

# Centred on Christ

JANUARY 2023



Dear Colleague,

I hope you and your colleagues have enjoyed a peaceful and restful Christmas holiday. We wish you and the school community every happiness and success in 2023.

Looking back to Advent, we are grateful to those schools who shared their involvement with the Travelling Crib on social media. It would be helpful if you would let us know what impact this project had on children, families and the school. Please email brief details to Anne Marie: [primaryadvisor@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:primaryadvisor@rcdop.org.uk). We are grateful to the Daughters of St Paul who donated all the books as well as giving a considerable discount on the Crib sets.

We hope that this term will provide significant opportunities to deepen the spiritual lives of children and young people and, wherever possible, to further develop home-school-parish links.

Given the many Covid restrictions which prevailed in the last two years, **Lent 2023** provides us with the first opportunity since 2019 to participate fully in the Church's preparation for Easter. Lenten resources - and other **Themes for Prayers and Assemblies** – are outlined on pp20–25. A Publisher version of this newsletter will be emailed to schools to enable teachers to click on the hyperlinks. Father Joe McGill has kindly agreed to provide a **Lenten Reflection for staff** which we will forward to schools at the start of Lent. **The Lenten Station Masses scheduled for March 2023 have been cancelled.** Bishop John will now be making pastoral visits to parishes throughout the year and he will also be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation in a number of parishes. The Station Masses will be replaced by Catechesis and Benediction in the Cathedral on a Sunday in Lent (tbc), similar to the Lenten Catechesis programme in 2015.

We look forward to the roll-out of the **Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Exhibition and Encounter** across the diocese. We are grateful to the St Columba's Cluster who piloted this experience and who gave such positive feedback in terms of how well it engaged both Primary and Secondary pupils as well as those parents and teachers who attended the after-school sessions. We will liaise with schools to agree dates for the Encounter in each Cluster between March and June.

The article on the **Diocesan Consecration to Jesus through Mary** gives advance notice of this year's Consecration which will begin on 28 April. Please use this time to begin to engage staff and the chaplain in deciding how best to implement the Consecration and how to engage families. You may wish to explore some of the hyperlinks to assist your planning.

As well as opportunities to engage children and young people in deepening their spirituality, this edition contains a **Scriptural Reflection on Leadership** which will be continued in subsequent editions. Other articles include features on the **Identity of the Catholic School** with some reflective questions for us as individuals, Senior Leadership Teams, staff collegiate sessions or meetings of the Parent Council. We are also indebted to those teachers who have generously shared their practice in enhancing different aspects of the Catholic life of their schools. We are always grateful to receive **Case Studies** helping us to develop as a Diocesan family of schools.

Last term, we were delighted to meet Head Teachers at Cluster Meetings and to listen to your feedback. We also valued the opportunities to engage with the Parent Forum and chaplains. The Department will now begin to develop the Diocesan Education Strategic Plan for 2023-26. We will aim to be responsive to the views expressed at these meetings in order to support schools, parishes and parents in accompanying children and young people in their formation in faith.

Best wishes,

*Neil Roarty*

Neil Roarty  
Director of Schools



*Our Lady of Paisley;  
pray for us*

**Inside this issue:**

The Call to Leadership	2
The Identity of the Catholic School Congregation for Education	3
Developing in Faith – A Professional Approach to Self-Evaluation of our Catholic Mission	6
Leadership in Catholic Schools - Laudato Si' - St Peter's Primary	8
Leadership in Catholic Schools Course - Mini-Vinnies - St Mary's Primary School	10
St Luke the Evangelist Award	12
The Oscar Romero Award - St Luke's High School	14
School Consecration to Jesus through Mary with Bishop John	18
Lenten Resources for Schools SCIAF	20
Themes for Prayer and Assemblies	21
Prayers for Parent Council Meetings	26
Education and Youth Calendar	27
Diocesan Contacts	28
CLPL (January to April)	28

# The Call to Leadership

*Adapted from 'Leading Life to the Full - Scriptural Reflections on Leadership in Catholic Schools', David Tuohy SJ<sup>1</sup>*

The scriptures tell us of many different leaders in the history of Israel and in the early Church. As individuals or as a staff, it may be helpful to reflect on the call to leadership in the Old and New Testaments and to ask ourselves about our own leadership response to God's call.

## **The Call of Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1: 4-10)**

The opening words of this passage speak of God knowing Jeremiah and guiding him to the point where he becomes a 'prophet to the nations'.

- What are the key events in your life that led you to being a teacher or senior leader?
- How can you cultivate the experience that God is with you to protect you in difficult times?

Jeremiah showed some resistance to the call, saying 'I don't know how to speak. I am a child.'

- In which areas of Christian leadership do you feel confident?
- In which areas do you feel less confident?

The final part of the passage tells us how Jeremiah understood the call or role of prophet.

- In what way can the Head Teacher or senior leader be a prophet to teachers, pupils, parents and the wider community?
- In what way can the teacher be a prophet to colleagues and pupils?

## **The Call of the Disciples (Matthew 4: 18-22)**

When Jesus invited Peter and Andrew, he told them he would make them 'fishers of men'.

- What image do you have for your work as a teacher or leader?
- What does this image reveal about your deepest desires for education?
- What is the common ground between your image and that used by Jesus with the apostles?
- How has God used your talents and interests to inspire you in your work?
- The apostles responded to Jesus' invitation 'at once'. How readily do you respond to His call for you to be a Catholic teacher or leader?

## **The Call of Mary (Luke 1: 26-38)**

On receiving the call, Mary was afraid and wondered how this would come about.

- In what sense does a similar fear or uncertainty attach to teaching or leading a school?
- How can God reassure us in our call to be a teacher or leader?
- In school, what are the events in which people find it easy to think of God being present?
- What is it that prevents some people from seeing the presence of God in their lives?

---

<sup>1</sup>Veritas Publications, Dublin, 2005. ISBN 1-85390-872-X

# The Identity of the Catholic School Congregation for Education

## ***The Actors Responsible for Promoting and Verifying Catholic Identity.***

*On 29 March 2022, the Congregation for Education published an Instruction on “The Identity of the Catholic school for a culture of dialogue.” In this edition, we examine the roles of all members of the school community in achieving its Catholic Mission.*

37. “The educational mission is carried out in a spirit of cooperation between various parties – students, parents, teachers, non-teaching personnel and the school management – who form the educational community.” (*Consecrated Persons and their Mission in Schools*, 41)

### **Members of the school community**

69. The Catholicity of the school cannot be limited to the function of the school chaplain, religion teachers or the headteacher. [Second Vatican Council, Declaration on Christian Education ,1965]

38. The whole school community is responsible for implementing the school’s Catholic educational mission as an expression of its being a part of the community of the Church. [*The Catholic School*, 34]

39. Everyone has the obligation to recognise, respect and bear witness to the Catholic identity of the school. This applies to the teaching staff, the non-teaching personnel and the pupils and their families. At the time of enrolment, both parents and students must be made aware of the Catholic school’s mission. [*ibid*, 59-60]

40. The educating community is responsible for ensuring respect for the life, dignity and freedom of pupils and other members of the school, putting in place all necessary procedures to promote and protect minors and the most vulnerable. [Pope Francis, *Motu Proprio, Vos estis lux*, 2019]]

### **Pupils**

41. Pupils are active participants in the educational process. As they grow older, they increasingly become the protagonists of their own education.... In fact, every Catholic school helps “pupils to achieve an integration of faith and culture” [*The Catholic School*, 38].

### **Parents**

42. The first persons responsible for education are the parents... Catholic parents are also bound by the obligation to provide for the Catholic education of their children.

43. In this regard, schools are of primary help to parents in fulfilling their educational function.

44. It is necessary for parents to co-operate closely with teachers, getting involved in decision-making processes concerning the school community and their children, and participating in school meetings or associations. [Canon Law]

## The Identity of the Catholic School

*(Continued from page 3)*

### **Teachers and administrative personnel**

45. Among all the members of the school community, teachers stand out as having a special responsibility for education. Through their teaching skills, as well as by bearing witness through their lives, they allow the Catholic school to realize its formative project. In a Catholic school, in fact, the service of the teacher is an ecclesiastical duty and office. [Canon Law]

46. It is therefore necessary for the school itself to establish the necessary criteria for the recruitment of teachers. *(In Scotland, Church Approval is a legal requirement for **all** teaching posts.)*

47. In the formation of younger generations, teachers must be outstanding in correct doctrine and integrity of life. [Canon Law] Teachers and administrative personnel who belong to other Churches have the obligation to recognise and respect the Catholic character of the school from the moment of their employment.

### **School leaders**

48. “School leaders are more than just managers of an organization. They are true educational leaders when they are the first to take on this responsibility [of invoking the school’s reference values and guiding the school in this direction].” [\*\[Educating to Intercultural Dialogue on Catholic Schools. Living in Harmony for a Civilisation of Love, 85\].\*](#)

49. It is the responsibility of the school leadership to collaborate with the entire school community and in close dialogue with the pastors of the Church. [Every] official act of the school must be in accordance with its Catholic identity, while fully respecting the freedom of each person’s conscience [John Paul II, *Veritatis Splendor*, 1993]. This also applies to the school’s curriculum, which “is how the school community makes explicit its goals and objectives, the content of its teaching and the means for communicating it effectively....”. *[Educating to Intercultural Dialogue on Catholic Schools. Living in Harmony for a Civilisation of Love]*

50. A further responsibility of the school leadership is the promotion and protection of its ties with the Catholic community, which is realised through communion with the Church hierarchy. [Canon Law]

## The Identity of the Catholic School

(Continued from page 4)

### **Points for Consideration**

#### **Members of the School Community**

- How effectively do we share the Catholic mission of the school as part of our staff recruitment and induction processes?
- How well do we share the school's Catholic mission with parents and pupils, not only at enrolment but throughout their membership of the community?
- How effectively do we ensure the dignity of children and young people? How robust are our systems for the protection of pupils?

#### **Pupils and Parents**

- How far do we enable children and young people to take responsibility for their learning? How well do we listen to and respond to their views?
- How far do we enable children and young people to achieve an integration of faith and culture?
- How effective are we at engaging parents in the education of their children and in the life of the school? How far are parents involved in decision-making processes? How effective are we at listening to and responding to the views of parents?

#### **Teachers and administrative personnel**

- As part of our recruitment processes, do we efficiently carry out Church Approval procedures and share them timeously with applicants?
- How far do we create time and opportunities for staff to be involved in the Catholic mission of the school?
- How far do we create opportunities for the spiritual growth of teachers and other staff?

#### **School leaders**

- As leaders, how effective are we in guiding the school community in relation to the values of the Gospel? How well do we give direction to developing the Catholic mission of the school?
- How well do we pro-actively engage all members of the school community?
- How far are our policies, procedures and curriculum in keeping with the Catholic identity of the school?
- How effective are our links with the parish, church agencies and the Diocese?

# Developing in Faith –

## A Professional Approach to Self-Evaluation of our Catholic Mission



CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
EVALUATION and PLANNING



In 2016, a SCES Working Group consisting of CHAS and CHAPs representatives and other professionals produced *Developing in Faith*. It replaced *Shining the Light* (SCES, 2009) as the approach recommended by the Bishops of Scotland to self-evaluation in Catholic Schools.


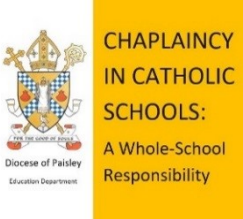

*“...encourage and assist staff together with parents to engage in reflection, discussion and action which will help their schools to develop as communities of faith and learning.”*


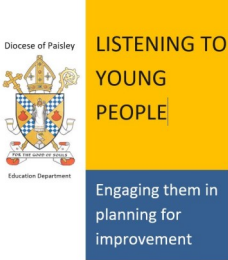
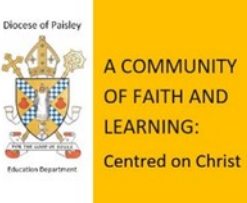
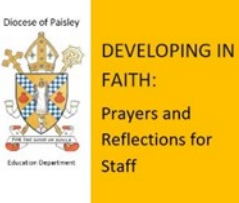
*Developing in Faith, SCES*

*“Schools will be asked to report on the outcomes of their reflection on their faith mission by providing a short report, which emerges directly from their annual Standards & Quality report and School Improvement Plan, to the local Diocese and to SCES each year.”*

*Developing in Faith, SCES*

The Diocese has developed several tools to assist schools in evaluating the effectiveness of their Catholic Mission. They can be found in various channels and folders within Education Resources for Schools (TEAMS). Schools should feel free to adapt these tools in light of their own circumstances.

Theme	File	Channel
<b>Caring for Creation: evaluating our approaches</b>	<i>Centred on Christ</i> (August 2020, p6) 	Centred on Christ
<b>Chaplaincy</b>	<i>Chaplaincy in Catholic Schools: A School-Parish Partnership': Chapter 4 – chaplaincy links to Developing in Faith</i> 	Chaplaincy
<b>Jesus: the Way, the Truth and the Life – Self-Evaluation</b>	<i>Centred on Christ</i> (October 2020, p6) 	Centred on Christ

Theme	File	Channel
<b>Parental Engagement</b>	<p><i>'Partnership with Parents: From ideal to Action'</i> - contains a series of evaluative questions (pp 5-7), Features of Effective Practice and Challenge Questions linked to HGIOS Q.Is and a parental survey.</p> 	Parents
<b>Pupil Voice - Listening to Young People: engaging them in planning for improvement'</b>	<p>Contains questionnaires and Focus Group prompts and questions on Celebrating and Worshipping, Serving the Common Good, Promoting Gospel Values and Community of Faith.</p> 	Pupil Voice
<b>A Community of Faith and Learning: Centred on Christ</b>	<p>Considers characteristics of our Catholic schools as Communities of Faith and Learning. Each section has reflective questions which can be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for personal reflection</li> <li>• a focus for discussion by the Senior Leadership Team or a working group</li> <li>• or in stimulating dialogue involving all staff.</li> </ul> 	A Community of Faith and Learning
<b>Developing in Faith: Prayers and Reflections for Staff</b>	<p>These Prayer and Reflection Services for staff are offered as brief introductions to collegiate discussion on the five DiF themes. They engage staff in reflecting upon the Scriptures and praying together. In this way, the subsequent professional dialogue will be enhanced and lead to fruitful exploration of the school's strengths and areas for improvement.</p> 	Prayers and Reflections for Staff
<b>Features of Effective Practice and Challenge Questions (SCES)</b>	<p>Provides two approaches to using DiF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• by Quality Indicator</li> <li>• By DiF Theme.</li> </ul>	Self-Evaluation
<b>Developing in Faith – Annual Audit</b>	Diocesan pro forma for the annual DiF return	Self-Evaluation

We appreciate the many pressures which schools faced during the pandemic and that they will have been unable to become familiar with these documents. As things begin to return to normal, we would encourage schools to begin to use them as part of the evidence-gathering process on which to base their annual *Developing in Faith* returns. **We would be grateful if schools would send their returns to the Diocese by late May 2023.** This will enable us to share good practice across the Diocese and target support for schools based upon their Improvement Plan targets.

# Leadership in Catholic Schools – Laudato Si’

## Catherine McLean, St Peter’s Primary

The aim of my project was to launch *Laudato Si’* Schools to staff, pupils and families within my school community, raising awareness of Pope Francis’ encyclical and embarking on a journey of ‘change for good’. Through the launch of *Laudato Si’*, I aimed to ensure that there would be a greater focus on R.E. when teaching other curricular areas.

### Brief Outline of the Project

#### Planning

I began by registering my school with *Laudato Si’* Schools and meeting with my Head Teacher to discuss my ideas. As my Depute Head Teacher was the R.E. Co-ordinator, I met with her regularly to discuss my plans, progress and to tie in with R.E. programmes across the school and cluster.

#### Engaging Staff

I ran a CLPL session for teaching staff, created handouts with relevant information and joined cluster meetings to discuss a shared plan for *Laudato Si’* across all schools. I shared my presentation notes with schools in the cluster along with a prayer bookmark which I had created for all staff and pupils, to be presented during the commitment service.

I was aware that staff were feeling concerned about extra workload, and so I encouraged them to see it as a change to the way we teach some aspects of Science/Environmental Education to focus on the importance of God’s Creation, rather than adding something new. I also ensured that I only shared small amounts of relevant information, to keep it manageable for staff.

#### Engaging Pupils

Class teachers were asked to introduce *Laudato Si’* to their classes using the resources provided and to begin to create a wall display, that would be added to throughout the year.

I asked P4-7 classes to nominate a pupil representative and I met with them regularly, allowing them to share what they have been doing in their own classes and discuss ways of engaging our whole school and parish community in this project.



#### Engaging Parents and the Parish

I planned to have the Commitment service in St Peter’s Church to allow families and parishioners to attend. Sadly, due to our Parish Priest being seriously ill, our plans had to change and services happened in classes.





## Leadership in Catholic Schools Course – Mini-Vinnies

### St Mary's Primary School – Malcolm Reynolds and Jenna Boyd

#### Project Aims

As part of the Catholic Leadership Course, we decided to lead our school in a mission to rebuild the strong links between our school, our church and our local community. Covid-19 had a detrimental impact on our ability to interact and engage with the community due to school closures, church closures and the various other restrictions that were put in place.

We felt it was vitally important to restore the affected relationships as quickly as possible and as a Catholic Primary School, we saw our Christmas Parcel Project as a fantastic opportunity to enhance and develop our Christian faith by helping others. The project was planned and performed very much under the umbrella of our own school values of Respect and Honesty. We fundamentally believed that by following the 'see, think, do' formula that we would, (in one of our P3 pupil's words) "Make everyone's Christmas a little bit better". This was the beginning of our project to create individual care packages for members of our local community.



#### Process

Initially, we presented our ideas of how to develop links within our local community at a staff meeting, sharing our vision and aims that we believed would have the biggest impact.

Our first idea was to create a Mini Vinnie group, formed by one upper primary class and one lower primary class. The two classes would be required to regularly collaborate and coordinate our fundraising venture, which they did with pleasure! After our initial discussions it was decided that our initial enterprise would be to create care packages for the residents of our local care home, the Little Sisters of the Poor. In addition, whilst delivering our parcels, we chose to sing some Christmas Carols to the residents and staff to spread some much-needed festive cheer. We liaised with the staff of Little Sisters of the Poor, who were delighted and incredibly supportive, so we began our task!

The children were incredibly determined that as a school, we would be able to bring in enough donations.

## Leadership in Catholic Schools Course – Mini-Vinnies

*(Continued from page 10)*

Thankfully, their optimism and ambition were fruitful and not only did we fulfil demand to provide for one care home, but in fact we were able to take our project even further!

Firstly, one of our P6 children hand wrote a collaboratively created persuasive letter, which listed the items we hoped would be donated by our school community. This letter was sent out to all families. Simultaneously, the pupils created PowerPoint presentations which were presented to the rest of the school, so to allow us to maximise engagement with each class and all members of staff. We were meticulous in setting clear timelines in order to enable us to achieve our target of delivering the project before our Christmas holidays began.

The children (and staff) were taken aback by the kindness and generosity of our parents and grandparents. Each day during our two-week collection period, we received bag loads of donations and we had to resort to using almost every cupboard in the school as our extended store room!

### Impact

Shortly after our closing date, we set about planning, organising and creating each individual care package made up of various items from a 'Suggested Gift List'. As the children predicted, it quickly became apparent that we could not only donate care packages to every one of the 40 residents of The Little Sisters of the Poor, but we were also able to donate 30 parcels to Bagatelle Care Home and 50 care parcels to the Inverclyde Homeless Forum based in our parish church hall.

As a teacher, the most fulfilling aspect of our project was listening to the children of P6 and P3 reflecting on their feelings about how wonderful they felt, making other people's Christmases better. It was also a very emotional experience for us all, especially when we witnessed the heart-warming and grateful reactions of the elderly residents, watching and listening intently to the children singing carols.

### What's next?

This year we have continued to foster and develop relationships in our local community. We have arranged regular visits to the Little Sisters of the Poor where we have taken part in intergenerational activities such as dominoes, board games and reading and we are currently helping the residents with their carol singing.

We have just sent out our letter for this year's Christmas Parcel Appeal and are extremely confident that this will now become an annual event. We hope to exceed last year's donations and are enthusiastic about being able to help even more people within our community.

The staff, pupils and parents of St Mary's Primary School have been exceptional in supporting our appeal and there is a tremendous sense of pride in the difference that we have made and continue to make. More importantly, the children have thoroughly embraced their message of kindness and respect as well as gaining an incredible understanding of how powerful they can be when working together as a team. The project has also allowed the children to witness the strong links between our own school values and their own personal Faith Journey. With the support of our generous parents, grandparents and friends our appeal was a tremendous success.



# St Luke the Evangelist Award

## St Luke's High School, Barrhead : Karen Hunter, Depute Head Teacher

We have always been proud of the achievements of our young people, right from when they join us in First Year until they leave us in Sixth Year. A large number of them will have achieved their Pope Francis Award in Primary Seven in which they were able to present evidence to show that they used the gifts of the Holy Spirit when showing love of God and others and they had reflected on how their actions have made an impact on their journey of faith. Our Parent Council helped shape the St Luke the Evangelist Award which provides opportunities for Third Year pupils to undertake a variety of volunteering and community activities both in and out of school to bear witness to their faith in a number of ways. We felt that this would bridge the gap between pupils achieving their Pope Francis Award in Primary Seven and their Caritas Award in Sixth Year.



Our values of Love, Faith and Understanding underpin everything we do in our school and community.

We introduced badges for the BGE and during each academic session our young people work towards gaining the following:

- S1 – Love badge
- S2 – Understanding badge
- S3 – Faith badge & their St Luke the Evangelist Award

The young people must be able to show, during First Year, the different ways in which they have shown Love throughout the year. Pupils are then presented with their Love badge and certificate giving examples of how they have shown our school value of Love:

- Showing kindness to my friends
- Listening to my friends when they are sad
- Welcoming people into our friendship group



During Second Year, the young people must be able to demonstrate how they have shown our school value of understanding, again being presented with their Understanding badge and certificate:

- Understanding my friend's perspective of a situation
- Being patient with someone who is needing my help
- Working to calm one of my friends who was finding the noise in music over-whelming



## St Luke the Evangelist Award

(Continued from page 12)

In Third Year, we focus on our value of Faith. Our Third Year pupils are commissioned alongside our Caritas pupils at the Mass of St Luke by Bishop John. We look for opportunities throughout the year for our pupils to work with our school chaplain, attend Mass, retreats and participate in the charity life of the school. The full year group participate in the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI), designed to empower young people to make a difference in their communities while developing a number of skills.

At the end of Third Year our young people are presented with their Faith badge and a certificate showing the different ways in which they have demonstrated our school value of faith throughout the year:

- Participating in the YPI project
- Attended the Mass of St Luke and the Catholic Education Week Mass
- Attending Mass with my family
- Attending the retreat which reminded me of why my faith is an important part of my life.
- Educating others in my class about Islam



They are also presented with their St Luke the Evangelist Award badge which they can proudly wear on their blazers alongside their Love, Understanding and Faith badges.



We are incredibly proud of the St Luke the Evangelist Award and the impact that it is having on the lives of our young people in Third Year. They enjoy the opportunities available for them to recognise and live their faith in a Catholic school.

# The Oscar Romero Award

## St Luke's High School, Barrhead

We first heard about the Oscar Romero Award from St Andrew's High School, Carntyne. They were the first school on Scotland to receive the award and it seemed like something that we could also achieve for our school in Paisley Diocese.



### The Oscar Romero Award – their work

The Oscar Romero Award supports schools to embed the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching in their ethos and culture, so that all

within the school can experience life to the full. It will also support schools find ways of being 'good news' to the local, national and global community in their own unique way.



**The Oscar Romero Award**  
Aspire to be more

### Who can participate?

All Catholic schools - Primary, Secondary and Sixth Form Colleges - in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and The Republic of Ireland can take part.

### Structure of the Award

The award is available at three levels:

- **Participator Level** – the school promotes social justice through charitable work or support of charities as well as having regard for human dignity and justice in its policies and practices.
- **Developer Level** – the school develops resources and starts embedding Catholic Social Teaching principles in its every-day life.
- **Innovator Level** – the school works with others schools to promote Catholic Social Teaching and social justice is embedded in every aspect of the school's life.

This is a process, a journey that a school community embarks on. It is not an event or a tick box exercise. It is a way of the school examining its culture and ethos and seeing how they can align it more closely to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. We expect that schools will take some time to move from one level to the next as they build these principles in their school life.

We decided to make an application for the Participator Level which involved the school self-assessing what we already do – how are we living our mission as a Catholic community? The Participator Level had three areas that we had to submit evidence for:

- Strategic
- Curriculum
- Practical

We submitted a great deal of evidence for each strand: policy documents, letters home to parents, lesson plans and structures, photographs from Twitter as well as a summary statements for each of the three areas that make up the award. The summary statements reflect all the evidence that is submitted for the award.

## The Oscar Romero Award : St Luke's High School, Barrhead

*(Continued from page 14)*

### Strategic

In St Luke's High School we inspire the moral purpose of Learning and Teaching, to unleash potential, to raise attainment, promote equity and transform the life chances of each and every learner especially those in need of support. Our values of Love, Faith and Understanding underpin everything we do as a school community. Our promoting positive Relationships policy is underpinned by love and nurture, treating everyone with respect, regardless of their circumstances. As a school community we have strong links with our local community and charity is extremely important to us. It helps to promote justice and fairness amongst our young people and again, our values of Love, Faith and Understanding at the heart of everything we do as a Catholic School. Our St Martin de Porres group are fundamental in the inclusion of all young people and staff in our school. The group has members from all year groups and also has staff members who assist with ideas and putting them into action.



### Curriculum

The young people of St Luke's High School learn about social justice, poverty and sustainability in a number of ways across the curriculum. Catholic Social Teaching is taught in our Religious Education classes from S1 through to S6 and is included in many different topics. Our young people are able to reflect on examples and they are provided with many opportunities to live by these examples. Across other curricular areas our young people experience Learning for Sustainability and are given opportunities to give practical activities designed to reflect their role in looking after the world we live in. We work with a number of charities and organisations who assist with informing our young people and providing opportunities to help others in need – including those in our own school community.

### Practical

Pupil Leadership is a very important part of the life of St Luke's. There are numerous opportunities for all of our young people to experience a leadership role including the Caritas Award and our in-house St Luke the Evangelist Award. As a school we are fully aware of the needs of our community and provide many creative and innovative ways of supporting those who need it most.



The Oscar Romero Award : St Luke’s High School, Barrhead

(Continued from page 15)

During the pandemic we pulled together as a school community to provide support to all our young people and their families providing food, chrome books, access to wi-fi, school equipment and sports equipment. We also helped the wider community by making and distributing visors and face masks to key workers. Charity is a very important aspect of our school life and is not just focussed on raising money, young people and staff give freely of their time to help, volunteer and raise awareness of many different projects that are important to us as a school – especially during Advent and Lent.

Design & Technology · 09/04/2020  
This is great to see! We are so happy we can support our #NHSheroes

Nikki Harvey Wi... · 09/04/2020  
@StLukesHigh @dandtstlukes @mearnshigh @BarrheadHighSch @EastRenCouncil thanks to all of the schools for working hard to keep frontline workers safe! Especially to St Lukes who donated to RAH Ward 32. @pollyturner77

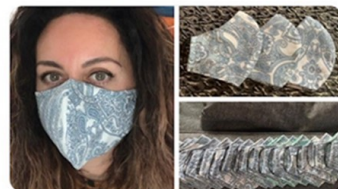


Design & Technology · 09/04/2020  
Supporting front line staff has been the most important part of this process. It has also been a valuable learning process for D&T teachers @StLukesHigh and @mearnshigh with the refinement of the original design to minimise material waste allowing for faster manufacture. #Covid



1 6 31

Mrs H @St Luke's @D... · 01/05/2020  
A huge well done to Ms Patterson of @StLukesHigh who has been busy making washable masks for front line key workers! She has made 26 since yesterday! Amazing - and she was more than happy to model one for twitter! #proudDHT @StLukesHFTT #AllInThisTogether #volunteering



2 44

Mrs H @St Luke's @D... · 16/09/2021  
Congratulations to Sam & Lucy who are our House Captains for Columba House @StLukesHigh @SLHS\_PS #proudDHT



2 26

St Luke's High School Retweeted

Mrs H @St Luke's @D... · 31/03/2022  
Well done to our @StLukesHigh S6 students who took part in our Lenten Fundraiser "Rich Man Poor Man meal" - some extra money was raised when they donated money for butter or jam for their bread! The rich table enjoyed their feast and the waiter service from Mr Chalmers



Mrs H @St Luke's @D... · 01/09/2021  
Congratulations to these newly elected Pupil Leadership Team @StLukesHigh Lee & Alliyah are our new Head Boy & Head Girl and they are joined by deputies Arran, Elise & Keira! #pupilvoice #faithloveunderstanding #proudDHT



1 3 37

Submission of Evidence

The evidence that is collected is submitted online and is very easy to use. We converted all our documents to pdfs and then uploaded them. Within the pdf documents we were able to put links to short videos, that we already had for some of our evidence, to a shared Google drive – this helped a lot!



## The Oscar Romero Award : St Luke's High School, Barrhead

*(Continued from page 16)*

### Recognition

Within two/three weeks of submitting our application we received the news that we had been awarded the Participator Award – the first school in the Paisley Diocese to do so. We were delighted that Bishop John was able to present the award to the school at our recent Senior School Award Ceremony. Our St Martin de Porres Group were given a special mention in the return we received from the Oscar Romero Award and they will be taking a lead role in our application for the Developer Award. In 2021 we established our St Martin de Porres Group: Equality United. This is a group led by pupils and guided by staff. Two Sixth Year pupils came to the Senior Leadership Team in 2021 as they were about to leave school asking if they could create something to bring all of our young people together regardless of faith, colour, gender, disability and all other protected characteristics. They held their first meeting inviting staff and pupils along to hear about their idea – the library was full! This saw the start of Equality United. At the start of the new school session the Principal Teacher of Religious Education was asked to lead and assist the group. After some research we decided to name the group The St Martin de Porres Group: Equality United. St Martin de Porres is the patron saint of social justice, racial harmony and mixed-race people – a genuine patron for our school group!



In St Luke's all staff and pupils flourish in an environment of unconditional love and support. Our school values of Love, Faith and Understanding underpin everything we do as a school community. The Oscar Romero Award has allowed us to collate all that we do and have done over the past two years and show, that through many different ways, the impact of Catholic Social Teaching and how it inspires the moral purpose of Learning and Teaching, it unleashes potential, promotes equity and transforms the life chances of each and every pupil, especially those most in need of our support.

We are now working towards the Developer Level Award and look forward to the year ahead. If you would like more information on the Oscar Romero Award it can be found on their website: <https://www.romeroaward.co.uk/>

Please do not hesitate to contact me at St Luke's if you would like to hear more detailed information about our submission earlier this year.

**Karen Hunter, Depute Head Teacher, St Luke's High School**

# School Consecration to Jesus through Mary with Bishop John



## What is the Consecration?

Bishop John invites each school to join him in his Consecration to Jesus through Mary in 2023 by consecrating your school with him.

Consecration to Jesus through Mary is one of the loveliest traditions of our Church, in our own times spread by Pope Saint John Paul II who advocated this path as a way to deepening our faith.

Through consecration we are able to entrust ourselves and our lives to Jesus through His Mother Mary, and Our Mother, and this entrustment gives us great protection throughout our lives. We make the consecration through Our Blessed Mother because She takes special care of Her children, both young and old, and always guides us surely to Her Son.

## When is the Consecration?

The Consecration lasts 33 days of preparation, beginning on 28 April and finishing on 31 May, largely coinciding with the practice in our schools of praying a Decade of the Rosary each day during the month of May. On 31 May, we make our Consecration to Jesus through Mary. This day is the Feast of the Visitation, when Our Lady visited her cousin Elizabeth – a feast day we remember whenever we pray the *Hail Mary* and *The Magnificat*. The Visitation highlights Our Lady's generosity and humility.

## Why 33 Days?

It is inspired by the St. Louis de Montfort 33 day Consecration of *True Devotion to Mary*.

## Who is involved?

Bishop John invites all P7 pupils in the Diocese to take part in the Consecration. **Schools may also wish to offer this experience to P6 pupils who then may be able to lead the Rosary when they progress to P7.** (Additional books are available from the Diocese.)

## What is involved?

The Consecration Journey begins with a central story read on Day One. Each school session then begins with a prayer to the Holy Spirit, followed by a reading and some additional prayers from the book *Child Consecration: To Jesus through Mary—Following in the Spirit of St. Thérèse, the Little Flower*. The book takes up the *little way* of St. Therese so that it is simple enough to allow children to follow according to their age and experience.

## School Consecration to Jesus through Mary with Bishop John

*(Continued from page 18)*

Teachers are also asked to lead the class in a recitation of a Decade of the Rosary each day.

At weekends, families are encouraged to join the children in reciting a Decade of the Rosary, but where this is not possible, children are asked to say one *Hail Mary* each non-school day. The prayers and readings are available online at [childconsecration.com](http://childconsecration.com).

### **What about the rest of the Diocese?**

This year, our Consecration to Jesus through Mary will be a whole diocesan event and while our schools are making their consecration during the school day, Bishop John will be leading our diocese each evening online at 9.00pm in consecration.

### **Where can I get the book?**

Copies of the book by Blythe M Kaufman are available from the Diocesan Offices (£8.95 but free to schools):  
curia@rcdop.org.uk

### **Are there other resources available?**

Resources are available on the website [childconsecration.com](http://childconsecration.com).

There is a video for teachers explaining the Consecration. [Video for Educators on How to Implement a 33 Day Consecration Journey - YouTube](#)

Bishop John shares his experience of the Consecration in a short video. [Bishop Keenan: 33 Day Consecration to Jesus through Mary - YouTube](#)

All of the days of the Consecration led by Bishop Keenan in 2021 were recorded. Click on the online Consecration link to see each day of the Consecration. A link to Bishop John's recordings can be found at the end of each day of the Consecration. [Consecration To Jesus Through Mary | Bishop Keenan - YouTube](#)

There are discussion questions for different age groups prepared by a teacher in Connecticut. As always, teachers will wish to adapt them to meet the needs of their pupils. [Discussion Questions - Child Consecration](#)

A checklist is also available - [Consecration To Jesus through Mary Checklist - Child Consecration](#)

### **What can be the legacy of the Consecration?**

In addition to the spiritual benefits of the Consecration for children, families and the school, one concrete way of ensuring its legacy would be to set up a **Children's Rosary Group**. Angela Cassidy shared her experience of setting up a Rosary Group in All Saints Primary in the August 2022 edition of *Centred on Christ* (available on TEAMS/Education Resources for Schools/Centred on Christ). Information can be found at [www.childrensrosary.org](http://www.childrensrosary.org)

# Lenten Resources for Schools – SCIAF

Mark Booker, Senior Development Education Officer - [mbooker@sciaf.org.uk](mailto:mbooker@sciaf.org.uk)



## Welcome to the WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE Lenten Resource

**In Zambia, hunger is killing all hope.** Every day families wake up hungry, not knowing what they will be forced to do to survive, or how long their children will live. When families can't grow enough food to eat, they're too tired to work in the fields. They have nothing to eat, nothing to sell at market and no income.

Prayer is so important and at the core of our worship. You will find lots of opportunities to include prayer this Lent, including Stations of the Cross, prayers from our partners in Zambia, and video reflections. Plus, several other resources that you can use to create a prayer service for the **WEE BOX Day of Prayer on 17<sup>th</sup> March**.

Learn about how SCIAF are empowering families and helping people to grow their own food, start small businesses and earn money. Find classroom activities connected to TIOF, links to Kahoot quizzes and lots of further information.

Find all our Lenten WEE BOX resources at [www.sciaf.org.uk/resources](http://www.sciaf.org.uk/resources)

### WEE BOX Digital Assembly

Join us online on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February** as we stream our national **WEE BOX Assembly**. Hosted by and including pupils from around Scotland, we will learn and pray together in solidarity.

**9:30am start for Primary**

**10:00am start for Secondary**

[SCIAF - YouTube](#)

### Would you like a SCIAF speaker?

You have all the resources you need to provide quizzes, classroom activities, assemblies and prayer but we recognise the importance of a SCIAF speaker, so please get in touch to book an assembly input, 'Day in the Life' class workshop or a 'Thank You' cheque presentation. We'd love to come and visit you! [Getinvolved@sciaf.org.uk](mailto:Getinvolved@sciaf.org.uk)

### WEE BOX resources for Parishes

Don't forget that you can find lots of resources connected to the WEE BOX appeal for parishes. Bidding prayers, bulletin entries, Stations of the Cross and a Children's Liturgy for each week in Lent among other things can be found here [www.sciaf.org.uk/resources](http://www.sciaf.org.uk/resources)

[Promoting Integral Human Development in the light of the Gospel \(sciaf.org.uk\)](http://www.sciaf.org.uk/resources) - Workshops for Parishes

### Home-School-Parish Link

Given that SCIAF has produced resources for both schools and parishes, might this be an opportunity to bring them together as a home-school-parish project? Perhaps chaplains, Head Teachers, R.E. Departments and R.E. Coordinators could explore this possibility?

# Themes for Prayer and Assemblies



Diocese of Paisley  
Education Department

## January

### The Childhood of Jesus

While Christmas trees and decorations have all been packed away, the Church continues to celebrate the Christmas Season after the start of the new term.

The tradition of keeping the **Christmas nativity scene** until the Feast of the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple on 2 February has been revived in recent years. Perhaps within the school or classrooms, teachers could continue to display the Crib until this date.

On Sunday 2 January, the Church celebrates **the Feast of the Epiphany**. The Magi brought gifts that revealed Jesus identity and mission: frankincense for God, Gold for a King and Myrrh for His humanity and death. Perhaps we could discuss with the children and young people what gifts **we** would give Him. How could we use our God-given talents to serve Him and our neighbours?

- Spending some more time in prayer and going to Mass.
- Giving time to someone who is lonely.
- Using our talents to the best of our ability.

The season of giving doesn't have to end at Christmas!

During the start of our new term, we could focus on **the Childhood of Jesus**: His life was ordinary, built around home and family, village and friends. He had to learn to live kindly in family life, accommodating His needs to the rest of the house. He took faith and the big questions of life seriously, going to the synagogue every week. We know He could read as He read the scroll of Isaiah, so He went to school. We do not know for definite if He could write. He had to negotiate growing up and so He got lost in the Temple being preoccupied with His life and vocation. This caused tension with His parents who still had care of Him. In the end it was resolved in mutual respect and giving each other space. He had to experience death in the family with the passing of St. Joseph and how to take on work as a carpenter and family responsibilities.

How does this relate to the lives of our pupils – their relationships with family and friends, their spiritual growth, their education, their sorrows and losses, and their vocation in life? What is God calling them to do? A reflection and prayer service on the Childhood of Jesus has been prepared by Sister Maria McGuire of the Daughters of Wisdom. It can be found on TEAMS/Education Resources for Schools/Prayers and Assemblies/Themes January to March.

(Continued from page 21)

## February-March

### Lent

The Season of Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday** on 22 February and brings to our attention the three main pillars of Christian spirituality: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

#### Prayer

We know that during Lent schools and chaplains make a special effort to enable young people to draw closer to God in preparation for Easter. In addition to Mass and other liturgies, schools may wish to consider a focus on The Sign of the Cross, the Stations of the Cross or the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary.

#### The Sign of the Cross

First-century Christians began making the Sign of the Cross as a reminder and renewal of what happened to them when they were baptised "*In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*". Many footballers and athletes make the Sign of the Cross before an event or after scoring a goal. Why? The Sign of the Cross is a prayer in its own right, not just a sketchy introduction or a casual end to prayer. This prayer starts out, "*...in the name...*" What does this mean? The answer is everything we do, our entire life, is of concern to God; everything we do should be in His name. In making the Sign of the Cross, footballers and athletes place their trust in God and thank Him for the blessings He has given them; and that is true for us too.

Perhaps during Lent, especially on Fridays when we recall Our Lord's suffering and death on the Cross, we could focus on the Sign of the Cross in our classroom prayers. We should encourage the children and young people – and ourselves – to always make it with reverence and devotion – and not merely a habit carried out without thinking about it.

Father De Ravignan, a 19<sup>th</sup> century French priest, always made the Sign of the Cross with reverence and devotion. A Protestant clergyman had gone to hear him preach. When he saw how reverently and thoughtfully Father de Ravignan had made the Sign of the Cross, he said, "He has preached already; the sermon is finished and we might go."

What might that 'sermon' have been that the clergyman 'heard' by observing the priest?

The Sign of the Cross is **a sign of love**. It reminds us that God has loved us so much that He gave Himself up for our sakes to suffer on the Cross, and that we must love Him with our whole hearts.

The Sign of the Cross is **a sign of hope**. By making this Sign we express our hope that through the Cross that God will redeem us and continue to bless us.

The Sign of the Cross is **a sign of faith** in God. It is like a short form of the Apostles' Creed. We state our belief in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We proclaim our faith in what God has done - the creation of all things, the redemption of humanity from sin and death, and the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church and of the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit in our own lives. When we bless ourselves we are reminding ourselves of God's presence and opening ourselves to his action in our lives.

*(Continued from page 22)*

## **Stations of the Cross**

The Stations of the Cross, which follow the path of Christ on Good Friday from His meeting with Pontius Pilate to being laid in the tomb, are a popular devotion in parishes during Lent, particularly on Fridays.

A meditation on the Stations of the Cross for upper primary and lower secondary pupils has been prepared by Fr John Morrison, Vicar Episcopal for Youth and Vocations and can be found in TEAMS/Education Resources for Schools/Themes January to March. It focuses on three main characters: Pontius Pilate, Simon of Cyrene and Veronica. It can be delivered as part of an assembly or within the classroom. If the latter, the presentation contains activities as well as reflections and prayers.

Other forms of the Stations can be found on various websites:

<https://thekidsbulletin.com/stations-of-the-cross/>

[https://wau.org/resources/article/re\\_stations\\_cross\\_kids/](https://wau.org/resources/article/re_stations_cross_kids/)

<https://cathfamily.org/childrens-station-of-the-cross/>

<https://acnuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Primary-school-stations.pdf>

<https://cafod.org.uk/News/UK-news/Stations-of-the-Cross>

[https://www.archwinnipeg.ca/media/youth/docs/youth\\_resource-1238107982.pdf](https://www.archwinnipeg.ca/media/youth/docs/youth_resource-1238107982.pdf)

[https://www.thinkingfaith.org/articles/20130325\\_1.htm](https://www.thinkingfaith.org/articles/20130325_1.htm)

## **Fasting**

Why do we 'fast' during Lent? The forty days of Lent is modelled on the forty days Christ spent fasting in the desert before embarking on his public ministry (Mt 4:1-11). We are asked by the Church to imitate Christ by using Lent as a time of spiritual discipline before the Easter celebration of Christ's triumph over sin and death.

St Augustine said our prayer is like a bird wanting to fly to God. To do so, it needs the two wings of fasting and almsgiving, signs of humility and charity.

You may wish to discuss with classes ideas for fasting during Lent. Some suggestions for fasting for children and young people can be found at: <http://www.nicksenger.com/csc/101-practical-fasting-ideas-for-lent>.

## **Almsgiving**

In the Old Testament, Tobias stated: "Prayer and fasting are good, but better than either is almsgiving accompanied by righteousness ... It is better to give alms than to store up gold; for almsgiving saves one from death and expiates every sin. Those who regularly give alms shall enjoy a full life" (Tob 12:8-9).

Almsgiving is a form of prayer because it is "giving to God" — and not mere philanthropy. It is a form of fasting because it demands sacrificial giving — not just giving something, but giving up something, giving till it hurts: <https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/religion-and-philosophy/spiritual-life/introduction-to-lent-almsgiving.html>

Jesus presented almsgiving as a necessary part of Christian life: "when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing" (Mt 6:2-3).

It is important that Catholic schools place their charity work within the context of 'Faith into Action'. Charities such as SCIAF and Missio were badly hit by Covid lockdowns and other restrictions in 2020 and 2021, and we would ask schools to make a special effort to support them this year.

(Continued from page 23)

## Diocesan Youth Events

Please share details of Youth Events with pupils and parents.

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

## Classroom Resources

### ACN Scotland

ACN has produced Stations of the Cross for Primary pupils in PDF, PowerPoint and YouTube video. Similarly, for Secondary, Stations of the Cross resources comprise a PDF commentary, PowerPoint slides and a narrated YouTube video. We encourage you to remember suffering Christians around the world and keep them in your prayers during this time. ACN will add to its Lent Resources: [Aid to the Church in Need | Resources \(acnuk.org\)](#)

Contact: Clair Sweeney: Schools & Events Coordinator in Scotland: [clair.sweeney@acnuk.org](mailto:clair.sweeney@acnuk.org)

### Mary's Meals ([marysmeals.org.uk](http://marysmeals.org.uk))

Mary's Meals suggest sharing the Mary's Meals prayer with children as well as encouraging them to get involved in their campaign '**Move for Mary's Meals**' <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/move-for-meals> which is a great opportunity for a class to get outdoors and support Mary's Meals. They also provide speakers for schools.

#### **Prayer for Mary's Meals**

*Our Father,*

*Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us for the times when we take more than our share of the bread that belongs to all.*

*Let us help You fill the starving with good things, not with scraps from our table.*

*Teach us how to share what is not ours to keep.*

*Clothe us with Your love that we may complete each good work You created us to do.*

*Place in our hearts Your compassion for each starving child and use our little acts of love so that they starve no more. Amen.*

### Missio

Lenten resources can be found at <https://www.missioscotland.com/lent>. Missio will update its **Lenten Calendar**: [Missio Scotland Lenten Resources](#). One of its key prayer resources is the **Mission Stations of the Cross**: [Mission Stations of the Cross](#).

For children preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation during this time, teachers may wish to look at both **Confirmation/Pentecost** and **Missionary Saints** pages:

<https://www.missioscotland.com/confirmation-pentecost>; <https://www.missioscotland.com/missionary-saints>.

Missio is encouraging schools to become Five Star Missio Scotland Schools. One of the stars that can be earned is the Fundraising Star: [Become a Five Star Missio Scotland School](#).

**Missio is also happy to visit schools. If you wish a visit please contact [gerard@missioscotland.com](mailto:gerard@missioscotland.com).**



(Continued from page 24)

## Feast of St Joseph (19 March)

### Patron Saint

St Joseph is the patron of the Universal Church. He is the patron of a happy death (*to die in a state of grace and in friendship with GOD, so as to be assured of our eternal salvation*), families, fathers, expectant mothers, travellers, immigrants, craftsmen, engineers, and workers. He is also the patron of the Americas, Canada, China, Croatia, Mexico, Korea, Austria, Belgium, Peru, the Philippines and Vietnam.

<https://www.churchpop.com/2015/06/21/8-little-known-facts-about-st-joseph-the-foster-father-of-jesus/>

### Children's Prayer to St. Joseph

*St Joseph,  
watch over me and care for me  
just as you cared for the child Jesus;  
and by your help, may I come to know your Son,  
and so grow in strength and wisdom  
and the favour of God. Amen.*

An Assembly on St Joseph is on TEAMS/Education Resources for Schools/Themes January to March.

## The Annunciation

The Church celebrates the Feast of the Annunciation on 25 March, when we recall Mary's 'Yes' to God. Mary's deep faith enabled her to respond to God's call. God is calling each one of us to do some special work for Him.

- How can we create space in our lives to hear what God is calling us to do?
- Do we have Mary's courage to respond to God's call?
- Do we have Mary's generosity to respond to God's call?
- How can we use our God-given talents to bring peace, justice, compassion and hope to our world?

Father John Morrison has prepared a reflection for P1 and P2 which can be found on TEAMS/Education Resources for Schools/Prayers and Assemblies/Themes January to March. Other suggestions would be to pray the Angelus on that day. Traditionally, the Angelus bell rings daily at noon and 6pm, reminding us of God's love for us. We also remember Mary's example of openness to God's will: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/prayers/the-angelus.html>

Alternatively, we could focus reverently on the *Hail, Mary* reminding pupils that much of this prayer is taken from the words of the Angel (Luke 1:26-38) and Elizabeth (Luke 1: 39-56).

## Prayers for Parent Council Meetings

Parent Council members contribute a valuable service to their school community, representing the views of the parent body and engaging constructively with the Head Teacher and school staff. They play their part in achieving the school's goals and supporting its Catholic Mission. As members of a community of faith, it is appropriate that Parent Council meetings begin with prayer. We offer some examples which may be suitable for this purpose.

Lord Jesus,  
As we gather here this evening  
we ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all  
our deliberations  
so that all in this school community  
may benefit from our discussions. Amen.

*Catholic Schools Partnership, Prayer Resource for  
Boards of Management/Governors  
Published 2020 by Veritas Publications on behalf of  
Catholic Schools Partnership*

Loving God, as we gather in your name,  
we acknowledge our need of your guidance.  
Bless our time together.  
May our sharing be open  
and our deliberations fruitful for our school  
community.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Catholic Schools Partnership, Prayer Resource for  
Boards of Management/Governors  
Published 2020 by Veritas Publications on behalf of  
Catholic Schools Partnership*

God our Heavenly Father,  
We ask your blessing and support as we seek to  
serve you.  
Through your spirit give us wisdom and  
understanding as we go about our work as  
members of the Parent Council.  
Help us to affirm and appreciate the staff, pupils  
and parents of our school.  
May everything that happens in our school bring  
honour and glory to your name and promote the  
growth of your Kingdom.  
We ask these things in the name of Christ, our  
Lord. Amen

*Diocese of Leeds, Prayer for School Governors  
(adapted)*

God Our Father,  
We seek your blessing and support in all the  
responsibilities we bear as members of the  
Parent Council of this school.  
May we reach our decisions prompted by a  
desire to serve.

Grant us wisdom and understanding: of our  
school, our community and ourselves.  
Watch over the young people and staff of this  
school so that it may flourish according to your  
will. Amen.

*Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Warwickshire,  
Governors' Prayer (adapted)*

Come, Holy Spirit, give us your gift of wisdom,  
that we may bring the light of faith, the hope of  
the Gospel, and the promise of your kingdom  
into our schools and homes.

Grant that the work of our Parent Council will  
bear fruit for the good of the children and  
families in our school community.  
We ask for a new spirit of service. Fill our hearts  
with generosity so that our homes, our parish(es)  
and our school may witness to the Mission of  
Catholic Education.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light of the  
World. Amen.

*SCES, Adapted from the Prayer for the Diocesan  
Parent Forum*



## 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	
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	TBC	National Caritas Awards Ceremony	TBC	
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

1. Dates for the visit of the **Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition** will be agreed with each Cluster.
2. Input for **Caritas** students can be arranged by contacting Fr John Morrison: [VE-VocationsandYouth@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:VE-VocationsandYouth@rcdop.org.uk).

Diocesan Contacts		
Fr Matthew Carlin	Vicar Episcopal for Education	<a href="mailto:VE-Education@rcdop.org.uk">VE-Education@rcdop.org.uk</a>
Neil Roarty	Director of Schools	<a href="mailto:Director.Schools@rcdop.org.uk">Director.Schools@rcdop.org.uk</a>
Anne Marie Mullan	Primary Advisor	<a href="mailto:primaryadvisor@rcdop.org.uk">primaryadvisor@rcdop.org.uk</a>
Stephen Parsons	Secondary Advisor	<a href="mailto:secondaryadvisor@rcdop.org.uk">secondaryadvisor@rcdop.org.uk</a>
Tommy Hughes	Curriculum Development Officer	<a href="mailto:Curriculum.DO@rcdop.org.uk">Curriculum.DO@rcdop.org.uk</a>
Dorothy Graham	Church Representative	<a href="mailto:eastrenfreweducation@rcdop.org.uk">eastrenfreweducation@rcdop.org.uk</a>
Jim Docherty	Church Representative	<a href="mailto:inverclydeeducation@rcdop.org.uk">inverclydeeducation@rcdop.org.uk</a>
Jack Nellaney	Church Representative	<a href="mailto:renfreweducation@rcdop.org.uk">renfreweducation@rcdop.org.uk</a>
Mgr Joseph Burke	Church Approval	<a href="mailto:approvals@rcdop.org.uk">approvals@rcdop.org.uk</a>
Norma Scott	Director of SPRED	<a href="mailto:spred@rcdop.org.uk">spred@rcdop.org.uk</a>
Canon Michael McMahon	Vicar Episcopal Formation and CLPL provider	<a href="mailto:VE-Formation@rcdop.org.uk">VE-Formation@rcdop.org.uk</a>
Father John Morrison	Vicar Episcopal for Youth and Vocations	<a href="mailto:VE-VocationsandYouth@rcdop.org.uk">VE-VocationsandYouth@rcdop.org.uk</a>
Fr Jonathan Whitworth	Vicar Episcopal for Marriage and Family	<a href="mailto:VE-MarriageandFamily@rcdop.org.uk">VE-MarriageandFamily@rcdop.org.uk</a>
Rebecca Harrison	Marriage and Family	<a href="mailto:marriageandfamily@rcdop.org.uk">marriageandfamily@rcdop.org.uk</a>

CLPL (January to April)			
Course	Date	Time	Venue
Principal Teachers of Religious Education	13.01.23	1:00 – 2:45	Diocesan Centre
Sacrament of Confirmation – Session 2	17.01.23	3:45 – 5:30	Diocesan Centre
Sacrament of Confirmation – Session 2	18.01.23	3:45 – 5:30	All Saints Primary
Leadership in Catholic Schools - Session 3	25.01.23	4:00 – 5:30	Diocesan Centre
Preparing for Local Authority Interviews	1.02.23	4:00 – 5:00	Diocesan Centre
Preparing for Local Authority Interviews	2.02.23	4:00 – 5:00	All Saints Primary
Primary RE Co-ordinator Meeting	8.02.23	4:00 – 5:15	Diocesan Centre
Primary RE Co-ordinator Meeting	9.02.23	4:00 – 5:15	All Saints Primary
Leadership in Catholic Schools - Session 4	22.02.23	4:00 – 5:30	Diocesan Centre
Sacrament of First Eucharist	1.03.23	4:00 – 5:15	Diocesan Centre
Sacrament of First Eucharist	2.03.23	4:00 – 5:15	All Saints Primary
God's Loving Plan	15.03.23	4:00 – 5:15	Diocesan Centre
God's Loving Plan	16.03.23	4:00 – 5:15	All Saints Primary
Lenten Reflection Service (Fr Joe McGill)			YouTube link
Paisley Diocesan CHAPS Conference	28.04.23	9:30 – 3:30	Gleddoch House

#### Diocesan Education Department Twitter

If you haven't already done so, please follow us: [@DoPEducation1](https://twitter.com/DoPEducation1). Please also hashtag [#@DoPEducation1](https://twitter.com/DoPEducation1)  
It would also be helpful if you 'liked' our posts, helping to spread the news!

