

# Trinity Cluster



# Catholic Education Week 2023



Dear Parishioner,

It is a privilege to be able to share with you an update from the schools across our Cluster.

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).

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.

A key strength in all cluster schools is regular and well-planned opportunities for liturgical and faith celebration, and to support the faith journey of our children and families. In all of our cluster schools, liturgical and faith learning events are planned in advance with our Parish Priests and provide all in our community opportunity for communal celebration and deepening of faith.

We hope that you find the information contained within this short publication informative and reassuring of our collective commitment to Catholic Education. We wish to reassure you of our continued support for Parish life and thank you for all of your support and prayers for our school communities.

Yours Sincerely,



P. Marshall  
Head Teacher  
Trinity HS



N. Boyd  
Head Teacher  
St. Anne's PS



N. Fitzsimmons  
Head Teacher  
St. James's PS



L. Gardyne  
Head Teacher  
St John Bosco PS





# Trinity High School

The theme for this year's Catholic Education Week is "Pilgrim's of Faith". Pope Francis describes a pilgrimage as " a spiritual journey. We don't choose our destination; it is God drawing us into Himself." In the past year we, as a school, have had the privilege to be drawn closer to God in a number of ways; we will outline these below.



## Faith Pilgrimages and Excursions

Over the last year we have been very fortunate to go on pilgrimage both inside and outside of the school. Of particular note is our annual pilgrimage to Carfin Grotto. This is free to pupils and staff and is a fantastic day of prayer and contemplation. Pupils from across the various faith groups such as Mysterious Tuesday, Faith Leaders and Caritas are able to reflect on their own personal journeys and have the opportunity to pray together as a community.

## Celebration of Holy Mass

We are blessed to be working in partnership with our fantastic local Priests. This allows the school community to celebrate Mass each week on a Tuesday (8.30am) and Friday (12.30). We would like extend a warm invitation to any Parishioner who wishes to join us for our weekly Mass (please sign in at the school office). As a community of faith we ensure we make time to join for Mass on special Holy Days of Obligation and the Patronal Feast Days for our four Houses (St. Andrew, St. Margaret, St. Therese and St. Columba).



In addition to this were fortunate to have Bishop John celebrate Mass for the start of the academic sessions (Aug 2023) .

## Retreats & Values Days

We are reminded by Pope Francis that you do not have to travel to go on pilgrimage. In session 2022-2023 we committed to providing every year group with the opportunity to go on retreat in the school. This staff led programme focussed on our school values and how they shape us as a community of faith. Every retreat / values day offered young people time for reflection and also the opportunity to join together for the celebration of Holy Mass. This year we have partnered with FireCloud to offer a different perspective during these retreat days.





# Trinity High School

## Blessed Carlo Acutis Exhibition

In June 2023 Trinity hosted the Blessed Carlo Acutis Encounter.

*"What can bring us greater joy and peace than to draw near to our Lord in the most blessed sacrament?" The Most Reverend Raymond Leo Burke, Archbishop of St Louis.*



The Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Encounter provided pupils, staff and families the opportunity to explore the Eucharistic Miracles of the world followed by spending time before the Blessed Sacrament in prayer and adoration and veneration of a first class relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis.

## Charity and Thanksgiving

We are very proud of our school's reputation for giving back to the local, national and international community. Last session organisations and charities such as Food Rush, Christmas Gift Appeal, SCIAF, Mary's Meals, Fairtrade all benefited from the generosity of time and resources from all in the Trinity High School Community. This year we have partnered with Brightest Star to commemorate their 10th anniversary and focus on the excellent work that they do locally and nationally.

## Diocese of Paisley Youth to Lourdes

During July 2023 two pupils from Trinity HS were part of the diocesan group who supported pilgrims across the Diocese.

Using their time and God given talents Thomas and Sophie worked alongside youth volunteers from across Paisley. Both students describe this experience as both life affirming and changing. All Youth to Lourdes participants were presented with certificates at the Diocesan Vocations Mass in September 2023. As a school community we pray for more youth volunteers from our school to support with this very worthwhile pilgrimage.





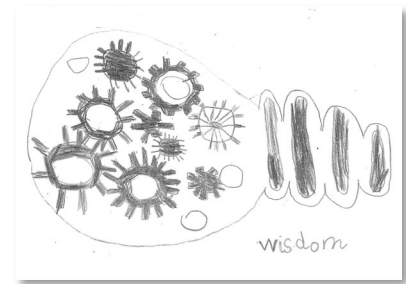
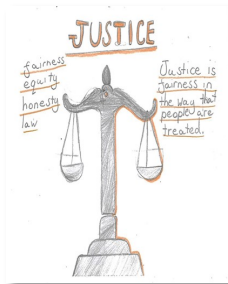
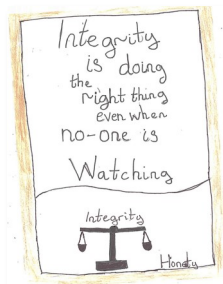


## St. James' Primary School

Our school motto is "Appropinquate Deo" which means "Draw close to God". As a community of faith and learning, Christ is the driving force behind the school's planning and actions. Our school vision is to educate the whole person - body, mind and soul - so that we may be confident in our response to God's call.

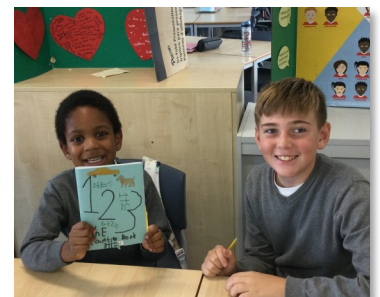
During Catholic Education week, we will focus on this year's theme of 'Pilgrims of Faith' We will celebrate all that is important to us as a Catholic school, both within our own school and as part of the wider Trinity High school cluster.

Our school is an inclusive community where we welcome, value and support all pupils, parents and staff to fulfil the potential of their God given talents. Our learning is shaped using Gospel Values - Compassion, Integrity, Justice and Wisdom and also our School Values of Kindness, Respect and Commitment. Our school is a place of worship and celebration and is an opportunity for all to encounter Christ.



We are a Laudato Si school. Our pupils learn in an environment where they are ecologically aware and through prayer, learning and action, we promote and encourage positive change across the school in relation to creating a better world for future generations.

Primary four and Primary seven classes work in partnership with the parishes of St James' and St Columba's to help pupils and their families grow in faith as they make preparations for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Primary six pupils begin working towards the Pope Francis Faith Award. They learn about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and are invited to use their own gifts and talents in the service of others. As we embrace Catholic Education Week, may our school continue to work together with our parishes, to give our pupils the best opportunities possible to grow in their learning, their love of God and each other.





# St. Anne's Primary School

In his address in St. Peter's Square in May 2023, Pope Francis said,

*“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.”*

Since 1981, we have been a proud member of the Catholic community in Erskine, and have had the privilege of working with our parish of St. Bernadette's, our cluster schools, and the wider Diocese of Paisley to build a community where we “Love One Another”.

For over 40 years, our school has been a place where our children learn of God's great love for them, and how special they are within His family. Learning about this great love permeates all aspects of school life, with prayer, charitable acts and living out the Gospel values and messages a key feature of our school.

We are proud of the strong prayer life of our school, where our children not only engage in daily prayer throughout the school day in class, but also have regular opportunities for wider community worship such as: daily Rosary in October and May, Advent and Lenten daily prayer and thought for the day, First Wednesday Mass and Holiday of Obligation Mass attendance, Opening and Closing of term Masses, penitential services, and Christmas and Easter reflection services.

Each Monday morning, we gather together as a community of faith, sharing and reflecting on the Gospel, linking to experiences children have in St. Bernadette's parish through “Kids Church”. We think about what the Gospel message is to us, and how we can use our gifts and talents in service of others to help build God's kingdom on earth. Through our work for Laudato Si Schools, where we respond to Pope Francis' call to care for all of God's creation, we challenge our children to lead lives of service to our brothers and sisters in our local and global community.

Caring for God's world and all of His people, leads us to think about putting our faith into action through use of our gifts, talents and time. Our Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils, through participation in Pope Francis Faith Award, deepen their understanding of service and care for others, and learn how the gifts of the Holy Spirit help them to lead Christian lives of goodness and holiness. Through Fairtrade Fortnight, support for SCIAF, MISSIO and Mary's Meal's, Eco work to reduce, reuse, recycle and rethink, and sustainable travel, to name but a few, we help our children to think about creating a fairer, more peaceful, more sustainable world where all people can grow and thrive. Each September, we host a MacMillan Coffee Morning, helping to raise funds to support cancer care. This year, our school raised over £900 for this charity—a phenomenal amount given that our school is small in numbers.

Pope Francis challenges us to be discoverers of beauty and seekers of the treasures of faith. Each day, with the help and support of all in our school, the parish of St. Bernadette's, Trinity cluster schools and the Diocese of Paisley, we help our children to learn and grow in joy -joy in the Gospel, and joy in the love which God has for us all.







## St. John Bosco Primary School

During this Catholic Education Week, we would like to share with you how the school community of St John Bosco primary school are Pilgrims of Faith. Within our school we know that we are all on a journey together. This is a learning and a faith journey and this is echoed in our school motto, 'School Journey Begins', which we share with all our children and families when they join our school.



As Pilgrims of Faith, we have the same shared beliefs, school mottos and values. Our school values of kindness, inclusion, compassion and support enable us to live the Gospel values in action. Within St John Bosco primary school we are proud to demonstrate our faith in action by fulfilling our school motto, 'Sharing Jesus Beliefs'. As a school community we share our faith through attendance at Mass with our school in the local parish of St John Bosco in Erskine and with our families in our parishes of St John Bosco in Erskine and Our Lady of Lourdes in Bishopton. We gather together as a school community to pray a decade of the Rosary each Tuesday and Thursday morning during the months of October and May, families, parish priests and parishioners are invited to join us



in our prayers which are led by our primary 6 and 7 Pope Francis Faith Award children. Last month we were delighted to be joined by the Mysterious Tuesday Rosary group from our cluster secondary school, Trinity High School.



As Pilgrims of Faith we show our beliefs through our actions. Our children in St John Bosco primary want to show love and to help one another just like Jesus asked us to. The children not only help each other within school but are also keen to support others in our local community and across the world. Last session our children held collections for local foodbanks and worked with Catholic Erskine to support the local community by sending Christmas cards and goodwill messages to the local community. Our children also fundraised for SCIAF and MISSIO, supporting children and families in other countries across the world.

Most recently our school have joined with members of St John Bosco parish and we now have a 'Mini Vinnie' group within our school, this is the youth group of the St Vincent de Paul society which operates in most parishes. The 'Mini Vinnies' follow their simple formula of 'see, think, do', they learn to spot people in need and discover how best they can help them. Our 'Mini Vinnies' will work in school and across our community to demonstrate Gospel values and our school values in action.



To keep up to date with life in St John Bosco primary school please follow us on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/StJohnBoscoPS> or visit our school website, <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/stjohnboscoprimary/>