

Centred on Christ

AUGUST 2022



Dear Colleague,

As we begin a new school session, it is important that we look back on the last two years and the unprecedented challenges which schools, parishes and families experienced—and to recognise the immense efforts made by schools to maintain the spiritual lives of children and young people. During periods of lockdown, the school was in many ways the Church for them. Through your efforts and your collaboration with chaplains, you ensured that each child received the Sacraments. You used creative ways to engage children and their families with the school's life of faith. The Diocese is hugely indebted to the staff in our Catholic schools for their commitment and dedication.

2022-23 sees the third year of our **Strategic Plan**. Much of our work in the past two years has now passed onto our Maintenance Agenda. We hope that you will be able to continue to work with the Diocese to enrich the spiritual lives of our children and young people by including some of these targets in your own Improvement Plans. We are grateful for your willingness to host the Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Encounter as part of our spiritual recovery plans.

Collaboration with parents will be crucial in achieving strong outcomes through these Plans. We are grateful for the many ways in which schools help to strengthen the three-legged stool of **Home-School-Parish** and we would encourage you to continue to build on these initiatives. Good practice was included in the April edition and has been shared with chaplains and the Diocesan Parent Forum. St Joseph's Parish, Clarkston, has kindly shared in this edition its plans for working with schools and families. As part of our partnership with parents at diocesan level, the **Parent Forum** will meet on Wednesday 23 November at 7pm. We will use the survey returns from Parent Councils to shape the support we offer this session.

Themes for Prayers and Assemblies have been included in this edition. A Word version has been uploaded onto TEAMS/Education Resources for Schools/Prayers and Assemblies/August-October. This will enable you to click on hyperlinks.

Fr Gerry McNellis has produced a **prayer service for staff**, reflecting on our role in passing on the faith to the young people in our care. It has been uploaded onto TEAMS/Education Resources for Schools/Staff Reflection Resources, along with several other prayer services which could be used during collegiate time.

In March, the Congregation for Education published '**The Identity of Catholic Schools**' which included an outline of the duty of the bishop to verify the Catholic life of the schools in his diocese. Although the document sets out a model of rigorous external inspections every five years, the Scottish bishops have endorsed the model of self-evaluation in **Developing in Faith**. Accordingly, we would ask all schools to conduct an evaluation of one aspect of its Catholic Mission and make a return to the diocese by May 2023. The form can be found in the **Self-Evaluation/Developing in Faith – Annual Audit** section of TEAMS.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance to you.

Best wishes for session 2022-23.

Neil Roarty

Neil Roarty
Director of Schools



Our Lady of Paisley;
pray for us

Inside this issue:

A Time and Place for Faith	2
Rosary Clubs - All Saints Primary School, Greenock	4
Home-School-Parish: Young People and Family Mass St Joseph's Parish, Clarkston	6
Celebrating our House Saints - Trinity High School	8
Diocesan Education Department's Strategic Plan	11
Justice and Peace Scotland: Resources and Events	12
Carlo Acutis – Eucharistic Miracles Encounter	13
Themes for Prayer and Reflection	15
Diocesan Education and Youth Calendar: 2022-23	18
Diocesan Contacts	20
CLPL (August – October)	20

A TIME AND PLACE FOR FAITH

Father Gerry McNellis

We are presently in the Church's 'Ordinary Time'. In this 'time' we are still tasked with continuing the work that Christ began, prepared us for and sent the Holy Spirit to guide us in.

Although these words were addressed to the prophet Jeremiah, they always seem relevant.

*'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;
before you came to birth I consecrated you;
I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.'
I said, 'Ah, Lord; look, I do not know how to speak: I am a child!'
But the Lord replied,
'Do not say, 'I am a child'.
Go now to those to whom I send you
And say whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them,
For I am with you to protect you-
It is the Lord who speaks!'
Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth
and said To me:
'There! I am putting my words into your mouth.'*

If a film does well at the box office and makes millions of pounds, the temptation is to make a sequel as soon as possible. This means the successful film is still very much in the mind of the cinema paying public. The plot, the setting and the actors who played the leading roles. Doubtless too it is in the minds of the moneymen who finance the film and the big studios who produce the film.

A current offering at the Box Office is 'Top Gun: Maverick', released 36 years after the original Top Gun. It is quite an experience to go to the pictures and be present with those who were old enough to see the original film and those who were not.

Despite any age difference, everyone seems to know about the original film, especially the cast and storyline. The key components have been passed down from one generation to the next. Exiting the film it's obvious that not only has everyone enjoyed it but have felt involved in the action.

In our Catholic schools we are all involved 'in the action'. As well as educating our young people, we pass on faith from one generation to the next. What we receive is too precious and important to be kept to ourselves. It should be a lived and joyful experience.

Like Jeremiah and the prophets there can be a reluctance to be involved and an eagerness almost to let others get on with it and hide ourselves away. It is, however the calling of us all to pass on our precious faith.

(Continued from page 2)

A timeless prayer sums up that we have the tools for this task.

Lord Jesus:

I give you my hands to do your work,

I give you my feet to go your way,

I give you my eyes to see as you do, I give you my tongue to speak your words,

I give you my mind that you may think in me.

Above all, I give you my heart that you may love in me your Father and all mankind.

I give you my whole self that you may grow in me, so that it is you, Lord Jesus, who work and live and pray in me.

Amen.

For Pope Francis and Bishop John as they lead the people of God,

Help them to be faithful to the teaching of Christ, to continue to have the courage to preach the Good News and inspire faith in others.

Lord Hear Us,

Lord, Graciously Hear Us.

For our Civic Authorities,

May they be guided by a sense of justice for all in their care and may we have a true appreciation for their work.

Lord Hear Us,

Lord, Graciously Hear Us.

For the gift of loving one another,

May we take heart from the command of love, learning from the example of Jesus himself in our love for all.

Lord Hear Us,

Lord, Graciously Hear Us.

For Our School Communities,

May we be truly grateful for the successes of the past and use the opportunity to develop our talents in the future.

Lord Hear Us,

Lord, Graciously Hear Us.

Rosary Clubs - All Saints Primary School, Greenock

Angela Cassidy



‘Miss, can we have a P7 Rosary Club?’ was a question I was delighted to hear, yet never thought I would be asked. This spark of enthusiasm from a group of Primary 7 children reminded me of the importance and indeed the necessity of the vital role the staff in our Catholic schools play in passing on our faith to our young people. To instil a devotion to Our Lady in the hearts of impressionable young children could be the turning point in their (devotional) lives especially when they realise that having Our Lady as a role model will influence their choices and lifestyle from then onwards.

The Rosary Club to which the children were referring was initiated for the Primary 6 children of our school as a result of my involvement with Blythe Kaufman’s ‘Children’s Rosary Campaign’ which is a worldwide organisation and has resulted in children’s rosary groups being formed all over the world. After hearing about the ‘Children’s Rosary Campaign’ from Bishop John, I had attended some of the meetings with Blythe Kaufman online and really wanted to start a group, but the months went by and much to my frustration I still hadn’t brought a group together. By February of this year, I decided the time was right. I picked a time, I chose a class, (bearing in mind Covid restrictions were still in place), I spoke to the class about the Children’s Rosary Campaign and that was it! Since 8th February boys and girls from Primary 6 have been coming along faithfully every week. I constantly remind them that they are imitating Our Lady by saying yes and they take great pride in their group identity. As you will see when you watch the Children’s Rosary Campaign presentation, Blyth insists that after having prayed together, the children should have a small treat and needless to say this has gone down well! After a couple of weeks, we started to learn the ‘Children’s Rosary Campaign’ hymn which is lovely and very easy to learn. People passing by the classroom, always comment on how lovely it sounds when the children are singing.

Rosary Clubs - All Saints Primary School, Greenock

Angela Cassidy

(Continued from page 4)

Our Primary 7 Rosary Club of boys and girls came together for their first meeting on Friday 22nd April, and I am so proud of them for continuing to demonstrate their love for Our Lady and their commitment to the group. My only regret is that I didn't start their group earlier in the year - lesson learned!

Obviously, the ideal situation is for the 'Children's Rosary Campaign' to permeate through all the classes in the school. This year, having been out of class doing recovery work, I was in the fortunate position of being able to organise my timetable so that I could make time to host our Rosary Clubs and I thought there was real merit in the children making the choice and commitment to come each week. However, it would also be great to have the Rosary Clubs as part of the class weekly timetable if that is possible. In that situation, it would still be important to create a group identity where the children recognise the important part they are playing in this worldwide organisation and to keep in mind that the format of the group time should always conclude with a little treat.

The format of the Rosary Club is simple and straightforward. Each week the children from the group write their prayer intention which is placed on the Sacred Space in the classroom or beside the statue of Our Lady (if your group meets in the church or at another location within the school). We spend time in prayer together and then we have a short time of fellowship.

In planning for the year ahead, where I am hoping the Rosary Groups evolve and increase, the whole school is going to learn the 'Children's Rosary Campaign' hymn and the Holy Spirit will take it from there.

The most important thing to remember is that in our Catholic schools, the devotional prayer life of our children is our responsibility – all we need is a spirit of Evangelisation, a willingness to trust in the Holy Spirit and an understanding that the way to Jesus is through Mary our Mother.

Children's Rosary Website (www.children'srosary.org)

This website contains a lot of practical advice and resources to help you start a Children's Rosary Group in your school or parish:

- How to start a group
- How to register a new group
- Resources to start a group
- Music.

It also has a blog which shares what Rosary Groups around the world are doing.

Home-School-Parish: Young People and Family Mass

St Joseph's Parish, Clarkston

Context

This initiative originated from the Parish Pastoral Council with an action to try and encourage families to come back to Mass and involve the young pupils more actively in the life of the parish. An open discussion between parish representatives and teachers took place in the parish house. The Parish Pastoral Council members were delighted with the magnificent response by the teachers from both primary schools: Maureen Cumming and Maria Convery (Our Lady of the Missions PS) and Louise Collins (St Joseph's PS).

It builds on the work by Canon Stephen Bailie in the associated primary schools and the positive relationships which he enjoys with Head Teachers and staff.

At the earliest possible opportunities Canon Stephen has been:

- Visiting both the schools and holding numerous class or year masses at each school.
- When possible, inviting the children to come to St Joseph's for special school faith events
- Arranging for school classes to come in a rota to weekday morning at 09:30am mass in St Joseph's church
- Visiting the schools and holding all day confessions.

Aim

To provide primary school pupils and their families opportunities to actively participate in the life of St Joseph's Parish and, in doing so, enable our young people to actively express their faith and progress towards their Pope Francis Faith Awards.

The young people attending St Joseph's Parish, from Our Lady of the Missions (OLM) and St Joseph's Primaries, will be in the care and supervision of their parents.

Proposal: Young People & Family Mass at 10:00am on the First Sunday of the Month

This monthly Mass will commence in September 2022 and will take place during the school term. Primary pupils will be able to participate in appropriate ways.

- Welcomers at each of the main entrances to the church.
 - Arriving 20 to 15 minutes before the start of Mass.
 - Pope Francis Faith sashes will be provided.
 - Assisting in ensuring hymn books etc are tidied at the end of Mass.
- Altar Servers
- Two helpers in the Offertory Procession.
- Readers (if appropriate and available). These may be simplified readings.

In addition:

- Familiar school hymns will be sung at this Mass e.g. *"Let there be Love"* and *"Give me Joy in my Heart."*
- The lead school will alternate each month between OLM and St Joseph's.

At this monthly Mass Canon Stephen may wish to tailor his homily to the age of the young people attending this Mass.



Monthly Young People and Family Mass St Joseph's Parish, Clarkston

(Continued from page 6)

Young Welcomers

In the recent parish synodal survey, a welcoming Church was a key topic of discussion. The involvement of our young people in this role is warmly encouraged and will be extended to both the 10:00am and 12:00 Masses every Sunday. The schools will organise the rota of Young Welcome Volunteers.

Distribution of Materials

The schools will organise a rota of young volunteers to distribute parish materials whenever required. Two pupils will be stationed at each of the three exit doors and distribute the materials at each of the five weekend Masses. P6/P7 pupils from both primaries have already been assisting in this way and has been extremely helpful.

Praying Together - Parish Prayer Cards (commencing 2023)

The parish and the schools wish to unite in prayerful reflection and celebration when young pupils receive their sacraments. It is important that our young people and their families feel the spiritual support of the parish and school at these milestones in the development of their faith. Appropriate safeguarding protocols must be adopted and, therefore, a Parish Prayer Card will be provided by the Parish and distributed to class teachers for the young school pupils. This prayer can then be used at the morning Masses by parishioners, at school by pupils and at home by families uniting us all in prayerful thanksgiving.

Children's Liturgy

The Parish is fortunate to have a team of volunteers who provide a Children's Liturgy of the Word. Things are kept clear and simple. Children are led through prayers, songs and readings that are adapted to their level of understanding. When the Young People & Family Mass is taking place, it is possible that there will be no Children's Liturgy.

Parish Gardens

St Joseph's has a lovely parish grotto garden, but it needs a little maintenance. Parents and pupils are invited to help after weekend Masses, to help keep it tidy by picking up leaves, weeding the gardens and safely disposing of the garden rubbish into the parish brown bin.



Celebrating our House Saints - Trinity High School

Heather McKillop

After many years of involvement in the Caritas awards it became apparent that there were no real opportunities to allow our younger pupils to witness to their faith. The focus would always be on the upper school with our Head pupils being the ones we would turn to when we needed readers or singers for Holy Mass. This led to a culture of always being reactive rather than allowing pupils to be part of our planning. As part of our Covid19 recovery plan, developing the faith life of our school was crucial for us. Mindful that our pupils had missed many opportunities to celebrate their faith and participate in acts of worship we decided to plan strategic events to involve our new s1.

Our school had undergone a change in our house group system. Pupils, along with parents and carers had the opportunity to vote on which Saints we should adopt as our House Saints. We chose St Margaret of Scotland; St Therese of Lisieux, St Andrew and St Columba. Each house group was given a value and this would be a main focus for them across the year.



Our school values are:

- St Columba - Community
- St Therese - Achievement
- St Andrew - Respect
- St Margaret - Equality

Learning about the four house saints across the year became a vital part of school life. Pupils would not just take on the name of a Saint for their house, but they would learn how to live by that Saint's example. Numerous activities took place across the year to educate pupils about the four saints, but acts of celebration also took place to allow pupils a sense of achievement and the opportunity to feel proud of belonging to a house group. Holy Mass was celebrated on each of the house Saint feast days and this allowed pupils the opportunity to worship and celebrate and to feel a connection to their House Saint.



Faith is the key component which holds our school together and underpins all that we do. As such, we wanted to provide more opportunities to engage with the lives of the four house Saints and for pupils to begin witnessing to their faith.

The RE department recognised the desire from the S1 pupils to become involved in all aspects of school life. We wanted pupils to feel welcome and to become part of the school community, however, we recognised that it can be scary as a new pupil to know where to go or who to speak to. We were conscious that a number of S1 pupils would have participated in the Pope Francis Faith Award and we wanted to ensure that there was a way to keep the pupils engaged with their faith after leaving primary school.

Celebrating our House Saints—Trinity High School

(Continued from page 8)

In order to help the pupils navigate their way around Trinity High we decided to create an award for our new S1 which would help them to learn about their house Saints and to live out the school values. It was hoped that the award would engage pupils in the faith life of the school and therefore close the gap between S1-S6 in terms of being proud to witness to our Catholic faith.

After speaking to all of S1 we had gathered a group of around 15 pupils who embarked on the Trinity High House Saint Award. These pupils were challenged to learn about Fair Trade and how we could continue our mission to implement Fair Trade activities and learning across the school.

They were also encouraged to learn about how we could improve the world in which we live through our commitment to being a Laudato Si school.

Tasks were created to help pupils to understand why we should treat others with respect and equality and that by participating in community events such as fundraising and faith witness we could help pupils to document their achievements.

FAITH FAITH IS THE VALUE WHICH UNDERPINS OUR SCHOOL VALUES. WE ARE A CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND PROUD TO PROFESS OUR FAITH.	
I HAVE JOINED AN EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUB	THE NAME OF THIS CLUB IS:
I HAVE LEARNED THE FOLLOWING ABOUT FAITH	FAITH IS IMPORTANT AS
I HAVE ATTENDED MASS AT LEAST 10 TIMES:	I WOULD ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO PRAY AS
BONUS POINTS: I HAVE ATTENDED A FAITH BASED EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUB/ACTIVITY	



As a result of the House Saint award we now have a well established group of young people who attend the Mysterious Tuesday club every week to pray the rosary. They have been learning about the life of Mary by praying the rosary and they are proud to profess their faith in this way.

We have found that by involving the pupils in the House Saint award they are keen to participate in the faith life of the school more readily. The pupils volunteer themselves to read at Holy Mass and the lead prayer services for others classes.



colorifoto  **Trinity High School** 
Mysterious Tuesday 2021-2022

Celebrating our House Saints—Trinity High School

(Continued from page 9)

We have also established a strong Fair Trade group as a result of the House Saint Award.

Our pupils have become confident individuals who recognise that their faith is important to them. They are proud to profess their faith and engage in acts of witness.

Pupils attended Holy Mass of dedication to Fair Trade and Mysterious Tuesdays.



colorfoto



Trinity High School
FairTrade 2021-2022



Our Fair Trade Group are presented with their badges.



Our Mysterious Tuesdays group are presented with their badges.

At our junior awards ceremony pupils were presented with their House Saint award. It is hoped that we will continue to develop this initiative into S2 and allow pupils to build on their positive impact across the school.

Diocesan Education Strategic Plan 2022-23

1. Building up the Diocesan Family of Schools

- a) *To embed Developing in Faith within schools' self-evaluation processes to facilitate the identification of schools' support needs and the sharing of good practice across the Diocese.*

2. Offering Appropriate CLPL

- a) *To facilitate CLPL for priests and Head Teachers on Church Approval to ensure our processes are clearly understood and implemented consistently.*
- b) *To review the CLPL needs of school Pastoral Support leaders and plan how we can support them.*

3. Developing Leadership for Learning in Faith

- a) *To provide spiritual support for Head Teachers by organising an afternoon of reflection.*

4. Supporting Curriculum Planning

- a) *To support schools in embedding the revised Diocesan P1-P7 Planners.*
- b) *To enhance the Primary curriculum by introducing the National Schools Singing Programme (NSSP) to Inverclyde Primary Schools.*
- c) *To continue to plan, implement and review the Diocesan Secondary curriculum in the Broad General Education phase.*
- d) *To review and enhance the Senior Phase R.E. programme in collaboration with schools.*
- e) *To facilitate the Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition.*

5. Meeting Learners' Needs on their Faith Journeys

- a) *To continue to work with SPRED to provide appropriate support for pupils with significant additional support needs; and encourage young people to consider SPRED as part of their Caritas and Duke of Edinburgh Awards.*
- b) *To work with the Curia and partner agencies to provide support for schools in responding sensitively to the needs of LGBTI young people in line with Church teaching.*
- c) *To work with the Vicar Episcopal for Youth, the Marriage and Family Commission and schools in developing experiences which will enhance the spiritual recovery of children and young people.*

6. Supporting Parents as 'First Educators'

- a) *To consolidate the Diocesan Parent Forum as a means of consulting parent representatives and developing support for Parent Councils.*
- b) *To work with the Marriage and Family Commission to enhance support for parents as 'first educators' of their children in the ways of faith.*
- c) *To share and extend good practice in Home-School-Parish partnerships.*
- d) *To support schools as appropriate in considering the Diocesan document 'Partnership with Parents: From Ideal to Action'.*
- e) *To work with schools to provide parents with an outline of the Secondary R.E. curriculum.*

7. Supporting Chaplains and Parishes

- a) *To continue to deliver support for school chaplains which meets their needs.*
- b) *To support schools as appropriate in considering the Diocesan document 'Chaplaincy in Catholic Schools: A School-Parish Partnership'.*
- c) *To support schools as appropriate in considering the Diocesan document 'A Community of Faith and Learning'.*

8. Engaging Effectively with Partners and Stakeholders

- a) *To contribute as appropriate to joint working with NARCREA and SCES*
- b) *To work closely with Church Representatives on Local Authority Education Committees to promote the interests of Catholic schools.*
- c) *To continue to promote the work of Church Agencies at meetings (HTs, RE Coordinators and PTs RE) and through our publications.*
- d) *To support schools as appropriate in considering the Diocesan document 'Listening to Young People: Engaging them in Planning for Improvement'.*
- e) *To liaise with Head Teachers to support the recruitment of Catholic Teachers by organising the Catholic Senior Students*

Justice and Peace Scotland: Resources and Events

Danny Sweeney, Social Justice Coordinator: daniel.sweeney@justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk

Justice and Peace Scotland advises the Church in matters of social justice, peacebuilding, promoting care for creation and human rights, supporting the Catholic community to live the values of the Gospel in service to the poor and marginalised. We are available for talks and workshops on a range of issues of social justice and peacebuilding.



Building the Future: Learning Retreat **Friday 16 to Saturday 17 September** **(St Ninian's High School)**

S4/S5 students are invited to participate in this national overnight conference on Catholic Social Teaching on migration and hospitality ahead of the 108th World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees. It will include prayer, reflection and workshops, learning from people with lived experience.



24 Hours for the Climate Classroom Session

In the middle of COP26 for 24 hours Catholics from around the world gathered in Glasgow and online to pray for the COP's attendees, outcomes, and for the care of our common home.

A classroom session aimed at P6/P7 students explores the questions around Care of Creation, Catholic Social Teaching and shares some of the worldwide contributions of prayer from the Vigil.



Encounter: Calais Classroom Session/Workshop

In 2016 10,000 people were evicted from a refugee camp at the UK's border. The story didn't end there!

Encounter: Calais explores Catholic Social Teaching on migration and asylum hearing the stories of refugees and volunteers who have met in Calais at the frontline of the UK's hostile environment. Students are introduced to the drivers of migration, the Refugee Convention, and the lived experience of people who have been forced to seek safety in a country not their own.

A **classroom session** aimed at **S3-S6**, or an **interactive workshop** for a larger group perfect for a mission day/school retreat.

Contact Danny for either of these, or to discuss any other J&P issues and ways we can support schools.

40th Anniversary of 'Peace and Disarmament' (Bishops of Scotland Statement on Nuclear Weapons, 1982)

Our latest video celebrates the 40th Anniversary of this prophetic statement by the Bishops of Scotland in 1982. Watch on our YouTube Chanel.



@JandPScotland
justiceandpeacescotland
Justice and Peace Scotland
www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk

Carlo Acutis – Eucharistic Miracles Encounter

The Diocese has been offered the opportunity to host the Carlo Acutis – Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition. Bishop John welcomes the exhibition as a means of enabling young people to see faith in the context of a young man whose faith was central to his life. With its focus on the Eucharist, it will also complement the diocesan initiative #Home to Mass.

Who is Carlo Acutis?¹

Carlo Acutis was born on 3 May, 1991, in London, where his parents were working. A few months later, his parents, Andrea Acutis and Antonia Salzano, moved to Milan. As a teenager, Carlo was diagnosed with leukaemia. He offered his sufferings for the Pope and the Church. He died on 12 October 2006, and was buried in Assisi, because of his love for St. Francis. His cause for canonization began in 2013. He was designated “Venerable” in 2018, and designated “Blessed” on 10 October 2020. Carlo Acutis is the first millennial to be beatified.



Credit: www.carloacutis.com

From a young age, Carlo had a special love for God, even though his parents weren't especially devout. His mother said that before Carlo, she went to Mass only for her First Communion, her Confirmation, and her wedding. Carlo loved to pray the Rosary. After he made his First Communion, he went to Mass as often as he could, and prayed before the Tabernacle after Mass. He went to Confession weekly. He asked his parents to take him on pilgrimages, including to the sites of Eucharistic miracles.

At school, Carlo stepped in to defend disabled students from bullies. After school hours he volunteered his time with the homeless. A talented video gamer with excellent IT skills, he built a website to promote Eucharistic miracles. He told people that “the more often we receive the Eucharist, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of heaven.”

What is the Exhibition?

The Exhibition features the Eucharistic miracles which Carlo had promoted on his website.

[Responsive Slider \(miracolieucaristici.org\)](http://miracolieucaristici.org)

¹Sources: [Blessed Carlo Acutis | Saint of the Day \(franciscanmedia.org\)](http://Blessed Carlo Acutis | Saint of the Day (franciscanmedia.org)); Who was Carlo Acutis? - The Catholic Witness

Carlo Acutis – Eucharistic Miracles Encounter

(Continued from page 13)

There are 138 A1 laminated posters, but the visiting team will discuss with school staff which would work best. It can be as many or as few as space will allow.

In advance of the visit, there is a video which Carlo put together. Teachers can discern the appropriate age group.



What would be involved?

- The visit is an **encounter** with Jesus rather than just an exhibition.
- The format for each class session (50-60minutes) would be:
 - An introductory talk about Carlo Acutis
 - A detailed account of one of the Eucharistic miracles
 - Time for Prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (possibly in a separate room/oratory) – the pupils will write a prayer which will be taken to Assisi.
 - An opportunity to view posters with the details of other Eucharistic miracles.
- The team will visit each High School and partner Primary School rather than all the Primary pupils having to travel to the High School.
- In Primary Schools, they could take two classes at a time in the hall/gym: for example, two P4 classes in the morning and two P7 classes in the afternoon. There would be flexibility for larger schools. Each school will decide which pupils it wishes to involve.
- The team will adapt the experience for younger pupils. (They have had experience of working in schools in England.)
- High Schools can decide if they wish to focus on one year group or involve others cohorts.
- They could offer an evening event for parents – perhaps on a cluster basis, although they have offered it on Saturday mornings in the parish.

The visiting team will be responsible for bringing the exhibition to Scotland and would move it around schools. They would discuss with each centre how best to set up the exhibition, depending on the location in each school.

There is no charge for the exhibition. Schools may wish to consider making a donation e.g. for fuel costs. The Diocese will source accommodation for the visiting team.

Timescale

We are hoping to offer a pilot with one or two Clusters in October/November with a view to a roll-out across the remaining clusters and schools from March-May. This has been shaped by the commitments of the organisers to universities and schools in England and Wales.

Themes for Prayer and Reflection



Diocese of Paisley
Education Department

August

Welcome to the New School Year

We commend our school communities – staff, pupils and parents – to the Lord as we embark on a new school year. Father John Morrison, Vicar Episcopal for Youth and Vocations, has produced an assembly which has been uploaded to *TEAMS/Education Resources/Prayers and Assemblies/August-October*. In addition, you may find the following prayer from the Diocese of Ossory appropriate.

God our Father, we know that you love and care for us with an everlasting love. Today we pray for your blessing on each one of us as we begin this new school year. Open our minds to the possibilities that this year holds. Open our eyes to the wonder of each new day. Open our hearts to the love of your Spirit. Lord, hold us in the palm of your hand and help us grow in mind and body. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

September

St Bernadette

The relics of St Bernadette are coming to Scotland in late September, organised by a national committee. P7 pupils from across Scotland are invited to visit the relics at Carfin – Paisley has been allocated Wednesday 28 September.

How can we prepare the children so that the visit is meaningful and spiritual - not just a day trip? How can we engage other stages too? Perhaps, P7 pupils could research the life of St Bernadette and produce presentations which they could deliver at assemblies? Or highlight the key messages from the example of St Bernadette and how young people can apply them to their lives?

Some sites which may help pupils get started are:

[A Few Lessons from the Life of St. Bernadette \(catholicexchange.com\)](http://catholicexchange.com)

[St. Bernadette - Saints & Angels - Catholic Online](#)

[The Story of St. Bernadette and Our Lady of Lourdes - The Catholic Company®](#)

[Saint Bernadette Soubirous, 1844-1879 | Loyola Press](#)

[Saint Bernadette of Lourdes: A Humble Saint - My Catholic Kids](#)

[Bernadette Soubirous \(lourdes-france.org\)](http://lourdes-france.org)

[Story of Saint Bernadette | Stories of Saints | English - Bing video](#)

The following YouTube clips are included in the P5 Planners:

St. Bernadette - <https://youtu.be/BTAd8GqsQ14>

Immaculate Mary: <https://youtu.be/LsC4yHD-Sy4>

Gentle Woman - Lourdes setting; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBbpB5aM978>

[Lourdes - Hail Mary, Gentle Woman - YouTube](#)

Vocations

Priests for Scotland materials will be uploaded onto TEAMS/Education Resources for Schools/Prayers and Assemblies/Vocations but we would ask all schools to include in morning prayers or assemblies the intention of more Vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Alternatively, at the end of the school day, classes could say 'The 4 O'Clock Prayer', recalling the time that Jesus called Andrew to follow Him.

Lord Jesus, at this time of day, you called Andrew, to be your disciple. We pray that the men and women of our country may hear your call to discipleship. May they respond to your call with generosity. Inspired by the example of Mary may they say 'yes' to service in the priesthood, the consecrated life and the diaconate.

- *Mary, Star of the New Evangelisation, pray for us*
- *Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland, pray for us.*
- *Mirin, Patron Saint of our Diocese, pray for us.*
- *All Saints of our land, pray for us.*

The Season of Creation

The theme of this year's Season of Creation is '**Listen to the Voice of Creation**': [Home Landing EN - Season of Creation](#). The season begins on 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and continues until 4 October, the Feast of St Francis. It involves all Christian Churches in praying for our common home.

We would remind schools of the materials in the August 2020 *Centred on Christ (TEAMS/Education Resources for Schools/Centred on Christ* and the associated PowerPoint (*TEAMS/Education Resources for Schools/Themes for Prayers and Assemblies/Caring for God's Creation*). There is also an article by Mark Booker of SCIAF in the August 2021 edition of *Centred on Christ* which has links to resources.

October

The Rosary

October is the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary. Bishop John will once again lead the UK Rosary Mission throughout the month. Its theme will be **Rosary Sanctuary with Our Lady of the Rosary**.

Please try to give the young people the experience of meditating on the Rosary, perhaps even a decade each day. There is also the possibility of linking it to the Mission Rosary. (Please see the section on The Missions.)

In particular, on Friday 7 October, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, could you give pupils the opportunity of praying the Rosary along with their peers in schools across the United Kingdom?

Aid to the Church in Need's '1 Million Children Pray the Rosary' is on Monday 18 October.

Unfortunately, this international event coincides with our school October break.

The Missions

October **World Mission Sunday** will be celebrated on **23 October**, although it may be a theme you could address throughout the month of October in Religious Education, morning prayers or assemblies.

The Pope's message for **World Mission Day 2022** can be found here:

[Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for World Mission Day 2022 | Francis \(vatican.va\)](#)

The theme is: **"You shall be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8) – The call of every Christian to bear witness to Christ** - in short, as ever, about spreading the Good News. A summary of the message can be accessed at:

[World Mission Day 2022: Pope Francis says he dreams of 'a completely missionary Church' | Catholic News Agency](#)

[Pope Francis: Dreaming of a 'completely missionary Church' - Missio](#)

[Pope Francis: Dreaming of a 'completely missionary Church' | ICN \(indcatholicnews.com\)](#)

Pope Francis is trying to convey that mission is for everyone, lay people and religious alike. Perhaps pupils can consider how they can be missionaries and spread the Good News in their own lives or give some examples of people they think are missionaries and explain why?

We would encourage Primary Schools to join schools across Scotland in celebrating **Missionary Children Masses on Friday 7 October**. You may recall the [Missionary Children's Mass 2018 Paisley](#). Missio is asking schools to invite their chaplain into the school or for them to go to the neighbouring parish to celebrate a Mass for Missionary Children that would be colourful and reflect the universal Church. It would have a missionary theme with the saints - [Missionary Saints | missioscotland](#) - and the colours of the Mission Rosary. Failing that, the school could hold a Missionary Children's Prayer Service on that day, again making it colourful and reflective of the universality of our Faith. We have uploaded Missio Missionary Children's Mass resources and Missionary Children Prayer Services onto the Diocesan TEAM/Education Resources for Schools/Mission Month.

There is also a focus on the **Mission Rosary** during Mission Month with resources available via:

<https://www.missioscotland.com/mission-rosary>

Missio's projects for Mission Month focus on **Ethiopia** where they will provide funding for a school to help it expand as well as supporting the construction of new churches. They will have more information on their website in the weeks to come, but suggest that pupils could do some fact finding on the country too.

Missio will also print a **Mission Month Prayer Calendar** which pupils can follow during Mission Month.

Missio YouTube videos which will be of interest:

- An explanation of Missionary Children (formerly Holy Childhood) and why it's important to support it - [Children Helping Children](#)
- A day in the life of Daphne, a Ugandan schoolgirl - [A day in the life of Daphne](#)

We will forward Missio's Primary School classroom resources to schools when they are available. They can also be accessed at <https://www.missioscotland.com>.

Secondary School materials that deal with the **Mission of the Church, Missio and Social Justice** and the **Church at Work in our World** can be accessed via: <https://www.missioscotland.com/secondary-schools>



Diocese of Paisley - Education and Youth Calendar: 2022-23

Month	Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Target Group
AUG	15	Mon		The Assumption		
AUG	24	Wed	4pm	Welcome to New Session	St Mirin's Cathedral	All staff – particularly NQTs
AUG	25	Thu			St Mary's, Greenock	
SEP	2	Fri	10-2.15pm	Vocations Conference	Cathedral Halls	S6
SEP	11	Sun	2pm	Youth to Lourdes Meeting	Diocesan Offices	
SEP	11-18			Vocations Awareness Week	School-based	S1-S6
SEP	14	Wed	10am	P7 Vocations Mass	St Mary's, Greenock	P7 (Inverclyde)
SEP	15	Thu	7pm	Diocesan Mass for Vocations and to mark the 75 th Anniversary of the founding of the Diocese	St Mirin's Cathedral	S1-S6 pupils (Primary pupils welcome)
SEP	16	Fri	10am	P7 Vocations Mass	St Mirin's Cathedral	P7 (Renfrew & E Renfrew)
SEP	16-17	Fri-Sat	tbc	Learning Retreat (overnight) on Catholic Social Teaching on migration and hospitality	St Ninian's HS	S4/S5 (National)
SEP	21	Wed	9.30 - 2.30pm	Aid to the Church – Youth Rally	Motherwell Concert Hall	S1-S6
SEP	28	Wed		Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Relics of St Bernadette	Carfin or Sancta Familia Livestream	Primary School Representation of P7 pupils
OCT				Mission Month	School-based	P1-S6
OCT				October UK Rosary Mission	School-based	P1-S6
OCT	6	Thu	7pm	World Youth Day 2023 Information Meeting	Diocesan Offices	Must be 18 at the time of departure.
OCT	7	Fri		UK Schools' Rosary Rally Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary		P1-S6
OCT	7	Fri		Missionary Children's Masses	School/parish	Primary Schools
OCT	23	Sun	2-6pm	Primary School Reflection	St James', Paisley	P4-P7
NOV	1	Tue		All Saints Day	School-based	P1-S6
NOV	6	Sun	2-6pm	S1-S2 Reflection Time	Diocesan Offices	S1-S2
NOV	16-30			Catholic Education 'Week' (Communion, Participation, Mission)	Schools and parishes	All schools
NOV	18	Fri		WYD 2022 School Celebrations	School-based <i>(V.E Youth to provide resources)</i>	Primary and Secondary
NOV	20	Sun	2-6pm	WYD Diocesan Celebration	St Mirin's Cathedral	S3-S6
NOV	23	Wed		Red Wednesday (ACN)	School-based events	All schools
NOV	27	Sun	2-6pm	Primary Advent Day	St John's, Barrhead	P4-P7
DEC				Advent Reflection Service	Link to YouTube	All teachers



Diocese of Paisley - Education and Youth Calendar: 2022-23

Month	Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Target Group
JAN	24	Tue	7pm	WYD 2023 Group Meeting	Diocesan Offices	Must be 18 at the time of departure.
FEB	22	Wed		Ash Wednesday	School-based	All schools
MAR	5	Sun	2-6pm	S1-S2 Lenten Reflection	Diocesan Offices	S1-S2
MAR	12	Sun	2-6pm	Primary Lent Day	St Laurence's, Greenock	P4-P7
MAR	19	Sun	2pm	Youth to Lourdes Meeting	Diocesan Offices	
MAR	1	Wed	7pm	Lenten Stations Masses (High Schools, partner Primary Schools and local parishes) Secondary Schools are asked to lead music; and Primary Schools to lead the Prayers of the Faithful and Offertory Procession.	St Andrew's	St Columba's Cluster
MAR	2	Thu			St Mary's, Greenock	Notre Dame Cluster
MAR	8	Wed			St John the Baptist	St Stephen's Cluster
MAR	9	Thu			St James, Renfrew	Trinity Cluster
MAR	15	Wed			St Mirin's Cathedral	St Andrew's Cluster
MAR	16	Thu			St John's, Barrhead	St Luke's Cluster
MAR	22	Wed			St Joseph's, Clarkston	St Ninians's Cluster
MAR	23	Thu			St Margaret's	St Benedict's Cluster
APR	26	Wed	7pm	WYD 2023 Group Meeting	Diocesan Offices	Must be 18 at the time of departure.
APR	28	Fri		33 Day Diocesan Consecration to Jesus through Mary begins (ends on 31 May)	School-based	P7 pupils
MAY				May National Rosary Mission	School-based	All schools
MAY	8-12			ACN Rosary for Peace	School-based	P1-P7
MAY	18	Thu		Ascension Day	School-based	P1-S6
MAY	21	Sun	2-5pm	Day for Altar Servers	Diocesan Offices	Primary Servers
MAY	28	Sun	2-6pm	Primary Pentecost Day	St James', Paisley	P4-P7
JUN	4	Sun	2-6pm	Family Day	TBA	Families of Primary Pupils
JUN	6	Tue	2pm (tbc)	National Caritas Awards Ceremony	Clyde Auditorium	
JUN	11	Sun	2pm	Youth to Lourdes Meeting	Diocesan Offices	
JUN	13	Tue	9.45-3pm	Teaching in Catholic Schools	Cathedral Halls	S6
JUN	14	Wed	4.30pm	Thanksgiving Mass	St Mirin's Cathedral	All staff – particularly NQTs
JUN	18	Sun	2-6pm	WYD 2023 Sponsored Walk	Greenock Cut	
JUN 30 – 7 JULY				Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (including Youth)		S3-S6
JUL	17	Mon	7pm	Final Meeting of WYD Group	Diocesan Offices	Must be 18.
AUG 1 – 6				World Youth Day	Lisbon	Must be 18.

Diocesan Contacts		
Canon Michael McMahon	Vicar Episcopal for Education and Formation	VE-EducationandFormation@rcdop.org.uk
Neil Roarty	Director of Schools	Director.Schools@rcdop.org.uk
Anne Marie Mullan	Primary Advisor	primaryadvisor@rcdop.org.uk
Stephen Parsons	Secondary Advisor	secondaryadvisor@rcdop.org.uk
Tommy Hughes	Curriculum Development Officer	Curriculum.DO@rcdop.org.uk
Dorothy Graham	Church Representative	eastrenfreweducation@rcdop.org.uk
Jim Docherty	Church Representative	inverclydeeducation@rcdop.org.uk
Jack Nellaney	Church Representative	renfreweducation@rcdop.org.uk
Norma Scott	Director of SPRED	spred@rcdop.org.uk
Father John Morrison	Vicar Episcopal for Youth and Vocations	VE-VocationsandYouth@rcdop.org.uk
Fr Jonathan Whitworth	Pastoral Director, Marriage and Family	jonathanwhitworth@rcdop.org.uk
Rebecca Harrison	Marriage and Family	marriageandfamily@rcdop.org.uk

CLPL (August – Early November)

Course	Date	Time	Venue
S1 R.E. Curriculum (S1 R.E. Teachers)	25.08.22	1.15 - 2.45	Diocesan Offices
Welcome to new Head Teachers	26.08.22	1.30 - 3.00	Diocesan Offices
Welcome to Primary and Secondary NQTs— Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire	31.08.22	4.15 - 5.30	Diocesan Offices
Welcome to Primary and Secondary NQTs—Inverclyde	1.09.22	4.15 - 5.30	All Saints Primary, Greenock
NQT Support (Primary - Renfrew & East Ren)	13.09.22	3.45 - 5.30	Diocesan Offices
NQT Support (Primary - Inverclyde)	14.09.22	3.45 - 5.30	All Saints Primary, Greenock
Primary R.E. Coordinators (Inverclyde)	4.10.22	3.45 - 5.15	All Saints Primary, Greenock
Primary R.E. Coordinators (Renfrew & East Ren)	5.10.22	3.45 - 5.15	Diocesan Offices
Head Teacher Reflection and Retreat	6.10.22	12:30 - 3.15	Diocesan Offices
Principal Teachers of Religious Education	7.10.22	1.00 - 2.45	Diocesan Offices
TIOF Planning (Primary—Renfrew & East Ren)	12.10.22	3.45 - 5.30	Diocesan Offices
TIOF Planning (Primary - Inverclyde)	13.10.22	3.45 - 5.30	All Saints Primary, Greenock
Leadership in Catholic Schools - Session 1	26.10.22	4.00 - 5.30	Diocesan Offices
Church Approval Protocols (Head Teachers)	28.10.22	1.15—3.00	St Columba's, Renfrew
Sacrament of Confirmation – Session 1	2.11.22	3.45 - 5.30	Diocesan Offices
Sacrament of Confirmation – Session 1	3.11.22	3.45 - 5.30	All Saints Primary, Greenock

Diocesan Education Department Twitter

Thank you to all those schools who follow our Twitter account and 'like' our posts, enabling us to share the many good things you are doing in terms of the life of faith. It is so heartening to see Christ at the centre of your schools. If you haven't already done so, please follow us: **@DoPEducation1**

Please also hashtag **#@DoPEducation1**

