



Our Lady's High School

Catholic Education Week 2023

Feast Day 2023

Fr. McGrath, our School Chaplain, celebrated Mass for S1 & S6 pupils to mark the School Feast Day in September. This was a lovely way to welcome our S1 pupils into the Our Lady's community. S2, S3 S4 & S5 pupils participated in a prayer service on the Feast Day and all pupils from S1-S6 received a prayer card and medal to mark the day.



This year's theme: PILGRIMS OF FAITH



We continue to thrive as a Faith Community. Fr. McGrath our School Chaplain celebrates Mass in the School Oratory at 8.30 am on a Friday morning. All Staff and Pupils are welcome.



Caritas Ceremony

On Monday 18 September our Sixth Year Caritas class attended the Caritas Enrolment Ceremony in St Mary's Church Glasgow. At this event our young people received their coveted Caritas badges which were blessed by Archbishop Nolan. Caritas students have now firmly established themselves in their own parishes and are supporting a variety of parish events including music ministry, readings, social events, helping in the parish food banks and cafes.



Catholic Education Week

THE THEME FOR 2023/2024 - *"PILGRIMS OF FAITH"*

"The beauty of the Christian faith lies not in its theological explanations but in the lives of people who dedicate themselves to prayer, charity and sharing the Gospel. Be discoverers of beauty, seekers of the treasures of faith...because faith cannot remain a memory of the past, something 'museum-like.' No, it always lives again in the joy of the Gospel, in the community made up of people, in the assembly of those who experience mercy and recognize themselves as brothers and sisters loved by God by grace..."

Always remember: the witness of life communicates the beauty of faith,"
Pope Francis

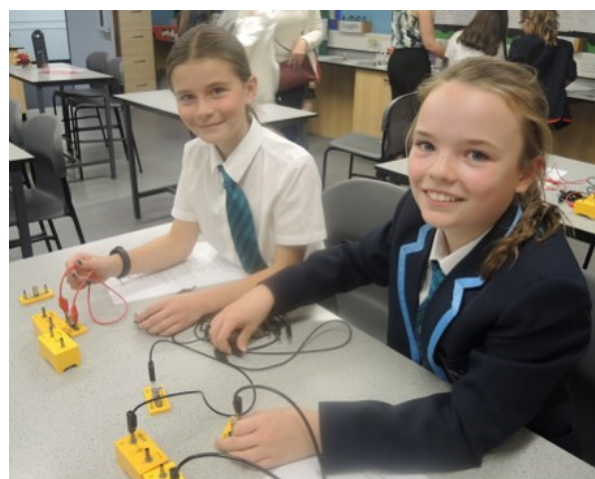
Catholic Education Week takes place each year from the Feast of St Margaret of Scotland (16th November) until the Feast of St Andrew (30th November). Schools and parishes are asked to consider which week within this fortnight best suits their local community for marking this important aspect of the school year.

The Catholic Church in Scotland encourages schools, parishes and other agencies to work closely together in order to celebrate the successes of Catholic education particularly during one week each year. The purpose of Catholic Education Week is to highlight the significance of education, not only for young people but for society as a whole. Students, parents, teachers and others are asked to reflect on their own roles in the education process – at home, in school, in the local parish and in other educational settings.

P7 Mass & Departments Visit



As part of our transition process, we welcomed pupils from our 6 Associated Primaries to join us for a Welcome Mass on Thursday 28 September 2023. Mass was celebrated by Fr. McGrath our School Chaplain along with Fr. Campbell from Sacred Heart and St Lucy's and Fr. O'Brien and Fr. Rooney from St Joseph's Stepps. After Mass P7 pupils and their parents were given the opportunity to visit different departments around the school to meet staff and look at some of the work they will be completing in S1. They also got the chance to meet our S6 Subject Ambassadors who gave them more detail about all the different subjects they will study when they join us at Our Lady's in August 2024.



Father McKay's Retiral Mass



Fr. McKay has been a feature in and around Our Lady's for 30 years and has been the formal chaplain for 20+ years.

Fr. McKay was ordained in 1966 after studying in Rome and served the parishes of St Margaret Mary's Castlemilk, Christ the King in Kingspark, St Flannan's in Kirkintilloch and before joining St Joseph's in Cumbernauld where he has been Parish Priest for the last 30 years. His parishioners, like all of us, can testify to his service and dedication during this time.

Fr. McKay has left his mark in our school community. His service to the school, his commitment to our spiritual life and his dedication to the staff and pupils has been unquestionable.

Thank you Fr. Mackay for everything you have done for us and we wish you every kind wish for your retirement.

Archdiocese of Glasgow Annual High Schools' Mass



As part of Catholic Education Week, a group of 50 Our Lady's pupils and staff will represent the school at the Archdiocese of Glasgow Annual High Schools' Mass.

The Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Nolan, takes place in St Andrew's Cathedral Glasgow on Monday 27th of November at 5.15pm. This event is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the young people and the schools of the Archdiocese and is always a special occasion.



Associated Primary

School News

St Andrew's

St Andrew's Primary are fully committed to the spiritual formation of the school community.

Our Mission Statement - A Catholic family aspiring to be kind and respectful to all, with learning at the heart of everything we do.

We began this year by welcoming the new Primary 1 children and their parents to the welcome Mass in September. During this Mass, which was celebrated by Father Sullivan, the Primary 7 children gifted their Primary 1 Buddy with a beautiful Prayer Card to take home.

We next celebrated Mass on the Feast of All Saints where Father Campbell enrolled our Primary 6 children in the Pope Francis Faith Award.

We are blessed to have two Parish Priests who regularly visit the school and classrooms. The partnership between the school and both Parishes of Holy Cross and Sacred Heart has been strengthened this year through the 'Mini Vinnies'. The Group meet with SSVF members of Sacred Heart Parish and participate in Mass at Carrickstone Care Home. The children really brighten up some elderly folk's day when chatting to them after Mass!

The Mini Vinnies also led the rosary every Wednesday in October. They have also made Mini Vinnie Charity boxes which are on each altar in each classroom. The aim is to raise money to give to charity.

At the end of Catholic Education Week, we will celebrate St Andrew's Day with Holy Mass. The whole school will be participating in the Mass as we honour our school's Patron Saint.

Let us remember the words of Our Lord Jesus Christ: "When two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them."



Associated Primary

School News

St Barbara's

This year the children, staff, parents and the wider community of St. Barbara's have been greatly supported by our parish and in particular by Fr. Campbell. We have thoroughly enjoyed coming to the church to celebrate Mass as a whole school community once again.

Our spiritual focus this year is centred on the theme of 'Honouring Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life.' Reviewing our vision and aims for the school, we will reflect on how we are created in the image and likeness of God, how each of us is unique and on the ways in which we can promote an understanding of the Gospel and practise it in our lives.

During Catholic Education fortnight we will focus on the theme of the 'Pilgrims of Faith. We will reflect, as Pope Francis has asked us to do on:

How well we come together as the children of God on our shared journey towards Him

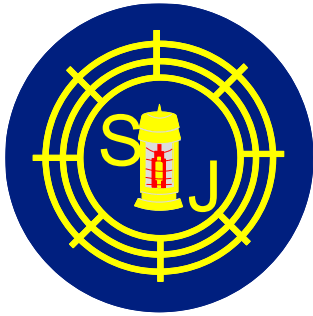
How well we work to serve one another and participate in our faith communities

How well we fulfil our commitment to spread God's Word as active participants as opposed to being passive bystanders in this mission

To launch Catholic Education Fortnight, we will attend Mass on the Feast of St. Margaret of Scotland (16th November) when we will enroll our Primary 6 children in the Pope Francis Faith Award programme. The programme is designed to help children to show "signs of love" in their daily lives towards others and to be active members of their local Church. As Pope Francis said:

*How beautiful it would be if each of you, every evening, could say:
"Today at school, at home, at work, guided by God, I showed a sign of love
towards one of my friends, my parents, an older person!"*

After Mass, all members of our school and parish community will be welcome to join us for a celebratory coffee and cake!



Associated Primary

School News

St Joseph's

From the moment a child joins our school family in primary 1, they are nurtured and nourished by all other members of our school community. They are gifted their Saint Joseph's tie by their primary 7 buddy who then supports them and cares for them throughout their first year at primary school. This journey as part of our faith family continues until they leave in primary 7 with the following message from Pope Francis

"Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things"

Our school is proud to be at the heart of our wonderful community. Our children take pride in their community and their roll in the family of St Joseph's Parish. We enjoy wonderful relationships with both Father Kenny and Father Rooney who are an integral part of our school staff team.

As a community of faith, we attend Holy Mass at least once a month. Each month, a different class plan, prepare and deliver the scripture alongside Father Kenny and Father Rooney. In preparation for this, all children learn about the lives of relevant Saints and use these teachings in our daily lives. Father Kenny and Father Rooney will be joining us soon to bless our Advent Wreath, our Nativity Crib and our Advent Promises and Wishes Tree.

At this time of year we are preparing for our annual 'reverse advent calendar' where we collect different items each day in December to donate to the Bethlehem House of Bread Foodbank and baby products for Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Baby Bank. This year our Pupil Council will organize our collection, where they will encourage all other children to get involved.

We have a great affiliation with many charities, in particular with St Andrew's Hospice in Airdrie who we support through prayer and action, Missio Scotland who we work closely with throughout the school year and SCIAF who we support especially during Lent but throughout the year as necessary.

Each year we nominate 4 Missio Champions who lead us in prayer and create fun ways for us to support children all over the world. They recently held a wonderful Missio Assembly where we met some of the children who we support in Zambia.

Our senior pupils in primary 6 and 7 are busy developing their individual faith journey through focus on their Parish Faith Award where they look for ways to live like Jesus and to use their God given skills and talents to help others throughout our parish and wider community.

Our school vision of Love, Laughter and Learning was created by our Pupil Council and like everything we say, think and do is underpinned by our Gospel Values. As a whole school community we celebrate our smiles and talents as gifts from God and we look for ways to share these with others, remembering that something as simple as our smile can change someone's day. We discuss our privileged roll as disciples of God weekly at assembly and celebrate times when this has been evident in how we have treated others and how others have treated us.

We are very blessed to have children and families from other faiths in our school community and we love learning about this as part of our learning through This Is Our Faith.

It is a privilege to be part of the wider faith community of Our Lady's High School and we love welcoming back former pupils – especially those working on their Caritas Award. We welcome them back regularly and they are great roll models for our own children as they deliver a range of fun and interesting activities.

Every class will celebrate Catholic Education Week during the week beginning 19th November where we will reflect on everything we do to ensure that our Catholic School Community continues to play our part in our parish and wider community. We will work together to PILGRIMS OF FAITH.



Associated Primary

School News

St Lucy's

As we prepare for Catholic Education Week, in our school we consider carefully the theme of this year's celebration –

Pilgrims of Faith

How Do We Do This As Part of Our School Community?

Throughout the month of November we have been learning about the lives of saints in our weekly assembly and how we can be like them in our every day lives.

As a school we pride ourselves in coming together to support others less fortunate. Our school values chosen by pupils, staff and parents/carers are reflected, not only in our every day actions but are also represented in the theme of this year's Catholic Education Week –

INCLUSIVE

RESPECTFUL

RESPONSIBLE

KIND

As a community of faith, we have regular opportunities for worship as well as our charity giving. Each year we have a number of children who participate in the Pope Francis Faith Award, sharing their God given talents to benefit others. This year's children were enrolled on the Feast of All Saints Day. Many of our children are involved in worship at both St Lucy's and Sacred Heart parishes by serving, being young leaders and cleaning of the Church! Our Laudato Si and Eco Work underpins our commitment to taking care of and being responsible for our common home. We were one of the first schools in Scotland to be designated a Missy Moo School by Missio Scotland because of our fundraising for the charity. We regularly support the Archdiocesan Pastoral Care Fund e.g. by donating the proceeds of our Christmas Concerts. We also have a monthly food bank collection, which directly supports families in our local area.

In doing so we attempt to be witnesses to our faith as asked by Pope Francis:-

“All the Baptised are called to take part in the Church's life and mission.”

~ Pope Francis

As we plan for our school celebrations for this year's Catholic Education Week, we begin on our in-service day with a Staff Prayer Service followed by a Family Prayer Service on St Margaret's Feast day. Class teachers will use the resources provided by the Catholic Education Service as well as exploring the lives of St Andrew and St Margaret. As a school community, we will come together in an assembly to share our learning and celebrate the occasion.



Associated Primary

School News

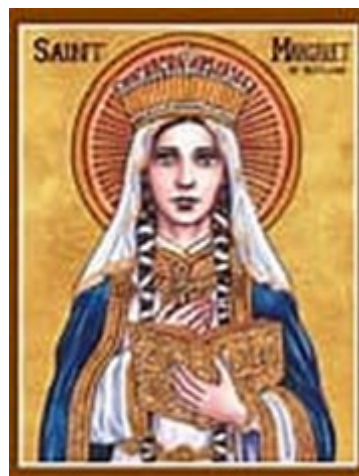
St Margaret of Scotland

“How beautiful would it be if each of you, every evening, could say: today at school, at home, at work, guided by God, I showed a sign of love towards one of my friends, my parents, an older person!” Pope Francis.

Inspired by the words of our Faith Leader, we strive to encourage our children in St. Margaret of Scotland Primary to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, Our Teacher. These past few years have made us all realise the importance of caring for those around us. Our ethos has centred around encouraging our children to show more love and acts of kindness through their thoughts, words, and actions.

This year, we have been delighted to resume our Class Mass timetable over at St. Joseph's Parish with Fr. McGrath. Our children enjoy leading the Mass and can feel the sense of community created by our new Priest, the School, and the Parish.

As Catholic Education Week begins, we will attend a full school Mass for our Patron Saint, St. Margaret of Scotland. On this day, we will celebrate the life and work of St. Margaret of Scotland and pray for the needs of our school and for others. We will strive to be generous to others and always ready to share our gifts with other people as St. Margaret of Scotland did. The children are most looking forward to showcasing their special talents on this day with a SMOS Talent Show.



“The beauty of the Christian faith lies not in its theological explanations but in the lives of people who dedicate themselves to prayer, charity and sharing the Gospel. Be discoverers of beauty, seekers of the treasures of faith...because faith cannot remain a memory of the past, something ‘museum-like.’ No, it always lives again in the joy of the Gospel, in the community made up of people, in the assembly of those who experience mercy and recognize themselves as brothers and sisters loved by God by grace... Always remember: the witness of life communicates the beauty of faith.”
Pope Francis

We are very much looking forward to exploring this year's Catholic Education Week Theme 'Pilgrims of Faith'. Our children will be taking part in many activities over the forthcoming weeks in order to develop a deeper understanding of the importance of prayer, charity and sharing the Gospel.



Associated Primary

School News

St Mary's

Always remember: the witness of life communicates the beauty of faith,"
Pope Francis



Gospel Values guide us in our daily lives to act as pilgrims of Faith. This is evident in our ethos and our relationships with others. We have achieved the silver award for Rights Respecting Schools and we are campaigning for the rights of all children to be upheld. We are supported in this effort by a number of charitable organisations including SCIAF and Mary's Meals.

Our Mini Vinnies are leading us in our work in the community, alongside our senior pupils who are participating in the Pope Francis Faith Award. we attend coffee mornings in St Joseph's Parish and share the experience with other Parishioners. We also link with the Bield residential care home, taking part in quizzes, singing and developing the outdoor space. We are using our God given talents to help others through our intergenerational community work

As we look towards Advent it is again with the focus on living our Gospel Values. Charitable works will be the thread that runs throughout December and we will be supporting Cash for Kids, Strathcarron hospice, the local Food and Clothing Banks and our class gifts will again be Real Gifts from SCIAF, helping both at home and throughout the World. Our Mini Vinnies will lead Advent prayers in each of our classes throughout December.

Our Sacramental journey will become our school focus in the New Year, and we very much are looking forward to engaging with the new materials to help us prepare for First Communion.



Our Lady's High School School Prayer

God our Father, be with us today and help us to be good examples of your love.

May we do our best to follow you in showing concern for others.

Help our school and our local communities to be places of faith so that we can help others to believe in you.

May Mary, who praised God in all things be an inspiration to us in all we say and do.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Amen

