



Catholic Schools Week 2014

Seachtain na Scoileanna Caitliceacha 2014

Resources for the Primary School
Community: Home, School & Parish

Catholic Schools: Places of Faith and Learning

26 January–2 February 2014

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Christian Meditation for Children	INSIDE BACK COVER
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Resources

A number of additional resources are available for download from www.catholicschools.ie:

- The Entire Resource *as Gaeilge*
- Home Page in Polish
- Reflection for Catholic Schools Week 2014 for Staff and Members of Board of Management/Governors
- Planning Meeting for Catholic Schools Week 2014
- Celebrating Catholic Schools Week 2014 in the Diocese
- Service to Celebrate the Ministry of Teachers
- Catholic Schools Week 2014 in the Parish
- Opening Prayer Service for Catholic Schools Week 2014
- Closing Prayer Service for Catholic Schools Week 2014
- Prayer Service for Grandparents' Day 2014.

Poster

Included in this resource book is an A2-sized poster, which can be added to each day of Catholic Schools Week. The poster can be placed in the school sacred space. We suggest that each day some of the classwork be added to the poster. It might be possible for a different class to take responsibility for choosing the best or most appropriate page each day.

Catholic Schools Week 2014: Theme

Welcome to the resources for Catholic Schools Week 2014. **Catholic Schools: Places of Faith and Learning** was chosen as the theme for 2014 to highlight that all learning takes place in a values context. This means that all education involves an education in values; in other words, education is never simply about transmitting simple facts. During CSW, Catholic schools will celebrate their identity. There are five essential elements that give the Catholic school its particular characteristic spirit or ethos.

1. **The belief that the human person is made in the image of God and is therefore worthy of respect and dignity.** Accordingly, Jesus Christ, God made man, is the exemplar par excellence for the Christian person. At all times in Catholic schools, all members of the school community aspire to treat each other in a way that reflects the origin of the human person. All relationships reflect this fundamental belief.
2. **The belief that we meet God in the *bits and pieces of everyday life*.** Our daily interaction is the stuff of our relationship with God. We are approached by God in ordinary life. The sacraments highlight this when the ordinary events of life become a privileged moment for our encounter with God. Also on our part, moments of reflection and prayer are part of 'the everyday' when we become conscious of God's care and love for us and our dependence on him. So liturgy and prayer will be part of the life of the Catholic school.
3. **The belief that we are saved as a community.** We are part of each other and it is together that we become the people of God in the world, the body of Jesus Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit – people of 'a kingdom of justice, love and peace'. The main commandment of Jesus is to 'love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves'. A key element of the Catholic school will be to learn how to live with respect for one another and with a special care for those who have less or are suffering. So part of daily life in the school will be learning how to form a community of care with an eye to those in the world who are in need or are suffering in any way.
4. **The fact that we belong to a tradition.** Schools form part of the tradition of the Church going back to the saying of Christ: 'Go teach all nations.' There is a long tradition of faith-based education in the Catholic Church. The Church has made an enormous contribution to the formation of young people and to society over the years from within the Catholic Christian tradition, from pre-schools through primary, post-primary and third level institutions. In our time it is our duty to be faithful to that tradition and to interpret it anew for the people of this time and for the common good of society.
5. **The fact that we value knowledge.** Knowledge is important to us, to learn about ourselves, each other and the world in which we live. Accordingly, the Catholic school will strive to provide an education of excellence where the acquisition and development of knowledge in all its depth and breadth will be central to the work of the school.

I hope that the celebration of Catholic Schools Week 2014 in your school community will be one filled with blessings.

Monsignor James Cassin

Executive Secretary, Council for Education



Catholic Schools Week 2014 at Home

Dear Parents and Families,

All this week, our school will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week. This week gives everyone involved in Catholic education the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution that our Catholic schools make to Irish life. During this week we encourage you, as parents and families, to take time to reflect on what it means to have your child as part of a Catholic school community, and to consider how you can support the work being done in your child's Catholic school. These are some ideas for you to try:

If your child is in one of the junior classes (Junior Infants/Primary 1 to Second Class/Primary 4), help them to make a 'Happy Catholic Schools Week' card for one of the teachers in their school. Help them to think about what they would like to thank that teacher for during this special week.

If your child is in a senior class (Third Class/Primary 5 to Sixth Class), find some time this week to ask them about what they think is the difference between attending a Catholic school and any other type of school. Some points for discussion might be the prayers that are said in Catholic schools, time devoted to religious education, preparing for the sacraments, supporting charities such as Trócaire and so on.

Find out what events are going on in your child's school this week to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. Many schools will host a day for grandparents, for example. Others will have a special prayer service to which families are invited. Your child may also bring home some activities to show that their school community is celebrating Catholic Schools Week. Decide what you can do to get involved!

Did you attend a Catholic school? If so, share your best memories of Catholic education with your child. For example, do you remember preparing for your First Holy Communion and Confirmation? Who were your teachers? What do you remember about the day itself? What do you think has changed about Catholic schools since you were young?

Catholic Schools Week begins officially on Sunday, 26 January. Perhaps your family can make a special effort to attend Mass on that day, when prayers will be offered for all those who are part of our Catholic school communities.

Thoughts for Each Day

Catholic Schools: Places of Faith and Learning

These reflections could be read aloud each day in each classroom or over an intercom system to link the whole school community. It is suggested that meditation take place after each daily reflection. This should be led in each individual classroom. There are guidelines for this time of meditation on the inside back cover.

Monday: Today, on the first day of Catholic Schools Week, we think of the gift of life which God has given us. Help us Lord to live our lives in ways pleasing to you. Help us to live in faith, to live in love and to live in happiness. Today and every day, may we try to live as your son Jesus taught us. Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

Our Father ...

Tuesday: Today we think of the ways and places in which we learn about our faith. We learn about our faith at home, in school and in our parish communities. We learn about the life of Jesus, his kindness and forgiveness. We learn from his example. Help us Lord to learn how to act like Jesus to make your world a better place. Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

Our Father ...

Wednesday: Today, on Grandparents' Day, we think of the faith and love that our grandparents share with us. They share their lives and gifts and play a special part in how we learn and live our faith. Lord, help us to share all that we have and all that we are. Help us to know the joy of sharing and giving to those around us. Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

Our Father ...

Thursday: Today we celebrate our faith. We celebrate that Jesus came to earth and showed us how to love and how to live. We celebrate and give thanks each time we go to Mass and share in Holy Communion with our parish community. We celebrate our faith when we gather to pray with our families or in school. Lord, help us to continue to celebrate our faith and to celebrate you. Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

Our Father ...

Friday: As Catholic Schools Week comes to a close, we think of how we can help and serve those around us. Jesus came to serve us, to show us how to serve and help others and treat them as we would like them to treat us. We serve you when we spread the good news of Jesus Christ and when we live our lives as Jesus asked us to. Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

Our Father ...



Monday: Our Faith Calls Us to Live

For the Teacher: Our faith becomes hollow and empty if we fail to bring it out of the confines of the church grounds and the Sunday Mass and do not attempt to live the Gospel values. At the end of Mass the priest sends us off with one of the following commands:

**Go and Announce the Gospel of the Lord
Go in Peace, Glorifying the Lord by Your Life**

Go and Announce the Gospel of the Lord

St Francis of Assisi once said, 'Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words'. We are called as individuals, as a Christian community and as a school community to 'preach the Gospel, without recourse to words'. Catholic Schools Week gives us the opportunity to put that command into practice – not just by thinking about how we have done this or how we might do it in the future, but how we can do it right now! In each of the four sections for classes, the pupils are encouraged to make a commitment to not merely knowing the Gospel, but putting into practice.

Junior and Senior Infants/Primary 1 and 2: Chat to the children about the story of St Brigid. There are two stories in *Alive-O 1* relating to St Brigid (pp. 132–9), which are perfect examples of how she announced the Gospel – by feeding the poor and by building her church. The children will be learning the St Brigid song at this stage, and perhaps some of the children from one of the senior classes can come and help Junior and Senior Infants/Primary 1 and 2 to learn the song and show the children that one of the simple ways to announce the Gospel is to be kind and friendly to one another, just as Jesus told us. The activity on page 7 will help the children consolidate their learning. Invite Senior Infants to write a sentence about each activity to show how they can be like St Brigid.

First and Second Classes/Primary 3 and 4: Read the story 'Sayen and Dooen' in *Alive-O 4* (p. 108). This is a perfect example of how we sometimes act: we talk a good game, but we sometimes fail to deliver. During Mass we focus and concentrate on the Gospel, but sometimes afterwards we have forgotten the Gospel, homily and everything else. Explore with the children different ways that we can be reminded about the Gospel – blessing ourselves when we pass by the church; remembering that the Gospel extends to the playground and the bus on the way home; remembering that the Gospel is supposed to be about how we treat our brothers and sisters.

Children participating in the *Do This In Memory* programme will have talked about John's Jobs. These are reproduced on page 8. Give each child one attitude and one job, and check back in at the end of the week to see how they have 'announced the Gospel' by their actions and outlook.

Go in Peace, Glorifying the Lord by Your Life

The second of the two commands that are said at the end of the Mass will be used to direct the senior classes during Catholic Schools Week. As it says in every *Alive-O* book, 'the glory of God is people fully alive'. This phrase comes from St Irenaeus. The full quotation is, 'For the glory of God is a living human being; and human life consists in the vision of God'. This is a serious responsibility for every Christian, to attempt to live up to the possibility of being a vision of God. However, we rely on the Gospel as a road map to show us how to do this. We rely on Jesus' encounters with everyone he meets to show us the true vision of God.

Third and Fourth Classes/Primary 5 and 6: Read the story of the Good Samaritan in *Alive-O 6*. It doesn't matter if you have covered the story already. The full story is on pages 139–140 in the Teacher's Book. The story is about three things – the members of Jewish society who ignore the man on the side of the road; the kindness of the Samaritan; the fact that help came from an unusual place – the Samaritan, a supposed enemy/adversary of the Jews. While we are not expecting the children to do exactly the same as the Samaritan, these three elements can be explored. Ask the children to complete the activity on page 9. The children might also explore modern equivalents of this story during discussion and circle time. You might finish with some prayer time on this theme, which can be found right through this lesson, and also by singing the 'Neighbour Song' on page 140 of the Teacher's Book. The fact that this song really has no ending might give the children an indication that true friendship has no real ending either.

Fifth Classes/Primary 7 and Sixth Classes: For this you will need a copy of the Oscar Wilde story, 'The Devoted Friend'. It is easily available in collections of his fairy stories, and is also available online at <http://classiclit.about.com/library/bl-etexts/owilde/bl-owilde-defr.htm>.

It tells the story of the Miller and Little Hans, and is a story about the true nature of friendship. While the Miller talked a great deal about the virtue of friendship, Little Hans, with his good heart and sensitivity, was actually the devoted friend. Here are a number of questions that might guide some discussion on the story:

- How is the story of Little Hans and the Miller applicable to the water rat? How is it applicable to us?
- What is the first example that we hear to suggest that the Miller is not as good a friend to Little Hans as he thinks? What are some of the other examples?
- Comment on this quotation from the story: 'Lots of people act well,' answered the Miller, 'but very few people talk well, which shows that talking is much the more difficult thing of the two, and much the finer thing also.'
- Why was Little Hans unable to look after his garden and what was the promise that the Miller constantly held him to?
- What was the final indicator of the Miller's selfishness which caused Little Hans to lose his life?
- Why did the Miller's claim to have been Little Hans's best friend, and what is the effect of the Miller's disclosure that the wheelbarrow was totally worthless?

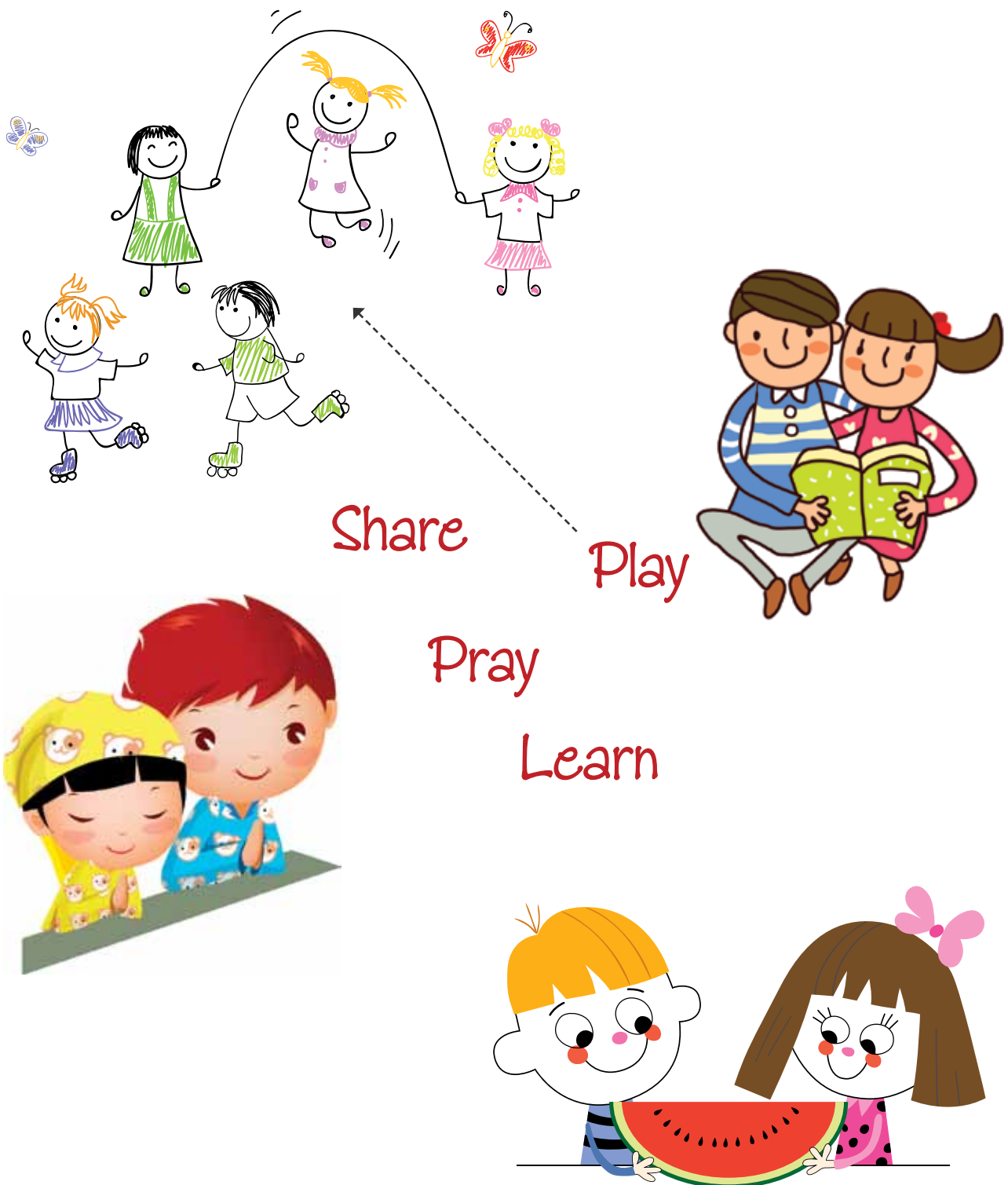
One of the greatest twentieth-century examples of a devoted friend was Oscar Romero. Throughout his life he was devoted to the poor and the oppressed in El Salvador. He was killed while saying Mass in the cathedral in 1980. In October 2013, President Michael D. Higgins visited his tomb at the cathedral in San Salvador while on a state visit to El Salvador. He described it as a moving experience and a monument to the need not to forget. President Higgins also praised the role of the Church in the region, which he said preached a message of Christ that was one of rights and equality. The timeline on page 10 charts the story of Oscar Romero's life.



Our Faith Calls Us to Live: Junior and Senior Infants/Primary 1 and 2

Match the words to the activity

I can live like St Brigid when I ...



Our Faith Calls Us to Live: First and Second Classes/Primary 3 and 4

What can I say and do this week to announce the Gospel?

John's Jobs: Tasks

Say 'I'm sorry' to someone you've hurt.

Do something for your mum or dad without being asked.

Share your sweets with someone.

Offer to help someone with an odd job.

Call or write a letter to your granny/grandad or someone special.

Do your school work cheerfully.

Say your Prayer Before Meals and invite the rest of the family to join you.

Help clean the house.

Pick up any litter that you see around you.

Help prepare a family meal.

Ask how you can help at home.

Read the story of the Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17).

Tidy your room.

Leave out food and water for the birds.

Write a prayer for Catholic Schools Week and put it in your prayer space.

John's Jobs: Attitudes

Think quietly for five minutes about the people you love.

Give away one of your best smiles.

Think quietly for five minutes about all the good things in your life and say thank you to God for them.

Be kind to someone who needs your kindness.

Be nice to someone you aren't friends with.

Show someone in your family how much you love them.

Say a prayer for all those who are lonely.

Show someone you have hurt that you are sorry.

Be pleasant and helpful to everyone you meet today.

Give someone in your family a big hug.

Forgive someone who has hurt you.

Smile more often.

Play fairly.

Do all your jobs without complaining.

Our Faith Calls Us to Live: Third and Fourth Classes/Primary 5 and 6

The Good Samaritan

Colour the picture and tell the story in your own words



Our Faith Calls Us to Live: Fifth Classes/Primary 7 and Sixth Classes

Oscar Romero

1917

Oscar Arnulfo Romero is born into a family of ten on 15 August 1917 in Ciudad Barrios, El Salvador. His father is a postman and sometimes the young Romero helps his father post letters. Oscar learns to be a carpenter, making tables, chairs and doors.

1967

He is made a Monsignor and moves to San Salvador. There he meets Fr Rutilio Grande who becomes a good friend.

1980

Despite receiving death threats, Archbishop Romero denounces the government and the army for their repressive policies: 'In the name of God, and in the name of this suffering people whose cries rise to heaven more loudly each day, I beg you, I implore you, I order you ... in the name of God, stop the repression!' (23-03-80)

On 24 March 1980, a shot kills Romero as he says Mass. Thousands come to his funeral. The army fires into the crowd. Thirty people die and hundreds are injured. An investigation in 1992 finds that ex-mayor, General Roberto D'Aubuisson, ordered Romero's death.

1930

He goes to junior seminary when he is fourteen years old. When his mother is ill and they need money for medicine, Oscar leaves the seminary for three months and works in the gold mine in Potosi. He earns around eight cent a day.

1970

He is made an Auxiliary Bishop and invites El Salvador's president to the ceremony. People are angry that he seems to be supporting a government that is oppressing the people.

1974

He becomes Bishop of Santiago de Maria.

2000

Pope John Paul II personally adds Romero's name to a list of twentieth-century martyrs at a jubilee celebration in Rome. No miracle is needed for Romero to be canonised because he is a martyr.

1937

Oscar goes to Rome to study theology and stays there during World War II. His father and brother die while he is in Rome.

1975

The army kill three people in the village of Tres Calles. He comforts the families and writes to President Molina to protest about the murders.

2009

Romero lives on in his people. On 15 March 2009, Mauricio Funes is elected president of El Salvador. He announces that his government will be inspired by Romero and the 'option for the poor' (considering the poorest and most vulnerable first).

1942

He is ordained a priest on 4 April 1942. He returns home in 1944 and celebrates his first Mass in Ciudad Barrios with his remaining family.

1977

In February 1977 he becomes Archbishop of San Salvador. Some people in the Church and some rich people are happy because they think he will stop the priests from helping the poor. On 12 March 1977, Fr Rutilio Grande and two people he is travelling with are shot and killed. Romero cancels all Masses the following Sunday except for one in front of the cathedral for 100,000 people. He refuses to attend any official government events until the murder is solved.

2013

Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, who promotes the cause for the beatification of Archbishop Oscar Romero, announces on 20 April that the process had been 'unblocked' seemingly by the approval of Pope Francis.

1944

For twenty years he is Director of the San Miguel Diocese. His mother lives there with him. She dies in 1961. He becomes famous for his sermons. He also does a lot of parish work like visiting prisons, organising catechism classes and working with the Catholic agency Caritas to provide food for the poor.



Tuesday: Our Faith Calls Us to Learn

For the Teacher:

We are called to learn ... About the person of Jesus
About our faith
How to live our faith

Junior and Senior Infants/Primary 1 and 2: Talk to the children about the person of Jesus. He had many jobs. Use the following to guide a discussion with the children about the jobs that he had. When he was small he would have helped Joseph who worked as a carpenter. When he got older he left home to go and do God's work. He healed people who were sick, forgave people who had done bad things and made miracles happen.

One of Jesus' most important jobs was as a teacher. He taught people about God and that God loved them. Jesus also taught people how to live good lives and to love one another.

Have a look at Jesus' work as a teacher at:

http://www.biblewise.com/archives/2005/may/kids_korner/bible_characters/bible_characters.htm

Ask the children to colour the picture on page 12 and trace the words 'Jesus is Our Teacher' below. (Senior Infants/Primary 2 students could also write the words 'Jesus is Our Teacher' below or write sentences in their copy about Jesus Our Teacher.)

First and Second Classes/Primary 3 and 4: One of the most important things that Jesus teaches us is how to pray. Talk to the children about different prayers that they know and when we say those prayers. Make a list of the prayers the class knows and possibly some prayers that they are going to learn this year (especially in preparation for First Eucharist).

Ask the children to unjumble the titles of the prayers on the worksheet on page 13. The class could then recite these prayers together.

Finally ask the children to select their favourite prayer, one they have learned in school or at home, and write it into the space.

Third and Fourth Classes/Primary 5 and 6: Jesus taught us many things. He taught us that God will always love us and be with us. Jesus taught us how to live our lives through the example of his life. He was a teacher of love and of life.

Ask the children what kind of person they think Jesus was.

Record the answers to this as a list/diagram (Jesus was kind, helpful, loving, caring etc.).

There are many examples in Jesus' life which show us what kind of person he was. Jesus also told stories or parables with messages to teach us about how to live a Christian life.

Ask the children to recall some of the stories they know about the life of Jesus or the stories he told where he showed us how to live. Using these examples, ask them to finish the sentences on page 14.

Fifth Classes/Primary 7 and Sixth Classes: Read some stories at: <http://www.jesusandkidz.com/> and http://kids.christiansunite.com/biblestories_jesus.shtml

Sometimes it can be hard to act like Jesus. Sometimes we are faced with difficult situations where we have to choose how best to act. As a class or in groups discuss the different situations on page 15 and decide how best to act based on the way Jesus lived.



Jesus is Our Teacher



Our Faith Calls Us to Learn: First and Second Classes/Primary 3 and 4

Jesus teaches us to pray

Unjumble the following prayers

ginMron yaPerr _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

rOu hertFa _ _ _ _ _ _ _

lHai rayM _ _ _ _ _ _ _

olrGy eB _ _ _ _ _ _ _

gihtN yeParr _ _ _ _ _ _ _

raGec refoBe aleMs _ _ _ _ _ _ _

My Favourite Prayer



Our Faith Calls Us to Learn: Third and Fourth Classes/Primary 5 and 6

Jesus is Our Teacher!

We can learn from him and from his life

Use examples from the life of Jesus to finish these sentences

Jesus is kind when:

Jesus is caring
when:

Jesus gives
forgiveness when:

Jesus is loving
when:

Jesus helps when:

From Jesus' life, we can learn how Jesus wants us to live our lives!

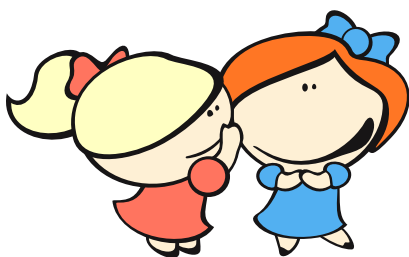
Our Faith Calls Us to Learn: Fifth Classes/Primary 7 and Sixth Classes

We learn about our faith ... we live our faith

Discuss these questions in your class or in groups

What would Jesus do?

1. Your friend tells you a lie. You feel very hurt and angry.
2. You see a boy or girl in the yard who has nobody to play with.
3. You have a brand new set of coloured pencils. Emma in your class has none and your teacher has given the class a picture to colour.
4. The zip has burst open in a boy's school bag on his way into his classroom. His school books and pencils have spread all over the corridor.
5. Your mum is having a busy day. She is making dinner and tidying up the house at the same time.
6. You are watching TV in granny's house but granny can't find her glasses anywhere. She knows they are in the house somewhere.
7. You see a bird who has hurt its wing just outside your house and can't fly.



Wednesday: Our Faith Calls Us to Share

What We Know

Who We Are

What We Have

For the Teacher: Today is Grandparents' Day and many schools will be celebrating the wonderful gift that grandparents are to children, families and the communities to which they belong. There is a prayer service on www.catholicschools.ie to help schools celebrate in a prayerful way with the grandparents who will come to visit the school today.

The following activities are designed to help children in the various classes reflect on how our faith calls us to share what we know, who we are and what we have with our friends, our families, the communities to which we belong, and those in the world who are in need of our help. We are baptised as children of the light and the invitation is to share that light in our world. As people of faith we are asked to believe that all we have is a gift from God and we are asked to share what we have with all we meet. We sometimes use the word 'mission' to explain how we share with others.

Junior and Senior Infants/Primary 1 and 2: Tell the children the story of Jesus and the loaves and fishes (John 6:1-15).

You might like to download a video from YouTube that also tells this story:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKW-iuwhY3w>

In the story, a little boy helps Jesus to feed five thousand people by sharing his five loaves and two fish. The little boy's generosity helps the people understand who Jesus is and then they can go and tell others about Jesus and the way he wants us to live. The activity of colouring and counting on page 17 will help consolidate this for the children.

First and Second Classes/Primary 3 and 4: Talk to the children about their Baptism. Remind them that at Baptism Jesus became their special friend. Show them a baptismal candle and tell them that their parents lit a candle like this on the day of their Baptism. This candle is a sign that they have been given a gift of the light of Jesus. They have to let the light given to them at Baptism shine by sharing it every day. On page 18, ask the children to write their name on the candle and think of ways that they can share the light of Jesus.

Third and Fourth Classes/Primary 5 and 6: Talk to the children about the word 'mission'. What does it mean to them? Have they ever been given a special mission? God gives us a special mission to share the good news that Jesus loves us and wants us to love one another. We can share this in lots of different ways at home, at school and in the community. Talk to the children about how they could share this good news. Ask them to complete the activity on page 19 showing how they do this at home, at school and in the community.

Fifth Classes/Primary 7 and Sixth Classes: Jesus had many followers, people who listened to him, believed in him and wanted to live like him. They were his disciples; they saw Jesus as a teacher or rabbi and they learned from him. He also had twelve friends whom he chose to be his closest friends and disciples. Later they became known as the apostles. Apostle means 'one who is sent'. Jesus wanted the apostles to go out to the whole world and share his message of God's love. The apostles did this work after the death and Resurrection of Jesus. There were other apostles too like St Paul who spent his life spreading the good news of the Gospel. When we were baptised we became followers of Jesus and like the apostles we are asked to share the good news. Talk to the children about the apostles. See how many of the names of the apostles they can remember. Divide the children into groups and ask them to do some research on the apostles, including St Paul. A good source for this work is www.catholic.org. When they have completed their research invite them to make a presentation to the rest of the class. Use the activity on page 20 as a way to begin this task.



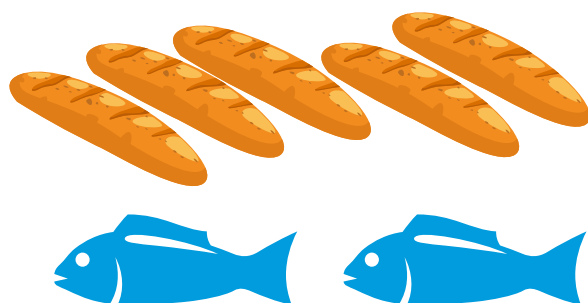
Our Faith Calls Us to Share: Junior and Senior Infants/Primary 1 and 2



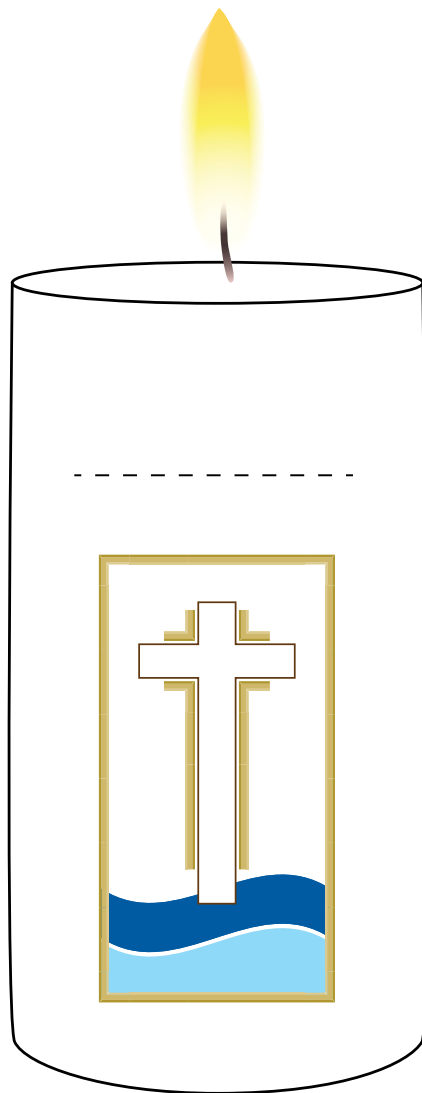
Do You Remember?

How many loaves?

How many fish?



Our Faith Calls Us to Share: First and Second Classes/Primary 3 and 4



I Share the Light of Jesus by

.....

I Share the Light of Jesus by

.....

I Share the Light of Jesus by

.....



Our Faith Calls Us to Share: Third and Fourth Classes/Primary 5 and 6

I have a Mission to Share the Good News ...

At Home

At School

In the Community

Our Faith Calls Us to Share: Fifth Classes/Primary 7 and Sixth Classes

Unjumble the words below to find the names of the apostles

tePre

drAwne

msJea

hJno

meJastlesesh

udJe

hliPpi

raBtwolmheo

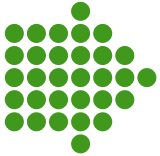
hmTosa

atMtwelh

uJdsa scaIotir

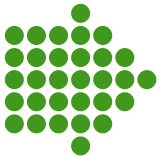
mnSio

There are three accounts in the Bible about the choosing of the twelve apostles. Read the accounts then answer the questions.



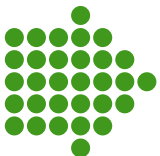
Matthew 10:2-4

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.



Mark 3:14-19

Then he chose twelve of them to be his apostles, so that they could be with him. He also wanted to send them out to preach and to force out demons. Simon was one of the twelve, and Jesus named him Peter. There were also James and John, the two sons of Zebedee. Jesus called them Boanerges, which means 'Thunderbolts'. Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus were also apostles. The others were Simon, known as the Eager One, and Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed Jesus.



Luke 6:13-16

The next morning he called his disciples together and chose twelve of them to be his apostles. One was Simon, and Jesus named him Peter. Another was Andrew, Peter's brother. There were also James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus. The rest of the apostles were Simon, known as the Eager One, Jude, who was the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed Jesus.

1. What was Simon's other name? _____
2. Who was the son of Alphaeus? _____
3. What did Jesus want his disciples to do? _____
4. Who was the father of James and John? _____
5. What other name did Jesus give James and John and what did it mean? _____
6. Who was Peter's brother? _____
7. How many tax collectors were there? Name them. _____
8. Who betrayed Jesus? _____
9. How was Simon described? _____
10. What does 'zealot' mean? _____



Thursday: Our Faith Calls Us to Celebrate

For the Teacher: Today we explore the various ways that we are called to celebrate our faith as members of a Christian community.

Junior and Senior Infants/Primary 1 and 2: Remind the children how much God loves each one of us. God gives us all gifts that make us special. Talk to the children about the gifts they have been given by God. Sing the song 'I Am Special' (*Alive-O*, p. 76). Talk about how we celebrate when someone does something good in our class. Do we give them a clap, say well done? Use the activity on page 22 to help them identify something that they would like to celebrate about themselves and their friends. When all the children have completed the activity and coloured in the picture below, invite them to tell the rest of the class about their gift and encourage the class to celebrate what they say. Finish the activity by saying the following prayer together: 'Thank you God, for all our gifts. Thank you God. Amen.'

First and Second Classes/Primary 3 and 4: Talk to the children about how Mass is one of the ways we celebrate our faith when we gather together in the church. Recall the story of the Last Supper, when Jesus issued the invitation to his disciples to 'Do this in memory of me'. So every time we go to Mass we celebrate what Jesus did at the Last Supper and answer his invitation to 'do this in memory of me'. Use the activity on page 23 to help consolidate the learning.

Third and Fourth Classes/Primary 5 and 6: Begin with the word **celebrate** on the board and brainstorm what it means to the children. What are the things that we celebrate? Make three lists:

At Home

In School

In Church

Then complete the activity on page 24.

Fifth Classes/Primary 7 and Sixth Classes: We celebrate our faith in many different ways. The Church helps us to do this throughout the year with Holy days, Saints' Days, Feast Days and Sundays. The Church Year or Liturgical Year is divided into different seasons. See page 25 to help the children learn about the colours and seasons of the Liturgical Year. Use the activity on page 26 to help the children consolidate their learning about the different seasons and colours of the Liturgical Year.



Our Faith Calls Us to Celebrate: Junior and Senior Infants/Primary 1 and 2

My name is

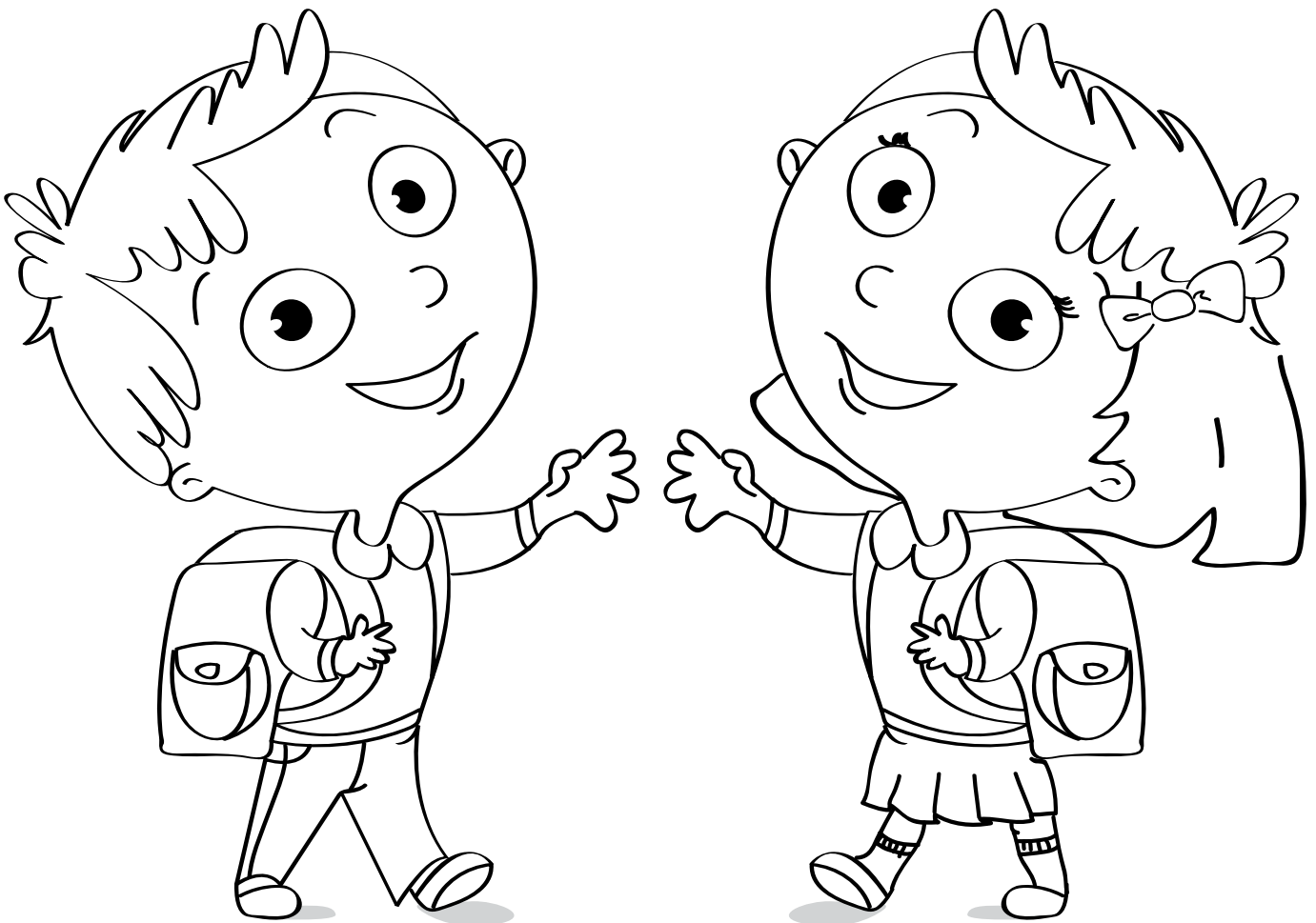
I am special because I

.....

My friend's name is

My friend is special because

.....





Our Faith Calls Us to Celebrate: First and Second Classes/Primary 3 and 4

Fill in the spaces using the words from the word banks below

Jesus told us to _ _ _ _ _ .

Word Bank

memory me this in do of



We _ _ _ _ _ at Mass to _ _ _ _ _ to God's Word.

We _ _ _ _ _ in Jesus, the Bread of Life

We are _ _ _ _ _ to live like Jesus

Word Bank

sent listen gather share

Our Faith Calls Us to Celebrate: Third and Fourth Classes/Primary 5 and 6

Take Time Out to Celebrate in Prayer

Close your eyes and sit comfortably in your chair, as you feel your breath entering and leaving your body, be aware that this is a special time with Jesus your friend in the peace and surroundings of your teacher and friends in class.

Think now of a special celebration that you have recently shared in. Where were you? What was the celebration? Who was there? What did you do that made it a celebration? Think about all the other people that were there. How were they feeling? What else can you remember from the celebration?

Now in the quietness of your own heart I want you to think of those special people that were there. Think how important they are to you, your family and your friends.

In your own words now, and knowing that Jesus your friend is with you at this special time, ask him to care for and protect these special people in your life. Thank him for giving you these people to help celebrate important events in your life. Now quietly in our hearts we say a special prayer to Mary, Jesus' mother, who first celebrated his birth in the stable and often celebrated with Jesus the many miracles he performed: Hail Mary ...

When the class have finished their prayer they are invited to write about the celebration that they have just thought about. These stories can be presented in class and might then be displayed in the school where others can get a chance to be part of their special celebration.



My Special Celebration

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



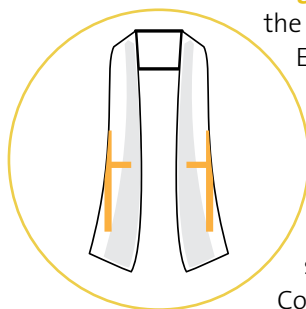
Our Faith Calls Us to Celebrate: Fifth Classes/Primary 7 and Sixth Classes

Facts about the Church Year

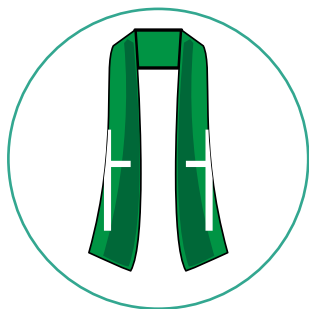
- The Church Year begins on the first Sunday of Advent and ends on the Feast of Christ the King.
- The Church Year is divided into different seasons, just like the calendar year.
- We can tell which season we are in by the different coloured vestments that the priest wears when celebrating Mass.



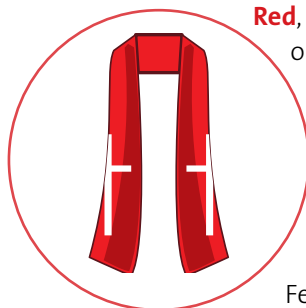
During Advent the priest wears **purple**, the colour of royalty. This reminds us that we are waiting to welcome Christ the King. The same colour is worn during Lent.



White or **gold** vestments are worn for the seasons of Christmas and Easter, times of great joy in the Church Year. These colours are also worn for the Feasts of Our Lord, such as the Baptism of the Lord and for Feasts of Mary, such as the Immaculate Conception, which we celebrate during Advent.



In Ordinary Time the priest wears **green**. **Green** is a symbol of life and hope.



Red, the colour of blood, is worn on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, those days when we celebrate the Passion of Jesus. **Red** is also the colour of fire which reminds us of the Holy Spirit. So, red vestments are worn on the Feast of Pentecost and for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

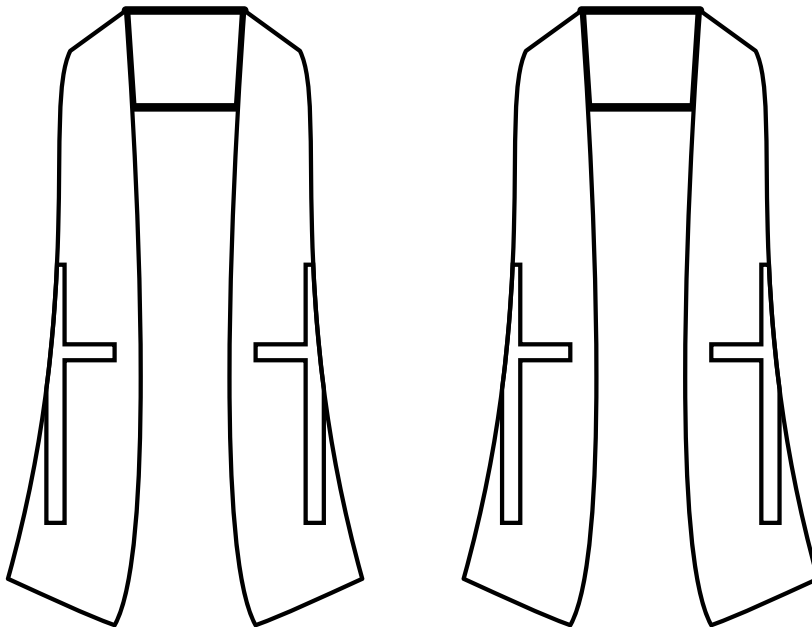
The Church Year is also called the Liturgical Year

There are three Liturgical Years **A**, **B** and **C**. In each of these three years we hear the story of Jesus' birth, life, death and Resurrection told from the point of view of the different writers of the Gospel.

In **Year A** most of the Gospels are from Matthew, in **Year B** from Mark and in **Year C** from Luke. John's Gospel can be heard in all three years, mostly during the Easter Season. This year in Advent we begin **Year A**.

Colours of the Liturgical Year

Colour the vestments the priest will wear on the first Sunday of Advent and on the Feast of Pentecost



The feast of St Thomas Aquinas is on 28 January. What colour will the priest wear on that day?

.....

What colour will the priest wear on the First Sunday of Lent?

.....

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is on 8 December. What colour vestments will be worn?

.....

On 13 December we celebrate the Feast of St Lucy who was a martyr. What colour vestments will the priest wear?

.....

What colour vestments will the priest wear on Easter Sunday?

.....



Friday: Our Faith Calls Us to Serve

For the Teacher: Since his election, Pope Francis has spoken repeatedly about the need for Christians to be of service to one another. Perhaps his strongest endorsement of this was on Holy Thursday, when he broke with tradition by performing the Washing of the Feet ritual at a prison for young people in Rome, rather than in St Peter's Basilica. The pope was demonstrating clearly the link between faith and service, following Jesus' command to love one another. As Catholic Schools Week 2014 draws to a close, it is perhaps a good time to encourage all members of the school community – parents, children, teachers and other members of staff – to consider how they respond to Jesus' command to 'wash feet' in their own lives. Use the lesson notes below and the resources which follow to help you.

Junior and Senior Infants/Primary 1 and 2: Chat to the children about the people who care for them – at home, in school and in the community. Sing the song 'They Care for Me' (*Alive-O* 2, p. 82) or say the poem 'Caring' (*Alive-O* 2, p. 80). Then ask them about who and what they care for. Use the pictures below to help you. Explain to the children that by caring for someone or something, we are sharing God's love with one another. Invite the children to colour the pictures on page 28 and to draw a picture of themselves caring for someone or something in the centre. Finish by using the prayer service on pages 98–9 of the *Alive-O* 2 Teacher's Book.

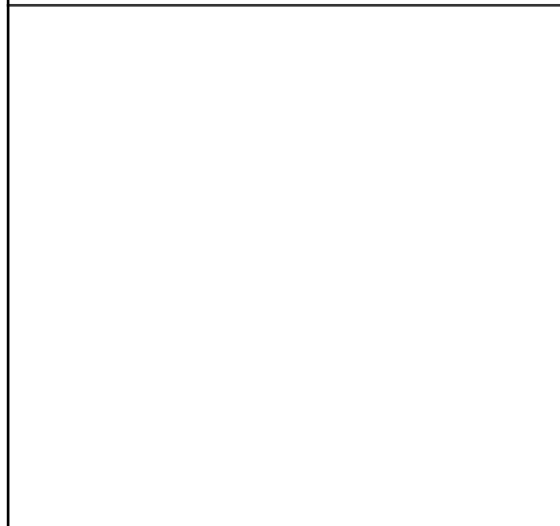
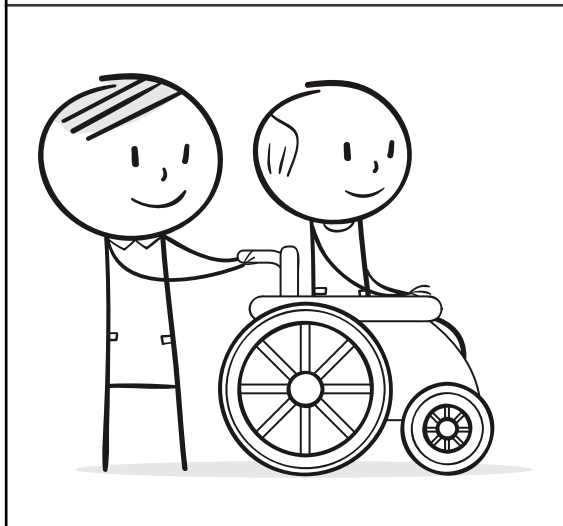
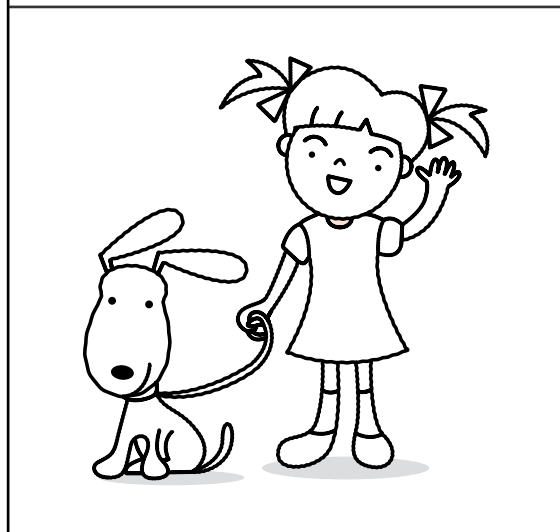
First and Second Classes/Primary 3 and 4: Sing the song 'Do This In Memory' (*Alive-O* 4, pp. 393–4). Focus on the words of the second verse: '... share with the world his peace, his praise.' Ask the children to think about what these words mean, and to brainstorm the ways in which they share God's love with the world. Make a list of their ideas on the board, then distribute a copy of page 29 to each child. This gives them space to write one way in which they can share God's love with the world each day between the end of Catholic Schools Week and the beginning of mid-term break. Some ideas are given.

Third and Fourth Classes/Primary 5 and 6: Read the story 'St Francis and Brother Sheep' (*Alive-O* 6, pp. 54–5). Chat about how St Francis cared for the sheep and the lambs in the story. Ask the children about their pets and/or animals that they care for. Open this into a wider discussion about how God wants us to treat the world. Then introduce the flower on page 30. Divide the children into groups of three or four, and ask each group to think of six different ways in which they can show their care for the world. They can write each of these onto the flower's petals. In the box underneath the flower, ask the children to compose a prayer asking for God's help to care for the world. Display the flowers in your school, classroom or hall with the title, 'Our faith calls us to serve God's creation'.

Fifth Classes/Primary 7 and Sixth Classes: Read the story of the Last Supper from the Gospel according to John, which is printed on page 31. Chat to the children about the practice of washing feet back in the time of Jesus: it was a lowly task, performed by servants. Chat to the children about why Peter didn't want Jesus to wash his feet, and why Jesus insisted on it. Then focus on Jesus' command to 'wash each other's feet'. Did he mean this literally, or is there more than one way to 'wash feet'? Divide the children into pairs, and ask each pair to consider the life and work of people listed on pages 31 and 32. More research can be done about each of them on the internet. Then ask each pair to answer the following question: 'In what way is this person following Jesus' example of serving others?' Invite the children to consider the ways in which they can follow the example of Jesus, and of those listed on pages 31 and 32, in their own lives.


Our Faith Calls Us to Serve: Junior and Senior Infants/Primary 1 and 2


I can share God's love with others by ...



Our Faith Calls Us to Serve: First and Second Classes/Primary 3 and 4

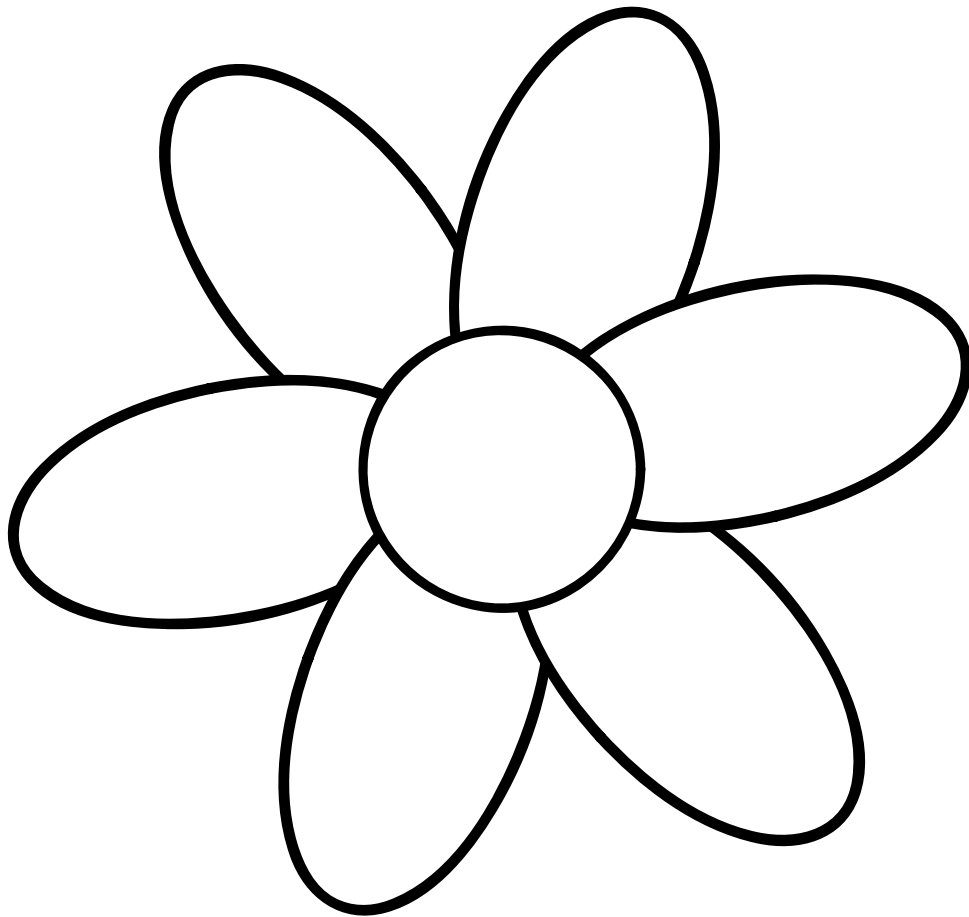
I can share God's love with others by ...

Monday 3 Feb	Tuesday 4 Feb	Wednesday 5 Feb	Thursday 6 Feb	Friday 7 Feb	Saturday 8 Feb	Sunday 9 Feb
<p>Saying 'thank you' to everyone who helps me today</p> <p>Thank you!</p>					<p>Praying Grace Before Meals before my dinner today</p> 	

Monday 10 Feb	Tuesday 11 Feb	Wednesday 12 Feb	Thursday 13 Feb	Friday 14 Feb		
		<p>Putting food out for the birds</p> 				

Our Faith Calls Us to Serve: Third and Fourth Classes/Primary 5 and 6

We can serve God's creation by ...



Loving God,

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Amen



Our Faith Calls Us to Serve: Fifth Classes/Primary 7 and Sixth Classes

A Reading from the Gospel According to John (13:1, 4-9, 12-15): It was before Passover, and Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and to return to the Father. He had always loved his followers in this world, and he loved them to the very end. So, during the meal Jesus got up, removed his outer garment, and wrapped a towel around his waist. He put some water into a large bowl. Then he began washing his disciples' feet and drying them with the towel he was wearing. But when he came to Simon Peter, that disciple asked, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You don't really know what I am doing, but later you will understand.' 'You will never wash my feet!' Peter replied. 'If I don't wash you,' Jesus told him, 'you don't really belong to me.' Peter said, 'Lord, don't wash just my feet. Wash my hands and my head.' After Jesus had washed his disciples' feet and had put his outer garment back on, he sat down again. Then he said: 'Do you understand what I have done? You call me your teacher and Lord, and you should, because that is who I am. And if your Lord and teacher has washed your feet, you should do the same for each other. I have set the example, and you should do for each other exactly what I have done for you.'

In what ways do the following people follow Jesus' example of serving others?



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Pope Francis: Jorge Mario Bergoglio was born in Argentina in 1936. When he was about twenty-two years old, he decided that he would like to become a priest. After his ordination, Fr Bergoglio worked as a teacher as well as working in a parish. In 1992, Blessed Pope John Paul II decided that Fr Bergoglio should become a bishop, and he was appointed as Auxiliary Bishop of Buenos Aires. In 2001, he was given a further honour by being appointed as a cardinal – one of the most senior roles in the Church. Archbishop Bergoglio asked the people of Argentina not to come to Rome to celebrate his creation as cardinal but rather to donate to the poor what they would have spent on the journey. Despite being a very important man, Cardinal Bergoglio lived a simple life in Buenos Aires and was deeply loved by his people.

He travelled on the underground and by bus rather than having a car and using a driver. He also decided to live in an apartment rather than in the Bishop's House, and make his own supper rather than have a cook. In March 2013 he was elected pope. He chose the name Francis in honour of St Francis of Assisi, who himself had no possessions and who served people who were poor and sick. Pope Francis said that he would love a Church that is poor and for the poor.



Sr Stanislaus Kennedy: Sr Stanislaus, or Sr Stan as she is known, is a member of the congregation of Religious Sisters of Charity. The Religious Sisters of Charity were founded by Mary Aikenhead in 1815. Mary Aikenhead was a Cork woman, whose mission was to work with and on behalf of people who were poor. As a young girl, Sr Stan noticed that there was a great gap between those people who had a lot and those who had very little. At the age of eighteen, she decided to follow in the footsteps of Mary Aikenhead, and to work on behalf of the poor in the towns and cities of Ireland. Moving to Dublin in the early 1980s, Sr Stan tackled what she saw as one of the biggest problems at that time – homelessness. In 1985, she

established Focus Point which is now Focus Ireland, the biggest voluntary organisation helping people to find, create and maintain a home. In 2001, Sr Stan established two other initiatives, the Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI), which works to promote the rights of immigrants, and the Young Social Innovators (YSI), which provides opportunities for young people to become involved in social issues like poverty and homelessness. Sr Stan's constant desire is to create a more equal society.



Social Action Group: A secondary school teacher once asked a group of fifth year students, 'What are you doing to show love to your neighbour?' One student in the class replied, 'Give us an opportunity to do something and we'll do it.' That teacher was Jeremiah O'Donoghue, and from that initial discussion the Social Action Group was established in Rathmore, County Kerry. The group was formed in 1975 and is still running today. In the early days, the Social Action Group members gathered for meetings to prepare for events such as the sowing of vegetables and the cutting of turf. The group went on to hold parties for older adults and to visit St Finan's Psychiatric Hospital in Killarney, building up friendships and breaking down barriers. Every Christmas there is a

fast to raise much needed funds for the good work being done in developing countries. Thirty-nine years later, the Social Action Group has over 1,500 past and present members. They have raised over a quarter of a million euro for various Third World projects. They have worked together to build a day care centre and twenty-seven sheltered houses for older adults; they also provide a Meals on Wheels and laundry service for older people. The Social Action Group has also developed a Youth and Creativity Centre, which houses a canteen, gym, games room, disco hall and several meeting rooms. The mission of the Social Action Group is to 'give and not to count the cost' and to provide young people with an organisation through which they can make a difference in their local community and beyond.

Christian Meditation for Children

In recent years, Christian meditation has developed as a form of prayer which can be easily accessed and enjoyed by children. This can be carried out across a whole school setting or in individual classrooms. **Christian Meditation Ireland** has been piloting Christian meditation with children in recent years and feedback indicates that this can be very successful in the classroom.

Please see http://www.christianmeditation.ie/index.php?q=meditation_and_children for more information.

Below is a sample of Christian meditation for children which has been used in an Irish primary classroom.

1. Select a time to carry out meditation within a class. For the purpose of CSW 2014, it is suggested that this time be a school selected time following the *Reflection for the Day*.
2. The duration of meditation is roughly one minute for each year of the child's age.
Note: At the beginning it may be difficult for the class to engage with meditation for the full period. The period in which the children meditate could be built up from two to three minutes when introducing meditation.
3. Begin by quietening the class down. Ask the children to sit with their backs straight and their feet flat on the floor. Ask the children to place their hands on their knees and to close their eyes.
4. Tell the children that this form of prayer gives us a chance to be close to God in quietness and stillness. We are going to do this by saying a mantra or sacred word, quietly at first and then in our heads during our meditation time. The mantra is **MA-RA-NA-THA (Come Lord)**.
5. Begin by asking the class to take three deep breaths and quietly recite the mantra with them a number of times. Then ask the children to continue reciting the mantra in their heads for the duration of the meditation.
6. Ensure that the class remain quiet for the duration of the meditation (whether they are still engaged or not).
7. When the time has ended, ask the class to slowly open their eyes. (You could possibly do some stretches with the class as well.)



This resource pack has been prepared by Mícheál Kilcrann, Elaine Mahon, Maeve Mahon, Hazel O'Connor and Fr John Paul Sheridan in consultation with the Steering Committee for Catholic Schools Week 2014.

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Catholic Schools: Places of Faith and Learning

Resources for the Primary School Community: Home, School & Parish

26 January–2 February 2014