

Centred on Christ

AUGUST 2024



Dear Colleague,

Welcome back to the new session. We hope that the summer holidays enabled you to recharge your batteries in readiness for the opportunities and challenges of the year ahead.

Two important events have been planned for Diocesan Head Teachers:

- an **Afternoon of Reflection** on Wednesday 9 October which will be given by Father Matthew and will conclude with Mass celebrated by Bishop John in the Cathedral.
- a joint **Head Teacher and Clergy meeting** on 13 March - venue to be confirmed.

We have asked the three Local Authorities to avoid clashes with these events.

Canon Jim Duggan has provided a **reflection for staff** on the theme of Hope which will be the theme of the Jubilee Year in 2025. We have also published a booklet with all the prayer services for staff which we have provided since 2020 in response to the requests of two clusters for support for the spiritual growth of staff. It has been uploaded onto Teams/ Education Resources for Schools/Staff Reflection Resources.

We are grateful for your **Developing in Faith** returns which are hugely encouraging, demonstrating the commitment of schools to put Christ at the centre of their schools and provide quality faith-based experiences for children and young people. We will publish a collated report for the diocese, share good practice and fine-tune our Strategic Plan on the basis of your requests for support. Thank you for including some elements of the **Diocesan Strategic Plan** in your School Improvement Plans. We fully appreciate you doing so in light of the significant demands on you from National Priorities and local authority improvement objectives.

Our **CLPL programmes** for this session have been circulated to schools. We would also draw your attention to Glasgow University's **Setting Out on the Road** course. The **Diocesan Leadership in Catholic Schools Course** will be offered again this year, provided we receive a viable number of applications **by 5 September**.

The Diocesan Parent Forum will meet on Monday 23 September at 7pm in the Diocesan Offices. We would ask Parent Councils to send us topics they would wish us to address in the coming academic year and to let us know if a representative will attend the meeting. The main item will be a presentation by Tommy Hughes, our Curriculum Development Officer, on the new Diocesan S2 R.E. course. The second meeting of the Forum will be on Monday 24 March 2025.

The **Themes for Prayers and Reflection** are available on TEAMS/Education Resources for Schools/Prayers and Assemblies and the Vocations Week and Mission channels. The main themes for this term are Vocations Week, the Season of Creation (complementing schools' work on Laudato Si'), the Rosary and the Missions. We would ask that in October, First Friday Masses and the daily decade of the Rosary be offered for the Missions. Visits to schools by Missio have proved to very effective in engaging children in the work of the Missions.

Our **chaplains** make a significant contribution to our schools. We look forward to meeting with them at the first chaplains' meeting on 7 November (1.30-3pm).

Best wishes for session 2024-25.

Neil Roarty

Neil Roarty
Director of Schools



Our Lady of Paisley;
pray for us

Inside this issue:

Staff Prayer and Reflection Hope	2
Christian Leadership – Dealing with Others	4
Our Vision: A Collaborative Journey at St. Michael's Primary School	5
FireCloud St Ninian's High School	6
Draft Summary of Strategic Plan 2024-25	8
Leadership in Catholic Schools Course	9
SCIAF Resources	10
Mary's Meals Resources	11
Laudato Si Schools Workshop by Justice & Peace Scotland	12
Themes for Prayer and Assemblies	13
Education and Youth Calendar: 2024-25	17
CLPL (August to October)	19
Diocesan Contacts	20

Staff Prayer and Reflection

Rejoice in Hope

Canon Jim Duggan

Rejoice in hope is a theme given by pope Francis to prepare for the Holy Year 2025

First Reading:

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil;
hold fast to what is good.
Love one another with brotherly affection.
Outdo one another in showing honour.
Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit,
serve the Lord.
Rejoice in hope,
be patient in tribulation,
be constant in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

The Word of the Lord.

Reflection 1: Pope Francis

“Rejoice in hope” was Saint Paul’s encouragement to the community of Rome at a time when it was undergoing harsh persecution. The “joy in hope” proclaimed by the Apostle is the fruit of Christ’s paschal mystery and the power of his resurrection. It is not a product of our human efforts, plans or skills, but of the energy born of an encounter with Christ. Christian joy comes from God himself, from our knowledge of his love for us.

Reflection 2: Pope Francis

We are living at a time when for many people, including the young, hope seems absent. Sadly, many of your contemporaries who experience wars, violent conflict, bullying and other kinds of hardship, are gripped by despair, fear and depression. They feel as if they are in a dark prison, where the light of the sun cannot enter. In such situations, how can we experience the joy and hope of which Saint Paul speaks?

Second Reading

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister,
Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.
When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby,
he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!”
Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!”
And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection 3: Pope Francis

In the Christian tradition, Holy Saturday is the day of hope. Situated between Good Friday and Easter Sunday, it is a kind of no man’s land between the despair of the disciples and their joy on Easter morn. It is the place where hope is born.



**OUR LADY OF PONTMAIN/
OUR LADY OF HOPE**

Staff Prayer and Reflection - Rejoice in Hope

(Continued from page 2)

God does not simply look with compassion on our experiences of death, or darkness, or call to us from afar; he enters into our difficult moments like a light that shines in the darkness and overcomes it.

This is nicely expressed by a poem in the South African language Xhosa: "Even if hope is at an end, by this poetry I revive hope. My hope is revived because my hope is in the Lord. I hope that we will all be one! Remain steadfast in hope, for the good outcome is near".

Reflection 4: Pope Francis

If we think about it, that was the hope of the Virgin Mary, who remained steadfast beneath the cross of Jesus, certain that the "good outcome" was near. Mary is the woman of hope, the Mother of hope. On Calvary, "hoping against hope", she never wavered in her certainty of the resurrection that her Son had proclaimed.

Our Lady filled the silence of Holy Saturday with loving and hope-filled expectation, and inspired in the disciples the certainty that Jesus would conquer death and that evil would not be the last word.

Thanks to God's gift of hope, Christians are filled with a new joy that comes from within. The challenges and difficulties will always be there, but if we possess a hope "full of faith", we can confront them in the knowledge that they do not have the final word. And we ourselves can become a small beacon of hope for others.

Our Lady of Hope

During the Franco-Prussian War between France and Prussia in 1870, France was suffering many defeats. In 1871, Paris was besieged, and the Prussians had overtaken most of France.

During the height of this conflict, the small hamlet of Pontmain was in the path of the Prussians and was sure to be conquered. On the evening of January 17th, a boy named Eugene Barbedette took a break from the farm work he was helping his father complete. Then, he saw in the night sky a vision of a Lady. The Lady smiled at Eugene and spread her hands in welcome. Not long after, Eugene's brother Joseph

joined him and saw the apparition as well. But the boys' father and mother did not see the apparition.

After finishing their work and an evening meal, the boys still saw the apparition in the sky. Word about the apparition quickly spread and several townspeople came to pray at the spot. The apparition lasted for about three hours, until around nine p.m.

That night, the advancing Prussian army changed course unexpectedly because their general was told by his commander not to take the city of Laval near Pontmain.

The apparition of Our Lady of Hope was approved by the Church in 1872.

Prayer to Our Lady of Hope

Our Lady of Hope, you appeared in a small French village at a time when the villagers had little hope of being able to survive the attack of the Prussians. Your apparition brought comfort and hope to those who saw you.

You can help all people to grow in hope through your prayers.

Please bring all of our petitions before the throne of your Son, and we particularly ask today that you intercede that we may grow in hope!

Pray for us, that we may always strive to grow in all the virtues necessary for holiness. Pray that we may grow closer to your Son each day of our lives.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, our Mother, teach us to believe, to hope, to love with you. Show us the way to the Kingdom of Jesus!

Star of the Sea, shine upon us and guide us on our way!

Our Lady of Hope, pray for us!

Christian Leadership – Dealing with Others

Adapted from “Leading Life to the Full - Scriptural Reflections on Leadership in Catholic Schools’, David Tuohy SJ¹

Treston explores the relationship between the Law in the Old Testament and the Commandments of Jesus. In the Old Testament, the Law included the Ten Commandments and the prescriptions relating to the family, the economy and justice as well as instructions regarding rituals and cleanliness. Jesus said that he had not come to abolish the Law but to complete it (Mt 5:17). Christ’s precepts are set at a higher standard than the old Law and his followers’ virtue has to go deeper than the scribes and Pharisees (Mt 5:20). Discipleship is linked with the commandment of love.

He goes on to examine the relationship between schools’ Codes of Conduct and their pastoral care of children and young people.

“In schools, there can often be a tension between the commands of the Law and the commandment of love. We express this as a tension between a rigid discipline code and the pastoral care element of the school.”

He acknowledges that codes of conduct are essential to train students to respect others and to protect the common good. At the same time, he points out that many children and young people need help to cope with school and that often it is the only place they experience peace in their ‘turbulent lives’.

How do we achieve the correct balance?

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 29-37)

- Can you think of pupils that we might want to ‘pass by’? What reasons might people give for doing so?
- What impressed you most about the reaction and behaviour of the Samaritan?
- What in the Samaritan’s behaviour do you think Jesus wants us to imitate as Christians?
- How do we get the balance right between our Code of Conduct -protecting the common good of the school community - and tending to the needs of pupils we might want to ‘pass by’?
- What evidence is there of people in your school who are Good Samaritans?
- How do we appreciate them?

The Prodigal Son (Luke: 15: 18-32)

- What experiences are there in schools of people trying to turn over a new leaf? How easy is it for leaders, teachers or pupils to change in school?
- If someone wanted to change, who would welcome them – and how would they do so?
- Who is the ‘elder brother’ among the teachers and the pupils? Why are they annoyed and how do they express this?
- How does the experience of forgiveness affect morale in the school: among staff, pupils and parents?
- Is there a way of celebrating both kinds of ‘sons’, both among the staff and the pupils?
- As a teacher or leader, what role do you identify with most in the parable? Is there any other role you would like to explore more?

¹Veritas Publications, Dublin, 2005. ISBN 1-85390-872-X



Our Vision: A Collaborative Journey at St. Michael's Primary School

Collette Wallace, Head Teacher

Our journey began indirectly through a consultation about creating a new school motto.

Parental feedback at a Parent Council meeting initiated the whole process with parents requesting that we had a school motto that everyone could connect with and instil a sense of pride in our community. The motto that had been created many years ago, "We strive for perfection in all things", was no longer in use as it was not considered realistic.

The consultation process in establishing a new motto involved a wide range of stakeholders: from the youngest of our pupils through to our external partners. All had the opportunity to share their views on a range of possible mottos whilst also making further suggestions themselves. The use of Microsoft Forms made the collation of the information relatively easy. The final decision was then the responsibility of our Learner Council.

The Learner Council reviewed the most popular choices from each stakeholder group: pupils, parents, staff and partners. After a great deal of discussion, they decided that there were two statements that they really liked and that one would become our new motto, "Inspiring young minds with nurturing hearts," with the other becoming our hashtag #DreamBelieveAchieve.

This consultation formed part of a wider process, seven consultations in total, with all stakeholders, which reviewed our curriculum, our vision and our school values. Although most people felt that our existing vision statement was still relevant, it was evident from their survey responses that our community's desires and hopes extended beyond a motto and this led us to re-evaluate our vision statement, and our school aims.

Maintaining our Catholic identity was paramount as we engaged in this new phase on our journey. This focus ensured that our renewed vision and aims would not only guide our educational approach but also inspire our community to live out their faith in meaningful ways. Rather than have our motto and hashtag as just standalone statements, we endeavoured to include them in our revised vision statement.

After a great deal of discussion and redrafting, we finally created a vision statement and renewed aims that we believe are not only inclusive and forward-looking but also deeply rooted in our Catholic identity. We are so very grateful to Anne Marie, our Diocesan Primary Advisor, for her support throughout the process.

Our Vision

We are dedicated to inspiring young minds with nurturing hearts in a vibrant community of faith and learning. Guided by the Gospel values, we empower our children to dream, believe and achieve.

FireCloud - St Ninian's High School

Angela Carroll

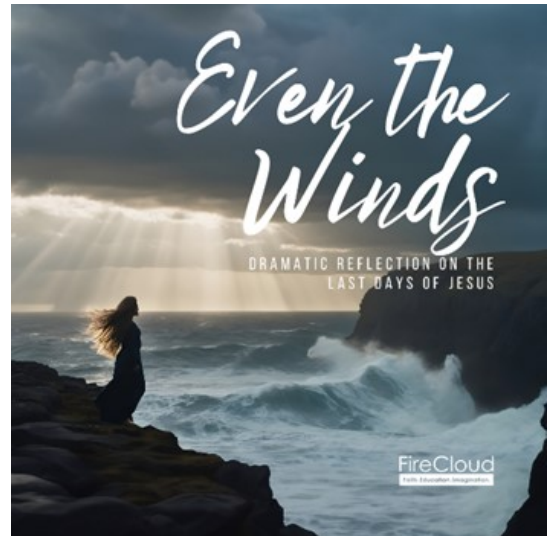
We have been fortunate enough to welcome FireCloud into St Ninian's twice this year. During Lent, they led our S3 pupils in a Lenten reflection and in May they led our S2 retreats.

Lenten Reflection

The S3 Lenten reflection, *Even the Winds*, was a presentation of the passion of Jesus Christ as seen through the eyes of his friends and loved ones.

Over the course of the day, FireCloud transformed our oratory and delivered this session to all of S3. Two S3 classes visited the oratory at a time for this period-long reflection which used music and dramatic narration.

Pupils and staff found the experience to be very powerful, provoking a re-engagement with scripture that brought the Gospel stories to life.



'I really liked FireCloud because it was a different thing that I have never experienced. I found it really nice because all of the songs were really good and told the story well.'

S3 Pupil

'I thought it was nice to hear, it was peaceful. I enjoyed the songs that were sung and it was a nice experience overall to be able to sit in and hear it.'

S3 Pupil



FireCloud - St Ninian's High School

(Continued from page 6)

S2 Encounter Retreats

FireCloud also created and lead retreats and workshops designed to deepen faith and inspire the hopeful search for God. We were excited to work with FireCloud in delivering a retreat to our S2 pupils over the course of a week. The theme for the retreat was Encounter.

The team started the day with some fun activities to break the ice and at the same time challenge pupils' expectations of what a retreat involves. Pupils then participated in three different workshops, each led by one of the FireCloud team. The groups explored different encounters with God, from St Thomas and St Paul, to Gideon and the Samaritan women at the well. These encounters were shared through a range of activities and media and the insights of pupils during discussions revealed their thoughtful and personal engagement with the sessions. The team also shared their own personal testimonies which were powerful and practical, in terms of sharing ways in which we can encounter God in our lives.

The groups came back together for a plenary with yet more games, this time involving singing which the pupils thoroughly enjoyed, as well as a Q&A session. The young people's questions demonstrated a real yearning for the truth and for guidance with regards their faith.

The day concluded in the oratory, with Eucharist Adoration, a led reflection and as ever with FireCloud's, beautiful music. For some pupils this was a challenge, to sit in silence, to spend time with God in this way. As we know, their lives are busy, there is rarely a pause from classes, friends, social media, extracurricular clubs and family life! And so, to take this time, to pause and pray, feels so necessary. To their credit they embraced this opportunity and settled into this time with Our Lord.





Diocese of Paisley

Strategic Plan 2024-25 Summary

- 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 and Diocesan toolkits within schools' self-evaluation processes in order to facilitate the identification of schools' support needs and the sharing of good practice across the Diocese.*

- 2. Offering Appropriate CLPL and Developing Leadership for Learning in Faith**
 - a) To provide spiritual support for teachers including an afternoon of reflection for Head Teachers.*
 - b) To liaise with Local Authorities re Diocesan NQT and Leadership in Catholic Schools courses.*
 - c) To provide CLPL which supports schools in the delivery of Equality and Inclusion policies.*

- 3. Supporting Curriculum Planning and Meeting Learners' Needs on their Faith Journeys**
 - a) To support schools in their planning of Other World Religions which aligns with TIOF.*
 - b) To continue to enhance the Primary curriculum by embedding the National Schools Singing Programme (NSSP) in Inverclyde Primary Schools.*
 - c) 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.*
 - d) To continue to review and enhance the Senior Phase R.E. programme in collaboration with schools.*
 - e) To continue to work with SPRED and further develop links between schools, SPRED and the Diocesan Education Department .*
 - f) 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.*
 - g) To nurture the spiritual development of children and young people by preparing for and participating in the Holy Year and to explore how the Diocese can ensure a legacy of the Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Encounter.*

- 4. Strengthening Home-School-Parish Links by Supporting Parents, Chaplains and Schools**
 - a) To continue 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 and to contribute to the National Catholic Education Forum.*
 - c) To continue to deliver support for school chaplains and to continue to engage with schools in further developing arrangements which support the work of chaplains.*

Leadership in Catholic Schools Course

The Diocese has developed a leadership course which is not aimed solely at those teachers with formal leadership positions:

“Leadership is one of the central underpinning and interconnecting themes within the suite of Professional Standards and is a key aspect of teacher professionalism. The Professional Standards place all teachers as leaders of and for learning. They lead learning for, and with, all learners and they work with and support the development of colleagues and other partners.” (GTCS)

The course will be open to those members of staff who wish to develop their leadership skills and/or to develop the leadership capacity in others. In addition, staff who, through consultation with their Head Teacher or other Senior Leader, have indicated a desire and willingness to move to the next step in their career may wish to apply to participate in the course.

As part of the course, participants are required to lead an aspect of work within their schools to enhance its Catholic mission. This work could relate to areas such as the Curriculum, Chaplaincy, Partnership with Parents, Home-School-Parish links, Values, Faith in Action, or any aspect of the School Improvement Plan related to its Catholic Mission.

The course consists of five twilight sessions (4pm-5.30pm) in the Diocesan Offices. Each session explores key messages on aspects of leadership and engages participants in individual reflection followed by group discussion on practical scenarios.

Session One – What is Leadership? (25 September 2024)

This session examines a range of studies on the nature of leadership:

- the distinction and relationship between leadership and management;
- the leadership styles required to effect change;
- the qualities and attributes necessary for leadership.

Session Two - What is Distinctive about Leadership in Catholic Schools? (30 October 2024)

In this session we will explore the distinctive nature of leadership in Catholic schools:

- the distinctive role of the Catholic school leader;
- the concept of servant leadership;
- the spirituality of Catholic leaders.

Session Three – Mission, Vision and Values in Catholic Schools (20 November 2024)

In this session we will examine the mission, vision and values of Catholic schools:

- What do Vatican documents say about the mission of Catholic schools?
- What is distinctive about the vision of Catholic schools?
- What are Gospel values and how should they permeate the life of Catholic schools?

Session Four – Self-Evaluation of Leadership in Catholic Schools (29 January 2025)

This session focusses on self-evaluation in the context of Catholic leadership by:

- considering examples of Catholic leadership frameworks
- encouraging participants individually and with fellow participants to reflect on the key messages, features of effective practice and how they would gather evidence to base judgements.

Session Five – Sharing Practice (18 June 2025)

In this session, we will celebrate the achievements of the participants and enable them to share:

- the work they have undertaken and how they went about their project;
- the impact of their work on young people and the school community;
- what they have learned and what they would do differently in future.

An application form is available from Director.Schools@rcdop.org.uk and should be returned by Friday 5 September. There is no course fee.

SCIAF Resources



Elaine McGinlay: emcginlay@sciaf.org.uk

This academic year, SCIAF is launching a new, fully digital version of our S5 resource, "**The Catholic Vision of Dignity**". It is a comprehensive digital resource designed for S5 learners in the Senior Phase, linked to core learning objectives in *This is Our Faith*. The resource invites students to delve deeply into the Catholic understanding of human dignity and our faithful response to injustice.

Through a blend of digital and offline activities, the resource is both interactive and thought-provoking. Pupils can engage with video content, animations, quizzes, and video reflections. These digital components are complemented by offline group activities, including a board game called '*Pathways to Peace*' and a refugee simulation game, '*On the Move*'.

At the heart of this resource is the exploration of the intrinsic worth of every human being as revealed by Sacred Scripture, Church Teaching, and the life of Christ. The resource emphasises that dignity is not a mere construct of human law but a divine gift from God and how this fundamental belief shapes how we, as Catholics, respond to social justice issues in our world today.

The digital resource is organized into key sections including:

- **Responding to the needs of others** encourages pupils to reflect on our duty to help those in need, drawing inspiration from Scripture and Church teachings.
- **Rights & Dignity** focuses on understanding human rights through the lens of our faith, with a focus on SCIAF's Integral Human Development approach in particular.
- **Responding to Injustice**, a particularly poignant section, looks at current issues such as the plight of refugees and how we can act to support those suffering from injustice.

Guided by our faith and the divine vision of human dignity, "**The Catholic Vision of Dignity**" resource aims to inspire pupils to act justly and compassionately in a world that desperately needs it. The resource is not just an educational tool but a call to faith in action, encouraging young people to pray and campaign with SCIAF to make a real difference in the world.

Primary Resources

In the 2024/25 academic year we continue to provide resources linked to Learning for Sustainability, the Curriculum for Excellence and This is our Faith. "**This is our world – Cambodia**" visits for early years classes continue to be extremely popular, exploring the lives of families in Cambodia using a big book and story bag. Similarly, the "**Day in the Life**" visits for upper primary are linked to the Pope Francis Faith Award and core learning in This is our Faith.

If you haven't had a visit from SCIAF before, or would like to book another visit please email us schools@sciaf.org.uk

To access the Catholic Vision of Dignity resource and all of our resources for primary and secondary please go to www.sciaf.org.uk/resources

Catholic Vision of Dignity

This digital resource is for S5 learners to investigate the Catholic vision of dignity of the human person and our faithful response to injustice.

Contents

- Using this resource
- This is Our Faith - Learning
- Catholic vision of dignity
- Responding to the needs of others
- Rights and Dignity
- Responding to injustice
- Group activities
- Resource list

This is our world
Cambodia

Book a visit from SCIAF for early level classes where we will explore the cultural and religious life of families in Cambodia. Using a big book and story bag pupils will see, touch, smell and hear interactive props alongside the real-life stories.

20th November: World Children's Day

Mary's Meals Resources

mary's
meals

George Morehead, Supporter Engagement Officer

Telephone: 07593 447285

Email: george.morehead@marysmeals.org

a simple solution
to world hunger

Dear Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Paisley, thank you so much for all your little (and big) acts of love, that are helping us to end child hunger one meal at a time. Thanks to your kindness and prayers you are actively helping Mary's Meals in our mission to reach the next hungry child. Your support is allowing us to provide food and an education to children in some of the poorest countries in the world.

Please find below some links to useful resources.

Children's Resources

This link will take you to resources that can be used in the classroom. At the top you'll find resources for 8-11 year olds, and further down resources for secondary schools.

[Children's resources | Mary's Meals UK](#)
(marysmeals.org.uk)



World Porridge Day

Celebrate World Porridge Day on October 10th and raise funds to feed hungry children with Mary's Meals by holding a Porridge Party.

[Marys-Meals-World-Porridge-Day-Pack.pdf](#)
(marysmeals.org.uk)



Sponsor a School.

Sponsoring a school is an amazing way to help us reach more of the world's poorest children with the promise of a daily meal.

[Sponsor A School | Mary's Meals UK](#) (marysmeals.org.uk)

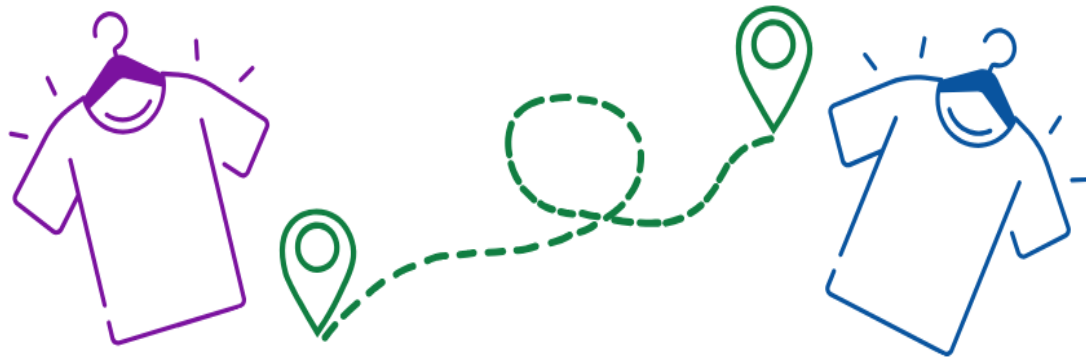
"We were delighted to establish a relationship with Ndombo school through our friends at Mary's Meals. There has always been excellent charitable work undertaken in the school but the Sponsor a School program has given these effort a real focus, allowing pupils to see the benefits of their efforts. From a teaching point of view, we can point to our relationship with Ndombo as an example of faith, love, kindness, respect and selflessness. This very much aids our mission to place Gospel Values at the very centre of school life."

Mark Gallagher - Depute Head Teacher St. Ninians High School

Laudato Si Schools Workshop

Justice & Peace Scotland

THE JOURNEY OF A COTTON T-SHIRT



How was your t-shirt made?

Where was your t-shirt made?

Who made your t-shirt?

A **Laudato Si Schools Workshop** by Justice & Peace Scotland exploring the sustainability and human rights issues of the fast fashion industry. Primary and Secondary inputs available. Contact us to find out more.



office@justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk



Themes for Prayer and Assemblies



Diocese of Paisley
Education Department

August

Welcome to the New School Year

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

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

September

Vocations

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

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

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

The Season of Creation

The season begins on 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for Creation, and continues until 4 October, the Feast of St Francis. It involves all Christian Churches in praying for our common home.



Its theme this year is '**Hope and act with Creation**': <https://seasonofcreation.org/> The symbol "The first fruits of hope", inspired by Romans 8:19-25, is its guiding inspiration.

The biblical image depicts the Earth as a mother groaning as if giving birth (Rom 8:22). "Creation groans" because of our unsustainable actions that harm it. Creatures of all kinds, including humans, cry out because of our destructive actions that cause climate crises, biodiversity loss and human suffering.

However, Creation teaches us that hope is present in waiting (cf. Rom 8:20-21). To hope in the biblical context does not mean to remain still and silent, but to actively strive for a new life in the midst of difficulties.

Resources can be found at [Message of Pope Francis for Creation Day 2023 - Laudato Si' Movement \(laudatosimovement.org\)](https://www.laudatosimovement.org/)

September

(Continued from page 13)

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

In the January 2024 edition, Justice and Peace Scotland and SCIAF provided a summary of Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation *Laudate Deum: To all People of Goodwill on the Climate Crisis*.

SCIAF Resources

- The main booklet for SCIAF resources for Laudato Si' Schools can be found here:
https://www.sciaf.org.uk/assets/000/001/805/Laudato_Si_Schools_Scotland_-_Resources_original.pdf?1682519020
- SCIAF also has a Padlet for teachers at the start of their Laudato Si' Schools journey:
[Laudato Si' Schools Scotland: Part Two: Learn-Pray-Act. Sections 1-3 \(padlet.com\)](https://padlet.com/SCIAFDevEd/section-4-primary-prayer-learning-and-action-ideas-linked-to-t7acixchwt4h2ey)
- There are also Padlets for LSS teachers to find resources for **Primary**
<https://padlet.com/SCIAFDevEd/section-4-primary-prayer-learning-and-action-ideas-linked-to-t7acixchwt4h2ey>
- and **Secondary**
<https://padlet.com/SCIAFDevEd/section-4-secondary-prayer-learning-and-action-ideas-linked-to-66d38lrkzbfxy1x> with resources linked to the seven Laudato Si' goals.

JUSTICE AND PEACE SCOTLAND

Justice & Peace Scotland have developed a workshop for pupils to learn about the environmental and human rights issues in the fashion industry, using the example of a typical cotton t-shirt. The workshop has been designed to complement specific goals and quotes from Laudato Si Schools and it may be especially fitting during the Season of Creation to explore how our actions and habits can harm or benefit creation. The input will be tailored to suitably challenge the age of participants, Primary or Secondary, but is recommended for P5 upwards.

CAFOD also has resources:

<https://cafod.org.uk/education/primary-teaching-resources>
<https://cafod.org.uk/education/campaign-in-your-school/get-creative-for-climate-justice-young-people>

October

The Rosary

October is the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary. Please try to give the young people the experience of meditating on the Rosary, perhaps even a decade each day. There is also the possibility of linking it to the **Mission Rosary**.

The Diocesan P1-P7 planners provide the following guidance on sharing the Mysteries of the Rosary:

- P2 – The Joyful Mysteries
- P3 – The Sorrowful Mysteries
- P4 – The Glorious Mysteries
- P5 – The Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries
- P6 – The Luminous Mysteries
- P7 – All

October

(Continued from page 14)

S1 RERC 3-14a deepens the pupils' knowledge of Mary, Mother of God and can explain the importance of statues and prayers associated with Our Lady.

S2 RERC 3-15a encourages us to share with young people that Mary is honoured particularly in the months of May and October.

S3 RERC 4-15a includes a focus on the Rosary, with pupils growing in understanding that Christians meditate on the mysteries of Jesus' life, death and resurrection by praying the Mysteries of the Rosary.

Many resources provide support for praying the Rosary e.g. www.catholicity.com/prayers

It is also encouraging to see a growing number of schools setting up **Rosary Groups** or having Mini-Vinnies lead the Rosary at times during the year. An example of the Rosary Group in All Saints Primary was contained in the August 2022 edition of *Centred on Christ* (p4) which can be found on TEAMS.

Guidance and resources on how to set up a Rosary Group can be found at www.childrensrosary.org

The Missions

October **World Mission Sunday** will be celebrated on **20 October**, although it may be a theme you could address throughout the month of October in Religious Education, morning prayers or assemblies.

The Pope's message for **World Mission Day 2024** can be found here:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2024-02/pope-world-mission-day-message-2024-king-banquet.html>

The theme **Go and invite everyone to the banquet (Matthew 22: 9)** is inspired by the parable of the wedding feast. Summaries can be found at:

<https://onefamilyinmission.org/message-from-his-holiness-pope-francis-for-world-mission-day-2024-go-and-invite-everyone-to-the-banquet-cf-matt-229/>

https://www.fides.org/en/news/74680-VATICAN_Pope's_message_for_World_Mission_Day_2024_The_mission_is_to_invite_everyone_to_the_Lord_s_banquet

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2024-02/pope-world-mission-day-message-2024-king-banquet.html>

In his message, Pope Francis begins by referring to the wedding guests who refused the invitation. He then focuses on each part of the command to go and invite everyone.

- **"Go and invite!"** Mission is a tireless going out to invite others to the Lord's banquet.
- **"To the marriage feast."** The Eucharistic dimension of the mission of Christ and the Church.
- **"Everyone."** The universal mission of Christ's disciples in the fully missionary Church.
- How do we invite families to participate in the faith life of their children, the school, the parish?
- How can we nurture a love of the Eucharist? Can we encourage families to attend Mass in school or 'Family Masses' in the parish? In light of the Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Encounter, can we provide opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration?
- How do we reach out to 'everyone'? How can we play our part in inviting everyone e.g. through inviting parents and families to liturgies and devotions in the school and parish?

October

The Missions

(Continued from page 15)

We would encourage Primary Schools to join schools across Scotland in celebrating **First Friday Masses for the Missions on Friday 4 October**. Failing that, the school could hold a Missionary Children's Prayer Service on that day, again making it colourful and reflective of the universality of our Faith. We have uploaded Missio Missionary Children's Mass resources and Missionary Children Prayer Services onto the Diocesan TEAM/Education Resources for Schools/Mission Month.

We would encourage you to recite a decade of the Rosary with pupils during October for the intentions of our missionary priests and religious. Resources are available via: <https://www.missioscotland.com/mission-rosary>

Missio's projects for Mission Month focus on **Cameroon** and will be supporting a programme for pupils with disabilities (one of our Equality Act's protected characteristics), as well as other projects. Perhaps pupils could do some fact finding on Cameroon.

Missio will also print a **Mission Month Prayer Calendar** which pupils can follow during Mission Month. Missio YouTube videos which will be of interest:

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

The link for the primary schools' resources is: <https://www.missioscotland.com/primary-schools>

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

Five Star Missio Scotland Schools

Missio has launched its Five Star Schools campaign, inviting Primary Schools to engage with it in five very special ways.

- Praying the Rosary during Mission Month (or during May)
- Fundraising for Missio Scotland
- Commission Missio Champions
- Putting on a Missionary Saints play
- Entering our Christmas Art Competition.



More information is available on the Missio Scotland website.

When schools have completed the task and provided Missio Scotland with evidence (photo, video, social media post), they will send out the appropriate star. When schools have a star for each of the five tasks on your chart, they will have become a 5 Star Missio Scotland School and will receive their own Missy Moo! If schools do this, three years in a row, they will be presented with a special Missio Scotland Schools flag.

Posters were sent to every school in Scotland. If you have not received them, please let us know.

Missio Visits

If you would like Missio to visit your school for an assembly, to collect a cheque or maybe just to chat about the work we do here at Missio Scotland - please use the contact form to request a visit:

<https://www.missioscotland.com/primary-schools>.

Visits to schools in the diocese have received very positive feedback.

Diocese of Paisley - Education and Youth Calendar: 2024-25



Month	Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Target Group
AUG	15	Thu		Solemnity of The Assumption		
AUG	15	Thu	9am	Welcome to New Session	St Andrew's, G'nock	All staff (Inverclyde)
AUG	21	Wed	4.15pm	Welcome to New Session	St Mirin's Cathedral	All staff – particularly NQTs
SEP	8-15			Vocations Awareness Week	School-based	S1-S6
SEP	11	Wed	10.15am	P7 Mass for Confirmandi	St Mirin's Cathedral	P7 (Renfrew & E Renfrew)
SEP	12	Thu	6.30pm	Diocesan Vocations Mass	St John the Baptist, Port Glasgow	S1-S6
SEP	13	Fri	10-2pm	Vocations Conference	Cathedral Halls	S6
SEP	17	Tue	10.00am 2.30pm	Aid to the Church – Youth Rally <i>(Registration from 9.30am)</i>	Hamilton Town House	S1-S6
SEP	23	Mon	7pm	Diocesan Parent Forum	Diocesan Offices	PC Chairs and Church Representatives
SEP	25	Wed	10am	P7 Mass for Confirmandi	St Mary's, Greenock	P7 (Inverclyde)
OCT				Mission Month	School-based	P1-S6
OCT	9	Wed	12:30 for 1.15pm	Afternoon of Reflection for HTs	Cathedral Halls	Primary and Secondary HTs
OCT	4	Fri		First Friday Masses for the Missions	School/parish	Primary Schools
NOV	1	Fri		All Saints Day	School-based	P1-S6
NOV	7	Thu	1.30- 3.00pm	Chaplains' Meeting	Diocesan Offices	
NOV	16-30			Catholic Education 'Week' 2024-26 'Pilgrims of Hope' <i>Preparation for Jubilee Year</i>	Schools and parishes	All schools
NOV	20	Wed		Red Wednesday (ACN)	School-based events	All schools
NOV	21	Thu	10am- 2.30pm	World Youth Day 2024 Conference	St Mirin's Cathedral	S3
DEC				Advent Reflection Service for Staff		
DEC	1	Sun	2-5pm	Primary School Day – Advent	St Mary's Church, Paisley	P4-P7
JAN	19	Sun	2-5pm	Primary School Day	St Mary's Church, Paisley	P4-P7
MAR	5	Wed		Ash Wednesday	School-based	All schools
MAR	9	Sun	2-5pm	Primary School Day – Lent	St Mary's Church, Paisley	P4-P7
MAR	13	Thu	1.30- 3.30pm	Joint Meeting of Clergy and HTs	Cathedral Halls tbc	HTs and Clergy
MAR	24	Mon	7pm	Diocesan Parent Forum	Diocesan Offices	PC Chairs and Church Representatives

Diocese of Paisley - Education and Youth Calendar: 2024-25						 Diocese of Paisley Education Department
Month	Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Target Group
APR	23	Wed	6.30pm	Celebration of Confirmation	St Mirin's Cathedral	St Andrew's, St Joseph's, St Ninian's, St Joseph's and St Patrick's Parish
APR	24	Thu	6.30pm	Celebration of Confirmation	St Mirin's Cathedral	St Cadoc's & St Clare's
APR	25-27			Holy Year: Jubilee of Teenagers	School-based	S1-S6
APR	29	Tue		33 Day Diocesan Consecration to Jesus through Mary begins (ends on Monday 2 June)	School-based	P7 pupils
APR	30	Wed	6.30pm	Celebration of Confirmation	St Mirin's Cathedral	St Charles', St Peter's and St Paul's
MAY	1-31			ACN Rosary for Peace (Maisie Milk)	School-based	P1-P7
MAY	1	Thu	6.30pm	Celebration of Confirmation	St Mirin's Cathedral	St Thomas', St Mark's and St John's
MAY	7	Wed	6.30pm	Celebration of Confirmation	St Mirin's Cathedral	St Catherine's, St Fergus, St James', St John Ogilvie and St Mary's
MAY	8	Thu	6.30pm	Celebration of Confirmation	St Mirin's Cathedral	St Anne's, St James' and St John Bosco
MAY	14	Wed	6.30pm	Celebration of Confirmation	St Mirin's Cathedral	OLM and St Joseph's
MAY	15	Thu	6.30pm	Celebration of Confirmation	St Mirin's Cathedral	OLOP, St Anthony's, St David's, St Fillan's and St Margaret's
MAY	20	Tue	6.30pm	Celebration of Confirmation	St Mirin's Cathedral	All Saints, St Mary's and St Patrick's
MAY	21	Wed	6.30pm	Celebration of Confirmation	St Mirin's Cathedral	Craigmarloch, St Francis', St John's, St Michael's, St Colm's
MAY	24-25			Holy Year: Jubilee of Children	School-based	P1-P7
MAY	29	Thu		Ascension Day	School-based	P1-S6
JUN	tbc			Mass for Pupils from ASN Schools		
JUN	5	Thu	2pm	National Caritas Awards Ceremony	Clyde Auditorium	Caritas Students
JUN	8	Sun	2-5pm	Primary School Day – Pentecost	St Mary's Church, Paisley	P4-P7
JUN	10	Tue	9.45-3pm	Teaching in Catholic Schools	Cathedral Halls	S6
JUN	11	Wed	4.30pm	Thanksgiving Mass	St Mirin's Cathedral	All staff – particularly NQTs
25 JUNE – 4 JULY				Youth to Lourdes		S3-S6

CLPL (August to October)

Date	Time	Course	Venue
13.8.24	11.30 - 2.30	Welcome to Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) - Inverclyde	Inverclyde Academy Greenock, PA15 3JS
15.08.24	09:00	Welcome to the New Session Mass	St Andrew's Church, Greenock
21.08.24	16:15	Welcome to the New Session Mass	St Mirin's Cathedral
23.08.24	09:30- 11:00	Welcome to Newly Qualified Teachers - Renfrewshire	Diocesan Centre Incle Street, Paisley PA1 1HR
27.08.24	10:00 - 11:30	Welcome to Newly Qualified Teachers - East Renfrewshire	St Luke's High School Springfield Rd, Barrhead, G78 2SG
30.08.24	10:00 - 11:30	Newly Qualified Teachers Session 2 - This Is Our Faith Inverclyde NQTs and teachers new to the Catholic sector	All Saints Primary School Blairmore Road, Greenock PA15 3JS
11.09.24	4:00 - 5:30	Primary RE Co-ordinator Meeting	Diocesan Centre
17.09.24	10:00 - 11:30	Newly Qualified Teachers Session 2 - This Is Our Faith East Renfrewshire NQTs and teachers new to the Catholic sector	St. Luke's High School Springfield Rd, Barrhead, G78 2SG
18.09.24	4:00 - 5:30	Primary RE Co-ordinator Meeting	All Saints Primary School
20.09.24	9:30 - 11:00	Newly Qualified Teachers Session 2 - This Is Our Faith Renfrewshire NQTs and teachers new to the Catholic sector	Diocesan Centre
25.9.24	16:00 - 17:30	Leadership in Catholic Schools Session 1: What is Leadership? (Subsequent sessions: 30.10.24; 20.11.24; 29.1.25 and 18.6.25)	Diocesan Centre
2.10.24	4:00 - 5:30	God's Loving Plan - Inverclyde	All Saints Primary School
9.10.24	9:30 – 11:30	Principal Teachers of Religious Education	Diocesan Offices
9.10.24	13:15 – 15:00	Head Teacher Reflection and Retreat (Lunch available from 12:30)	St Mirin's Hall and Cathedral
9.10.24	4:00 - 5:30	God's Loving Plan - East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire	Diocesan Centre



Diocesan Contacts

Fr Matthew Carlin	Vicar Episcopal for Education	VE-Education@rcdop.org.uk
Neil Roarty	Director of Schools	Director.Schools@rcdop.org.uk
Anne Marie Mullan	Primary Advisor	primaryadvisor@rcdop.org.uk
Stephen Parsons	Secondary Advisor	secondaryadvisor@rcdop.org.uk
Tommy Hughes	Curriculum Development Officer	Curriculum.DO@rcdop.org.uk
Dorothy Graham	Church Representative	eastrenfreweducation@rcdop.org.uk
Jim Docherty	Church Representative	inverclydeeducation@rcdop.org.uk
Jack Nellaney	Church Representative	renfreweducation@rcdop.org.uk
Mgr Joseph Burke	Church Approval	approvals@rcdop.org.uk
Norma Scott	Director of SPRED	spred@rcdop.org.uk
Canon Michael McMahon	Vicar Episcopal Formation (and CLPL provider)	VE-Formation@rcdop.org.uk
Father John Morrison	Vicar Episcopal for Youth and Vocations	VE-VocationsandYouth@rcdop.org.uk
Fr Jonathan Whitworth	Vicar Episcopal for Marriage and Family	VE-MarriageandFamily@rcdop.org.uk
Rebecca Harrison	Marriage and Family	marriageandfamily@rcdop.org.uk
Martin Craig	Chair of CHAPS	inmac722@glow.sch.uk
Marie Kane	Secretary of CHAPS	KaneM2@st-thomas.e-renfrew.sch.uk
Christine Downie	Chair of CHAS	downiec1@st-lukes.e-renfrew.sch.uk



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!