



CELEBRATING

Catholic Schools Week 2022 in Your School

The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year is
Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full.

As we adapt to the many challenges and changes that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused, we are given the opportunity to reflect on the things that give our lives meaning. For some, it is family, friends, community sports or hobbies. For Catholics, it is God's love and wish for us to know and love him that gives life ultimate meaning. Jesus Christ is the revelation of this love, realised through his life, death and resurrection. In response to this, we reflect upon how Catholic schools are communities where we live life to the full.

Every Catholic school fosters the holistic development of its students, promotes their wellbeing and encourages them to learn and nurture their talent and skills. Each child has the potential to change the world for the better, making it a kinder, more inclusive and more welcoming place. This week, we celebrate the gifts and talents we have in following Jesus' teaching. This year, we celebrate how we are called to be communities of faith and resilience, through our thoughts, words and actions. In doing so, we follow the words of Jesus in John's Gospel:

'I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full.'

The daily themes for Catholic Schools Week 2022 are as follows:

MONDAY

Living Life to the Full with God

TUESDAY

Living Life to the Full Together

WEDNESDAY

Celebrating Being Together Again

THURSDAY

Living Life in Wonder and Awe

FRIDAY

Living Life and Facing the Future

As in previous years, resources exploring these daily themes are available 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. For that day, we offer some suggestions for class activities. Given the unique and unprecedented circumstances schools face this year, schools are encouraged to celebrate this day in a manner they deem the most appropriate and manageable.

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.



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THOUGHTS FOR THE 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.



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MONDAY

Today is the first day of Catholic Schools Week 2022. Today's theme is about living life to the full with God. Each of us is unique. We are born with our own talents and gifts. God wants us to discover and develop our talents and use them to make the world a better and kinder place. We are made to love and receive love, and today gives us the chance to celebrate this.

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 live life to the full together in our Catholic school. We learn many things in school. We learn about things like maths, Gaeilge, science, music and art. We learn spellings and tables. But we also learn how to be a good friend and how to be helpful and kind. Jesus' Golden Rule is to treat others as you would like to be treated. Today we learn to be the best we can be, being kind to ourselves, each other and the world around us.

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 we are asked to think about our school as a community of love. We especially think of our Grandparents. 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 working hard and doing our best. They can teach us through love. In our Catholic school, we try to show that love each day in kind thoughts, kind words and kind actions. We thank 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 living our lives in wonder and awe. The world around us is a precious place. Creation shows us beauty in nature and moments that take our breath away. We are encouraged to see God's presence in our lives and at work in the world around us. We are called to remember that we are responsible for keeping our environment a safe and beautiful place to live in. In our Catholic school, we use our gifts and talents to make the world a better place.

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 live life to the full and face the future. The COVID-19 pandemic brought so many changes and challenges to our lives. As we reflect on this, we look forward with hope to the future. While we have come through these dark days, through Jesus' death and resurrection we are reminded that even the darkest days give way to the dawn. Together, as a 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 ...*

