

## St. Gerard's Primary School

### Jubilee Year 2025

January is a rather downbeat month with many losing motivation to keep those New Year resolutions. With that in mind, we received one reply to our Jubilee consultation and while I understand that we all lead busy lives can I ask that you revisit the QR link below and share your thoughts and ideas.

Initial plans for St. Gerard's, complement the diocesan activities throughout the year. The diocese have also linked teachers to a variety of activities available online for children.

Some of the ideas we have received from staff and pupils so far;

- Each Class will "go on pilgrimage" to our new church at Scared Heart. Classes will walk to the church, complete tasks when there and then walk back.
- We have created a school oratory using the benches of St. Gerard's Parish. Our oratory will be a place of prayer with classes timetabled for moments of prayer and reflection.
- We will be holding Jubilee Assemblies and inviting parents from each class to join us as the year progresses. An invitation timetable will follow in due course.
- Children will be involved as part of their RE in a variety of activities and lessons as part of the Jubilee year.
- Classes will write their own Jubilee Prayer.
- We have signed up to the CAFOD Jubilee programme with a variety of activities for our children to participate in.

### Reconciliation

Our Primary 3 children celebrated their First Reconciliation on 12<sup>th</sup> February. This was our first occasion to celebrate an event at Sacred Heart Church. It was a very moving occasion and we were very proud of all the children that participated. Thank you to Miss. McBride, Miss. Mulvaney and Mrs. Reilly for all their work in preparing the children for this sacrament as well as Paul Carroll for his musical contribution. A Special thank you to all our parents who supported their child and helped with the "homework" for this event.

### Lent

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 5<sup>th</sup> March. This also begins our charity appeal. Throughout Lent, we will have events and activities for children to participate in and spend some pocket money on our charities. This year we will share our fundraising with St Andrew's Hospice, St Margaret's Children & Family Care Society and CAFOD. We will also be collecting for The Local Food Bank. Full list of activities will come out in due course.

### World Book Day

We will celebrate World Book Day on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March. On this day we will have a 50p contribution as a dress down day. We will also be holding a library/book sale where all our available books will be sold for 20p - 50p per book. If you have books at home that are preloved and in good condition, please send them in and we will add to our library sale on that day. Money for this will go towards replenishing our library and our Lenten charities. On this day children can come to school with their favourite book that they can share with their class.

"Here, The Will of God is Done" St. Gerard Majella



### St. Gerard Majella



Feast Day 16<sup>th</sup> October

### Pope Francis

The Pope declared this year, as is custom, as a Jubilee Year. He himself has served the church his whole life and his own life pilgrimage appears to be nearing its end. Please remember the Holy Father in your thoughts and prayers as we follow news regarding his health.

### Parental Consultation re The Jubilee Year

I would be really grateful if you could complete the consultation below.

#### Jubilee Contribution



## Uniform Drive Pause

Many thanks for the pre-owned and preloved uniforms. We are, however bursting at the seams and running out of space to store the uniforms. We would be grateful if all donations could stop for the foreseeable future until we have used what we have.

## Parking

This item is in our newsletters regularly but once again sincere thank you to all for parking outside of the school car park. I know surrounding areas of the school are challenging for parking but the school car park is for staff only and not for dropping off or collecting children. Your help is greatly appreciated.

## Indoor Shoes

Can you please ensure children have indoor shoes. This will help maintain our carpeted classrooms and keep the school looking neat and tidy. It would also make Mr. McGarry and our dutiful cleaning staff very happy.

## Dental Visits P1 & P7

Just a remainder as parents will already have been notified that we will have our dental checks for p1 & P7 children on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March

