

# Celebrating Catholic Schools Week 2023

## *in Your School*

### The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year is Catholic Schools: Walking Together in Faith and Love

Each of us are on a journey in life. For Catholics, this journey begins and ends with God. Each moment on that journey is a chance to come to know and love God, who has been revealed to us in Jesus Christ. We can feel God's presence when we pray, when we spend time with loved ones, in nature, in moments of joy and when we come together as a community to celebrate God's love at Mass. As we walk along our journey, God is with us every step of the way.

Every Catholic school seeks to help students along their journey, nurturing their gifts and talents. Each student is a reflection of God with the potential to make society a kinder and more just place for all. The Church is currently in the process of synodality, which literally means 'journeying together'. This means that Catholics are called to come together and discern what the Holy Spirit is calling the Church to do and to be. This Catholic Schools Week, we celebrate the unique contribution our schools make to the lives of our pupils, community and Church. As we journey together, may we always be inspired by the Holy Spirit to be all that God made us to be. May we talk together in faith and love.

As in previous years, the daily themes contain resources for the class groupings: Junior and Senior Infants/Primary 1 and 2; First and Second Class/Primary 3 and 4; Third and Fourth Class/Primary 5 and 6; and Fifth and Sixth Class/Primary 7.

The relevant strands and strand units of the *Catholic Pre-School and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland (2015)* are also listed for each class grouping at the beginning of the lesson plans.

On Wednesday we celebrate **Grandparents Day**. On that day we offer some suggestions for class activities. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, an in-person Mass for grandparents was traditionally celebrated by many schools. Schools are encouraged to celebrate this day in a manner they deem the most appropriate and manageable in accordance with their own local circumstances.

A prayer service, for use in the school or classroom, is also available, as well as suggestions for parish celebrations. All resources are available to download online at [www.catholicschools.ie](http://www.catholicschools.ie).

#### THE DAILY THEMES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<b>Monday:</b> Walking Together in Faith	<b>Tuesday:</b> Walking Together in Love	<b>Wednesday:</b> Walking Together to Celebrate – Grandparents Day	<b>Thursday:</b> Walking Together to Transform our World	<b>Friday:</b> Walking Together in Hope
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“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

(Mic 6:8)

# Thoughts for Each Day

These reflections can be read out loud every day in each classroom or over an intercom system to the whole school community. They can be read by pupils or staff.  
The spoken reflections might be followed by a short period of Christian meditation.



## MONDAY:

Today is the first day of Catholic Schools Week 2023. Today's theme is 'Walking Together in Faith'. Our Catholic school is a place where we learn to have faith in ourselves, in each other and in God. May we learn to have hearts of compassion, trust and love in everything we do, as we journey together in faith.

Lord, help us to live like you taught us to. Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: *Our Father ...*

## TUESDAY:

Today we are asked to think walking together in love in our Catholic school. We learn many things in school. We learn things like reading, PE, science, music and art. We learn spellings and tables. But we also learn how to be a good friend. Jesus teaches us how to love one another. His Golden Rule is to treat others as you would like to be treated. Today we will remember to show kindness and love to ourselves, to those around us and to God.

Lord, help us to live like you taught us to. Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: *Our Father ...*





## WEDNESDAY:

Today our Catholic school is called to celebrate our grandparents. Grandparents love us very much; they want us to be the best we can be and are proud of all that we do. They teach us wisdom, lessons that we might not learn in school and about faith. Grandparents can teach us how to pray and to trust in God that all will be well. We give thanks to God for our grandparents and celebrate their contribution to our lives.

Lord, help us to live like you taught us to. Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: *Our Father ...*

## THURSDAY:

Today we are asked to think about walking together to transform our world. We often hear in the news about how many people are very worried about our climate and how we need to change the way we live our lives. In our Catholic school, we learn that our environment is sacred, and that God's creation must be taken care of and protected. May we learn to be responsible stewards in our world for the common good of all.

Lord, help us to live like you taught us to. Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: *Our Father ...*

## FRIDAY:

As Catholic Schools Week comes to a close, we are asked to think about how we walk together in hope. The world can be a scary place sometimes. We might feel afraid or worried for the future. In our Catholic school, we learn that we are never truly alone, that God loves us and that our friends and teachers are there for us. Together, as a school community that is kind and cares for each other, we look to the future with the hope and the joy of the resurrection.

Lord, help us to live like you taught us to. Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: *Our Father ...*

