

FIRST TEACHERS

YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT TEACHERS IN YOUR CHILDRENS LIVES!
MAY 2023!

Dear parents and guardians, Happy Easter and welcome back from the Diocesan Family Life Commission! This newsletter aims to share some of how our Catholic faith is being taught and practised in school, and hopes to provide some help as you teach your children to grow in faith at home. We enter our final term of the school year with excitement and reflection. Some of our children have almost completed their first year at primary school whilst others may be ready to complete exams and head off into the big wide world. Pope Francis said, before the general audience in April 2022,

"You cannot educate without walking together with the people you are educating. It is beautiful when you find educators who walk together with boys and girls."

This is not only true of our wonderful teachers and education staff but for all parents and guardians too. We are, after all, our children's 'first teachers'. It is important to 'walk together' with our children encouraging them and praying for and with them during this busy term, regardless of age and stage. We can keep our focus on God and faith amidst the chaos and centre our children in the hope that Christ gives to us!

Easter Season & The Sacraments



As Christians, we are an Easter people! The sacrifice that Jesus made for us, laying down his life, and his resurrection are the reasons we rejoice. Although Easter (and all the delicious chocolate!) may seem like a distant memory we celebrate Eastertide in our faith right through to Pentecost Sunday which is the 28th May. We can remind our children of this great redemption by regularly practising the sacraments together and being consistent in our faith as families. It can be hard sometimes to face taking young children

to Mass or to drag our awesome teenagers out of their beds, but by meeting Jesus every week in Communion we remind ourselves and each other of his love for us.

Some of our children will be making their First Holy Communion or Confirmation and as we journey through Eastertide towards Pentecost, it is wonderful for all the family to see others making their commitment to faith. It can also be very renewing to learn more about the Holy Spirit who was sent at Pentecost to guide and equip us through life. There are some good resources, included below, to explore the idea of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit. Also linked is a description of the fourteen Stations of the Resurrection which can be reflected upon in the same way as the Stations of the Cross and could be a new way to pray with your children and teach them the story of Eastertide through to Pentecost.

[Holy Spirit Resources For Kids \(Crafts, Printables, More!\) \(catholicicing.com\)](https://www.catholicicing.com)

[Nine things to do with your kids on Pentecost - Teaching Catholic Kids](#)

[The Gifts of the Holy Spirit for Kids \(notsoformulaic.com\)](https://notsoformulaic.com)

[Stations of the Resurrection](#)

May Devotions to Our Lady

The month of May has long been a time within the Catholic church where we celebrate and honour the Blessed Virgin Mary. On the cross, Jesus said to Mary, "Woman, here is your son."; and to St John, "Here is your mother." (John 19:26-27). The Church views this gift of Mary to us as OUR mother to be something wonderful and special. We can focus on our relationship with Mary through praying the rosary. There are many ways to do this together as a family and can be a simple way to start if you are new to praying together. For very young children (or anyone with a short attention span!) perhaps a mini rosary would do or one decade. For older kids and teens, you could try one of the Mysteries each day or perhaps visit the peaceful Carfin Grotto, our National shrine to Our Lady for something a bit different. Further resources and ideas are found here;



[Meditations for the Mysteries of the Rosary for Young People](#)

[The Rosary: Mysteries - Teaching Catholic Kids](#)

[How to Pray the Rosary for Kids Free Printable](#)

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

The Paisley Diocese is also hosting a Marian themed family Day which would be a brilliant chance to come along and join other families from throughout the diocese. It's being held at St John's, Barrhead on Sunday 14th May and will be an afternoon of celebration and fun in honour of Mary our Mother, including prayer, activity and games for children. The day will begin with refreshments at 2pm and conclude with Holy Mass at 4pm celebrated by Bishop John.

June - Sacred Heart



The month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and is a great opportunity to explore with our children the true nature of the love Jesus has for us. He has compassion, care, forgiveness and mercy for each one of us when we do things that may hurt His heart. We can think of what some of these might be by going to Confession with our children and encouraging them to repair their relationship with Him in the same way that we do in our own families when we make mistakes.

The theme of the Sacred Heart is a beautiful one with which to end our school year and practice the same depth of love with each other. I'm sure Jesus wants us all to have a happy, fun, loving and holy summer! All of us here at the Family Life Commission, hope that whatever you do over the holidays and whatever the weather, you walk with the Lord and enjoy one another's company!

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