
YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT TEACHERS IN YOUR CHILDREN'S LIVES!

Dear parents and guardians, once again it is back to school time and we have to say this always led to a big sigh of relief from us! We know our Catholic schools have wonderful and dedicated teachers, but you are *fundamental and irreplaceable* as your children's first teachers, especially in faith and love. Whether our children accept our faith themselves depends, most of



all, on our example and encouragement; this is clearly shown in recent studies, but it may sound a bit scary! It is a big responsibility but is definitely mission possible! Most of our teaching is done by example, but it is also important that we talk about our faith and pray together as a family. Every small effort we make here will be well rewarded, and although we will often make mistakes or be less than perfect in this mission, we can always ask God for help, and He will make up for our failures. We hope this newsletter will let you know how our Catholic faith is being taught and practised in school and provide help as you teach your children to grow in faith at home.

September: The Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is a month-long season of prayer, reflection and action by Christians of all denominations around the world, aiming to increase gratitude and care for our common home, created by God for our common good. The season begins on 1 September with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and continues until 4 October, the Feast of St Francis of



Assisi, who is closely linked with care for creation. The theme of this year's Season of Creation is 'A Home for All' and details can be accessed below seasonofcreation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021-SOC-Full-Guide.pdf.

Our own SCIAF also produces great resources on the importance of environmental protection for the poorest people; you can access these resources at www.sciaf.org.uk/resources. In the lead up to COP26 in Glasgow this November, it is good to understand Catholic teaching on the care for creation as a response in gratitude to God for giving us this world to share with each other in love. Saying a prayer together for the good of all people in our common home would be one way of marking this time together as a family.

October - Month of The Holy Rosary

October is a month dedicated to the Holy Rosary, linked to the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on the 7th of October. Our Lady, the Immaculate Mother of God is the most perfect simply human being who ever lived, and has been raised up by God to be Mother of the Church and Queen of Heaven. God has given Mary a unique role in His plan of salvation for the whole world, which continues through her appearances to urge the whole world to turn to Jesus Christ her Son for peace and salvation. A powerful way of dedicating our family life to God is by praying the rosary together; if this seems too long saying a decade or even one Hail Mary is great. Bishop John is leading the UK mission Rosary throughout October. Many families found that saying the rosary together with Bishop John during lockdown at the start of 2021 was a really positive experience, maybe you could join with him and other families in this prayer. Information at

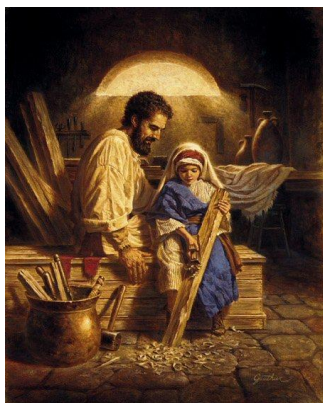


www.missioscotland.com/mission-rosary.

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Year of St Joseph

This year has been dedicated by Pope Francis to St Joseph. He never speaks in the Gospels, but is still a great example of faith, hope and love. He listened to God's word and obeyed His call to accept Mary and Jesus as his



family, to escape with them to Egypt and return back to Israel. He led, protected, and loved them through social disapproval, persecution, perilous journeys and living as refugees in a foreign country. He provided for their needs by his manual labour, but could never make them well off. He was a father to Jesus as He grew up, helping Him to develop His identity and His relationship with His heavenly Father. Following God's will did not make life easy for St. Joseph, but God gave him strength and provided what he could not. Often our family life involves difficulties and we can feel inadequate; if we turn to God as St. Joseph did, we can be confident that He will help us. We can ask St. Joseph for help as well. The official prayer for the year of St. Joseph is below. You can pray it together as a family or as Pope

Francis has asked for the month of October, add it to the end of the rosary.

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

We hope you found something to encourage you in your mission as first teachers of your children in this newsletter, and that it is helpful to know how our faith is being taught in school. May our good Lord God protect and bless all our families as we journey towards Him this term.

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