

# Centred on Christ

APRIL 2023



Dear Colleague,

I hope you and the staff have enjoyed a relaxing Easter holiday and are feeling refreshed as this new term begins. This is always a demanding but rewarding time with parishes, schools and families celebrating the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We also keep in our prayers those pupils sitting SQA examinations and wish them every success.

We are grateful for the continuing engagement of all schools with the **Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Encounter**. We also look forward to our P7 (and P6) pupils joining in the **Diocesan Consecration to Jesus through Mary** which begins on 28 April (*Centred on Christ*, January 2023).

We have included **Themes for Prayers and Assemblies** which you may find useful in celebrating the devotional and liturgical life of the Church between April and June. Father Matthew, our Vicar Episcopal, has also provided a **Reflection for staff** on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.

We continue to explore Catholic School leadership from a scriptural perspective, based upon the work of David Tuohy SJ. This term's focus is **Vision in Christian Leadership**. In addition, we conclude our summary of *The Identity of the Catholic School* (Sacred Congregation for Education, 2022) with a focus on the role and responsibilities of the Bishop.

Prior to Easter, we issued schools with the **Joint Education and Youth Calendar** for next session. This may prove helpful when planning your own school calendars. Following the positive response from those who attended our first Reflection in October 2022, we are organising an **Afternoon of Reflection** on the theme of the Beatitudes in October 2023. (Date to be confirmed.)

On Page 5, we publish a summary of the **Diocesan Education Department's Strategic Plan** for next session. This was developed following discussions with Head Teachers and other key figures. It has also taken on board feedback from the Parent Forum, chaplains and the Diocesan Response to the Synod on Synodality. We appreciate that your School Improvement Plans will focus on national and local authority priorities but hope that you can also include some elements of the Diocesan priorities and targets.

The next meeting of the **Diocesan Parent Forum** will take place in the Diocesan Offices on **Monday 15 May** at 7pm. We understand that Parent Council members have many demands on their time but would be grateful if schools could be represented.

The **Thanksgiving Mass** will be celebrated in the Cathedral on **Wednesday 14 June at 4.30pm**. It would be wonderful if colleagues from every school could join as a diocesan community with Bishop John to thank God for all the blessings our schools have received this session, but we would particularly welcome NQTs, mentors and Head Teachers

We also wish to acknowledge the commitment over many decades of our retiring teachers and other staff. If you wish to nominate a member of staff for a **Diocesan Commendation**, please see the guidance on TEAMS/Education Resources for Schools/Handbook for Head Teachers.

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

Best wishes,

*Neil Roarty*

Neil Roarty  
Director of Schools



Our Lady of Paisley;  
pray for us

**Inside this issue:**

Vision in Christian Leadership	2
The Identity of the Catholic School Congregation for Education	3
Strategic Plan 2023-24 - Summary of Targets	5
Sharing our Catholic Mission on Social Media	6
Church Approval	7
The Catholic Teacher's Certificate	8
Rosary Reflections for Staff	9
Themes for Prayer and Assemblies	11
Education and Youth Calendar	16
CLPL (April to June)	16
Diocesan Contacts	16

# Vision in Christian Leadership

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

## **"Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Proverbs 29: 18)**

The theme of vision is easily applied to modern developments in educational leadership. Schools are expected to develop vision statements and mission statements that express their dreams for the future. The key role of any leader is to help the school to be in touch with that vision and appreciate its application. In developing the vision of a Catholic school it is important to be in touch with true Gospel values and not distort them according to our own prejudices. Thus, the vision dimension of leadership involves clarifying the promise contained in the vision.

For the teacher in the classroom a key outcome is that students develop a vision of themselves, the world around them and the contribution they can make to that world... Exposure to different ways of seeing the world hopefully ... frees the students to continue to explore and appreciate God's creation and to respond to the call to contribute to the world in which they live.

### **Jesus' Sense of Mission (Luke 4: 14-21)**

- What does the passage tell us about the source of Jesus' sense of mission?
- In what way do you consider your work as sharing Jesus' sense of mission?
- What practices of teaching or school leadership correspond to the five areas quoted by Jesus:
  - bringing good news to the poor?
  - proclaiming liberty to captives?
  - giving the blind new sight?
  - setting the downtrodden free?
  - proclaiming the Lord's favour?
- How does good teaching and leadership bring about the effect Jesus wished to have on his followers?
- What can you do to stay in touch with your sense of Christian mission in teaching?

### **Paul's Vision of Wisdom (1 Corinthians: 1: 17-25)**

- In what ways are the values of Christian education counter-cultural? How strong are the cultural forces that work against these values in the school? How does the school cope with this tension?
- How do you stay in touch with the Christian vision of education?
- What are the requirements for attaining the wisdom of Christ? What leads to that wisdom? To how many students is that wisdom open? How is it recognised and celebrated:
  - a) in the school?
  - b) in the classroom?

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<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 – the Diocese***

*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 are focussing on Chapter 2 which examines the roles of the Bishop and Diocese in achieving the Mission of Catholic Schools.*

### **The definition of the “Catholic” school**

54. The apostolate of the school leadership and teachers is a service that requires communion with the Church in order to define the school as “Catholic”.
56. In order for a school to be defined as a “Catholic school”, recognition by the diocesan Bishop is required. In this way, the faithful are guaranteed that the school of their choice provides a Catholic education (Canon Law).

### **The Diocesan Bishop**

59. The diocesan Bishop plays a central role in discerning the “Catholic” identity of a school. According to John Paul II: “The Bishop is the father and pastor of the particular Church in its entirety.” [Vita Consecrata, 1996].
- a) It is up to the Bishop to carry out the necessary recognition of educational institutions [Canon Law].
  - d) It is the right and duty of the Bishop to ensure that the rules on Catholic schools are applied.
  - e) It is the right and duty of the Bishop to issue regulations concerning Catholic schools in his diocese e.g. the curriculum is subject to his approval.
  - f) It is the right and duty of the Bishop to visit all the Catholic schools in his diocese at least every five years, personally or, if he is legitimately impeded, through the Vicar General or Episcopal Vicar (Canon Law). It is advisable for the Visitor to take people who are truly experts in the various aspects of Catholic education. The visitation should concern different areas: the quality of the curriculum; the school’s communion with the diocese; the pastoral activity of the school and its relationship with the parish; the conformity of the school with the doctrine of the Church.

The visitation can be divided into three phases:

- the preparatory phase in which the school drafts a report on its current state;
- the visitation proper, after which the visitor provides a report and issues any recommendations;
- the third phase, in which the school implements any recommendations on the basis of the visitor’s report.

## The Identity of the Catholic School

(Continued from page 3)

*(In Scotland, the Bishops' Conference has endorsed a model of self-evaluation, not the above model of rigorous school visitations – akin to HMI inspections. In 2009, SCES published 'Shining the Light of Christ' and subsequently issued 'Developing in Faith'. It sets out a rolling programme over 5-6 years of examining key features of the school's Catholic mission, and requires that a short report be submitted every year to the Diocese and SCES.)*

- g) It is the right and duty of the Bishop to watch over all Catholic schools in his diocese. He can intervene whenever he considers it appropriate, and he must do so whenever the Catholic identity of a school situated in his diocese is seriously affected.
- h) It is the right of the local Bishop to approve teachers of religion for his diocese.

### Dialogue

62. The Bishop is obliged to maintain an ongoing dialogue with the schools themselves, especially with school leaders, teachers and pupils.

### The Episcopal Conference (Bishops' Conference of Scotland, BCOS)

63. The Episcopal Conference has competence with regard to Catholic schools, especially religious education. In particular, it is up to the Episcopal Conference to issue general norms in this regard. It is recommended that the Episcopal Conference establish a Commission for Schools and Education. *(BCOS has established SCES.)*

### The Apostolic See

65. The Congregation for Education has published numerous documents with the aim of guiding Catholic schools in the fulfilment of their mission.

### Points for Reflection

- How effective is the dialogue between the Bishop and schools in our diocese?
- How effective is the Diocesan Education Department in supporting and giving direction to schools?
- How effective are we at evaluating the impact of the Catholic mission of our school? How far is 'Developing in Faith' embedded within our self-evaluation processes? Does our 'Developing in Faith' report to the diocese and SCES accurately and fully capture our strengths, areas for improvement, next steps and necessary support from the Diocesan Education Department/ SCES?
- How far do we share with staff the requirements of the Church Approval system?



# Diocese of Paisley

## Diocesan Education Strategic Plan 2023-24

### Summary of Targets



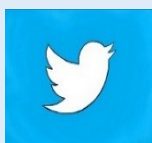
- 1. Continuing to build up the Diocesan Family of Schools and work in partnership with stakeholders and Church Agencies to achieve shared goals**
  - a) To embed Developing in Faith within schools' self-evaluation processes to facilitate the identification of schools' support needs and the sharing of good practice across the Diocese.*
  - b) To review the focus of Diocesan and Schools' social media in sharing our Catholic Mission.*
  - c) To support schools as appropriate in considering the Diocesan document 'Listening to Young People: Engaging them in Planning for Improvement'.*
  - d) To further support young people in their applications to School of Education programmes.*
- 2. Offering Appropriate CLPL and Developing Leadership for Learning in Faith**
  - a) To continue to provide and update information for priests and Head Teachers on Church Approval to ensure our processes are clearly understood and implemented consistently.*
  - b) To provide spiritual support for Head Teachers by organising an afternoon of reflection.*
  - c) To liaise with Local Authorities re Diocesan NQT and Leadership in Catholic Schools courses.*
- 3. Supporting Curriculum Planning and Meeting Learners' Needs on their Faith Journeys**
  - a) To continue to support schools in embedding the revised Diocesan P1-P7 Planners.*
  - b) To enhance the Primary curriculum by embedding the National Schools Singing Programme (NSSP) in Inverclyde Primary Schools.*
  - c) To create an annual planning cycle for God's Loving Plan.*
  - d) To continue to plan, implement and review the Diocesan Secondary curriculum in the Broad General Education phase and provide appropriate information for parents on the revised course.*
  - e) To review and enhance the Senior Phase R.E. programme in collaboration with schools.*
  - f) To continue to work with SPRED to provide appropriate support for pupils with significant additional support needs; and further develop links between schools and SPRED as appropriate.*
  - g) To provide support for schools in meeting the needs of all young people, made in the image of God, which enables them to respond sensitively and in line with Church teaching to those who have a particular protected characteristic.*
- 4. Strengthening Home-School-Parish Links by Supporting Parents, Chaplains and Schools**
  - a) To share and extend good practice in Home-School-Parish partnerships.*
  - b) To further develop the Diocesan Parent Forum as a means of consulting parent representatives and developing support for Parent Councils.*
  - c) To support schools as appropriate in considering the Diocesan documents 'Partnership with Parents: From Ideal to Action' and 'A Community of Faith and Learning'.*
  - d) To continue to deliver support for school chaplains which meets their needs; and to engage with schools as appropriate in considering the Diocesan document 'Chaplaincy in Catholic Schools: A School-Parish Partnership'.*

# Sharing our Catholic Mission on Social Media

Social media provides a powerful platform for sharing classroom and outdoor learning, pupil achievements and events in the life of the school generally. During our Cluster visits in 2022-23, one action point suggested was to review the focus of school and Diocesan Education Twitter accounts.

## During 2023-24, could you take some time to review your school's social media?

- How well do we use social media to communicate our Catholic Mission with the school and local communities?
- How regularly do we post about the faith life of the school and pupils' learning in Religious Education; and how does that compare to other curricular areas?
- Would it be worthwhile having a look at other schools' posts? Is there anything we can learn from them to enhance our use of social media in sharing our Catholic Mission?
- If we have identified areas for improvement, how can we ensure that in future we do regularly share the devotional and liturgical life of the school, Faith in Action projects and learning in Religious Education?
- Are there ways in which the Diocesan Education Department could enhance its Twitter account? How can we increase re-Tweets and 'likes'? We are happy to take your views and suggestions.



### Diocesan Education Department Twitter

If you haven't already done so, please follow us:

**@DoPEducation1.**

Please also hashtag **#@DoPEducation1**

It would also be helpful if you 'liked' our posts, helping to spread the news!

## Difficulty in Accessing the Diocesan TEAMS?

Some people have contacted us for help in accessing the Diocesan TEAMS/Education Resources for Schools. We are grateful to Sam McFadden (Principal Teacher of R.E. in St. Andrew's Academy) for this advice.

Go onto your TEAMS dashboard and in the top right-hand corner where your profile picture is, there should be a drop down that says Glow Scotland. Click on this and it should open and show 'Diocese of Paisley (Guest)'. Click on this and it should take you onto the Diocesan page.

# Church Approval

Following the CLPL for Clergy and Head Teachers in October 2022, the Diocesan team has reviewed its internal processes for Approval applications. It has become clear that the main reason for applications not being processed is when the referee does not complete and return Form B. In an attempt to minimise the number of occasions when this happens, applicants will now receive an automatic acknowledgement email which stresses the importance of Form B being sent to the diocese.

***Thank you for your email re your application for Church Approval. We will process your application as speedily as possible. To assist us in doing so, can you please:***

- ***ensure that Form A was attached to your email;***
- ***and check that your referee has sent us Form B – we cannot process your application without it.***

***You cannot be appointed to the post without Church Approval.***

***When your application has been processed, we will email you a certificate confirming that you have received Approval for the post for which you applied. If you have not received this by the time of your interview, please contact us for an update. NQTs and long-term supply teachers should receive their Approval before taking up the post.***

Some teachers do not realise that, even if they receive a new post in their own school, they require to apply for Approval for that new post. This applies to NQTs who are successful at interview for a permanent post and, for example, to a class teacher who is promoted to Principal Teacher.

It is important that candidates submit their application for Approval **at the same time** as they submit their application for the post. **It would also be helpful to priests and other referees if applicants completed the first section of Form B i.e. entering their name, address, details of the post applied for, nature of the post, closing date and Diocesan contact.** This will minimise the possibility of a delay in the referee submitting the reference.

Monsignor Joe Burke, Vicar General, oversees the Approval process in Paisley Diocese. Applications and references for posts within our Diocese (apart from Our Lady of the Missions Primary and St Ninian's High which are located within Glasgow Archdiocese) should be returned to:

Rev Joseph Burke, Teacher Approval, Diocesan Centre, Ince Street, Paisley PA1 1HR  
Email: [approvals@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:approvals@rcdop.org.uk)

**It is preferable if Forms A and B are emailed to Monsignor Burke, helping us to process applications more efficiently.**

Forms A and B, together with guidance on the process, are available at:

<http://sces.org.uk/church-approval/>

Detailed guidance on Person Specifications, Approval and the Catholic Teacher's Certificate can be found on TEAMS/Education Resources for Schools/Handbook for Head Teachers.

# The Catholic Teacher's Certificate

Over the years, we have received a number of enquiries about which teachers need the Catholic Teacher's Certificate (CTC). There seems to be an understanding that only P4 and P7 teachers need the Certificate because those are Sacramental preparation years. Is that right?

The answer is quite simple. Any teacher – Primary or Secondary – who teaches Religious Education requires the CTC or equivalent: CREDL or *Setting Out on the Road*. (The latter qualifications automatically award the CTC on successful completion.)

In addition, although students who are not Catholic can undertake an Award in Religious Understanding at Glasgow University, they complete different assessments and plan lessons using RME Experiences and Outcomes for non-denominational schools. They are, therefore, **not** qualified to teach Religious Education in a Catholic school.

The Bishops of Scotland have made this clear in their Final Approval Instrument:

**“In light of Church Doctrine and current guidance from the Catholic Education Commission, the Bishops' Conference of Scotland insist that ..... teacher(s) of religious education are to be filled by practising Catholics.”**

In short, teachers of Religious Education in both Primary and Secondary require the CTC **and** Church Approval as practising Catholics. Accordingly, we advise that we include the CTC (or equivalent) within Person Specifications for Primary teachers and Secondary teachers (given that in Secondary schools the delivery of Religious Education will require the contribution of Generalist teachers). Further guidance is available on TEAMS/Education Resources for Schools/Handbook for Head Teachers.

## **Setting Out on the Road**

If there are teachers in your school who do not have the CTC and, therefore, are unable to teach the full curriculum, as part of the PRD process it may be worthwhile exploring the desirability of them undertaking ***Setting Out on the Road***, which the University of Glasgow School of Education currently offers. The Diocese will pay the fee on **completion** of the course, provided the teacher takes part in five twilight seminars on TEAMS delivered by the diocese which support them in completing their assignments.

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/cpd/cpdforteachers/#settingoutontheroad>

## **The Additional Teaching Qualification in Religious Education (ATQRE) – for Catholic Schools**

This course is offered to both Secondary teachers who are not specialist R.E. teachers and to Primary teachers who wish to attain this qualification which would enable them to become specialist teachers of Religious Education. The University is planning to offer this course beginning in January 2024 and ending in December 2024, hopefully face-to-face rather than online. The enrolment fee is currently £1284. The diocese will contribute one-third of this on completion of the course and participation in twilight seminars on TEAMS delivered by the diocese which support them in completing their assignments.

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/cpd/cpdforteachers/#additionalteachingqualificationinreligiouseducation-forcatholicsschools>



## Rosary Reflections for Staff

### Father Matthew Carlin - Vicar Episcopal for Education

We warmly suggest that, sometime during May, you gather together as a staff to pray; the Rosary is an ideal prayer to use on this occasion. The following reflections are offered as a way of helping you to enter more deeply into the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. The Joyful Mysteries especially focus on the relationship between Jesus and His mother, Mary. Jesus has given us a privileged way to keep him in sight by entrusting the Church to His Mother, and Her to the Church. As we draw close to her, she leads us to her Son.

For each mystery, read the Gospel passage and pause for a few moments of silent prayer. Then, read the reflection and recite one *Our Father*, ten *Hail Marys* and a *Glory be*.

#### **First Joyful Mystery:** The Annunciation

**Luke 1:28, 31, 38.** *The Angel Gabriel said to Mary: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women...You shall conceive and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus... Mary answered, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word."*

**Reflection:** Through an angel, God proposes, and a woman accepts. Mary is accepting to walk into a mystery. She does not know what lies ahead on this new path, but she knows who is asking and she trusts in him. There are many "annunciation" moments in our life, and sometimes we hesitate to say yes because we cannot foresee the future or control what will happen. In this mystery, ask Mary to give you a deep trust in God, who invites you to follow His will. Ask her to help you trust that even if the path ahead is full of crosses and struggles, God will be walking with you.

#### **Second Joyful Mystery:** The Visitation

**Luke 1:42-44.** *Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and cried out: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb...The moment your greeting sounded in my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy."*

**Reflection:** One of the wonders of God's plan is that he chooses to associate souls, one to another, so that they help each other on their journey. As cousins, Mary and Elizabeth share a bond of kinship. But they also share a spiritual kinship because of how the Holy Spirit is acting in their lives, fashioning the Messiah and his prophet within them. During those months, Mary and Elizabeth don't just sit around waiting. They are working, preparing for Elizabeth's baby, quietly conversing, and praying. In our lives too, God gives us spiritual friendships and soul-mates who help us grow closer to him. In this mystery, ask Mary to help you and your spiritual friends listen carefully for God's voice in your lives, so that you can walk with him and with each other.

#### **Third Joyful Mystery:** The Nativity

**Luke 2:6-7.** *And it came to pass while they were there, that the days for Mary to be delivered were fulfilled. She brought forth her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothing and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

**Reflection:** All of Bethlehem was dark and quiet when the Saviour made his entrance into the world, and his first home was in the protective circle of Mary's arms. Imagine how Mary's heart shone with a love spanning

## Rosary Reflections for Staff

*(Continued from page 9)*

the tender, protective love of a mother holding her baby in her arms and the profound adoration of a soul adoring her Creator and Lord in the flesh. This was a day of fulfilment and joy—one of many along a path also rich in crosses. Nine months ago, she had given that first “yes.” Now it had become a life, a tiny baby. It was so clear now that everything—even the future crosses that would be her “birth pains”—were worth it. In our lives too, there are times when God asks us to make a choice that we do not fully understand, and the blessing reveals itself only later in time. Once the blessing comes, we understand that the only way to understand God’s plan was to live it. In this mystery, ask Mary for the grace to believe in the blessings that were promised in your own life, even if they seem slow in coming.

### **Fourth Joyful Mystery: The Presentation**

**Luke 2:22, 34, 35.** *When the days of her purification were fulfilled they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord...Simeon blessed them and said to his Mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and for the rise of many in Israel, and for a sign that shall be contradicted; and thy own soul a sword shall pierce.”*

**Reflection:** There had never been a presentation like the one that took place in the Temple that day, and there never would be again. Mary and Joseph were presenting the Only Begotten Son to the Eternal Father, in a Temple that was merely the shadow and copy of the real Temple in heaven. They were also acknowledging that this child was not their own, and that his first bond of kinship was to his Heavenly Father. Mary was not one to cling to her child with overprotective love, as some mothers do. Yet even she, the selfless and obedient one, was promised that a sword of sorrow would pierce her heart on the day of separation. Why does God give us such beautiful gifts and then ask us to give them up? Why does he allow a loving heart to be pierced with loss? These questions must be brought to Mary, who suffered this sword in a terrible way, more than any mother, any father. Through this mystery, she can help our hearts accept what our minds cannot understand.

### **Fifth Joyful Mystery: The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple**

**Luke 2:46, 51.** *After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions...And He returned with His parents to Nazareth, and was obedient to them.*

**Reflection:** All the joyful mysteries are somehow tinged with sorrow, but they are also touched with light and glory. In the precocious wisdom of a 12-year-old boy, Jesus gives his parents and the teachers a glimpse of his true stature. He knows who he is and what he came for, even as a boy. But he did not begin by teaching, just as he did not begin by commanding. He began in the humble position of one who listens and asks questions. He also began in the humility of a boy who obeys his parents. Why does Jesus listen and ask questions when he already knows all of the answers with perfect certainty? And why did he obey his mother and father when he himself had called them into existence? Perhaps Mary also reflected on these questions, wondering at the sweetness and respect with which God introduces himself into our lives, as a fellow pilgrim who lives our lives with us, whose questions make us reflect and grow, who listens to us with kindness and interest, and who perhaps has obeyed us—answering our prayers, forgiving our sins in confession, coming into our hearts in holy Communion— far more than we have obeyed him. In this mystery, ask Mary to help you see and touch this goodness of Jesus in your own life.

# Themes for Prayer and Assemblies



Diocese of Paisley  
Education Department

**April**

**Easter**

When schools return after the Easter holidays, we will still be celebrating the Season of Easter which provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on the messages of the Resurrection.

Father John Morrison has once again kindly provided an assembly which can be found in TEAMS/ Education Resources for Schools/Prayers and Assemblies/April-June.

During Lent, many of us would have meditated on the Stations of the Cross. In 1988, Father Sabino Palumbieri proposed the creation of a complementary set of stations, which focus on the appearances of Jesus from the Resurrection and the events which follow up to Pentecost.

Like the Stations of the Cross (Via Crucis), the Stations of the Resurrection (Via Lucis) consist of fourteen stations. There are a number of versions which have slight differences as to the fourteen events which comprise the stations, but most focus on:

1. Jesus rises from the dead. (Mt 28:5-6)
2. The women find the empty tomb. (Mt 28:1-6)
3. Mary Magdalene meets the risen Jesus. (Jn 20:16)
4. Jesus appears on the road to Emmaus. (Lk 24:13-27)
5. Jesus is recognised in the breaking of bread. (Lk 24:13-27)
6. Jesus appears to the disciples in Jerusalem. (Lk 24:36-39)
7. Jesus gives the disciples his peace and the power to forgive. (Jn 20:22-23a)
8. Jesus strengthens the faith of Thomas. (Jn 20:24-29)
9. Jesus appears by the Sea of Tiberias. (Jn 21: 3-13)
10. Jesus commands Peter to feed his sheep. (Jn 21:15-17)
11. Jesus commissions the disciples and sends them into the whole world. (Mt 28:16-20)
12. Jesus ascends into heaven. (Acts 1:9-11)
13. Mary and the disciples wait in prayer. (Acts 1:12-14)
14. The Holy Spirit descends at Pentecost (Acts 2:2-4)

You may wish to touch on some of these at appropriate points during the Easter season. Some versions are:

[Stations Of The Resurrection \(Via Lucis\) - Catholic-Link](#)

[CM SR booklet 111418.indd \(columban.org\)](#)

[Stations of the Resurrection : Via Lucis — Conference of Religious \(crew.org\)](#)

[23 \(columbans.co.uk\)](#)

Appropriate resources can also be found in the P1-P7 Planners.

(Continued from page 11)

## April

### The Eucharist

A key plank in the Diocesan Spiritual Recovery plans has been the encouragement of Catholics to return to the celebration of Sunday Mass *#Home to Mass*. *Centred on Christ* (April 2021) contained a feature article on The Eucharist by Bishop John and Father Paul Brady, Vicar Episcopal for Liturgy. It also contained Case Studies from two High Schools on Eucharistic Adoration. In January 2022, St. Paul's Primary School shared its practice in enabling children to attend Mass in the parish during the school week as well as monthly Family Masses. The Family Mass in St Joseph's Parish, Clarkston, was shared in *Centred on Christ* in August 2022.

**Schools may wish to focus on the theme of the Eucharist using the PowerPoint assembly on 'Five Loaves and Two Fish' by Father John Morrison, Vicar Episcopal for Youth and Vocations. (Diocesan TEAMS / Education Resources for Schools/Prayers and Assemblies/Themes April to June.)**

Perhaps schools could discuss with their chaplains how they could introduce **Eucharistic Adoration** - even on a small scale initially.



## May

### 1 May Feast of St Joseph the Worker

St. Joseph has two feast days. The first is 19 March: Joseph, the Husband of Mary. The second is 1 May: Joseph, the Worker. During this Year of St Joseph, it would be opportune to highlight the latter feast day which Pope Pius XII established in 1955. It allows young people to relate to St Joseph through their work in school and at home and, like St Joseph, invite God to be part of their endeavours. At this time, when many workers face unemployment as a result of the pandemic, we think of St Joseph who would have had to search for work when the Holy Family fled to Egypt. Like present day refugees and asylum seekers, St Joseph had to ensure the safety of Mary and the Child Jesus by escaping from King Herod.

“An aspect of Saint Joseph that has been emphasized from the time of the first social Encyclical, Pope Leo XIII's *Rerum Novarum*, is his relation to work. Saint Joseph was a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family. From him, Jesus learned the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labour.” (Pope Francis, *Patris Corde* - #6 A Working Father)

(Continued from page 12)

Father John Morrison, Vicar Episcopal for Youth and Vocations, has provided a PowerPoint and notes for an **Assembly on St Joseph**. These can be found in Diocesan TEAMS /Education Resources for Schools/Prayers and Assemblies/Themes April to June. In addition, **Missio** has provided resources for Levels 1 and 2 on St Joseph: <https://www.missioscotland.com/schools>



### Prayer to St Joseph the Worker

Joseph, by the work of your hands  
and the sweat of your brow,  
you supported Jesus and Mary,  
and had the Son of God as your fellow worker.

Teach me to work as you did,  
with patience and perseverance, for God and  
for those whom God has given me to support.

Teach me to see in my fellow students  
the Christ who desires to be in them,  
that I may always be charitable and forbearing  
towards all.

*(Extract of a prayer in "Devotions to Saint Joseph" by  
Brian Moore, S.J. published by the Society of St. Paul.)*

<https://teachingcatholickids.com/st-joseph-saints-for-kids/>

### A Simple Invocation

Perhaps at the end of morning prayers a short prayer could be added:

*St Joseph, protector of the Child Jesus and  
Patron of the Church, pray for us.*

or

*St, Joseph, patron of workers, guide me in my  
work at school and at home.*

### 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.

## Devotions to Our Lady

May Devotions are a longstanding tradition in the Church with a focus on our relationship with the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a time when we recall that on the Cross, Jesus said to Mary, "Woman, here is your son."; and to St John, "Here is your mother." (John 19:26-27). Since the time of the apostles, the Church has seen this as Jesus giving His mother Mary to be mother of the Church and to each of us as our mother. (<https://catholic-link.org/>) You may wish to use The Litany of Loreto - <https://childrensrosary.blogspot.com/2012/08/litany-to-blessed-virgin-mary.html>. A hymn that could be included in an assembly - *Hail Mary - Gentle Woman* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RERoQ1biLdE>

(Continued from page 13)

## Consecration to Jesus through Mary (P7/P6 )

As indicated in the January edition of *Centred on Christ*, Bishop John invites all P7 pupils (although you may wish to open this to P6) and their families to join him in a 33 Day Consecration to Jesus through Mary. It will begin on 28 April and end on 31 May. The actual Consecration will take place on 31 May.

Books are available free of charge to schools from the Diocesan Offices ([curia@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:curia@rcdop.org.uk)). Full details and hyperlinks can be found in *Centred on Christ*, January 2023.



## Rosary for Peace (Aid to the Church in Need)

Each year **Aid to the Church in Need** invites Primary Schools to participate in their **Rosary for Peace (8-12 May)** and the associated **Maisie Milk initiative** as a fun and educational tool to fundraise for Christian refugees and displaced families around the world. <https://acnuk.org/resource/maisy-milk/>

## Rosary Groups

All Saints Primary School shared practice on its Rosary Group in the August 2022 edition of *Centred on Christ*. Information can also be found at [www.childrensrosary.org](http://www.childrensrosary.org)

## June

### Sacred Heart

The Church dedicates the month of June to special devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart this year falls on Friday 24 June. God is Love and the Sacred Heart of Jesus - present on earth in the Blessed Sacrament - is the human manifestation of God's Love for each of us. *"The Heart of Jesus is the ultimate symbol of God's mercy."* (Pope Francis, 2013)

We are invited in this month to consider the charity of the heart of Jesus and seek to grow in love for Him and for those around us.

Perhaps we could explore with children:

- words which describe the heart of Jesus (e.g. love, compassion, care, forgiveness and mercy);
- what wounds His heart: (e.g. bullying, name -calling, holding grudges, spreading gossip about people, excluding people from your group of friends).
- How we can 'repair' those wounds (e.g. through spending time in prayer, doing things to show we are sorry, performing acts of kindness).

*"Dear Sacred Heart of Jesus, I love You so much and I give You my heart. Help me to love my neighbour as a child of God. Help me to love myself as a child of God. AMEN."*

<https://www.catholicmom.com/articles/2011/03/05/sacred-heart-of-jesus-lesson-plan>

**Father John Morrison has produced a PowerPoint and notes for a Sacred Heart Assembly. (TEAMS/ Education Resources for Schools/Themes for Prayer and Assemblies/April-June**

(Continued from page 14)

## Holy Spirit

Pentecost Sunday this year falls on 28 May. **Father John Morrison has produced a PowerPoint and notes for an Assembly on the Holy Spirit. (TEAMS/Education Resources for Schools/Themes for Prayer and Assemblies/April-June.**

During this period when our P7 Confirmandi are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, we remember them especially in our prayers.

*God our Father,*

*Watch over our Confirmandi as they prepare to receive your Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation.*

*We pray that they will continue to be strengthened in their relationship with You.*

*Please guide them on their journey as they draw nearer to You,*

*Increase in them the fruit of your Spirit:*

*the spirit of wisdom and understanding,*

*the spirit of love, patience and gentleness,*

*the spirit of wonder and true holiness. Amen.*

### We pray to the Holy Spirit:

That love may fill our hearts so that we are open to others ...

*Response: Come, Holy Spirit, help us to transform our world*

That all your children may find joy in their lives...

That wars may cease, and peace may come...

That all peoples may learn to be patient and tolerant...

That those who suffer may experience kindness...

That generosity may be given to those in need...

That we may be faithful to the Lord's command to love all our sisters and brothers...

That vulnerable and forgotten people may receive gentleness and respect...

That we may be able to put others first to help them in their need...

“The fruit of the spirit is  
**love, joy, peace,**  
**patience, kindness,**  
**generosity,**  
**faithfulness, gentleness**  
and **self control.**”

Galatians 5: 22-25

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

Month	Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Target Group
APR	28	Fri		33 Day Diocesan Consecration to Jesus through Mary begins (ends on 31 May)	School-based	P7 pupils
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	6	Tue	2pm	National Caritas Awards Ceremony	Clyde Auditorium	
JUN	11	Sun	2pm	Youth to Lourdes Meeting	Diocesan Offices	
JUN	11	Sun	11am	Mass for Marriage	St Mirin's Cathedral	
JUN	11	Sun	2-5pm	Family Day (Mass at 4pm)	St John's Church, Barrhead	Families of Primary Pupils
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	Lourdes 2023 Sponsored Walk	Greenock Cut	
<b>JUN 30 – 7 JULY</b>				Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (including Youth)		S3-S6

### CLPL (April to June)

Course	Date	Time	Venue
Paisley Diocesan CHAPS Conference	28.04.23	9:30 - 3:30	Gleddoch House
Primary RE Co-ordinator Meeting	10.05.23	4:00 - 5:15	Diocesan Centre
Primary RE Co-ordinator Meeting	11.05.23	4:00 - 5:15	All Saints Primary
Principal Teachers of Religious Education	12.05.23	1:00 - 2:45	Diocesan Centre
Diocesan S1/S2 R.E. Course	23.05.23	10:00 - 2:30	Diocesan Offices
Church Approval (for HTs/members of SLT who were not able to attend the course in October)	8.06.23	1:30 - 3:00	St John's Church Hall, Port Glasgow
Thanksgiving Mass	14.06.23	4:30	Cathedral
Leadership in Catholic Schools - Session 5	21.06.23	4:00 - 5:15	Diocesan Centre

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