic School has been the working together of school, deanery and family in enabling young people to make their Confirmation. There needs to be many similar initiatives, in many cases there already are, as throughout the diocese priest numbers are falling and we are all then called as Church to carry some burden to support our local parish and deanery. After all it is what Christ calls us all to do living in supportive communities based on gospel values. It is fitting to end this piece in the spiritually grounded and guiding words of Bishop Séamus:

**"I AM TRUSTING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GUIDE US THROUGH THE NEXT THREE YEARS. WE ARE LOOKING VERY REALISTICALLY AT OUR DIOCESE AND THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO US TO ENSURE THAT WE WILL FLOURISH IN THE FUTURE"**

Bishop Séamus

# FAMILY FAST DAY AND HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

CAFOD IS ONE PART OF THE TRINITY OF KEY SCHOOL CHARITIES WE SUPPORT AS A CATHOLIC SCHOOL. THE OTHER TWO BEING ST VINCENT DE PAUL AND ST CUTHBERT'S CARE. IT IS FOREVER INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT IT WAS THE ORGANISATION OF THE FIRST FAMILY FAST DAY ON FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 1960 BY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF CATHOLIC WOMEN THAT LED TO THE FOUNDATION OF THIS GREAT CATHOLIC CHARITY. THE AIM OF THE CHARITY IS STATED IN ITS VERY NAME 'CATHOLIC AGENCY FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT' ABBREVIATED AS CAFOD. THE AGENCY WAS SET UP IN 1960 WITH THE GOSPEL VALUE OF HELPING THOSE IN NEED AT ITS VERY HEART.

**"I tell you, whenever you did for one of the least important member of my family, you did for me!"**

Matthew 25:40

This teaching of Christ is enshrined in Catholic Social Teaching which gives firm foundation to Catholic thought and action in the world. It tells us we must act in a way that supports those most in need in this world. This can be in a small or large way depending on our circumstances, but the important thing is we understand that we are responsible for others in this world not just ourselves. It is within this context that the true value of organisations such as CAFOD lie. It gives us all the opportunity to act in a way that helps the less fortunate and it is this type of understanding that we seek to establish in our young people at Cardinal Hume Catholic School. Our moral responsibilities are not only concerned with who and what we are as individuals, but move beyond our immediate selves and into the world that is all of God's creation. So with this in mind, our 6th Form students,

Head of Year 13 Mrs Lawson and school Chaplain Mrs Proctor continued this line of support which started on March 11 1960 and created this awareness throughout the school. Staff and students responded magnificently with a total of £327 being raised on the day. A huge thanks also to Mr Potter, Head of Music, for organising the football predictions for staff which was another great contribution to the total.



Creating moral awareness

In addition to this wonderful work, our school Chaplain organised a brilliant Harvest Festival celebration that linked with supporting food banks in our local communities through the St Vincent De

Paul charity (SVP). Also a charity steeped in Catholic Social Teaching. A pop up shop was held in the atrium each morning with students bringing in tins and packets of food to support this great initiative.



Helping others

There were over 40 food parcels given to SVP from students at Cardinal Hume Catholic School and a huge thank you to all from SVP for your generous contributions which will be a great help to those that need it most.

Amy Dimmick and Taymar Gibbons  
Cardinal Hume Media Group

# SHOEBOX MAKES GREAT APPEAL

Around the world since 1990, more than 113 million boys and girls in over 130 countries had a smile on their faces at Christmas thanks to Operation Christmas Child. Popularly referred to as 'The Shoebox Appeal' it continues to be a huge success with Churches, schools and generous communities all around the world!

The Shoebox Appeal is always a popular charity at our school, Cardinal Hume. Organised this year by Mrs Ellender and the RE department with brilliant support from all tutors. The Year 13 general RE students were each assigned a tutor group; they then mentored the assigned tutor group, through the process, ensuring that by Christmas each class have put together a shoe box for a boy and a girl. Furthermore, by the end of the Shoebox Appeal we hope to have made over 50

shoe boxes as there are 25 tutor groups in school. Our shoe boxes will be collected after the October half term holidays and sent in the next couple of weeks.



Charitable production line

Cardinal Hume enjoys supporting the Shoebox Appeal and with the support of all tutors there is a great response to the charity each year. To give you a hot off press update, this year we made

outstanding progress with the Shoebox Appeal and collected in over 80 shoe boxes which is a record... wow!! When asked, the pupils agreed that they had a lot of fun creating their shoe boxes and helping less fortunate children around the world. They are also very grateful to all staff involved for giving them the opportunity to do this.

Enya Basquil 9RRN  
Cardinal Hume Media Group



Remembering past and present

# SACRAMENTAL DEVELOPMENT

One of the most important aspects of being educated in a Catholic school is the link that exists between school, family, parish and deanery. It is this supportive link that enables young people (Years 9 – 13) to take the next step in their sacramental journey, which began at Baptism and continues in the final sacrament of initiation - the Sacrament of Confirmation.

It is something that many young people feel is a very important part of their lives, it gives them a sense of fulfilment and maturity as they now take on the responsibility of their own faith journey. However, it is also something they feel that nourishes them, something they believe will give them strength as they step beyond school life and leave behind the familiar surroundings of home. The encounter with the Holy Spirit through this precious sacrament is something that will journey with our young people through all of this earthly life and into the next. It is a gift that dispels both loneliness and fear while at the same time making all things possible in the lives of our young people. Indeed, we must all remember that as Catholics, whether we are young or old,



Engaging Presentation

we all received this gift of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation. This gift enables us all to truly rejoice and feel blessed when things are going well, while at the same time, in the darker moments of life's struggles, it gives us all strength, hope and renewal. As God's creations we are all children in His eyes and so we strive daily to be the best versions of ourselves that we can be with the gifts of the Spirit.

Cardinal Hume Catholic School is committed to outstanding achievement academically for all its students, but is also fully committed to the spiritual development of the young people in its care. With this philosophy underpinning school life, Head Teacher Nick Hurn is delighted to enable the Gateshead Deanery Confirmation Programme to take place at Cardinal Hume Catholic School in 2014/2015. This event was first run in 2012/2013 when Father Ian Patterson and Father Adrian Dixon approached the school to ask if it would be a deanery centre for the Confirmation programme. The school was delighted to assist and the event culminated in a wonderful Confirmation Mass led by Bishop Seamus and held at Cardinal Hume Catholic School which all present thoroughly enjoyed, a truly blessed evening.

With the Bishop's moratorium on Confirmation now ended and the addition of the Sacrament of Confirmation being taught as part of the Religious Studies syllabus in Year 8, Gateshead Deanery started the new Confirmation programme on the 6th of October 2014 at Cardinal Hume Catholic School. In preparation for the meeting, clergy and laity met in July 2014 to discuss how the programme

would be run. Everyone agreed that what had gone before had been a success and with additions from the new excellent diocesan resources, the new deanery programme looks even better than the last. In making sure the programme will be a great success a huge thank you must go out to all the catechists who are supporting our young people on this journey, without their support there would be no Confirmation programme. Our young people are extremely grateful for all your efforts as are clergy, school and deanery.



Confirmation candidates

To conclude, a final petition for prayer if you would be so kind. Please keep all the young people of Gateshead Deanery in your prayers as they take part in this next chapter of their Sacramental journey. There is nothing more important than establishing spiritual awareness that can develop at all stages in life. The Sacrament of Confirmation as the final sacrament of Initiation sets our young people up for their journey through life with all its joys and challenges. Your prayers for our young people on this journey are not only prayers for individuals, parishes or deanery, but prayers for the future of our communities as places that seek to encourage all to be the best people they possibly can be as God's creations.

Cardinal Hume Media Group

# INSPIRING YOUTH HELP CHILDREN IN NEED

Cardinal Hume Catholic School has always supported the worthy charity 'Children In Need', but this year decided to give more responsibility to a group of Year 11 Business students, who decided to combine the joint ideas of curriculum and fundraising in a fantastic effort to support this charity.



The team, led by Business teacher Mr Ecclestone, Chaplain Mrs Proctor and Head of Business Mrs Kelly with special sales support from Mrs Hurn, had the

stall up and running from 8am on Friday 14th November. The magnificent sum of £400 pounds was raised by selling all the stock. A huge thank you to all staff and students who contributed to the event in any way. Special praise on behalf of 'Children In Need' must go to the top Year 11 sales people: Becki Whaley, Liam Waugh, Grant Sim, Georgia Harmieson, Rebast Bawa and Thomas Dryden. Outstanding work, in particular from Liam and Becki, we look forward to seeing you in 'The Apprentice' 2020!

Cardinal Hume Media Group

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES CONFERENCE AT CARDINAL HUME

It was a school first and great privilege, to have the esteemed philosopher Dr Peter Vardy and Charlotte Vardy run a philosophy conference at Cardinal Hume Catholic School, courtesy of Head Teacher Nick Hurn. The aim of the day was to reflect on various aspects of the Religious Studies GCSE course. This would link to the broader nature of the subject's value as an A level, in both a practical career choice, and a human understanding of purpose context.

Cardinal Hume was delighted to welcome students from other Catholic schools in the diocese to the event: St Wifrid's South Shields; St Mary's Longbenton; St Thomas More North Shields; St John's Bishop Auckland and Duchess High School Alnwick. With space limited the only down side of the day was that more schools could not attend.

It is into this forum that Dr Peter Vardy and Charlotte Vardy so passionately and ably step. With an eye on raising attainment at GCSE standard and the value of RS as an A level, the real crux of what was being said went further to the delight of both attending staff and students. The day took a philosophical starting point, focused on the brevity of human existence. During our brief time on Earth, we will have to make many choices. Of the choices that we make, we will need guidance and understanding of the world around us.

What creates this guidance and understanding starts at both home and



A journey of purpose



Peter Vardy encourages depth of thought

school, and if we are thinking correctly, leads us through the story of Israel and Ancient Greece to the 21st Century. This enables us through texts such as the Bible, the writings of Plato, Aristotle, St Augustine, St Thomas Aquinas, St Francis, Kant, Bentham, Mills, Mc Intyre and Vardy to gain a broader understanding of how human thinking has developed over the centuries.

The subject of course, like all others, is rigorously academically tested and grades are given that will enable students to move from school to university. At Cardinal Hume Catholic School, we are committed to this

success. But the subject is more than a grade, it not only gets students to focus on who they are as people and gives a sense of purpose that can be entwined in career choice but truly goes beyond that. It is part of a life journey that takes thinking beyond thinking into the world of duty and destiny. This according to Dr Peter Vardy is why RS is vital and most importantly why all the top universities in the UK see it as hugely valuable A level.

Dr Vardy then went on to describe the flexibility of the subject in career choices. At university, to name a few career choices, it is accepted as route into the fields of medicine, law, educational disciplines, police force, science, social work, languages, communications and a pursuit of any of the arts. It was interesting to note that as a career choice in medicine, you do more on the ethics of medicine in RS A level than you do in a medicine degree. Teaching staff and students thoroughly enjoyed the great energy of Dr Vardy's promotion of RS as a subject and all were hugely thankful to Head Teacher Nick Hurn for enabling the conference to take place.

Cardinal Hume Media Group

# SUMMER FESTIVAL 2014: OUTRAGEOUS HOPE AND RIDICULOUS OPTIMISM

AT THE END OF JUNE SOME STUDENTS GOT THE CHANCE TO ATTEND THE YOUTH MISSION TEAM SUMMER FESTIVAL, ALSO KNOWN AS GOD CAMP, AT THE YOUTH VILLAGE IN CONSETT.

We arrived on Wednesday afternoon and, after some battling with the tents, got everything set up and attended the welcome session in the marquee before dinner. Over the course of Thursday and Friday we had about 10 sessions in the marquee involving music, speakers and even a world cup fashion show! Cody, Maria, Molly and the YMT band were leading the music but everyone

got involved. The speakers were Kate Middleton, Joe Hammill and Angela and Alan Hayes (who performed his song Survivor), as well as Youth Village's very own Fr Dermott Donnelly, who all had some inspirational words about outrageous hope and ridiculous optimism.

We also spent time in our school groups reflecting on the sessions with the speakers and there wasn't a dry eye in the room after Alan and Angela's talk. As well as the main tent there was also the 'Fringe Tent' where anyone could go and perform and there was definitely some undiscovered talent to be found there! On Friday morning we packed up camp and all took part in Mass before



A brilliant experience.

heading home after lunch. It was a truly inspirational and enjoyable few days that none of us will forget.

**"If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world on fire"**  
St Catherine of Siena

Isobel Thompson  
Cardinal Hume Media Group

## IN MEMORIAM

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS IN THE CATHOLIC TRADITION. A TIME WHEN WE OFFER UP PRAYER AND REMEMBER OUR LOVED ONES WHO HAVE PASSED ON. ON THE 11TH NOVEMBER IT IS ALSO A TIME WHEN THE 'DAY OF REMEMBRANCE' IS HELD AND THE LIVES OF ALL THOSE KILLED IN WARS OVER THE YEARS ARE REMEMBERED.



It is also a time to reflect on the dark tragedy of war and the suffering it causes. Under the guidance of Mr Johnson our remembrance services have gone from strength to strength each year and a more solemn, respectful service could not be wished for, as staff and students gather together remember those who have lost their lives in war.

In addition to this event Cardinal Hume Catholic School also supports the broader community in remembering the dead.

At the invitation of Cllr Susan Craig our 6th Form students were invited to lay a wreath at the Boer War Memorial in Low Fell and take part in the Remembrance Service held there. Along with schools like St Peter's Catholic primary school, those gathered were led through a well organised service that remembered those who died in war along with an emphasis on the importance of peace for the future. A well organised, thoughtful service that was enjoyed by the Mayor of Gateshead; the Mayoress and many others.

River Francis  
Cardinal Hume Media Group

## INSPIRATIONAL POPE

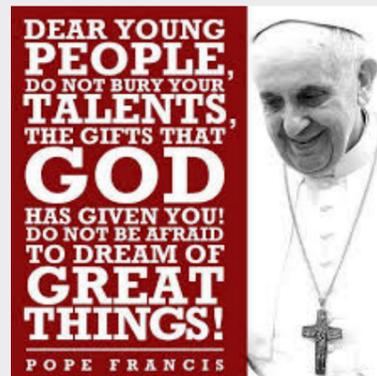
SINCE THE 13TH MARCH 2013, POPE FRANCIS HAS DELIGHTED CATHOLICS AND NON-CATHOLICS, RELIGIOUS AND NON-RELIGIOUS ALL OVER THE WORLD WITH HIS PEOPLE CENTRED ACTIONS AND HIS LOVE OF ALL AS GOD'S CREATIONS. NOT ONLY DOES THIS MAN PLACE HIMSELF AS NO MORE THAN THE EQUAL OF OTHERS, HE ALSO REGULARLY INTERACTS WITH THE ORDINARY PILGRIMS WHO COME TO SEE HIM.

From taking the bus to holding Mass for the public in the Vatican bi-weekly, Pope Francis really is taking after Jesus in a way that many people find difficult to comprehend, especially considering the fact that he holds such a lofty position of power. As a young person I think the message this Pope gives us is that power corrupts unless you have a humble spirit: This is truly inspirational and a message to all leaders.

In the recent Synod on the Family, Pope Francis has encouraged the Church to look closely at its teachings and put the needs of the person at its centre. While many other leaders in the Catholic Church may not fully agree with some policies Pope Francis believes in, I think that it is impossible to say he does not try to act as much like Jesus did and follow in his footsteps.

Through his acceptance and interaction with all, including minority groups, Pope Francis is spreading the gospel message of "Love your neighbour as yourself", through his courageous actions.

Rebecca Heslop  
Cardinal Hume Media Group



# CARDINAL HUME TAKES A LONG JUMP TO SUCCESS

TOP INTERNATIONAL ATHLETE GREG RUTHERFORD JOINED STUDENTS AT CARDINAL HUME CATHOLIC SCHOOL EARLIER THIS TERM FOR A TRAINING SESSION WITH A DIFFERENCE.

The Olympic, European and Commonwealth long jump champion, who was in the region to promote the City Games - part of the Great North Weekend of sport culminating in the Great North Run - attended a Sports Hall Athletics session and afterwards chatted with aspiring young athletes. Head of PE and Sport Ben Stevenson said "We are honoured to have been selected by the Gateshead School Sport Partnership to host this prestigious event. Greg is an outstanding role model for our students and his encouragement today has been inspirational."

Kevin Hay from GSSP said "We were thrilled to be able to offer this opportunity to Cardinal Hume students in recognition of their outstanding participation in school sport in Gateshead over the last year."



## IMPORTANT ATTENDANCE REMINDER

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME.

PARENTS AND CARERS ARE REMINDED BELOW ABOUT THE CURRENT RULES REGARDING TAKING CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL DURING TERM TIME.

Government regulations state that "head teachers may not grant leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances." While leave of absence may be granted during term time it is entirely at the discretion of the head teacher and is not a parental right.

If a parent wishes to take their child out of school during term time they must apply in writing to the school using the following procedure.

- Fill in an application form requesting leave of absence during term time. These are available from school or can be downloaded from the school's website.
- The school will consider this request.
- The parent will be informed in writing whether or not the leave of absence has been granted.

- Reasons will be given if leave of absence is not granted.
- If the request is granted the absence from school will be authorised. (This will only be in exceptional circumstances.)
- If the leave of absence is not granted and the parent still takes their child out of school, the absence will not be authorised and the school may refer the matter to the local authority. In such cases a penalty notice may be issued by the local authority. This could result in a fine being issued.
- The penalty notice is £60 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days and £120 per parent, per child if paid after this date, but within 28 days.
- Failure to pay any such fine could lead to prosecution in a Magistrates Court.

- If a parent removes their child without requesting leave of absence from school, it is likely the school will apply to the local authority for a penalty notice to be issued.

Holidays taken in term time are not generally considered to be exceptional circumstances and will not usually be authorised.

Each request for leave of absence will be considered on its merits. The following factors may be taken into consideration;

- The child's stage of education and progress to date.
- The overall attendance pattern of the child.
- The nature of the planned absence.
- Rare and exceptional circumstances.

# CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2014

Many of us will have gone to great lengths to support Children in Need, Band Aid 30 and the shoe box appeal in school. All are commendable and are in aid of worthy causes, made more poignant perhaps in these days leading up to Christmas.

But what about Christmas here at home amidst your family, friends and neighbours? Often money and the gifts it enables us to buy never adequately express the love and affection we have for those who are dear to us. No gift can ever be a substitute for spending our time with those we love; healing wounds, building

bridges, renewing friendships. Spending time together at Christmas is surely more important than the most expensive gift.

Isn't this reflected in St Luke's account of the birth of Jesus on that first Christmas Day? From the poverty of a stable, from the vulnerability of a new born child, rises up the Lord of life and love - the hope of the world. What is more, his gift is priceless and is there for the taking in Christian churches throughout the world.

It is there for you in your local church where I can assure you of a warm welcome.

The times of the Christmas Services in our neighbourhood churches are printed elsewhere on this page and may also be found on our Diocesan website [www.rcdhn.org.uk/index.php](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/index.php)

So on behalf of the priests and deacons of the parishes in our deanery, might I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas and God's blessing in 2015.

**Father Ian Patterson**

## Christmas Services in the Deanery

	CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS	CHRISTMAS EVE MASS	CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
Corpus Christi	7.30pm	8.00pm	
St. Alban's	See St. Patrick's (6.30pm)		9.00am
St. Anne's		First Celebration of Christmas Mass 5.30pm	10.00am
St. Augustine's	6.30pm	7.00pm	10.00am
St. Joseph's	4.30pm	5.00pm	9.00am (Latin) 10.30am
St. Oswald's	5.00pm	5.30pm Blessing of Crib 12.00pm First Mass of Christmas	8.30am Christmas Dawn Mass 10.00am Christmas day Mass
St. Patrick's	Carols, Readings and 1st Mass of Christmas 6.30pm (with St. Alban's)		10.45am
Parish of the Holy Rosary		7.00pm	
St. Peter's			10.00am
Sacred Heart Byermoor		7.00pm	

## Service of Reconciliation

Our deanery Service of Reconciliation (with five confessors available) will take place on **Monday 22nd December 7.00 pm at St Augustine's, Wealcroft, Leam Lane, NE10 8QS (for SATnavs).**

## Important upcoming dates at Cardinal Hume Catholic School

SPRING TERM (JAN - APRIL)		
Date	Time	Event
Monday 5th January 2014		Start of Spring Term
Thursday 29th January 2014	All day	Parents Consultation Day Years 8,9,10,11,12 + 13
Tuesday 10th February 2014	6.00pm	Options Evening
Wednesday 25th February 2014	6.45p.m.	Sixth Form Information Evening
Wednesday 1st April 2014		Easter Service Years 11,12 + 13
Thursday 2nd April 2014	3.15p.m.	Easter Service Years 7, 8, 9, 10 / End of Term
Monday 20th April		Start of Summer Term