

Centred on Christ

October 2025



Our Lady of Paisley;
pray for us

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Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the latest edition of Centred on Christ.

This year, as you aware, there has been significant staffing changes in the Diocesan Education team. Neil Roarty has retired, Anne Marie Mullan continues as Primary Advisor, Alison Fanning has been appointed Secondary Advisor and I've taken on the role of Director of Schools. It is anticipated that these changes will continue to enable the department to offer advice and support to all schools.

We circulated the **Diocesan Education Strategic Plan** last term. It is also on TEAMS. The Strategic Plan 2025/26, which has a slightly smaller number of targets, seeks to continue to build on the work of previous years working closely with colleagues to support the faith formation of our young people. Our Plan, based upon the views of Head Teachers, R.E. Co-ordinators, Principal Teachers of R.E., Chaplains and our Parent Forum, is also a very ambitious document. It is hoped that schools will be able to identify **some** key targets which they could include in their School Improvement Plans.

We are grateful for your **Developing in Faith** returns which were hugely encouraging, demonstrating the commitment of schools to provide quality experiences for children and young people and to put Christ at the centre of their schools. We will share the good practice in the reports across the diocese and will fine-tune our Strategic Plan on the basis of your requests for support.

On Thursday 9th October, the **Afternoon of Reflection on Christ amongst the Teachers** will be given by Fr. Tom Kilbride and will conclude with Mass celebrated by Bishop John in the Cathedral. There will be a joint **Head Teacher and Clergy meeting** in the Cathedral Halls on Thursday 12th March 2026.

This edition highlights a number of events that have taken place within schools to celebrate the **Jubilee Year of Hope**. As well as highlighting the **St. Carlo Acutis Relic** visit.

Our **CLPL programmes** for this session have been circulated to schools.

The **Diocesan Parent Forum** met on Monday 22nd September in the Diocesan Offices. The main items discussed were updates on the Year of Hope, St. Carlo Acutis Relic Visitation and the further Scottish Government consultation on Religious Observance. A copy of the Departmental response to this consultation can be found on TEAMS.

A reminder that **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, Season of Creation, the Rosary and the Missions. We would ask that October First Friday Masses and the daily decade of the Rosary be offered for the Missions.

Best wishes for session 2025-26

Stephen Parsons

Stephen Parsons
Director of Schools





St. Anthony's Primary & St. Aidan's Parish Johnstone

Jubilee Year of Hope

Introduction

St. Anthony's, as a Catholic school, have embraced the Year of Hope with a strong focus on deepening faith, fostering prayer, and strengthening our community. Our celebrations and initiatives have been rooted in the Gospel values of faith, service, and witness.



Symbolising Our Journey

We created a doorway display to represent our ongoing journey of hope. This visual focus has allowed children and staff to contribute prayers, reflections, and artwork, creating a shared symbol of our faith journey throughout the year. Our school community will be presented with a Year of Hope Badge, recognising the journey we have all been on.

Liturgical Life and Parish Links

Our school community has been closely involved in parish Masses, in a renewed effort to encourage families to return to Mass. Pupils and staff prepare in school during the week to take active roles in leading the readings, offertory, and music on Sundays. This has strengthened our bond with the parish and helped our children grow in understanding of the Mass as central to Catholic life.



Rosary Prayer Sessions

In honour of Our Lady, we organised rosary sessions during key liturgical seasons. Pupils developed reverence in prayer and grew in confidence as they led decades of the rosary. These sessions encouraged reflection, peace, and hope, and were well supported by staff and families.

Evangelisation and Witness



We have explored practical ways to share the Gospel message within our school and parish. Acts of service, the creation of prayer cards, and prayers of hope for those in need have given children opportunities to put faith into action. Pupils have begun to see evangelisation not only as words but as living witnesses of kindness, love, and hope.

Through our doorway display, our participation in parish Masses, our prayerful rosary sessions, and our focus on evangelisation, we have celebrated the Year of Hope as a true school and parish family. These experiences have strengthened the faith of our pupils and staff and will continue to inspire us as we look forward to the next stage of our spiritual journey.

Partners and the Diocese of Paisley



Contact: Gerard Gough: gerard@missioscotland.com

Missio Scotland is the Bishops of Scotland's designated charity for Catholic primary schools. Missio Scotland are very keen to engage with schools and appreciate all that our schools do to support the charity.

It is hoped that each Catholic primary school will fundraise for **Missio Scotland**, irrespective of the amount.

There are now two schools in the Diocese of Paisley who have achieved the **Missio Scotland Five Star Award: St. Ninian's Primary, Gourock and St. Joseph's Primary, Busby**. Congratulations to both schools. Several schools are now on their way to gaining the award.

A variety of resources related to: **World Mission Month (October) / Missy Moo— Missio Scotland Five Star Award / Jubilee Year of Hope 2025 and Advent** can be found at [Missio Scotland Resources](#)

Real Gifts 2025

SCIAF are grateful to schools for their continued generosity and support of their support of the **Real Gifts campaign** and throughout the year. This support helps SCIAF in their efforts towards building a just world.

This Advent, SCIAF Real Gifts can help families and communities be more resilient to changing climates, extreme weather, and help them to build brighter futures.

Real Gift resources for schools including activities and assemblies are available at sciaf.org.uk/resources

Contact: Joseph Kelly: joseph.kelly@acnuk.org

Persecuted Christians #Red Wednesday, 19th November 2025

Every year, ACN's **#RedWednesday** Campaign highlights the plight of Christians across the world who suffer religious persecution. Christians in many countries routinely face detention, violence and abuse for their faith. Increasingly in some countries, Christians are facing legal and structural oppression, such as young people being denied access to Higher Education. Priests have been abducted. We invite our school communities to support the **#RedWednesday** Campaign and to stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians. See resources at: [Schools and Youth | Aid to the Church in Need](#)

Our Lady of the Missions: Jubilee Year of Hope

Angela O'Connor



2025 is a very significant year in the faith life of our Catholic Schools. Together as a community of faith and learning we have ensured a variety of opportunities have been planned to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025. We planned a year overview which we shared with staff and families.

The plan included: A Cluster Mass, Dedication of our Jubilee Door, Jubilee Launch Day, introduction of Luce our mascot at Assembly, SCIAF Big Lent Walk, Pilgrim Passport initiative, Outdoor Action Day and a Pilgrim Walk.

Our Lady of the Missions Jubilee Plan 2025	
2025 will be very significant in the faith life of our Catholic Schools. Together as a community of faith and learning, we will celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025. "Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring." (Pope Francis)	
JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE	
NOVEMBER 2024	
16th November - 30th November 2024 - Catholic Education Week ~ Pilgrims of Hope ~	
• SCES materials • St Ninian's Cluster Mass 19th November • Education Sunday: 17th and 24th November	
JANUARY 2025	
• Dedication of Jubilee Door of Hope ◦ Door installed on Wednesday 8th November ◦ Door Blessed by Father Dan on Friday 24th January • Jubilee Launch Day 24th January in classes ◦ Jubilee Pledge ◦ See, Judge, Act ◦ Launch Parish Postcards (parish) Sunday 26th January Connecting with the elderly and sick in our local community who cannot attend Mass. "Signs of hope should also be shown to the sick, at home or in hospital. Their sufferings can be alleviated by the closeness and affection of those who visit them. The elderly, who frequently feel lonely and abandoned, also deserve signs of hope." (Pope Francis) • Banners installed in both car parks	
FEBRUARY 2025	
• Meet Luce and friends (mascot for the 2025 Jubilee Year) ◦ Raincoat: journey through life's storms ◦ Staff and shell: signs of a pilgrim ◦ Muddy boots: the long journey • Launch Pilgrim Passports - a family initiative ◦ Further details ◦ Each family will receive a Pilgrim Passport home with them	
MARCH 2025	
• SCIAF The Big Lent Walk. Can you as a family or a group walk 200km in the 40 days of Lent? "A hope and a future for the poor."	

◦ Walk, run, roll or stroll 200km over 40 days. ◦ Support SCIAF's WEE BOX appeal in Rwanda and their work around the world through ParentPay donations or Sponsorship ◦ Virtual route from Scotland to the Vatican City in celebration of the Jubilee Year "I ask with all my heart that hope be granted to the billions of the poor, who often lack the essentials of life." (Pope Francis)
APRIL 2025
• Outdoor Action Day Guardians of the Garden - Tidying and planting in our school grounds A hope and a future for Planet Earth. "Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others." (Pope Francis, Laudato Si')
MAY 2025
• Mark in May: an invitation to Primary 6 pupils and all school staff to read the entire Gospel of Mark. "In our journey towards the Jubilee, let us return to Scripture and realize that it speaks to us..." (Pope Francis)
JUNE 2025
• Sunday 22nd June Community Pilgrim Walk and Mass at St Vincent's Thornliebank ◦ Route Page 2 and 3 ◦ Form
OCTOBER 2025
• Sunday 4th October Community Pilgrim Walk and Mass at St Joseph's Clarkston ◦ Route Page 4 and 5 ◦ Form
NOVEMBER 2025
16th November - 30th November 2025 - Catholic Education Week ~ Pilgrims of Love ~
• SCES materials • Cluster Catholic Education Mass • Education Sunday Mass • Jubilee Celebration Day 21st November in Classes



The installation of our **Jubilee Door of Hope** was an exciting and memorable day for our school community. The Door was blessed by our Parish Priest, Father Dan, in January. This has become the focal point in our school. Across the year classes visit the door to pray and reflect.



Our Lady of the Missions

As a school community we took part in The SCIAF Big Lent Walk.

"A hope and future for the poor"

- Walk, run, roll or stroll 200km over 40 days.
- Support SCIAF's WEE BOX appeal in Rwanda and their work around the world through ParentPay donations or Sponsorship.
- We followed the Virtual Route from Scotland to the Vatican City in celebration of the Jubilee Year.

"I ask with all my heart that hope be granted to the billions of the poor, who often lack the essentials of life" (Pope Francis)



Pilgrim Passports

As part of the Jubilee Year we actively took part in the Diocese of Paisley initiative to encourage families to take part in a virtual pilgrimage to Rome. During this Jubilee Year there is a focus on the theme of pilgrimage and the virtue of hope.



Our Lady of the Missions Pilgrim Passport					
Pilgrim Passport					
As part of the Jubilee Year the Diocese of Paisley have an initiative to encourage families to take part in a virtual pilgrimage to Rome. During this Jubilee Year there is a focus on the theme of pilgrimage and the virtue of hope.					
The Passport consists of a number of "steps" made by visiting the parish indicated, attending Mass and saying a "pilgrim prayer". Jubilee Year stickers will be rewarded as a result of taking part in the Pilgrimages.					
	Shrine[1] (Saints)	Visit	Theme/Virtue (Hope as overarching theme)	Alternative (for housebound, schools?)	"Act of Hope" (school)
1.	Paisley (St Mirin, Our Lady of Paisley)	Cathedral	Hope, Setting Out	Pray for the Diocese, Bishop John; support diocese	Invite Bishop John to celebrate Mass
2.	Whithorn (St Ninian)	St Ninian's Gourcock	Mission, preaching/teaching	Pray for missionaries; support Missio	Support Missio (October)
3.	Canterbury (St Thomas a Becket)	St Thomas's, Neilston	Courage, Witness, Martyrdom	Pray for persecuted Christians; support Aid to the Church in Need	Support ACN (November – "Red Wednesday")
4.	Compostela (St James)	St James's, Renfrew	Pilgrimage, Detachment,	Pray for homeless; migrants, support SVVP, Jesuit Refugee Service(2)	Visit local parish church or shrine
5.	Fatima (Our Lady of Fatima; Saints Francisco, Jacinta, Lucia)	Christ the King, Howwood (Fatima Vigils)	Penance, prayer	Pray the Rosary; support Mary's Meals	Pray the Rosary (May)
6.	Assisi (St Francis, St Claire)	St Francis's, Port Glasgow	Humility, poverty, charity	Pray for religious, clergy; support SVVP	Collect food for foodbank (or similar)
7.	Rome (St Peter)	St Peter's, Glenburn	Faith	Pray for the Pope; support Pope's charities	Write a letter to Pope Francis about Hope

The Passport consists of "steps" made by visiting the parish indicated and saying a "pilgrim prayer". Jubilee Year stickers were rewarded as a result of taking part and celebrated those who took part at our assemblies. The children were also motivated by the Pilgrim stickers they received.



Inverclyde Jubilee Year of Hope

Martin Craig St.Ninian's Primary

Pilgrims in the Park: Inverclyde's Catholic Schools Unite in Faith

Over 200 enthusiastic Primary 7 pupils from all the Catholic Primary Schools of Inverclyde gathered in Darroch Park this September for a joyful celebration titled *"Pilgrims in the Park."* The event marked a special moment in the Jubilee Year of Hope, bringing together young people in prayer, reflection and fellowship.

Supported by their Parish Priests and joined by the Diocesan Director of Schools, pupils spent the morning exploring the lives of their patron saints, discovering how these inspiring figures can guide them in their own spiritual journeys and praying each of the schools' prayers. Father Danny of St Andrew's led the gathering in moments of prayer and reflection, creating a space for stillness and connection with God amid the beauty of nature.

CARITAS students from Inverclyde's three Catholic Secondary Schools, St Stephen's, Notre Dame and St Columba's, played a vital role in supporting the event, offering leadership and encouragement to the younger pupils throughout the day.

Thanks to the generous support of Inverclyde Council, Darroch Park became a sacred space for the day — a place where faith was celebrated, friendships were deepened, and hearts were opened to God's presence.

"Pilgrims in the Park" was more than just an event — it was a living expression of community, purpose and peace. The idea was born after Inverclyde Primary Headteachers attended the annual CHAPS conference where we were inspired to bring the spirit of shared pilgrimage into the lives of our pupils.

What followed was a beautiful day of reflection and unity. As pupils walked together in faith, they were reminded that their spiritual journey is not a solitary one, but a path shared with others — united in prayer, joy and hope.



This special gathering served as a powerful reminder that when we walk together, we grow together.

Education Department Strategic Plan Summary 2025-26

1. Continuing to build up the Diocesan Family of Schools and work in partnership with stakeholders and Church Agencies to achieve shared goals

1.1 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

2.1 To establish an association which will provide regular support for Catholic teachers in their spiritual development.

2.2 To continue to liaise with Local Authorities re Diocesan NQT and Leadership in Catholic Schools courses.

2.3 To continue to provide CLPL and 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.

2.4 To encourage teachers to undertake appropriate RE qualifications and support the introduction of the revised route to achieving the CTC.

3. Supporting Curriculum Planning and Meeting Learners' Needs on their Faith Journeys

3.1 To liaise with RE Coordinators to identify resources that would support activities suggested in Diocesan Primary RE planners to enhance RE teaching and learning.

3.2 To continue to enhance the Primary curriculum by embedding the National Schools Singing Programme (NSSP) in Inverclyde Primary Schools.

3.3 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.

3.4 To continue to review and enhance the Senior Phase R.E. programme in collaboration with schools.

3.5 To continue to work with SPRED and further develop links between schools, SPRED and the Diocesan Education Department.

3.6 To nurture the spiritual development of children and young people by continuing to participate in the Holy Year, taking forward the legacy of the Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Encounter and supporting the introduction of Generation Hope Hubs in Secondary Schools.

4. Strengthening Home-School-Parish Links by Supporting Parents, Chaplains and Schools

4.1 To continue to share and extend good practice in Home-School-Parish partnerships.

4.2 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 (SCES).

4.3 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

A Saint Among Us: Welcoming the Relic of St Carlo Acutis to St Andrew's Academy.

Conor Gildea Pt RE St. Andrew's Academy



Welcoming the Relic of St Carlo Acutis to St Andrew's Academy.

On Wednesday 10th of September, our school community was deeply honoured to receive a first-class relic of the newly canonised St Carlo Acutis. The Oratory was filled to capacity, standing room only, as Bishop John, joined by a delegation from the diocese and Assisi, formally entrusted the relic to our care.

The reception ceremony was centred around the Eucharist, reflecting St Carlo's profound devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. Pupils from our Caritas cohort led the service with Hymns and scripture readings that were selected to remind us all of the profound gift of the Eucharist. The service culminated in a heartfelt homily from Bishop John. He spoke directly to the young people present, describing St Carlo as "one of their own" - a teenager who lived holiness in the everyday.



One pupil captured this theme perfectly following on from the service when he said: *"The more you learn about St Carlo, you realise he's a saint, but he's just like a pal - someone we can really relate to."*

After the service, the congregation of pupils, staff, and guests gathered in the school foyer, where our talented pupils who are doing barista training served freshly brewed coffee and biscuits, allowing pupils, staff and the delegation to mix and discuss the remarkable life of one of the Church's newest Saints!



DIOCESE OF PAISLEY YOUTH OFFICE

FOSTERING FAITH. DEVELOPING FRIENDSHIPS.



Fr. Ryan Black Vicar Episcopal for Youth

In these days following the visit of the first-class relics of the newly canonised St Carlo Acutis, we are given an opportunity to reflect upon what was a time of many graces for our wider diocesan family. As the coordinator of the visit, I was privileged to accompany the relic around the diocese and witness the faith of so many people— young and old—as they venerated the relic and asked for St Carlo’s powerful intercession.

As Vicar Episcopal for Youth, I was delighted that the first Acutis Evening of the new term could take place in the presence of the relics. This was a special moment of grace for all involved: Monsignor Anthony and Jacquie, who brought the relic and the exhibition on Eucharistic miracles; the members of the Youth Commission who facilitated the evening; and especially the young people who attended.

Monsignor Anthony spoke with the young people about his own vocation story and the life of Carlo, encouraging them to hear and respond to their own personal call to holiness. After dinner and a chance to socialise, Jacquie spoke with them about Eucharistic devotion and the True Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Finally, everyone spent some time in prayerful adoration of the Blessed Sacrament by candlelight, with some young people moved to tears.

A moment that moved me especially came after dinner, after Monsignor Anthony had been listening to what the young people were saying to one another about their experiences and their interest in Carlo. He asked me to encourage them to offer their own thoughts and testimonies. I was cynical; I assumed that no one would have the courage to do so. I was wrong. Two young people—one of whom had not attended Holy Mass for a long time—spoke in a heartfelt way about Carlo’s influence on their lives, and about how his 5-step approach to holiness had resonated with them.

Following the visit of the relics, the Acutis Evenings allow us to build a legacy for the future in the Diocese of Paisley. They are a fruit of insightful meetings with senior pupils across the diocese in January and February 2025. Most senior pupils with whom the Youth Commission met stated that they had a desire for some form of catechesis and community outside of school. We teased this out with them and the result was the launch of a new initiative, one which I hope will have a lasting impact on our young people, our schools and our parishes.

Our Acutis Evenings will take place on the first Friday of every month (in term time), from 6-8pm. They were launched in St Mirin’s Cathedral Precincts before the summer holidays, but the Youth Commission is now under the impression that St James’s in Paisley is a more suitable venue. They were launched under the patronage of then-Blessed Carlo Acutis, whose intercession has often been sought by many people across the diocese, not least of all our young people.

Currently, these events are open to pupils in S4, S5 and S6. We hope that once they are established, we can open them up to pupils in S1, S2 and S3 (with events tailored to them). At that point, we will have to return to St Mirin’s Cathedral for these events.

Parents and guardians must register their young people (once) for these events.

They can do so here: <https://tinyurl.com/dpy-acutis-evenings>. Please keep this new initiative in your prayers.

A Journey of Faith: My Pilgrimage to Rome as a Young Catholic Teacher

Niamh Duffy –St.Claire’s Primary



In July 2025, I was blessed with the incredible honour of being selected to represent the Diocese of Paisley on the Young Catholic Teachers Jubilee Pilgrimage to Rome. To experience this not only as a young Catholic of our diocese but also as a young Catholic teacher was truly life-changing. My faith is something I have always cherished but this pilgrimage has sparked a new fire in me, one that I now carry into my vocation as I begin my permanent post at St. Clare’s.

The journey was filled with profound moments that deepened my love of the Church and reminded me of the responsibility and joy of being both a Catholic and a teacher. Beginning our pilgrimage with visiting the Baptistery of St. John Lateran grounded me in the reminder of where our faith begins. Afterwards, we shared our first meal together which was a beautiful way to begin building connections. The opportunity to socialise and form friendships with fellow young Catholic teachers set the tone for the pilgrimage, reminding me how valuable community is in walking this journey of faith together.

The following day proved to be the most profound and unforgettable of the pilgrimage as we were blessed with the incredible privilege of meeting Pope Leo in a private audience, a moment that will remain in my heart forever. The anticipation, excitement and nerves all began to build up as we were welcomed into a private audience with Pope Leo. His words about the importance of listening with our hearts resonated deeply. In a noisy world, we risk losing the ability to hear God’s voice. Yet it is in our hearts that God speaks most clearly, inviting us to know Him better and to love Him more. Being personally greeted by the Holy Father was an unforgettable grace.

The pilgrimage also took us to Pompeii, where we walked the archaeological site and reflected on the fragility of life. Back in Rome, we were enriched by tours of the Vatican Museums and Gardens and we had the extraordinary grace of passing through all four Holy Doors, each a profound sign of God’s mercy. Another special moment came through our Q&A with members of the Dicastery, which gave us practical insights and renewed inspiration to live out our vocations in today’s world.

Throughout our time in Rome we stayed at the Irish College, which provided a wonderful place for us as young teachers to stay, offering opportunities to socialise, build friendships, and make lasting connections with one another. Yet one of the most moving highlights was our day trip to Assisi, where we venerated and prayed at the tomb of Blessed Carlo Acutis and celebrated Mass in the same church. To pray at the resting place of a young saint-in-the-making, whose witness speaks powerfully to today’s generation, was deeply humbling and inspiring.

As I reflect on this journey I realise how it has not only deepened my personal faith but also renewed my sense of mission as a teacher. Teaching is about being a seed planter, nurturing faith, kindness and love in young hearts. This pilgrimage has taught me also to be a keeper of the fire: to keep alive the flame of faith and hope for the children I will teach, guiding them towards God’s love.

This pilgrimage was not only a privilege but a gift. A gift that has strengthened me, inspired me and set me alight with a renewed desire to live my faith joyfully in the classroom and beyond.



Themes for Prayer and Assemblies



Diocese of Paisley
Education Department

November

Prayer for All Saints (1 November)

Dear God, thank you for the example of the Saints. I desire to join in their company, worshipping you forever in Heaven. Please help me follow their footsteps, and yours, Jesus Christ. Please help me to conform myself to Your image, seeking Your will in all things, as the Saints did. Please help me to devote myself, and all that I do, to Your glory, and to the service of my neighbours. Amen.

<https://www.praymorenovenas.com/prayer-saints-day>

The Holy Souls

November is the month of the Holy Souls. During this month we pray especially for our departed friends and loved ones who are making their journey towards the eternal light of God. Please include appropriate prayers for the Holy Souls each day.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,

and let perpetual light shine upon them.

*May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed
rest in peace. Amen*

November Feast Days and Memorials

St Margaret (16 November)

- [A Prayer to St. Margaret of Scotland, Patroness of Mothers & Learning - Totus Tuus Family & Catholic Home-schoolPRAYER TO ST MARGARET OF SCOTLAND | Prayers4reparation's Blog \(wordpress.com\)](#)

Christ the King (23 November)

- [Prayer to Christ the King - My Catholic Life!](#)

St Andrew (30 November)

- [St Andrew Prayer | DAILY PRAYERS \(daily-prayers.org\)](#)



Themes for Prayer and Assemblies



Diocese of Paisley
Education Department

November

Scottish Catholic Education Week

Each year The Catholic Church in Scotland encourages schools, parishes and other agencies to work closely together in order to reflect upon and celebrate the successes of Catholic education and the very positive contribution that it makes to our society .



Catholic Education Week takes place each year from the **Feast of St Margaret of Scotland (16th November) until the Feast of St Andrew (30th November)**. Schools and parishes are asked to choose a **week** within this fortnight to mark this important aspect of the school year. To support schools, parishes and families, resources can be found at: <https://sces.org.uk/catholic-education-week-2025-pilgrims-of-hope/>

Late November/December

Advent

Advent is the time of prayer and reflection in anticipation of the Second Coming and of Christmas. This year, the First Sunday of Advent falls on 30th November 2025.

[The Liturgical Season of Advent \(catholiceducation.org\)](https://catholiceducation.org/)

[What is Advent? - LifeTeen.com for Catholic Youth](https://life-teen.com/catholic-youth/)

[Following Mary's Advent Footsteps \(catholiceducation.org\)](https://catholiceducation.org/).

Primary Advent Day—Sunday 30th November 2025 (2-5pm)

Please share information about the Primary Advent Day with pupils and their families. It will take place in St. James', Paisley. **Please encourage pupils to come along.**

Diocesan Resource

Father John Morrison, Vicar Episcopal for Youth and Vocations, has provided an Advent Assembly (TEAMS/ Education Resources for Schools/Prayers and Assemblies).

The Travelling Crib (P2)

We hope that once again the Travelling Crib will have a strong impact on children and their families. (CoC, October 2022, pp 8-9)

Staff Advent Prayer Service

Canon Thomas Boyle – Centred on Christ October 2024 (available on TEAMS CoC)

Diocese of Paisley – Education, Youth and Vocations

Calendar: 2025-26



Month	Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Target Group
AUG	15	Fri		Solemnity of The Assumption		
AUG	15	Fri	9am	Welcome to New Session (In-service Day – Inverclyde)	St Andrew's, G'nock	All staff (Inverclyde)
AUG	20	Wed	4.15pm	Welcome to New Session	St Mirin's Cathedral	All staff – particularly NQTs
SEP	5	Fri	6-8pm	Acutis Evening <i>Youth Office</i>	Venue tbc	S4-S6 initially S1-S3 tbc
SEP	9	Tue	10.00am 2.30pm	Aid to the Church – Youth Rally (Registration from 9.30am)	Hamilton Town House	S1-S6
SEP	10	Wed	10.15am	P7 Mass for Confirmandi and St Carlo Acutis Relics	St Mirin's Cathedral	P7 (Renfrew & E Renfrew)
SEP	11	Thu	11.00am	P7 Mass for Confirmandi and St Carlo Acutis Relics	St Mary's, Greenock	P7 (Inverclyde)
SEP	11	Thu	6.30pm	Vocations Mass and St Carlo Acutis Relics	St Mirin's Cathedral	S1-S6
SEP	14-21			Vocations Awareness Week	School-based	S1-S6
SEP	19	Fri	10-2pm	Vocations Conference (VE Vocations)	Cathedral Halls	S6
SEP	20	Sat		National Youth Pilgrimage <i>Youth Office</i>	Perth	
SEP	22	Mon	7pm	Diocesan Parent Forum	Diocesan Offices	PC Chairs and Church Representatives
OCT				Mission Month	School-based	P1-S6
OCT	3	Fri		First Friday Masses for the Missions	School/parish	Primary Schools
OCT	3	Fri	6-8pm	Acutis Evening <i>Youth Office</i>	Cathedral Halls	S4-S6 initially S1-S3 tbc
OCT	9	Thu	Lunch from 12:45 Finish at 3.30pm	Afternoon of Reflection 'Christ among the Teachers'	Cathedral Halls	Primary & Secondary HTs
FRI 31 OCT – SUN 2 NOV				Jubilee of the World of Education		
NOV	1	Sat		All Saints Day		
NOV	7	Fri	6-8pm	Acutis Evening <i>Youth Office</i>	Cathedral Hall	S4-S6 initially S1-S3 tbc
NOV	16-30			Catholic Education Week - "Pilgrims of Hope"	School and Parishes	All schools
NOV	19	Wed		Red Wednesday (ACN)	School-based events	All schools
NOV	20	Thu	10am-2.30pm	World Youth Day 2025 Conference – <i>Youth Office</i>	St Mirin's Cathedral	S3
NOV	27	Thu	1.30-3.00pm	Chaplains' Meeting	Diocesan Offices	
NOV	30	Sun	2-5pm	Primary School Day – Advent <i>Youth Office</i>	St James' Church, Paisley	P4-P7

Diocese of Paisley – Education, Youth and Vocations

Calendar: 2025-26



Month	Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Target Group
DEC				Advent Reflection for Staff		
DEC	5	Fri	6-8pm	Acutis Evening <i>Youth Office</i>	Cathedral Hall	S4-S6 initially S1-S3 tbc
JAN	18	Sun	2-5pm	Primary Retreat <i>Youth Office</i>	Inverclyde – venue tbc	P4-P7
FEB	6	Fri	6-8pm	Acutis Evening <i>Youth Office</i>	Cathedral Halls	S4-S6 initially S1-S3 tbc
FEB	18	Wed		Ash Wednesday	School-based	All schools
MAR	1	Sun	2-5pm	Primary School Day – Lent <i>Youth Office</i>	St James' Church, Paisley	P4-P7
MAR	6	Fri	6-8pm	Acutis Evening <i>Youth Office</i>	Cathedral Halls	S4-S6 initially S1-S3 tbc
MAR	12	Thu	1.30- 3.00pm	Joint Meeting of Clergy and HTs	Cathedral Halls	HTs and Clergy
MAR	23	Mon	7pm	Diocesan Parent Forum	Diocesan Offices	PC Chairs and Church Rep- representatives
APR	22	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	23	Thu	6.30pm	Celebration of Confirmation	St Mirin's Cathedral	Craigmarloch, St Francis, St John's, St Michael's and St Colm's
APR	24	Fri		CHAPS Conference	tbc	Primary HTs
APR	29	Wed		33 Day Diocesan Consecration to Jesus through Mary begins (ends on Monday 2 June)	School-based	P7 pupils
APR	29	Wed	6.30pm	Celebration of Confirmation	St Mirin's Cathedral	St Cadoc's & St Clare's
APR	30	Thu	6.30pm	Celebration of Confirmation	St Mirin's Cathedral	St Charles', St Paul's and St Mary's
MAY	1-31			ACN Rosary for Peace (Maisie Milk)	School-based	P1-P7
MAY	1	Fri	6-8pm	Acutis Evening <i>Youth Office</i>	Cathedral Halls	S4-S6 initially S1-S3 tbc
MAY	6	Wed	6.30pm	Celebration of Confirmation	St Mirin's Cathedral	St Thomas', St Mark's and St John's
MAY	7	Thu	6.30pm	Celebration of Confirmation	St Mirin's Cathedral	St Catherine's, St Fergus, St James' (P), St John Ogilvie and St Peter's
MAY	14	Thu		Ascension Day	School-based	P1-S6
MAY	19	Tue	6.30pm	Celebration of Confirmation	St Mirin's Cathedral	St Anne's, St James' and St John Bosco
MAY	20	Wed	6.30pm	Celebration of Confirmation	St Mirin's Cathedral	OLM and St Joseph's
MAY	24	Sun	2-5pm	Primary School Day – Pentecost <i>Youth Office</i>	St James' Church, Paisley tbc	P4-P7

Diocese of Paisley – Education, Youth and Vocations

Calendar: 2025-26



Month	Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Target Group
MAY	25-29			Generation Hope	Crieff	S1-S3
MAY	27	Wed	6.30pm	Celebration of Confirmation	St Mirin's Cathedral	OLOP, St Anthony's, St David's, St Fillan's and St Margaret's
MAY	28	Thu	6.30pm	Celebration of Confirmation	St Mirin's Cathedral	All Saints, St Mary's and St Patrick's
MAY	29	Fri	2pm	National Caritas Awards Ceremony	Clyde Auditorium	Caritas Students
JUN	3	Wed	1pm	Mass for Pupils from ASN Schools <i>SPRED</i>	St Mirin's Cathedral	
JUN	5	Fri	6-8pm	Acutis Evening <i>Youth Office</i>	Cathedral Halls	S4-S6 initially S1-S3 tbc
JUN	9	Tue	9.45-3pm	Teaching in Catholic Schools	Cathedral Halls	S6
JUN	10	Wed	4.30pm	Thanksgiving Mass	St Mirin's Cathedral	All staff – particularly NQTs

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CLPL (August – November)			
Course	Date	Time	Venue
Primary and Secondary NQTs—Renfrewshire	22.08.25	1.00- 2.30	Diocesan Offices
NQT Support (Primary - Inverclyde)	29.08.25	9.30 - 11.00	All Saints Primary, Greenock
Primary and Secondary NQTs—East Renfrewshire	03.09.25	4.00 - 5.30	St.Mark's Primary Barrhead
God's Loving Plan –Renfrewshire & East Renfrewshire	10.09.25	4.00 - 5.30	Diocesan Offices
God's Loving Plan –Inverclyde	11.09.25	4.00 - 5.30	All Saints Primary, Greenock
NQT Support (Primary - Renfrewshire)	19.09.25	4.00- 5.30	Diocesan Offices
NQT Support (Primary - East Renfrewshire)	24.09.25	4.00 - 5.30	St.Mark's Primary Barrhead
Leadership in Catholic Schools - Session 1	24.09..25	4.00 - 5.30	Diocesan Offices
Primary R.E. Coordinators (Inverclyde)	1.10.25	4.00 - 5.30	All Saints Primary, Greenock
Principal Teachers of Religious Education	3.10.25	9.30 - 11.30	Diocesan Offices
Primary R.E. Coordinators	8.10.25	4.00 - 5.30	Diocesan Offices
Head Teacher Reflection and Retreat	9.10.25	12:30 - 3.15	St.Mirin's Hall
Sacrament of Confirmation – Session 1	22.10.25	4.00 - 5.30	Diocesan Offices
Sacrament of Confirmation – Session 1	23.10.25	4.00 - 5.30	All Saints Primary, Greenock
Leadership in Catholic Schools - Session 2	29.10.25	4.00 - 5.30	Diocesan Offices
Sacrament of Reconciliation Session 1	5.11..25	4.00 - 5.30	Diocesan Offices
Secondary Head Teachers Meeting	6.11.25	9.30 –1200	Diocesan Offices
Chaplaincy Meeting	6.11.25	1.30 - 3.30	Diocesan Offices
Sacrament of Reconciliation – Session 1	12.11..25	4.00 - 5.30	All Saints Primary, Greenock
Leadership in Catholic Schools - Session 3	26.11.25	4.00 - 5.30	Diocesan Offices

Diocesan Education Department X(Twitter)

Thank you to all those schools who follow our Twitter account and 'like' our posts, enabling us to share the many good things you are doing in terms of the life of faith. It is so heartening to see Christ at the centre of your schools.

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