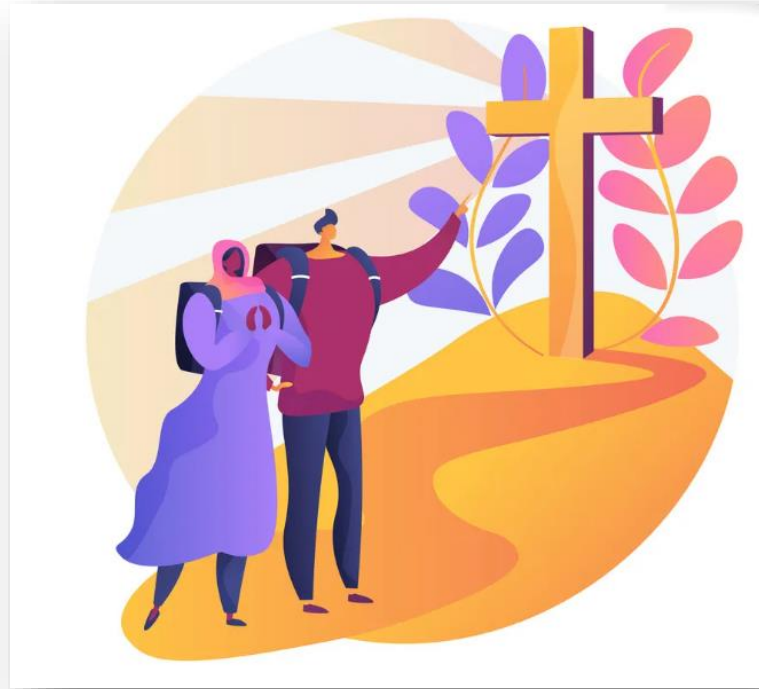


CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2023: PILGRIMS OF FAITH



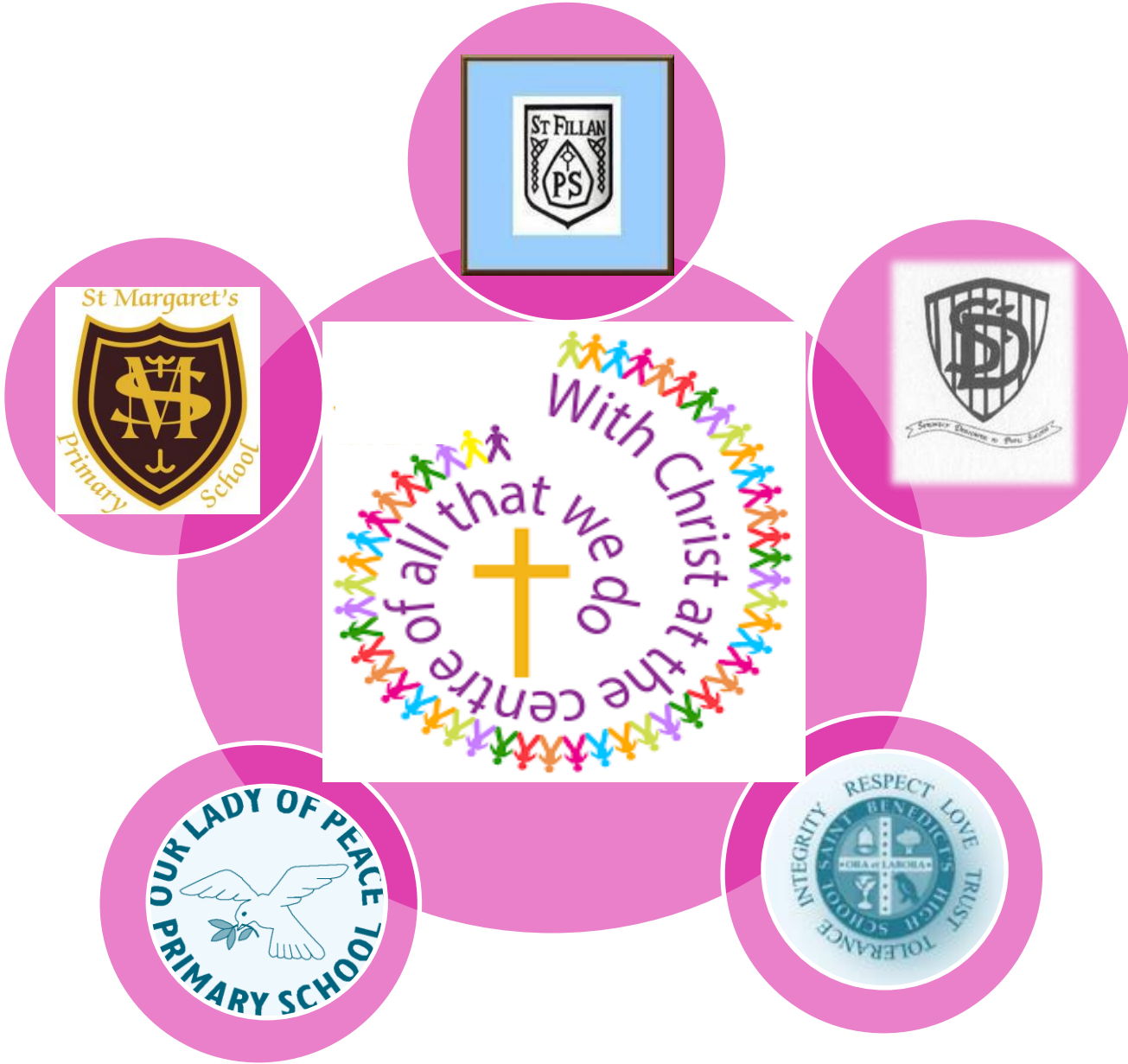
"THE BEAUTY OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH LIES NOT IN ITS THEOLOGICAL EXPLANATIONS BUT IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WHO DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO PRAYER, CHARITY AND SHARING THE GOSPEL. BE DISCOVERERS OF BEAUTY, SEEKERS OF THE TREASURES OF FAITH...BECAUSE FAITH CANNOT REMAIN A MEMORY OF THE PAST, SOMETHING 'MUSEUM-LIKE.' 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

Thursday 16th November- Thursday 30th November

ST.BENEDICT'S CLUSTER- 'PILGRIMS OF FAITH'
Catholic Education Week Collaboration 2023



St. Benedict's High School

The St. Benedict's values are based on the Gospel values, and we are encouraged every day to display them in our words and actions.

- **Respect** – treat others the way you would like to be treated.
- **Tolerance** – understand that everyone is different and accept these differences.
- **Love** – care for others and show kindness towards them.
- **Trust** – have faith and confidence in one another.
- **Integrity** – be honest and stand up for what you believe in.



Our House Patrons of St. Oscar Romero, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Josephine Bakhita and St. Teresa of Calcutta demonstrated our values in their lives and are an inspiration to us all. Our House System continues to be a wonderful success; young people are greatly enjoying participating and they are benefitting day to day.

Our values are never more evident than when we put our faith into action. The St. Benedict's Chaplaincy team and Liturgy Committee work tirelessly throughout the year to enhance the faith life of the school and to promote our Catholic ethos. In addition to school Masses and liturgies they organise retreats, mission days and themed assemblies.



The partnership between St. Benedict's High School and St. Patrick's Minor Seminary was formed in 2013 with the shared intention of

developing and supporting both schools to become centres of excellence as communities of faith and learning. Unfortunately, partnership visits with St. Patrick's in haven't been able to take place the past few years due to Covid, but we continue to support the boys as best we can. We are excited currently to be preparing their Christmas parcels!



Pope Benedict XVI Caritas Award Programme

Many congratulations to our young people who successfully achieved the Caritas Award! A year of faith witness and learning was recognised as they were presented with medals and certificates at a ceremony in the Clyde Auditorium. Thank you for being such wonderful witnesses to God's love!

The Caritas award encourages, promotes, and develops the ongoing faith journey of young people. The award recognises young people who are already active and committed within their homes, schools, parishes and dioceses and it invites others to respond to God's call of love. It supports and celebrates the faith witness which young people give within their communities.



Blessed Carlo Acutis Encounter

We were delighted to host the Bl. Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Encounter; which provided pupils, staff and families the opportunity to explore the Eucharistic Miracles of the world, spend time before the Blessed Sacrament in prayer and adoration, and the veneration of a First Class Relic of Blessed Carlo.

We are very thankful to Jacquie Stacey who

facilitated the experience, bringing Bl. Carlo, his story, and his love of the Eucharist to us.

In St. Benedict's we are growing in our learning and growing in our love of God and neighbour as we develop as pilgrims of faith in our own personal journeys. We are very thankful to our local clergy for the tremendous support we receive from them.

In the words of Pope Francis, "The mission of schools and teachers is to develop an understanding of what is good, true, and beautiful." We will continue to strive in

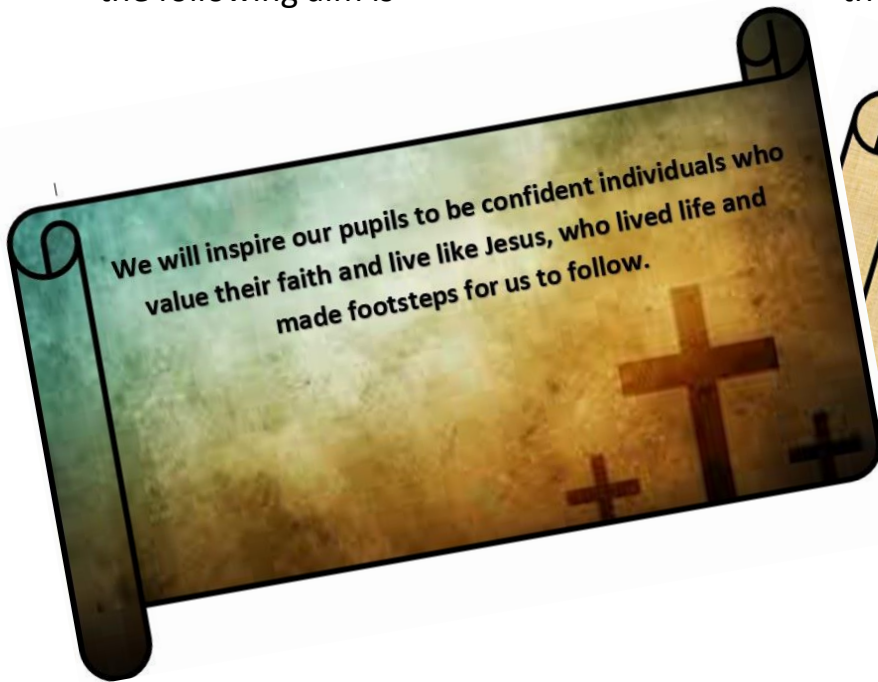
St. Benedict's to promote the gospel values in all that we do. We ask that you pray for us, and we thank you for all your support for Catholic education in this community.





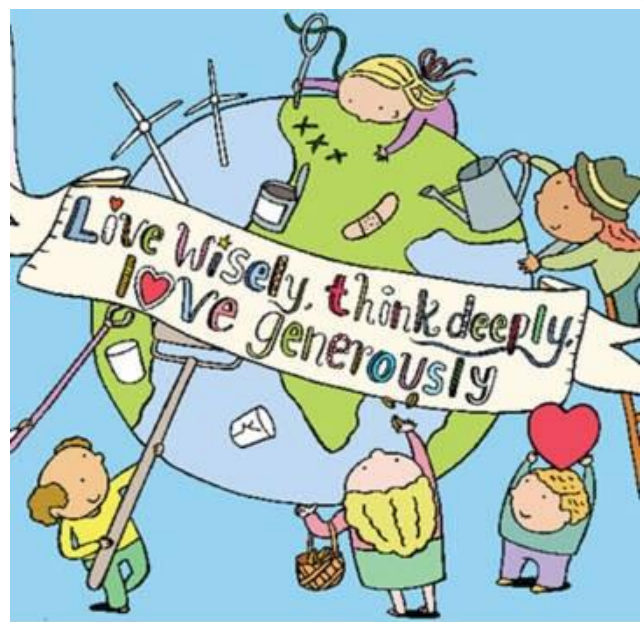
ST. MARGARET'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

The pupils attending St. Margaret's Primary School are encouraged to bear witness to their faith in a number of ways. It is our belief that the strength of the Catholic school is borne out in the ethos of the school, as a community. We believe that with God at the heart of all that we do, our community will thrive. We have God at the centre of our vision, values and aims. When considering the theme for Catholic Education Week 2023- Pilgrims of Faith- the following aim is the one that resonates most:



Our Motto:

Our values and aims sit alongside the motto that we have adopted from Pope Francis's Laudato Si encyclical, our pupils can earn house points for showing that they can 'Live Wisely, Think Deeply and Love Generously.'



ST.BENEDICT'S CLUSTER- 'PILGRIMS OF FAITH'
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As a community of faith and learning, we embody the spirit of pilgrimage. We journey together, with shared aims and an ethos strong in Catholicity. We are blessed to have St Margaret of Scotland as our patron saint. She is the perfect role model for our pupils when we consider the theme of Catholic Education Week- Pilgrims of Faith. Margaret had a strong influence over her husband and together they lived with their eight children as a devout and faithful Catholic family. Together they prayed, fed the hungry, and offered a powerful example of living faith in action. Margaret used her influence to shape the church and she encouraged people to live a devout life, grow in prayer, and grow in holiness. This gives greater clarity to one of our school values: 'We follow Jesus,' as St Margaret is a fantastic example of this.

It was Bishop John who suggested that Jesus himself feature in our aims, he spoke of the sacrifice that God made, sending his beloved son to live as one of us. Bishop John stated that he felt that Jesus was most relatable to the children, as young learners, growing in faith. Jesus, at one point in his life, was the same age that our children are now. This is quite a thought for our young learners: Did he play football with his friends? Did Mary and Joseph ever have to give Jesus a row? Did Jesus have any pets?

When they think of Jesus being a boy, living here on earth, they think of him in awe and wonder.

Therefore, it is of utmost importance to their faith formation, that they learn about Jesus and the example he set for us. We use the Motto from Pope Francis's Laudato Si encyclical as our motto in school- Live Wisely, Think Deeply, Love Generously. The children understand this as living like Jesus. Each week, at our assembly, every teacher chooses a child who they have witnessed keeping our values. The scope for praise is huge so the children know that they are not just being rewarded for educational endeavors- they can be rewarded for being kind to someone, sharing their snack, sorting a problem, caring for our school pet, showing good manners, helping a friend. The list is endless. And all these reasons are related back to our value- We follow Jesus.

As we prepare our children to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation, we lead them on a journey of faith discovery. We share stories of Jesus that illustrate the importance of the Sacraments that they are preparing to receive. We don't just teach this in P4 and P7, we teach every week from the beginning of Primary 1 'til the end of Primary 7. Our aim is to build a solid faith foundation, supporting the children to be confident in their own faith, to understand what it means to be a young Catholic, to have Jesus in their hearts so that they come to rely on their faith, and it becomes meaningful to them. They journey with us through primary school as pilgrims of faith.



Pope Francis said: "Pilgrimage is a symbol of life. It makes us think of life as walking, as a path. If a person does not walk, but instead stays still, this is not useful; it accomplishes nothing. Think of water: when water is not in the river, it does not course, but instead it remains still and stagnates. A soul that does not walk in life doing good, doing many things that one must do for society, to assist others, or who does not walk through life seeking God and inspiration from the Holy Spirit, is a soul that finishes in mediocrity and in spiritual poverty. Please: do not stand still in life!"



St. Fillan's Primary School

Journeying in Faith Together

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

As a Catholic School, one of the most important values that we hold is the value of Faith. In St. Fillan's Primary, we are a faith community who support and encourage one another to live the kind of life that Jesus asks of us.

How do we answer God's Call as 'Pilgrims of Faith?'

In our school, we have six core values that guide our thoughts, actions and words. These values are: Faith, Respect, Responsibility, Trust, Teamwork and Success. Kindness is our guiding value which underpins all that we do.

Each month, we shine a spotlight on a particular school and Gospel value. During Assemblies, we discuss how we can live by these values in our everyday lives, and we consider what this would look like and sound like.

During the month of November, 'Faith' has been the core school value that we have explored along with 'Kindness' as the Gospel value of focus. As a school community, we have united in prayer to remember those who have gone before us by participating in a whole school prayer service at the Grotto in St. Fillan's Church. We have demonstrated 'Kindness' by raising over £250 for the MND (Motor Neurone Disease) charity by hosting a community Fairtrade Coffee morning. Our Primary 4 and Primary 7 have celebrated their 'Mass of Commitment' and 'Mass of Enrolment' where they have made a public pledge to honour the way, the life and the truth of Jesus Christ.



Called to be Saints:



We believe that everyone has the capacity to be a Saint and we encourage our children to demonstrate Saint like qualities as they live their daily lives.

Our Primary 7 children have recently researched the lives of the Saints that have inspired them to be the best version of themselves. They have explored the lives of many holy men and women who have served God and demonstrated great faith in him. As a result, the children have selected the names of the Saints whom they will pray to and ask for

guidance as they continue to prepare for their Sacrament of Confirmation.

Through our Sacramental preparation in Primaries 4, 6 and 7, we continue on our journey of faith as we bear witness to Jesus and draw ourselves closer to him.

Prayer and Worship:

We have a very close relationship with Monsignor Andrew McFadden, and we plan many events throughout the session to join together as a School and Parish family to pray and worship together.

ST.BENEDICT'S CLUSTER- 'PILGRIMS OF FAITH'
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We attend First Friday Masses in the Church, and our children take leadership roles as they prepare and facilitate many parts of the Mass including, Altar Serving, Reading, singing and preparing music. Our families join with us along with the Parishioners to share in this community of faith.

During the month of October, we enjoyed visits to the Grotto to pray the Rosary for our own special intentions as well as the intentions of his Holy Father, the Pope. Our weekly whole school Assemblies are anchored in opportunities for community prayer, and we discuss the learning within the Sunday Gospel and consider how we can replicate it's teaching into our own everyday lives.

Deepening our Beliefs:

We have the opportunity on a weekly basis to deepen our faith and beliefs through participation in the 'Developing in Faith' religious programme. We benefit from having a safe and supportive space to ask questions and deepen our understanding of faith by working collaboratively.

We reach out to one another and to those who most need our help in a variety of ways. Our children demonstrate the value of 'kindness' which is our motivation to help others.

Being Part of a Family:



We consider ourselves to be a family within our school and as such, we have a shared responsibility to look out for one another and help each other in any way we can.

Our Primary 7 children are excellent 'Big Buddies' to our Primary one children and our Primary 6 children have engaged in a 'Play Leaders' programme in partnership with Active Schools to learn how to encourage younger child to play in harmony with one another and to compromise when things are not going their way.

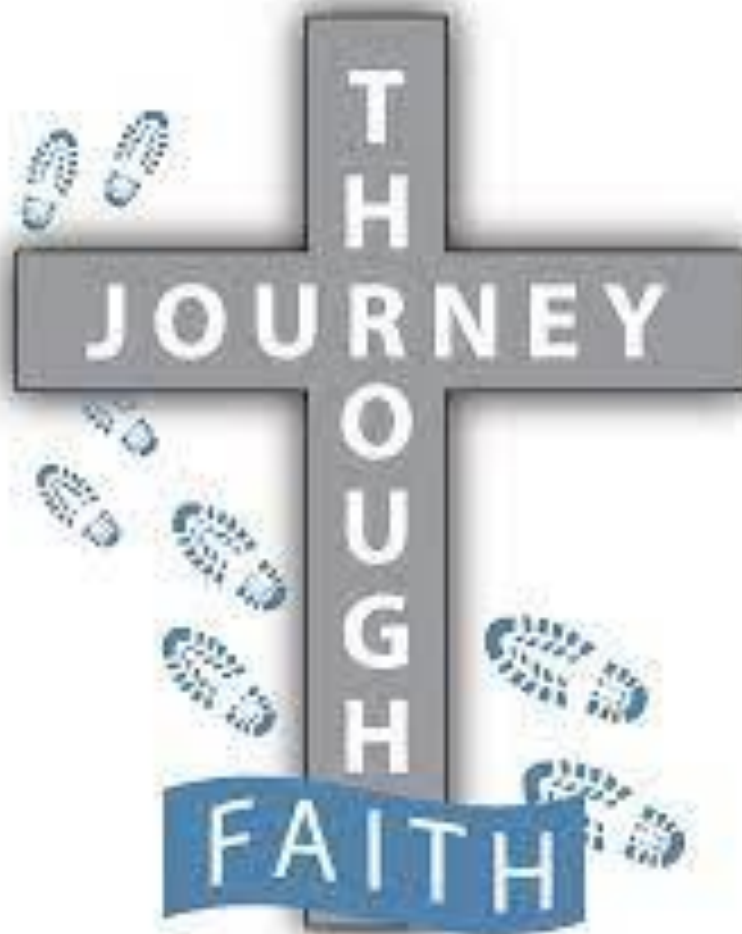
As 'Pilgrims of Faith,' we understand that we are on a journey. It may be an arduous one, faced with many trials and tribulations, but by listening to God's word, responding to his call, praying, worshipping, growing in understanding, serving and supporting one another, we can stand united and share in the promise that one day we will be united with Jesus in Heaven.

Our faith continues to grow day by day and it keeps us strong. It gives us the confidence and strength to continue, even when things are tough and challenges present.

During Catholic Education Week, we will continue to pray to the Holy Spirit for strength and guidance to support all Catholic schools on their journey as 'Pilgrims of Faith.'

'I wish you a good journey. I hope you arrive at the encounter filled with joy. Take this path and make a journey. Life is about making a journey. Strive ahead courageously, always looking toward your destination. Do so with the mysticism of the journey, always walking with others and never alone.'

Pope Francis



Our Lady of Peace Primary



At Our Lady of Peace Primary, we recognise the need to develop as a community of faith and learning. We work in partnership with the home and parish community to strengthen links and pray together.

At Our Lady of Peace our **School House System** links directly to our School Values and an associated House Saint. Children, families and staff opted to have a House Saint to represent each of our School Values. We chose St Teresa of Calcutta; St John Bosco; St Maximilian Kolbe and St Vincent de Paul. Each house group has an associated value that is significant to the story of the linked Saint.

Welcoming
Achieving
Love & Kindness

.....we are always learning and aiming high



Our school values are:

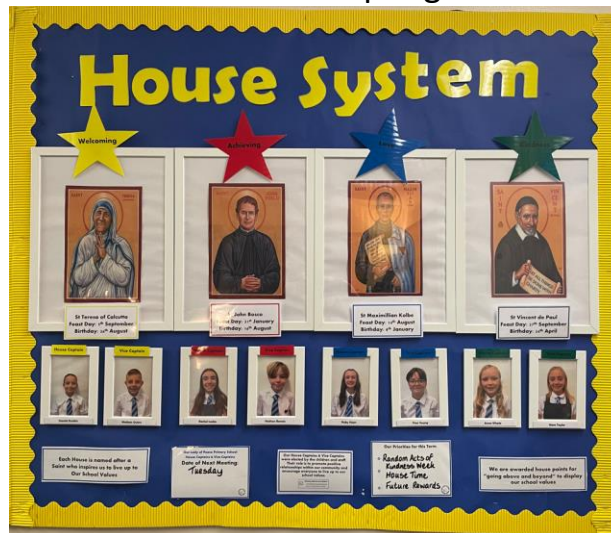
St Teresa of Calcutta – Welcoming

St John Bosco – Achieving

St Maximilian Kolbe – Love

St Vincent de Paul - Kindness

Learning about the four House Saints has become a significant part of school life. We learn together about the life of the saints, and we try to live by their example linking this to our School Values. The children from each House attend Mass together, giving them the opportunity to celebrate and worship together.



Primary One Blessing

We held our annual Primary One Blessing at the start of November, and this was very well attended by our families. This welcomed our new families to our school community and strengthened our links between home, parish and school. This provided families with the opportunity to meet Canon Michael and receive some useful information from St Conval's Parish Community. The children shared their learning on 'God Has Made Me Unique' and 'Creation' with their families and Canon Michael. Children and families shared some refreshments afterwards and had a lovely afternoon together.



Children's Rosary

This session, we are delighted to welcome Jean and Helen into Our Lady of Peace Primary. The children in Primary 5/4 have loved being involved in the Children's Rosary Initiative. The purpose of the group is to encourage our children to pray. The prayers are child led and our children have flourished with the opportunity to lead prayer within the class. The children look forward to the Children's Rosary session every week and a joyful cheer can be heard from the class base when the adults arrive. The children enjoy a story from the bible, offer their own special intentions and pray together. Some children within the class involved with Children's Rosary are planning and leading our upcoming 'Prayer Breakfast' due to take place in November.



St. David's Primary School

The theme for this year's Catholic Education Week will allow us, as a school community, to think about how we can embrace the notion of being **Pilgrims of Faith**.



At St David's Primary School, our learning is shaped through our school values which are based on the Gospel values.



Our value of **respect** supports us to focus on educating the whole person-body, mind and soul. Our **community** is developed in partnership with parents, partners and our parish of St Margaret's which supports our community to nurture their spiritual development and journey of **faith**.

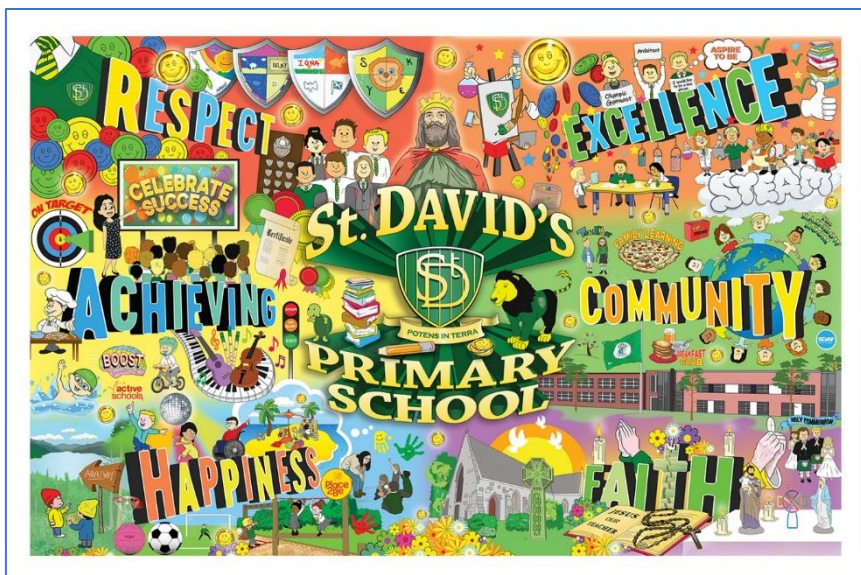
We take comfort in our Sacred Spaces in class and the protected time we offer each day to prayer.



Happiness is central to our school ethos and culture - our community is secure enough in its own identity and purpose to allow us to be outward-looking and welcoming of all. We celebrate our value of **achieving** by encouraging our learners to be active participants in their learning journey and providing them with many opportunities to identify new skills and talents. To follow the Way of Jesus gives us certainty and direction in our lives. Our senior pupils engage in the Pope Francis Faith Awards. This is a two-year Programme which encourages them to put their faith in to action while continuing to learn about the saints and the gifts of the Holy Spirit to inspire them in their Spiritual development.



We believe our school promotes our value of **excellence** by encouraging everyone in our school community to be the best they can be. Jesus provides us with an eternal truth, on which we



can build our school's vision, values and aims, and on which our young people can depend throughout school and beyond.

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The PATHS™ Programme for Schools (2000-2005)
Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
SEL WORLDWIDE Believe in children
Barnardo's

We have achieved SEL Worldwide Model School Status (Social and Emotional Learning). This award recognises the significant commitment our staff, pupils and families have made to fully embed nurture practice throughout our core curriculum, and to ensure it is evident in all aspects of school life.

Through Laudato Si we have made a promise to love God, look after each other and protect the world. We aim to meet the Holy Father's goal of working creatively to create an understanding of Ecological Education within our school. Through working in partnership with Caritas students from St Benedict's High School we are developing young leaders and through prayer, learning and action, we are promoting and encouraging a response from our children and community.



ST.BENEDICT'S CLUSTER- 'PILGRIMS OF FAITH'
Catholic Education Week Collaboration 2023

SCOTTISH CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE



A CHARTER for CATHOLIC SCHOOLS in SCOTLAND

The mission of the Catholic school is to develop as a community of faith and learning, providing the highest quality of education, and offering formation through the promotion of Gospel values, through celebration and worship, and through service to the common good.

All Catholic schools in Scotland, in honouring Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life, will feature the following characteristics:

- * a commitment to the integrated education and formation of the whole person, in close partnership with parents as the first educators of their children;
- * an inclusive ethos which aims to honour the life, dignity and voice of each person, made in the image of God;
- * a commitment to the search for wisdom in life and to the pursuit of excellence, through the development of each person's unique God-given talents;
- * a commitment to the spiritual formation of the school community, through the shared experience of prayer and liturgy, and in partnership with local parishes;
- * the provision of religious education programmes which will enable young people to develop their understanding of Gospel values and of how to apply them to life;
- * a commitment to uphold the moral teaching, faith tradition and sacramental life of the Catholic Church;
- * a commitment to communicate Catholic social teaching and thereby to promote social justice and opportunity for all;
- * a commitment to ecumenical action and the unity of Christians;
- * the promotion of respect for different beliefs and cultures and for inter-faith dialogue;
- * a commitment to support the continuing professional and spiritual development of staff.

All staff appointed to a Catholic school are expected to support and promote the aims, mission, values and ethos of the school, as illustrated in this Charter.



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PILGRIMS OF FAITH

