



CELEBRATING

Catholic Schools Week 2020 in Your School

26 January – 2 February 2020

The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year is

Catholic Schools: Living in Harmony with God's Creation

As Irish society changes, it is important that we reflect on the unique contribution of Catholic schools to our collective goal of education. Catholic schools offer a view of the world as the gift of God's creation. We are called to be co-creators of love and joy in the world, thus sharing God's love. We are called to be stewards of the environment, with a responsibility to protect the environment around us for future generations.

While each Catholic school shares the profound commitment to this vision, every school lives out this message differently. God's creation is an ecology of relationships. We have the unique gift of being able to care for ourselves, for others and for the environment around us. We have a relationship with each of these. Jesus teaches us to love one another as he has loved us. This week, we celebrate the gifts and talents we have in living out Jesus' teaching.

Saint Paul writes in his first letter to the Corinthians; 'For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ'. This year, we celebrate how we are each called to promote peace, unity and harmony in the world, in our words, thoughts and actions. In caring for others, the environment and ourselves, we learn to live in harmony with God's creation.

The daily themes are as follows:

Monday:	Living in Harmony with God
Tuesday:	Living in Harmony with our Neighbours
Wednesday:	Living in Harmony with All Generations
Thursday:	Living in Harmony with the Earth
Friday:	Living in Harmony in our Catholic School

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. 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





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 reflection might be followed by a short period of Christian meditation.



Monday:

Today is the first day of Catholic Schools Week 2020. Today, we think of the beauty of the world that God created for us. Our world is a gift from God. We can see the beauty of God's world all around us if we stop and look. When we take time to see the beauty of our world, we can learn how important it is and we can remember to thank God for the beauty of his creation.

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 about how we can live in harmony with our neighbours. Jesus calls us to care for each other and for the world around us. By treating each other with love, mercy and kindness, we are sharing God's love in the world. Where there is anger and fear, God wants us to bring forgiveness and peace. In our words, in our thoughts and in our actions, we can live out Jesus' message; to 'love one another as I have loved you'.

Lord, help us to live like you taught us to.

Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: *Our Father ...*





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Wednesday:

Today is Grandparents' Day, and we are asked to think about how our grandparents have watched over us and cared for us. Our grandparents can play a special role in our lives. They can be very important teachers who show us how to love, how to be caring and how to share. They can teach us about the past and about the importance of our common home and how to cherish it. They can teach us about the beauty of God's creation and help us to learn to care for it as we grow.

Lord, help us to live like you taught us to.

Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: *Our Father ...*



Thursday:

God gave us the earth and the earth gives us many gifts which help us to live. It gives us water, food and energy. It gives us so much to help us care for ourselves, but we need to think about how we can care for the earth. We can try to use only what we need and try to live our lives in ways that help the earth. We can do this by recycling, wasting less water and caring for plants and animals. The care we give the earth shows God how much we love him and the beautiful home he has given us.

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 can live in harmony together. We are all children of God, called to live like Jesus asked us. This year, we will continue to make this school a loving place where everyone feels, safe, welcome and cared for. Our school lives by the golden rule; to treat each other as we would like to be treated.

Lord, help us to live like you taught us to.

Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: *Our Father ...*

