

# FIRST TEACHERS

YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT TEACHERS IN YOUR CHILDRENS LIVES!  
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

*Dear Lord,  
As our students begin a new school year,  
I pray that you will keep them in your care.  
Send your Spirit to open their minds  
to all that is true and beautiful and good  
Help them to see the gifts and talents  
you have given them and to use them well.  
Help them to grow in knowledge and  
wisdom.  
Help them to be kind to others  
and lead others to be kind to them.  
Give their teachers patience and  
understanding  
and help them teach what is just and true.  
Send your angels to guide and guard our  
children and to keep them from all harm.  
Open their young hearts to your presence  
and enfold them in your peace and  
protection.  
Hold them in the palm of your hand  
and bring them home safely at day's end.  
Amen.*

Dear parents and guardians, welcome to our first edition of the school year, we hope all your children are settling in well to their new classes! Our schools aim to be not merely places of practical learning, but a space where the integral personal development of our children is nurtured and sustained.

Praying and practising our faith with our children at home is one of the very best gifts we can give them, reinforcing and bolstering the faith that our children are learning in school. Please use the beautiful prayer shown here to intercede for all our young people at the start of another year. Whether our children are starting their primary or secondary journey, entering their final year or somewhere in the middle, they always need our prayers!

## The Season of Creation

This ecumenical season began on the 1<sup>st</sup> September with the World Day of Prayer for Creation and continues until 4<sup>th</sup> October, the Feast of St. Francis. The theme this year is 'Hope and act with creation', a timely reminder for our families that although climate news and information can encourage despondency, it is our duty to encourage hope. This hope can be found in sustainable action, advocacy and joyful prayer. Cafod have some wonderful family prayer and activity ideas found here [Creation family prayer ideas \(cafod.org.uk\)](https://www.cafod.org.uk) and SCIAF have a lovely colouring sheet which can be used whilst discussing being stewards of our Earth, [Laudato Si Colouring Sheet original.pdf \(sciaf.org.uk\)](https://www.sciaf.org.uk).



Other SCIAF resources around climate anxiety, Laudato Si' and action are linked below, although aimed at schools, there are some valuable tools and information that can be used and adapted for home life, [Tackling Climate Anxiety in the classroom – A digital resource | SCIAF](#), [Laudato Si Schools Scotland | SCIAF](#), [Earth Day 2023: School and parish resources | SCIAF](#). The Season of Creation website and Laudato Si' website also have accessible information and ideas for sustainable living. [Resources - Season of Creation](#), [Laudato Si' Movement \(laudatosimovement.org\)](https://www.laudatosimovement.org). As parents and guardians, we must lead by example for our

children in the home and in support of our schools and parish. Something which has been working well in one of our primary schools is the formation of a Laudato Si' Parent Group, which has had successes with a uniform recycling scheme, school ground clear up days and other faith events. Children have a huge appetite for activism, especially when it's a family event, so let's use this month to encourage them to 'care for our common home' (Pope Francis, 2015).

## October - The Rosary

October, in the liturgical year, is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. The Holy Rosary is a simple, yet deep and meaningful prayer which can lead us, as children, adults and families, to the heart of our faith. For families just beginning to pray together or wanting to try, it provides easy structure. Praying in front of others is to be vulnerable, so, having a clear focus through



the Rosary can really help everyone feel more comfortable. For others it can add a new dimension to prayer life together as there are many ways to pray the rosary, a decade a day, one of the mysteries per week, whatever is manageable with the ages and stages of our children! We can also support our schools and parishes by attending family Rosary events, or perhaps working with others to set one up. The Children's Rosary movement have good information on how to set up a lay group for children's prayer,

[Resources - Children's Rosary \(childrensrosary.org\)](https://childrensrosary.org). The charity Missio also have a lovely resource describing how to pray The Mission Rosary, with a focus on praying for the whole world, especially for those who are poor and vulnerable which could also be tied in with World Mission Sunday, which this year is on 20<sup>th</sup> October, [How-to-pray-the-Rosary.pdf](#). Please take a look at the further resources below for ideas for the rosary at home and when wondering if what we do is enough, remember Pope Francis' words when discussing the Rosary in October 2020;

*"In some evenings we can feel useless and lonely. It is then that prayer will come and knock on the door of our hearts," he said. "And even if we have done something wrong, or if we feel threatened and frightened, when we return before God with prayer, serenity and peace will return as if by miracle."*

This is no less true today, let us invite our children to run to the Lord when faced with worry and fear. He is the certainty in an uncertain world.

[Month of the Rosary Schedule by week.pdf - Google Drive](#)

[Meditations-for-the-Mysteries-of-the-Rosary-for-Young-People.pdf \(holyfamilyparish.org\)](#)

[How to Pray the Rosary for Kids - TheCatholicKid.com](#)

Finally, the Marriage and Family Life commission would like to invite all families to our Family Day with Mary at St. John's Barrhead, on Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> October, starting at 2pm and finished with Mass at 4pm, celebrated by Bishop John Keenan. We hope that all of your families experience a wonderful start to the new school year and will praying for success, joy and most of all peace for all our wonderful children!

[Diocese of Paisley | Marriage & Family | Paisley, UK \(rcdop.org.uk\)](https://rcdop.org.uk)