



# 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 1)

CHRISTIAN FAITH	PRAYER AND LITURGY
<p><b>Mystery of God</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christians bless themselves in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.</li> <li>God loves and cares for every family.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mystery of Jesus Christ</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus loves us.</li> <li>Jesus tells us about God his Father.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mystery of the Church</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Saints: God's special friends who are part of the family of the Church in heaven (CCC 828,956-57, 960-62, 1195, 2013, 2030, 2683, 2692), St Brigid,</li> <li>The way of life of the parish involves caring, sharing, and praying together (CCC 2179; CSRE 2a).</li> <li>The Church is a special place where God's people gather to pray.</li> <li>Our family helps us become friends of Jesus.</li> <li>The priest/teacher helps us to become friends of Jesus (LG 10).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Prayer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The church is God's house, where his family comes together (CCC 1180; LG 6; 1 Tm 3:15).</li> <li>God's family gathers in the parish church to pray and celebrate (CCC 1069-71, 2179).</li> </ul> <p><b>Formal Prayer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sign of the Cross</li> <li>Our Father (CCC 2759)</li> <li>Grace before and after meals</li> <li>Prayer to the Guardian Angel</li> </ul> <p><b>Spontaneous Prayer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E.g. Prayer to God who loves and protects us, prayer for parents and families, prayerful reflection on the day.</li> </ul> <p><b>Liturgical Year</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Although we worship only God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we can also pray to the other saints, asking them to pray for us (LG 53; CCC 2679).</li> </ul> <p><b>Mass</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special times and places the Church family gathers to pray and celebrate Mass (e.g. Christmas day).</li> <li>On Sunday Catholics gather together to celebrate the Mass (CCC 1167, 1343).</li> </ul>
WORD OF GOD	CHRISTIAN MORALITY
<p><b>Bible</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bible teaches how to love God and to live the way God wants people to.</li> <li>We learn about Jesus from the Bible (CCC 65).</li> </ul> <p><b>Jesus' Public Life</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lk 11:1-4; Mt 6:9-13. Our Father</li> <li>Mt 22:34-40; Mk 12:28-34; Lk 10:25-8. The Greatest Commandment.</li> <li>Mk 4:35-41/Mt 8:23-7. Calming of Storm.</li> <li>Mk 10:13-16; Mt 19:13-15; Lk 18:15-17. Jesus and the Children.</li> <li>Jn 6:1-13. Feeding the Five Thousand</li> </ul>	<p><b>Human Dignity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God loves each one of us (Jer 31:3; 1 Jn 4:10-11; CSRE 3a).</li> <li>I am called to love God and to love others (Mt 22:36- 40).</li> <li>Every person is special in the eyes of God (CCC 225, 356-61, 369, 1604, 1700-01, 1944-46, 2319, 2334; CSRE 3a).</li> <li>God gave me people (e.g. families) who take care of me and show me how to love.</li> <li>I can love, share, express thanks, and care for myself and for others (CCC 224).</li> </ul> <p><b>Social Teaching of the Church</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I can be fair and just (CCC 1944-45, 2255, 2319).</li> <li>I can be honest, truthful and kind (CSRE 3b).</li> <li>I can say 'sorry' when I hurt other people.</li> </ul>



## 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 is the name of our school?  
What days do we come to school?  
List all the things we do in our school.  
What is your favourite activity in school?

### ► Prayer moment

Let us take a moment to remember all the people in our school. (pause)  
When we talk to God, we pray.  
We begin by blessing ourselves: In the name of the Father...  
(Repeat after teacher)  
Loving God, hear our prayer;  
Keep everyone in our school in your loving care,  
Today and always,  
Amen

### ► Explore: How we belong in our school

- Every day we take part in many activities.
- Sometimes we do new things and sometimes we do the same things.
- Think of the things we do every day (e.g. take off our coats, eat lunch, use pencils, play on the yard, etc.)
- In our school we also talk to God every day.
- When we talk to God, we say our prayers.
- What is your favourite prayer?

### ► Reflect

Jesus taught his friends to pray to God our Father.  
We can say this prayer together:

Our Father, who art in heaven...

In our Catholic school we learn to live like Jesus.  
We remember what Jesus has taught us about loving God our Father.

When we love each other we are sharing God's love. Jesus teaches us to be kind and helpful. He teaches us to always show respect to each other and to the world that God has created for us.

### ► Act

Recall the children's favourite story about Jesus.



**Teacher Tip:** You may wish to choose from the following:

#### Grow in Love Junior Infants:

- Jesus and the Children (Mk 10:13-16), Theme 7, Lesson 2
- 'Love One Another' (Mt 22:37-39), Theme 7, Lesson 2
- The Boy Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41-50), Theme 4, Lesson 2
- Jesus Blesses Little Children (Mk 10:13-16; Mt 19:13-15 and Lk 18:15-17), Theme 5 Lesson 1
- The Great Commandment (Mt 22:34-40; Mk 12:28-34; Lk 10:25-8), Theme 5 Lesson 3

#### Grow in Love Senior Infants:

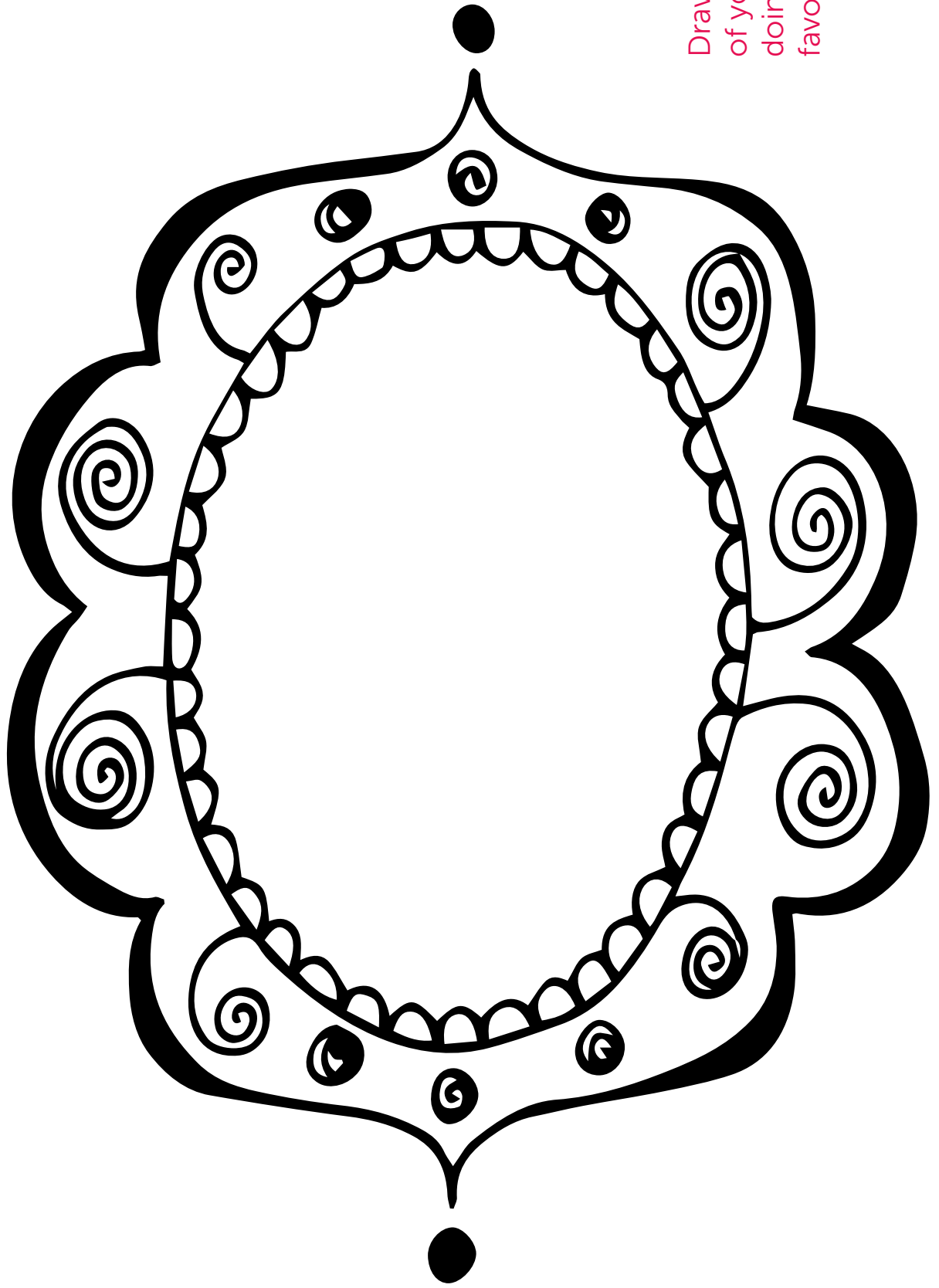
- Jesus and the Children (Mt 19:13-15), Theme 6, Lesson 2
- Jesus Feeds a Great Crowd (Jn 6:1-13), Theme 6, Lesson 2
- Jesus Calms a Storm (Mk 4:35-41, Lk 8:22-25, Mt 8:23-27), Theme 6, Lesson 3
- Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus (Mk 10:46-52), Theme 6, Lesson 4
- The Great Commandment, (Matthew 22:34-40), Theme 10, Lesson 1

**Thank you God for** .....

**(name of school)**



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Draw a picture  
of you in school  
doing your  
favourite activity.



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## Tuesday: Welcoming Diversity in Our Catholic School

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### 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: How we treat each other in our school

Think about the words we use every day when we talk to each other in our school. How do we show that we care for each other?

#### ► Prayer moment

We bless ourselves: In the name of the Father...  
(Repeat after teacher)  
Loving God, hear our prayer;  
Keep our school family in your loving care,  
Today and always.  
Amen.



Pope Francis, who visited Ireland last August, reminds us to always say 'please', 'thank you' and 'I am sorry'. This week we will try to use these words every day.

#### ► Explore

What would you say if:

- you bumped into another child in the yard by accident?
- a child shared their activity with you?
- you wanted to use a crayon that someone else had?

#### ► Reflect

Think about all the times today we can say please, thank you and I am sorry.

- When would you say please? thank you? I am sorry?
- Who would you be talking to?
- Why would you say please? thank you? I am sorry?

#### ► Act

God has given each of us a guardian angel to look after us.  
We say thank you to God for this special gift.  
We pray: Angel sent by God to guide me ...



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Draw a picture of you saying  
'thank you', 'please', or 'I am sorry'.



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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 the community we live in

A community is a group of people who live together and care for each other.

Make a list of all the different people who care for us in our community.

(Lollypop person, school caretaker, school secretary, bus driver, priest, hairdresser, shop assistant, dentist, doctor, nurse, librarian, etc.)

#### ➤ Play 'Who am I?'

A child explains their 'job' in the community to the class and finishes by asking 'Who am I?'



**Teacher Tip:** it may be necessary to prompt the child before they play.

e.g. I collect the children in my bus and drive them to school in the morning and back home in the afternoon. Who am I?

- I examine the children's teeth and remind them to brush their teeth every day. Who am I?
- I take care of the school building and the grounds around the school. Who am I?
- I say Mass in the church. Who am I?

#### ➤ Prayer moment

In the name of the Father...

(Repeat after teacher)

God our Father, Thank you for all the people who care for me in our community.  
Amen.

#### ➤ Explore: Our school is a community

In our school we work together, we play together and we learn together.

We care for each other and we respect each other.

Jesus teaches us to love everyone.

Sometimes we help others who are not in our school.

Can you think of a time when we shared with others?



**Teacher Tip:** Consider initiatives that the class or the school may have been involved in, e.g. fundraising.

Who did we share with? Where? / Why? / When?

- Did we pray for others?
- Did we raise money for others?
- Did we donate something to others?

#### ➤ Reflect

Today we will remember to say please and thank you to those we meet in our community.

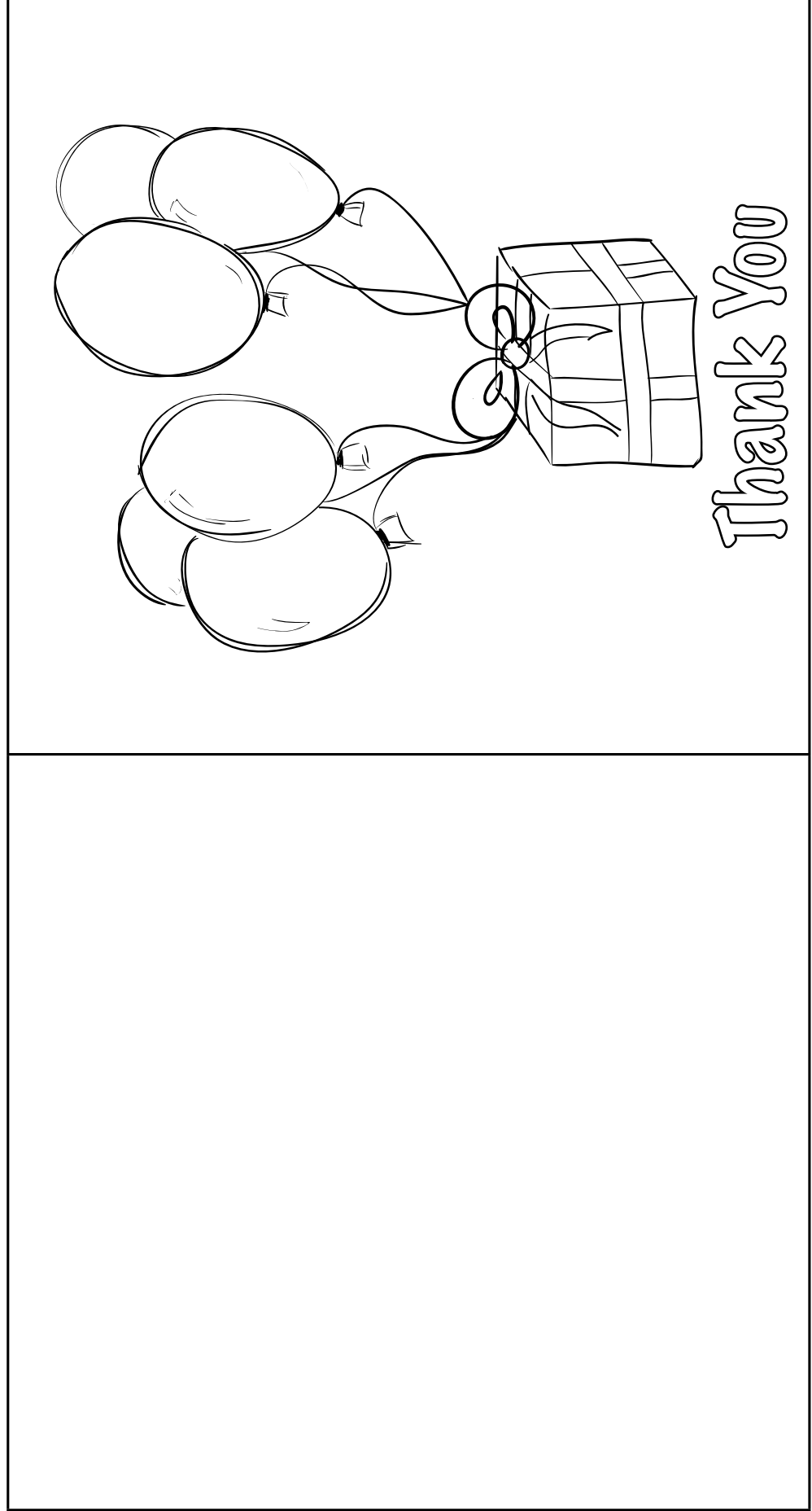
We also say thank you to God when we pray. Remember to pray before and after we eat today. (Grace before and after Meals)

#### ➤ Act

Sing 'They Care For Me' (*Grow in Love*, Junior Infants, Theme 1, Lesson 1)



Print the stencil on card and colour it in. **Who will you give your 'thank you' card to?**







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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: When something very special happens we celebrate

There are lots of different ways of celebrating.  
Chat to each other about something that you celebrated.  
Remember what you were celebrating.  
Was it a birthday/a wedding/a win/a christening/a special occasion, etc?  
Who was there?  
How did you know it was a celebration?  
How did people feel?  
Was there special food?  
Did anyone wear special clothes?  
Were there decorations?

#### ► Prayer moment

In the name of the Father...  
(Repeat after teacher)  
God our Father,  
Thank you for all the times we celebrate.  
Amen.

#### ► Explore

Sometimes we celebrate at home and sometimes we celebrate in school.  
Sometimes we go to the church to celebrate.  
When we go to the church we celebrate that God loves us so much.  
We listen to stories about God. We remember that God sent Jesus to show us his love.  
When we see a cross it helps us to remember that God has promised to love us for ever.



**Teacher note:** This may be an opportunity to visit the local church.

#### ► Today we celebrate St Brigid's feast day.

Saint Brigid made a cross from reeds.  
Saint Brigid helped people to learn that God loved them very much.  
Today, we can colour/decorate a St Brigid's cross to remember that God loves us.

#### ► Act

Sing 'A Song to Brigid' (*Grow in Love*, Senior Infants, Them 5 Lesson 1)



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Colour the St Brigid's cross.

