



CELEBRATING

Catholic Schools Week 2021 in Your School

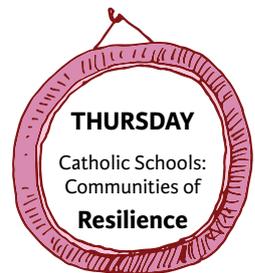
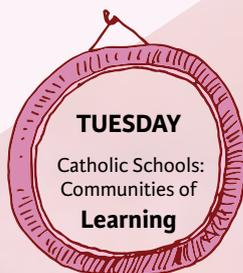
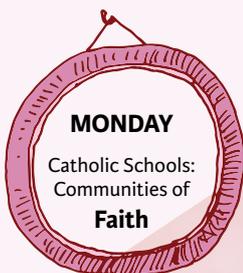
The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year is
Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith and Resilience.

As we live through an unprecedented time of challenge and uncertainty, our faith and our resilience can be tested. We can ask questions like 'Will things ever be the same again?', 'When can we get back to normality?', 'Where is God in all of this?' In response to this, we reflect upon how Catholic schools are communities of faith and resilience. In Catholic schools, we are called to support each other and to have faith in the promise of the Good News. Catholic schools are inspired by the belief that God has created each one of us with a capacity to give love and receive love. This love is bound in faith and is more resilient than any virus.

While each Catholic school is such a community, every Catholic school fosters the holistic development of its students, promotes their wellbeing and offers them cultivation of a deeper, loving relationship with God. Jesus teaches us to love one another as he has loved us. 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 live out the meaning of the beautiful hymn *Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.*

Where charity and love are, God is there.

The daily themes are as follows:



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. Given the unique and unprecedented circumstances we 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



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 2021. Today's theme is about being a Community of Faith. When we think of the school, we think of a community of people. A Catholic school is a special community where we learn about God's love for us and the way Jesus teaches us to live. We learn to show God's love to others by being kind in our thoughts, words and actions.

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 our school as a Community of Learning. We learn many things in schools. 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. We learn 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, others 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 ...*



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.

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 our school as a Community of Resilience. Resilience means how we cope with things even when they get tough. Sometimes we might feel sad or worried about something. A Catholic school is a place where everyone wants you to feel safe and happy. God wants us to be safe and happy. We can pray and talk to God about our worries. We can also learn ways to help with worries and to feel better. In our school you are never alone, and will always be cared for.

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 our school as a Community of Hope. 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. We live in the hope that Jesus has shown us the way to live and we can hope to create a future where all people can know God's love. We can do this through our kind thoughts, kind words and kind actions.

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

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