

## Catholic Education Week – Sat 14<sup>th</sup> February

This is a copy of the talk given by Nuala at St Cadoc's Mass for Education Sunday.

My name is Nuala McBride and I am a fourth year pupil at St. Ninians High School. As it's Catholic Education Week, I have been asked to share my experience of the faith life of our school, and the ways in which this influences and enriches our faith, values and contribution at home, within the parish and in the wider community.

At the heart of this experience, of course, is the opportunity to gather at the altar for mass with fellow pupils, teachers and parents in the school oratory. Mass is held at the school on Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays at 08:25 and each day during Lent. We have our chaplain Father Duggan from St. Josephs and priests from the surrounding parishes including our own Monsignor to thank for this.



Furthermore, we are blessed to have the opportunity to take part in Eucharistic Adoration at lunchtimes on Fridays. I personally cherish this time at the end of the school week but in the middle of a busy day, to be able to retreat to the quiet of the Oratory and be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.



There are so many opportunities for us to engage with our faith in a practical and rewarding way such as the SCIAF group. The chance to deepen our understanding of our faith in the Worship Group, organised retreats and pilgrimages such as to Rome, Salamanca, Lourdes, Krakow and Catlerigg Manor in Keswick. I have been lucky enough to have taken part in some of these and know how enjoyable and rewarding they can be. None of this would have been possible without the hard work, dedication and example of our teachers.

We are extremely fortunate to have such good role models in our teachers, support staff and older pupils- such as our current head girl who has established a prayer group and the many senior pupils who have engaged with Caritas, Catholic Leadership and Lasallian Projects.

Our Catholic faith is a tangible living presence in our school- from the nearness of the Blessed Sacrament to the witness given to the sanctity of life in the tireless work of the Life Group. Our faith permeates the relationship between teachers and pupils and is exemplified in the respect for the dignity of all which is modelled by our teachers.

Undoubtedly, you will have heard and read much about the successes in achievement and attainment enjoyed by our school. However, there is no league table to measure the true success of our school- the environment of Gospel values in which faith, love and truth are celebrated.

Catholic Education Week is a time when we can remember and celebrate just how fortunate we are.