



Catholic Schools Week 2019

Catholic Schools: Celebrating the Work of Our Local Catholic Schools

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week 2019 in Your Parish

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Catholic Schools Week 2019 begins on Sunday, 27 January, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time and its theme is 'Catholic Schools: Celebrating the Work of Our Local Catholic Schools'. This is the eleventh year of Catholic Schools Week and, while we gather each year to celebrate our schools, this year we gather in a special way to celebrate their wonderful contribution to the mission of the Church, both in our local faith communities, and throughout the wider Church. Called as we are, as a community, to worship, at the beginning of Catholic Schools Week 2019 we are presented with a unique occasion as a community to consider other ways in which the parish community can honour and support the school community during this week-long celebration. While there are a variety of ways in which parishes can celebrate Catholic Schools Week, the following are some helpful suggestions to assist parishes with their celebrations.

Sunday, 26 January: Celebration of the Eucharist for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

The parish liturgy group will obviously be very useful in helping to prepare for this Mass. Encourage them to make Catholic Schools Week part of the annual life of the parish. It will always begin on the last Sunday in January.

Planning Meeting

Arrange a meeting with the principals and teachers of primary and post-primary schools in the weeks prior to Catholic Schools Week to discuss how to highlight and celebrate the work of each individual Catholic school in the parish during the liturgy on 27 January. If your parish does not have a Catholic post-primary school, consider how you might best involve students from your parish who attend post-primary schools in neighbouring parishes? Include a member of your parish liturgy group in this meeting.

The Mass

Word of Welcome and Explanation

This might include a few words about the theme of Catholic Schools Week 2019: Celebrating the Work of Our Local Catholic Schools. An explanation of the theme is available online at www.catholicschools.ie.

Opening Procession

It may be appropriate to have an Opening Procession on this Sunday. This could include symbols that represent the distinctive identity of each Catholic school in the parish. If a display area has been set up in the church to mark Catholic Schools Week, this is the ideal place to put the symbols presented in the opening procession.

Music

Consider involving children/staff in the music during the liturgy. A group of children might sing the Psalm and intone the Gospel Acclamation.

Liturgy of the Word

The readings, Prayers of the Faithful etc. for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time can be found in the December/January edition of *Intercom*. Tá siad le fáil as Gaeilge san áit céanna. There are also homily notes for this Sunday in the January edition of *The Furrow*.

As this is the parish celebration of the Sunday Eucharist it is appropriate that the usual Minister of the Word scheduled to read does so. This gives a visible sign of the Sunday Eucharist as a place where we are all nourished to go back to our communities of home and school and continue to announce the Gospel. Include a Prayer of the Faithful for Catholic schools and their work. Some young people might be invited to compose and read these prayers.