

Family Take Home Material

"I hope that among those of you listening to me today there are some of the future saints of the twenty-first century."

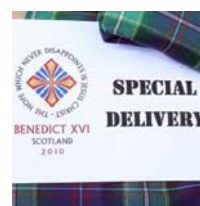


**Together, we make the sign of the cross:
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Parent/Carer: During this week we think about what it means to grow and to learn as people who believe in God.

When the Pope came to visit us last year he gave a special message to all of the boys and girls of the country.

He said that he hoped that the future saints of the 21st century were listening.



(You may want to do one or more of the following activities with your children over the course of the week)

Talk together: What does the word 'Saint' mean? How can we be Saints today?



IDEAS: You could tell the story of a saint and how this saint 'heard' God's call, or about a member of your family, and how they answer God's call to holiness in their everyday lives.

Ask your child to talk about the kind of things we do everyday because we are listening to God e.g. being kind to our friends, sharing, saying sorry. For older children this may include giving to charity, or using our gifts and talents to help others.



Write together: On a blank sheet of paper each family member could write or draw the ways in which they are 'on the way to becoming saints'. This can be done like stepping stones or a 'pathway' showing each of the steps that we can take to becoming God's friends. Or, perhaps you could draw a picture of when you talk to God, your friend, in prayer.



IDEAS: You could draw on each stone all of the people who have helped you along the path to becoming a saint. Or you could write about special moments in your life when you knew that God was really close to you.

For older children: You could write about forgiveness and reconciliation and how this has had an impact on your friendships. (Maybe you could write about a time in your life where you decided to stand up for someone who was being treated unfairly.)



Share together: Show your children a picture of Jesus. He said to his friends “Whatever you do to my brothers you do to me”. Take time with your children to share stories of times when we have remembered that we should treat our neighbour the way we would treat God.



IDEAS: Perhaps as a family you have supported a SCIAF or MISSIO campaign, or you have cleared out some of your extra toys and clothes for a charity shop? Perhaps you have taken time to make friends with a new boy or girl in school or let someone who wasn't very popular else join in a game?

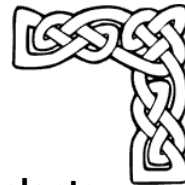
For older children: Maybe you have noticed someone being bullied and stood up for them or made an extra special effort to visit your grandparents when you'd rather be out with your friends? Maybe you took time to help your mum or because you know how much they do for you?

Pray together: As a family read the story of a modern day saint. Talk about all the good things that the saint said and did. In silence, take time to think and pray about all the good things that you have done and said today. Ask God to help you to continue to do good tomorrow. You could conclude your time together by writing a letter to God which tells him how you are going to try to become a saint.



Catholic Education Week Prayer:

Father of all,
in your love for us,
help us to develop our own talents
so that we may become like Jesus
and lead lives of goodness.



Bless all learners
and all teachers.
Help us, through our learning,
to believe in you
and to celebrate the life of your Church.
Help us to grow in holiness
as we grow in friendship with you
and try to become saints.

We make this prayer
in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen

