



# Catholic Schools Week 2019

Catholic Schools: Celebrating the Work of Our Local Catholic Schools

## Catholic Schools: Celebrating the Work of Our Local Catholic Schools 27 January - 3 February 2019

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‘An education in the  
fullness of humanity  
should be the  
defining feature of  
Catholic schools’

Pope Francis





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## Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland (Level 3)

CHRISTIAN FAITH	PRAYER AND LITURGY
<p><b>Mystery of God</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Faith challenges Christians to work for the Kingdom/ Reign of God (CCC 542).</li> </ul> <p><b>Mystery of Jesus Christ</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus related to others, especially the poor and outcasts, with justice and compassion (Mk 1:40-45; Mk 2:1-12; Mk 7:31-37).</li> <li>Jesus helped people to change and 'grow' (conversion).</li> </ul> <p><b>Mystery of the Church</b></p> <p>The Kingdom of God is a reign of justice, peace and love (CCC 865, 2046).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus invites sinners to the table of the Kingdom (CCC 545; Mk 2:17; Lk 15:7; Lk: 7:11-32).</li> <li>People witness to the Kingdom of God and help it grow by acting justly, loving others and caring for God's creation (Mic 6: 6-8; GS 33; CCC 2045-46).</li> <li>The Church is the People of God made one by Jesus, a community which shares his love and life (CCC 804; 781-86).</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Religious Traditions</b></p> <p>Christians consider their every neighbour as another self (Mk 12:31; GS 27; CCC 1944).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The parable of the Good Samaritan reminds us that 'loving our neighbour' means being a neighbour to people of other religious traditions.</li> <li>Dialogue with people of other religions is obeying the command to love our neighbour</li> </ul>	<p><b>Prayer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prayer to Jesus as Teacher, leader and friend</li> </ul> <p><b>Formal Prayer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sign of the Cross</li> <li>Glory be to the Father</li> <li>Hail Mary (CCC 2676)</li> <li>Our Father (CCC 2759)</li> <li>Morning prayer</li> <li>Night prayer</li> <li>Grace before and after meals</li> <li>Prayer to the Guardian Angel</li> </ul> <p><b>Sacraments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus forgave sinners and restored them to the community (Lk 15; 19:9; CCC 1443). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christians show their faith in Jesus by being forgiven and forgiving.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Jesus calls his followers to turn the other cheek to the one who strikes them and to give their cloak to the one who has taken their coat (Mt 5:38-40).</li> </ul> <p><b>Mass</b></p> <p>4. Praise and Thanksgiving</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We celebrate the Eucharist to show thanks to God the Father for the unique gift of salvation given to us by Jesus on the cross and in the Mass.</li> </ul>
WORD OF GOD	CHRISTIAN MORALITY
<p><b>Bible</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For Christians the Gospels are at the heart of all Scriptures (CCC 125, 139).</li> <li>The Gospels lead us to accept Jesus Christ in faith and apply his teaching to our lives.</li> </ul> <p><b>Jesus' Public Life (CCC 543-56; 857-62)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lk 10:25-37. The Good Samaritan</li> </ul>	<p><b>Human Dignity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When we use our God-given talents, the likeness of God grows in us (Gn 2:27).</li> <li>God entrusts human beings with the duty of working for God's Kingdom on earth (CCC 307).</li> </ul> <p><b>Social Teaching of the Church</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus saw the gift and worth of each person. Therefore, the Christian is called to show love to everyone without exception (CCC 1825).</li> <li>All people have equal dignity as they are all made in the image and likeness of God (CCC 225, 356-61, 369, 1604, 1700-01, 1944-46, 2319, 2334).</li> </ul>



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## Monday: Living Tradition of Our Catholic School

28 January 2019

*Let us thank all those who teach in Catholic schools.  
Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life.*

Pope Francis tweet, 1 March 2014



### ► Consider: Our Catholic school

- What makes our school special?
- What do we like about our school?
- What do we do in a Catholic school?

### ► Prayer Moment

Let us take a moment to remember all the people in our school. (pause)

When we pray, we are talking to God.

We begin by blessing ourselves: In the name of the Father...

(Repeat after teacher)

Loving God, hear our prayer;

We pray for everyone in our school,

We pray that we will continue to care for each other in our school.

Amen.

### ► Explore: The idea of God given dignity or worth.

- Ask the class: What does dignity mean?
- In pairs or small groups, children look up definitions of the word 'dignity' from their dictionaries or online.
- Discuss what the definitions mean. Do we all have dignity? Who gave us dignity? What makes us feel like we have dignity? In our school, what do we do to make other people feel like they have dignity?

### Reflect

In our Catholic school, everyone has dignity.

Everyone deserves equal respect and kindness because God loves us all equally.

Jesus treated people with dignity, even if they were poor, sick or not popular with others.

How am I going to help people in school feel like they have dignity? By treating them with compassion, fairness and friendship, as Jesus taught us to.

### ► Act

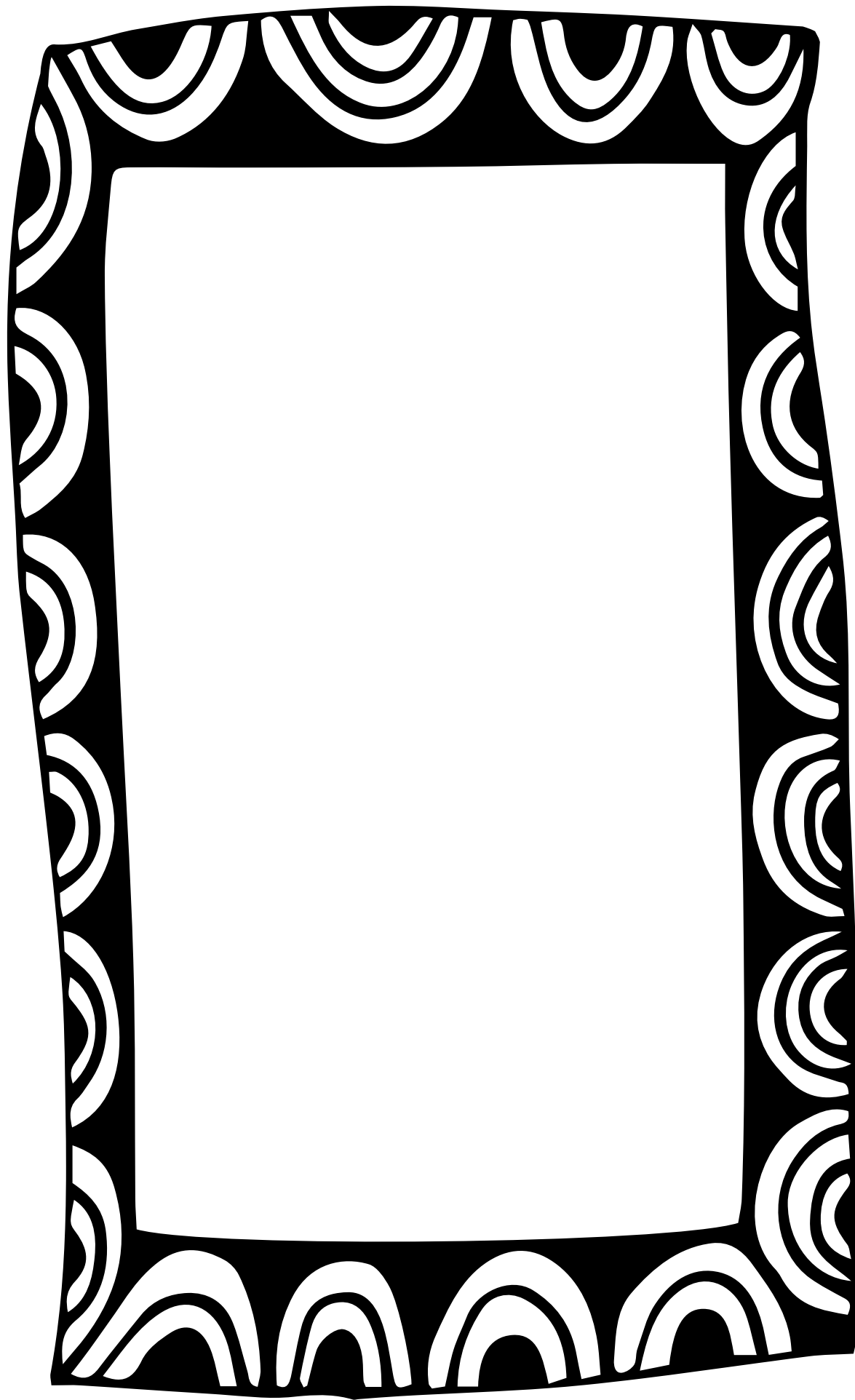
This week, each child will perform one kind deed or act for someone in the school or class. Everyone is equally valued and important in our school because God loves us all equally. Brainstorm what kind of actions the children could do to in helping to recognise someone else's human dignity.

Write, print or draw a time someone did something for you to make you feel like you had dignity. Decorate it and display it.

**I felt I had dignity when ...**



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# Catholic Schools Week 2019

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## Tuesday: Welcoming Diversity in our Catholic School

29 January 2019

*Dialogue, in fact, educates when the person relates with respect, esteem and sincere listening, and is expressed with authenticity without obscuring or softening one's own identity nourished by evangelical inspiration ... Schools and universities are called to teach a method of intellectual dialogue aimed at seeking the truth.*

Pope Francis, 9 February 2017



### ► Consider: Everyone is different

We all have unique gifts and talents. No one in the world is better than us at being us. We are each a unique part of God's creation. In our Catholic school everyone is treated with respect and dignity. Jesus teaches us that no one deserves to be excluded from friendship because God loves us all equally.

### ► Prayer moment

We bless ourselves: In the name of the Father...

(Repeat after teacher)

Loving God, hear our prayer;

Help us to always have kind thoughts, kind words and kind actions.

Amen.

### ► Explore

Let's brainstorm all the talents of people in the class. Some people may be excellent at sports, or reading or just being a good friend or hard worker. Students work in groups to come up with a wide variety of talents and gifts of people in the class.

### ► Reflect

Think about all the things I like about everyone in my class.

### ► Act

Each child gets an A4 sheet and titles it 'What I like about' followed by their name. Each child leaves the sheet on their desk and must then write what they like about each other on the sheets of everyone in the class. We are all different and we celebrate that today.

The children can learn the well-known Carole King song; 'You've Got a Friend'. Jesus is everyone's friend and no matter who we are or what happens in our lives, Jesus will be our friend if we want him to be.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcXURC\\_nNhc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcXURC_nNhc)



# Catholic Schools Week 2019

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## Thursday: Our Catholic School in Service of our Community

### 31 January 2019

*Growth in holiness is a journey in community, side by side with others.*  
Gaudete et Exsultate (141)



#### ➤ Consider: What does community mean

In groups, children brainstorm what community might mean and their ideas are written on the whiteboard. Children look up the definition of community in their dictionaries or online and decide what are the most important words in the definition; 'people living together, sharing things in common'.

#### ➤ Prayer moment

In the name of the Father...  
(Repeat after teacher)  
God our Father,  
Thank you for the community we live in.  
Help me to make my community the best it can be.  
Amen.

#### ➤ Explore

Jesus often cared for others in his community, especially people that no one else cared for. Some people in our community may not be as lucky as we are. They might be elderly, sick or with no one to care for them. The parable of the Good Samaritan is an example of how Jesus wants us to live.

Play the YouTube video of the Good Samaritan: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osfQg4yKtq8>

#### ➤ Reflect

Do you think the priest and Levite were following Jesus' teaching?  
What did you think of what the Samaritan did for the injured man?  
What kind things could we do for people in our community?

#### ➤ Act

The children can research online about any hospitals, care homes or nursing homes in the area. They can then draw, colour or paint a picture of themselves helping others in the community.



**Teacher tip:** The children should not sign the cards as it may go against your school's child protection policy.

If there are no facilities to send the cards to, the children can bring these cards to the local church for display at Mass so that the community can see how the children are living the message of the Gospel: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' (Mk 12:31)



**Teacher tip:** Approach the priest/parish team beforehand to ensure they are able to accommodate the displays.



# Catholic Schools Week 2019

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## Friday: Supporting Faith in Our Catholic School

### 1 February 2019, Feast of St Brigid

*Faith makes us open to the quiet presence of God at every moment of our lives, in every person and in every situation. God is present in every one of you, in each one of us.*

Pope Francis, New York, September 2015



#### ► Consider: What kind of things do we celebrate?

Birthdays, anniversaries, new year. In the Church, we also celebrate important events: Baptism, Confession, Communion, Confirmation, Christmas, Easter, Marriage, Catholic Schools Week.

#### ► Prayer moment

In the name of the Father...

(Repeat after teacher)

God our Father,

We thank you for your love for us.

We celebrate that love this week and will do our best to live as Jesus taught us.

Amen.

#### ► Explore

Today marks the first day of spring. It is when the cold winter goes away and the trees, leaves and flowers begin to bloom. The baby lambs are born in the fields. The mornings and evenings get less dark. It's a new start and new life comes into the world. Today is a new start for us.

In groups or pairs, the children discuss what happy memories they have from celebrating both Church and non-Church events. What were the symbols, rituals, feelings they remember?

#### ► Reflect

Then in groups or pairs, the children discuss what important lessons they have learnt from celebrating Catholic Schools Week this year? Was it that they all have human dignity? That they each are unique beings with gifts and talents? Was it that Jesus shows us how to treat others?

Brainstorm and list some of these ideas on the whiteboard.

#### ► Act

Children will write their own prayers to God on pieces of paper. They can thank God for the messages they have taken from this week or a kind act or deed that they will do for someone this week. These prayers can be placed in the sacred space in the classroom.

**The song:** 'Circle of Friends' from Alive-O 4 (link below) can be sung to reflect that, following on from Catholic Schools Week, they are ready to help others and be kind to each other as Jesus taught us.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRDbenoSWb0>