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Scotland Update**

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www.sces.org.uk

Phone: 0141 556 4727
Fax: 0141 551 8467
E-mail: mail@scs.uk.com

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07770 393960
www.paulmcsherry.co.uk

Special Feature: Laudato Si' Schools Scotland

SCES News



SCES is established to promote and support Catholic education throughout Scotland.

January 2022

Season of the Eucharist

**Celebration of Mass
with the Papal Nuncio at St Augustine's Parish, Coatbridge
during COP26, November 2021**



Lent Scottish Catholic Education Service Career Long Professional Learning Catalogue 2021/22

Personal Spiritual Development

A series of four twilight reflections for school staff:

- 9th March 2022: Temptation
- 16th March 2022: Confession
- 23rd March 2022: Forgiveness
- 30th March 2022: Communion

The Scottish Catholic Education Service and the Pontifical Scots College invite you to a series of four Lenten reflections. These half hour twilight sessions will focus on different themes for Lent, challenging us to think about 'Living Lent' in our homes, schools and parishes.

Living Lent

Wednesdays in Lent from 9th March 2022
4pm—4.30pm
Online (Via TEAMS)
FREE [click to book here](#)

Scottish Catholic Education Service, 75 Craigpark, Edinburgh, G12 2HD

Leadership Scottish Catholic Education Service Career Long Professional Learning Catalogue 2021/22

Working and Professional Dialogue

Catholic Deputies Scotland

Drop in discussion groups for Deputies:
A peer group for networking and discussion for Catholic Deputies (suggested reading will be sent prior to the session to stimulate conversation)

Thursday 16th September 2021
Thursday 24th February 2022
Thursday 19th May 2022
4pm—5pm Online (Via TEAMS)
[Click here to book](#)

Scottish Catholic Education Service, 75 Craigpark, Edinburgh, G12 2HD

Book Now Scottish Catholic Education Service Career Long Professional Learning Catalogue 2021/22

Conference

Source and Summit
A day focussing on teaching the Eucharist to young people

Tuesday 1st March 2022
9.30am - 3pm
Westerwood Hotel
£85 (booking available January 2022)

Preparing for Catholic Education Week

Scottish Catholic Education Service, 75 Craigpark, Edinburgh, G12 2HD

Come Home to Mass

Pupils from St Patrick's in Kilsyth praying during Eucharistic Adoration in Advent

"What does Mass mean for your school community?"

In a letter to the lay faithful of Scotland, the Bishops have encouraged all those who can, to return to the Sunday obligation of Mass.

Throughout the pandemic, schools have found creative ways to celebrate Mass together as a community. Some have live streamed parish Masses, others have worked with chaplains to offer socially distanced class Masses or to take small groups to the parish. As we tentatively and hopefully move towards returning to coming together for Mass more regularly, we asked "What does Mass mean for your school community?"

"Mass is the only time our whole school can be in the same place. Being together in the parish Church, celebrating the Eucharist gives us our identity, feeds our spirit and lets us really be a community."

"We have been so grateful to our chaplain for hosting virtual Masses for us. We've missed the chance to pray, sing and celebrate in the unique way that Mass allows."

"For pupils preparing for Sacraments it is so important that they have the chance at home and in school to prepare for and participate in Mass. It's at the heart of our Catholic faith."

"Without Mass we have been a bit lost! We have lots of other ways to pray and share our faith, but as a teacher I have missed being together with colleagues and pupils at Mass."

"It is true that you don't realise what you have until it is gone. We've realised how lucky we are to have the Blessed Sacrament in our school. Our chaplaincy team are using the materials our depute got from SCES conference to introduce Eucharistic Adoration."



Pupils from St Benedict's read during Mass celebrated by Fr Jim

Celebrating and Worshipping during a pandemic: Schools share photographs of how they have kept Christ at the centre of school life



Resources for schools

SCES has put a special focus on the Eucharist this year both in our CLPL calendar and our resources for schools. During Catholic Education Week and Advent we hosted five reflective sessions and in March there will be a day conference exploring the Eucharist as the Source and Summit for Catholic schools. Throughout "This Is Our Faith" you will find core learning that supports and directs teachers as they introduce the Eucharist and Mass to pupils. You can find all of this learning on the SCES website, along with a range of learning and teaching materials to help schools to plan and prepare for the celebration of Mass. A big thank you to Mr McGovern from Notre Dame in Greenock for his help with this work! Resources from this year's Catholic Education Week can also be adapted and used at any time in the school year to deepen learning.

Save the date

CLPL Conference "Teaching the Eucharist" 1st March 2022

"Sunday Mass can reinvigorate and refresh our Christian faith, our sense of community and our desire to live as missionary disciples in the world. This is why the Church takes this obligation seriously." Bishops' Letter to Scottish Faithful November 2021

Called To Teach Encouraging the Vocation to Teach

From those thinking about teaching to teachers considering next steps or a promoted post, the SCES recruitment working group have a range of materials to support you on your teaching pathway.

SCES has launched a series of new materials in the “Called To Teach” range of support. These include materials for pupils in S3 to S6, advice for applying to University, interview preparation, videos from current Catholic Head Teachers and Professional & Spiritual reading that centre on the vocation to teach.

The new resources accompany teachers using four themes:

- * Thinking about teaching
- * Called To Teach
- * Formation and Support
- * The Teacher Journey: job recruitment, promotion and support

READING AND REFLECTION MATERIALS FOR ASPIRING TEACHERS

Resources which provide extracts from various documents to support aspiring teachers in their own spiritual and professional development.

The extracts are presented under three main headings:

- Church documents
- Papal addresses
- Education documents

The extracts chosen are designed to help aspiring teachers to reflect upon the place of Catholic schools in the landscape of Scottish education, the distinctive nature of the Catholic school, and the role of the Catholic teacher.

MENTORING

Materials in this section use the expertise of the Diocese of Motherwell RE department and Primary Head Teachers to support both those discerning the vocation to teach *and* those accompanying this time of discernment. You will find useful pointers to help those interested in teaching to make the best use of opportunities of classroom experience too.

MAKING WORK EXPERIENCE WORK – IDEAS FOR STUDENTS & SCHOOLS

An important part of the journey towards a career as a teacher in a Catholic school is the opportunity to have some kind of Work Experience placement that truly reflects how a school functions as a community of faith and learning, and the central role of the teacher in building and supporting the distinctive nature of the Catholic school.

This on line resource outlines:

- The aims of school work experience
- Suggestions for the school offering the placement
- Advice for the student on placement
- An example of a journal that can be used to allow students to record and reflect upon their experience
- “placemats” suggesting activities and strategies for school and student, including how to prepare in advance of the placement.

ROUTES TO TEACHING AND UCAS SUPPORT

In this section of the web site you can explore the different routes in to teaching. Use the power point presentation to see the different courses available, the requirements and the flexibility available for gaining the qualifications required.

One part of the application phase is the “personal statement”. You will also find downloadable tips for writing a personal statement in this section, and some examples that may help you to structure yours. Each of the examples have been annotated to give a description of why the content is considered a strong application, or one that requires some further development.



The SCES Recruitment working group meets twice a term to create materials to encourage and inspire those thinking about or already within teaching. The group includes members of the SCES team and Diocesan RE Advisers and works in partnership with schools and head teachers to develop and trial the resources.

Details of all these resources can be found on the SCES website

To find out more about the vocation to teach speak to your local school, contact your Diocesan RE Office, or visit the SCES website (sces.org.uk)



**SYNOD
News**

Synod 2021-2023

Communion Participation Mission

Synod Prayer

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time, in the
communion of the Father and the Son, forever and
ever. Amen



Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the prayer *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*, the first word of the Latin original meaning, "We stand before You, Holy Spirit," which has been historically used at Councils, Synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years, being attributed to Saint Isidore of Seville (c. 560 - 4 April 636). As we are called to embrace this synodal path of the Synod 2021-2023, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to operate within us so that we may be a community and a people of grace.

What is a Synod?

Literally speaking the word "synod", derived from two Greek words *syn* meaning "together" and *hodos* meaning "road" or "way", means a "coming together." A synod is a meeting of bishops, and sometimes others, from all over the world. They were started by Pope Paul VI, on the 15 September 1965, as a way to discuss doctrinal or pastoral matters and to "ensure that direct and real information is provided on questions and situations touching upon the internal action of the Church and its necessary activity in the world of today." Ordinary synods happen every three years on issues voted upon by synod delegates elected or appointed from each continent, and from certain Vatican offices. There have been 15 ordinary synods to date. There are also extraordinary synods and special synods. Synods offer suggestions to the pope, which may or may not become official teachings at a later time.



Pope Francis formally launched the two-year global consultation process leading to the 2023 synod on synodality with a call to "look others in the eye and listen to what they have to say." Preaching at a Mass at St. Peter's Basilica on October 10th the Pope said that Catholics taking part in the synodal path should strive to "become experts in the art of encounter." The Vatican has now released a preparatory document with questions for reflection, and asked that dioceses throughout the world answer these questions to provide feedback on their local experience.

The Synod is a "Time to look others in the eye and listen to what they have to say, to build rapport, to be sensitive to the questions of our sisters and brothers, to let ourselves be enriched by the variety of charisms, vocations, and ministries."

Pope Francis

Schools can find out more about how to participate in the Synod through their Diocesan RE Office

"The Synod is not about persuading others of our opinion. The purpose is for the whole Church to travel the path together. So pray, reflect, speak out, listen...above all hear the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking in our fellow Christians as we discern God's will for the Church."
Bishop Nolan

"The opportunity to explore what it means to be a synodal church, to deepen our communion and participation in the life and mission of the Church, is a gift from God and also a responsibility opened before us by Pope Francis. My hope and prayer is that we all will respond with commitment and enthusiasm to what is being asked of us so that we can go in "full accord and of one mind" sharing the "same mind that was in Christ Jesus."
Bishop Toal

"A local church that walks the synodal path together, will surely embrace Jesus, who alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. The Lord is always calling us to be His disciples and to invite others along that same path. Our personal conversion will become an invitation to others to that same path of self-renunciation for the sake of communion with God and others."
Archbishop Cushley

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2022 will be "Communion Participation Mission"

Laudato Si' Schools Scotland Update

One year on since the launch of Laudato Si' Schools Scotland, Jo Hughes, the SCES RE Adviser, gives an update from some schools who have started their Ecological Education journey with the Pope.



As a response to Pope Francis' call to Ecological action marking the fifth anniversary of the publication of Laudato Si, and given the fact that the global COP 26 conference was due to take place in Scotland, the Scottish Catholic Education Service (SCES), the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) and Justice & Peace Scotland worked together to create the **Laudato Si Schools Scotland** programme. This is a resourced learning and teaching programme which is designed to help and encourage schools to find their own way to respond to the call to be stewards of God's creation and meet the Holy Father's goal of creating an Ecological Education within Catholic schools. It would seem that this is just the kind of resource that schools were looking for to help them to tap into the interest that young people have in issues relating to ecological education. **Over 75% of Catholic schools in Scotland** – primary and secondary - have registered, with many of them having joined in the difficult days of lockdown and restrictions before COP26

took place, and others are joining every day. In fact, such is the popularity of the programme that it is hoped that, before too long, Scotland will be the first country in the world where all its Catholic schools have signed up to be Laudato Si Schools.

We are grateful to all the schools who have helped us by submitting information about their Laudato Si Schools experience so far, and especially for the input from the pupils of **St. Joseph's Primary School in Bonnybridge**, who have shared their feelings with us. St Joseph's was one of the schools from the St. Mungo's cluster who took part in a "Junior COP26". We will let one of the St. Joseph's pupils explain this for you:

"Recently pupils from St. Joseph's attended St Mungo's cluster, COP 26 conference in Falkirk in November. COP26 stands for Conference of Parties. The mini-COP conference had schools from all over Falkirk. The pupils who attended the conference were part of the Faith and Action group and Pupil council. The Faith and Action group helps save our world and reduces, reuses and recycles.

There was a conference in Falkirk because people have gone too far and now this world is in a terrible state. The amount of litter Falkirk left lying around in a year could fill fifty Helix Kelpies. That information is shocking and it makes the schools in Falkirk, and Falkirk residents devastated.

The conference was held in a church hall in Falkirk. Schools all asked questions for the councillors and told them how they have been using reusable plastic instead of non reusable and using non plastic for play snack. They also had a Q and A and had questions about poverty and they had some good answers from the councillors and now they hope we can have a 'new' Falkirk." **Michael, St. Joseph's Primary School**

Queen Margaret Cluster Prayer The Seven Laudato Si' Goals

Heavenly Father, we thank you for this earth, our common home:
For the beauty we see in it, smell in it and touch in it,
For the opportunities we have to share it with others.
Help us to act now for the good of generations and creatures yet to come.
Help us to become instruments of a new creation.

Heavenly Father, we are thankful for the gift of family, friendship and community.
Guide us to lead selfless lives and come to the aid of those who live without hope.
Help us to fulfill our responsibility to support our brothers and sisters around the world by showing greater love and respect for God's Creation.
May we set a better example for future generations by learning from one another to live a more sustainable way.

Heavenly Father, open our hearts and minds so that we may recognise and understand the difference between our wants and true needs.
Give us generous hearts so we may respond to your call to work together.
To cherish and protect your wonderful gift of creation and address inequalities.

Heavenly Father, blessed are those who live a peaceful and simple life.
We ask for your guidance to accept and follow a simpler way of living.
Allow us the courage to unburden ourselves and inspire others to follow our example.
Help us to connect with nature and deepen our commitment to our personal faith journey.
Help us to be thankful for all that we have and to see the beauty and joy in the every day.

Heavenly Father, help us to protect all life.
We thank you for being the ultimate source of everything;
The loving foundation of all that exists.
Help us take greater responsibility in educating and caring for this world in which we live,
And all that is in it.
May we take actions now, for a better future

Heavenly Father, you have sent us here to care for your amazing creation.
Help us to show love for our common home,
Our earth is suffering and we need your help.
Forgive us, we have hurt your creation.
We have faith in you and our ability to change.
We put our trust in you, Lord, to bring out the best in us during this time.

Heavenly Father, help us to restore and admire the beauty of our communities.
May we each bring our experiences to your table and work together.
Give us and our leaders the courage to think beyond our own desires.
Let us experience, together, the fullness of life and share the wonders of our common home.

Amen

The Journey Step One: What are we doing?

St. Catherine's in Barmulloch told us all about their Outdoor Learning Week: "Each class was assigned a planter. The Eco Committee will choose the winning class for the best planter and they will receive an extra play time. We thanked God for nature and thanked God for the body, mind and spirit to do gardening/outdoor work."

St. Margaret's school, Dunfermline told us: "We are always looking for ways for our school to be more eco-friendly. We encourage senior pupils to take on leadership roles to learn about Climate Change. Through planting more plants, we are helping the environment and God's creatures."

St. Luke's High School, in Barrhead, shared details of their Allotment Project: "A large grass area of the school grounds is being converted into an area which will be used for outdoor learning. So far pupils have created a wildflower garden, planted trees and have created planters to grow vegetables", and they have also built their own composter out of recycled pallets to make good use of any food waste. In addition, their Social Enterprise Group "Flourish" is working to design and create a new memorial garden, and their Wider Achievement Group is creating a sensory garden. Kilgraston School in Perth has registered with the Woodland Trust for a school starter pack, with the aim of planting more trees in our school grounds and creating their own orchard, paid for by fundraising in the school. In the meantime, pupils are gathering donated fruit that would otherwise have gone to waste, and these are being used – by the headteacher – to make chutneys and pickles to be used and shared within the school. One result of schools taking care of their own local and community environment has been an increased appreciation of the impact of our choices and behaviour on wildlife. St. Paul's Primary School in Paisley has been busy building bug hotels and bird feeders, and learning about how to respond to wildlife in danger. St. Patrick's Primary School in Kilsyth has joined the BBC Big Birdwatch, learning about the birdlife in their local community and how they can support local wildlife.

In focus . . .

At St Joseph's we try our hardest to reduce plastic by using reusable tubs for snack and eating fruit as well as all the other schools that were there too.

Pupils at our school have eco jobs like paper bins, weighing the food, lights, litter picking and many more.

When I learned about Laudato Si' I was inspired to pick litter myself near my home and I collected five full bags. Although I was glad I collected the litter, I'm sad too for all children because when we grow up there won't be a nice world.

Cealah , St. Joseph's Bonnybridge



In focus . . .

"St Joseph's pupils reduce packaging by bringing their snacks from a big bag of crisp or snacks in tubs, rather than a multipack or bring in fruit since it has its own natural packaging. When P7/6 were learning about area, they measured the area of a multipack of popcorn, the outside bag and the multiple smaller bags and compared the results to the area of a large bag of popcorn. This, when added up, showed that the multipack bag wastes more plastic packaging than a single large bag."

Isabella, St Joseph's, Bonnybridge

Focus on the Environment

Laudato Si Schools are using their focus on the environment to look at innovative ways of using their learning to help others. Part of this includes learning about and researching Renewable Energy and our need to protect our oceans and water supplies. St Matthew's Academy in Saltcoats told us: "Annually we carry out an environmental review with staff and pupils to identify priorities for the year ahead. With the school

being located in a coastal town we are acutely aware of the impact of plastics polluting our sea leading to our commitment to reducing single use plastics."

As a result of this, the school has issued pupils with reusable water bottles and masks with school badge, and has swapped plastic cutlery to wooden cutlery, and polystyrene boxes to cardboard in the canteen.

St. Clare's Primary School in Newton Mearns also has a

focus on water, having worked with SCIAF to learn about the problems that some of the world's poorest people have in securing clean, safe water supplies. As a result of their learning in this, they decided to try to do what they could to help, and raised enough money to buy water filters for six families. St. John's Primary School also covered the importance of clean water .

Love of God and Love of Neighbour: Global Connections

St Luke's High School told us of their involvement in the Connecting Classrooms project: "A partnership was created between St Luke's High School, St Mark's Primary school and Groupe Scolaire Kamina in Rwanda. We are really excited to have formed a partnership with a school in Rwanda. The partnership will be a great way for pupils to connect with peers in another country and help them to develop a deeper understanding of the Sustainable De-

velopment Goals. We have received funding from the British Council to support our project. The first goal we are going to explore is goal number 4 on Quality Education. Pupils will develop a deeper understanding on the goal and share their ideas on what quality education is. Pupils from all schools will share their experience and education and also any barrier to education. Teachers will also take part in CLPL activities and share resources. We hope this will be a

sustainable partnership which will grow over the next few years."



Building Relationships, Tackling Poverty and Inequality

St Matthew's Academy's long-standing relationship with a school in Malawi has helped them to understand the wide-reaching impact of inequality: "In the 15 years of our partnership with St Peters Secondary in Mzuzu, we have supported the school in building classrooms, science labs and this year new toilet blocks, as well as providing text books, materials and science lab equipment. Due to secondary education not being a free entitlement in Malawi we have a scholarship scheme set up to pay the fees

of some pupils who cannot afford them to ensure they receive a quality education . We place importance in setting our work in a context that pupils understand and see how it contributes to our school values of community, love, equality, achievement and respect. Particular curricular links are obvious in their links to Laudato Si, for example, the climate change unit in Geography where pupils make a plant pledge, and the energy units in Science where pupils can see how their actions matter. Last session a group of pupils did some

work to find out about water, sanitation and hygiene conditions in developing countries and the knock on effects these can have on people's health and wellbeing, by twinning one of our school toilets with a toilet in a poorer country through toiletwinning.org. The aim of this work was to improve access to clean water, good sanitation, hygiene and education for those in poorer conditions and for us to appreciate the things we take for granted in the UK and be able to compare our situation to that of those in the developing world. "

Politics and Tackling the Digital Divide

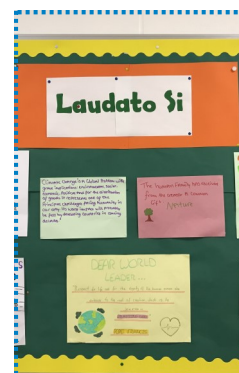
St. Clare's Primary School

told us about their experience: "Four classes across the school have taken part in a Sky and Adobe Project called 'The Edit', which focussed on Climate Change and helped pupils learn about taking responsibility for making a change. The hashtag linked to this project is: #bethethechangeshapeit. Each class made a news report sharing their learning and encouraging others to 'be the change' and help us in our bid to #gozero (Sky have pledged to have a zero carbon footprint in the near

future). The learners have entered the Sky/Adobe national competition and we will be sharing their reports on our Twitter page. Primary 7 wrote to the president of COP26 and have created beautiful poems, which we are sending to Parliament because of the incorporation of children's rights into law. "

St Margaret's Academy in Livingston told us more about that: "Our school has also signed up for the Earth Shot prize. Prince William has set up a prize each year,

for the next 10 years for our young people to think of sustainable ideas or products that can massively reduce our Carbon Footprint. Our Eco Group have already thought of a few good ideas, including using a crate for shopping that you transfer from car to trolley to ensure that no plastic bags are used when shopping."



In focus . . .

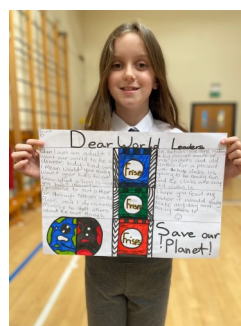
"At our COP 26 conference, the pupils from each school presented their way of saving the earth. Many pupils reported that when they asked their question to the councillors that they felt unanswered and disappointed. St Joseph's Pope Francis candidates shared their opinion. They said that they were very annoyed because they have been practicing and that sometimes they feel like they work really hard all for nothing. Pupil council representatives have also shared their opinion. They said they loved the experience and the atmosphere."

Cara, St. Joseph's Bonnybridge

Many of our schools talked about contacting local MPs, MSPs and local elected representatives to ask them what they are doing to address issues related to the environment and associated inequality

Some of the questions directed to MPs/ MSPs from young people engaging with Laudato Si Schools are:

- * Why isn't climate change a priority if it could be dangerous towards us? Do you think topics such as leaving the EU are more important than the human race?
- * What actions can be/are currently taking place to loosen the grip of poverty?
- * What were some of the policies implemented to support young people in poverty during remote learning?
- * Do you plan on providing schools with the funding to provide more laptops and computers to assist with our learning?
- * How are you going to make homes more energy efficient?
- * What are your plans regarding electric cars and public transport?
- * Is poverty always going to exist all over the world?
- * Can poverty disappear?
- * Has too much damage already been done to our planet?
- * Can we reduce pollution enough?
- * Do the small changes we make e.g. recycling make a difference?
- * Can we be more innovative to help the environment?
- * Why when there is enough food to feed the whole world, does hunger exist and what are you going to do about it?
- * Does giving up meat really reduce carbon emissions, surely the manufacturing of alternatives creates just as much?
- * How will richer nations financially support developing countries to invest in green energy?
- * How will Governments hold oil companies responsible for misleading the public about climate change?
- * How will you ensure that Wildlife will not be endangered through deforestation when building new renewable sources?



Next Steps

Step Two: What more can we do?

Everything in Step one reflects just a small part of the actions happening in the Laudato Si Schools across Scotland; at time of writing, around 75% of Catholic schools in Scotland have registered to join the programme.

Laudato Si' Schools Scotland is not an award, but a long-term pledge and commitment to put in place and live out the teachings of Laudato Si across the school community. In an award, there is always the danger that once you have achieved the flag, or the plaque, or the certificate, then the job is done. Laudato Si reminds us that the commitment to the stewardship of the planet, and those with whom we share it, is a life long commitment that begins in our very earliest years.

It is encouraging then to see our schools sharing their plans for where they go from here. They have now incorporated Ecological Education into their planning and into their curricula. They shared some of their hopes for future work:

“We have big plans for our allotment project. We have a large area available which has the potential to be used as an outdoor learning space as well as for growing vegetables. This year we have already created planters to use for growing veg and would like to continue to create more and expand the growing area. Our goal is to grow an abundance of veg that can be used to support our local community. We would also like to increase parental/ family engagement by asking for help to look after the allotment during school holidays.”

“We hope that our partnership will be a sustainable one and we can create a strong partnership. We plan to keep in regular communication and plan projects for each term which will allow pupils involved to explore the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the UNICEF rights of the child.”

“We have identified two goals which we are going to focus on in S2 (Below the water) and S1 (Improving health and wellbeing). These two year groups will now take these targets forward, learn about them and then teach the rest of the school community about what they have learned. The current S3 will do the same in due course.”

“We intend to continue our work in learning for sustainability and educating our school and wider community in how they can care for our common home.”

“We will continue to:

- Support our partner school in Malawi and its pupils with the scholarship scheme.
- Try to reduce our dependence on single use plastics
- Reduce litter in the local community with regular litter picks and beach cleans, as well as educating pupils in order to reduce their littering behaviours.
- Support our local foodbank with our Foodbank Friday collections, collecting foodstuffs for our local foodbank. “We intend to expand the number of subjects delivering climate change and care of our planet curriculum inserts.”



By far the most exciting and rewarding part of any project undertaken by any school is looking at what the young people are doing, and at what a school community can achieve when they work together and reach out to others. However, the very nature of schools is that those who are in them are there for a limited number of years and then move on, hopefully taking with them the knowledge, skills and values they have gathered during their time there. So while it is wonderful to see everything that our young people are achieving, we also need to put in place the structures and culture that gives Laudato Si Schools the longevity it needs to prepare future generations to live as stewards of God's creation. For this reason, it is good to see that schools are taking this into account. Some of the ways our schools are putting in place measures to ensure this are:

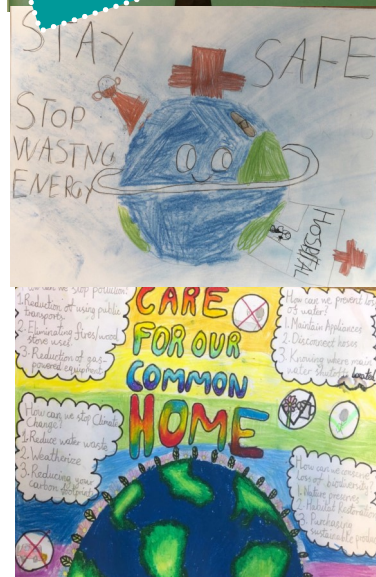
Step Three: How can we maintain this?

- Learning for Sustainability initiatives have been included in the whole school plan as well as departmental plans.
- An action plan has been created as part of the Eco-schools award and will be met by 2024
- Acting Principal Teacher of Development Learning for sustainability has been appointed.
- All staff have taken part in CLPL opportunities to learn about and embed outdoor learning into their practice
- Incorporate Laudato Si priorities within school and faculty improvement plans
- Approach local sponsors to help fund initiatives
- Link up with community projects to ensure sustainable work in developing good methods to reduce our waste.
- By educating our pupils in courses like waste and energy, our future generation will be well equipped with the knowledge necessary to understand what needs to be in place to protect our environment.
- Climate Change should be developed in an interdisciplinary way to ensure coverage across the whole curriculum. This will be our aim: to weave the topic throughout our learning and to have an overview of everything that is in place in school
- Each year we will recruit new pupils and staff to lead and be involved in these initiatives.
- Carrying out an environmental review each session gives pupils and staff ownership of the initiatives as they are taken forward in a way that enables everyone to work to their strengths.

Keeping things going...



Step Five: What is the impact?



PRIMARY 1F CLASS PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for making the world and all the plants, animals and people in it.

We are learning that you are present everywhere and in every tiny creature, even bugs.

Please keep showing us your LOVE and TRUST and we will try to LOVE you, your world and all the plants and animals of your world.

Fill us with, KINDNESS and RESPECT so that we do not harm others or this beautiful world.

We ask you to help teach us to protect your world, to change the hearts of people who only care about themselves and money, instead of showing our school values of TRUST, KINDNESS, LOVE and RESPECT to people and the Earth.

We thank you God for being with us each day.

and ask you to help us to look after our beautiful world.

Amen

Not surprisingly, our schools are anxious to share what they are doing

with their local communities and further afield. Each May

SCES will ask Laudato Si' Schools to share their news, photographs, challenges and successes with us and we will publish these on the website and newsletters to help inspire others! We are already seeing Schools sharing their work via school websites and, of course, social media platforms. In addition, schools are active in their parishes and clusters, so keep a look out to see what your local schools are doing!

Step Four: How can we share this?

Laudato Si Schools is still a relatively new programme, and so schools are still judging its impact both with the schools and with the wider community.

However, it is clear from the range of work being undertaken that schools have already tied it to their own context and have had real success in encouraging their communities to become involved. Some of the comments from schools so far are:

"Although we have just begun our journey on the Connecting classrooms project it has already been very beneficially for the pupils involved. It has allowed pupils to connect with their peers in a different county and share their experience of Covid-19. It has allowed the pupils to explore the SDGs and gain a greater understanding of global issues. It has also allowed the teachers involved to connect, share ideas and share resources."

"Young people are more familiar with a whole range of issues connected with the environment."

"In Religious Education, connections have been made between the biblical concept of stewardship and the environmental agenda. Lesson content has been modified to reflect Laudato Si priorities."

"This session nearly £2000 pounds was raised for SCIAF with the school with a sponsored walk run challenge, the wee box appeal, non-uniform day and real gifts. With the UK Government doubling all donations to SCIAF this year £4000 will make a massive difference to those SCIAF helps."

"At the beginning of December every year we collect non-perishables to make up food parcels for those who need it in our local parishes. This year 435 parcels were made up, the largest number yet meaning this year we have been able to help more people than ever."

"The school chaplain has given talks on themes from Laudato Si to classes. Young people are more engaged with environmental themes and can talk about them from within a faith-based perspective."

"In school, we start every Monday morning with a whole school prayer. We have been referring to the passages in Laudato Si'. We plan to have all the passages presented to students from S1-S6. We cover Climate Change in many subject disciplines so the message will be reinforced across the school."

"In action now, we have our Eco Group, the students are really enjoying this and realise the importance of being outside and connecting with nature. We as a school are trying to encourage more of this by taking students outside when we can."

"We are very excited about our Connecting Classrooms Project and look forward to the time when we can further develop this with reciprocal visits and meeting our partners in person. I know that they too are super excited to visit Scotland and to see how our education system works and the teaching and learning around Climate Impact."



LAUDATO SI'
Action Platform

Laudato Si' Action Platform: Taking it Global

"Because, if we don't change our lifestyle, we won't save the planet."

Message from Pope Francis

In the message below, Pope Francis is talking directly to schools about how we can make a *CHANGE FOR GOOD*. He gives us ideas of what we can do and, as importantly, the impact our actions can have. Will you answer his call?

"Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices. All of these reflect a generous and worthy creativity which brings out the best in human beings. Reusing something instead of immediately discarding it, when done for the right reasons, can be an act of love which expresses our own dignity."

We must not think that these efforts are not going to change the world. They benefit society, often unbeknown to us, for they call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread. Furthermore, such actions can restore our sense of self-esteem; they can enable us to live more fully and to feel that life on earth is worthwhile." (#211 & 212)

In a May 2020 the Holy Father released a video encouraging Catholics to join his global action platform, saying there was a need for "a new ecological approach, which transforms our way of living in the world, our lifestyles, our relationship with the Earth's resources, and in general, the way we look at people and live our life." The Laudato Si' Action Platform officially launched on November 14th, the World day of the poor, with Pope Francis telling the crowd in St. Peter's Square "I invite all people of good will to exercise active citizenship for the care of the common home." Thousands of schools around the world are already registered.

"Laudato si' Action Platform," is an online hub that supports, collects, directs, and coordinates global and local initiatives inspired by the encyclical on care for creation, the Pope officially declared registration open on the 14th November and encouraged people to sign-up.



Why enrol? Enrol in the Laudato Si' Action Platform and commit to crafting your own Laudato Si' Plan. Enrolled participants have access to helpful resources to support the journey.

- Planning Guides created in collaboration with leading Catholic organizations offer a clear framework to reflect, act, and evaluate your progress towards the Laudato Si' Goals
- Suggested actions, developed in collaboration with expert advisors and Catholic leaders, offer practical ways to make real progress towards the vision of Laudato Si'
- Direct contact with a community of peers and leading Catholic organizations offers inspiration and accompaniment
- An annual self-assessment offers a way to clearly see and measure your progress from year to year

The Dicastery for Integral Human Development has invited all Laudato Si' Schools in Scotland to enrol on the action platform during 2022

To register visit:

www.laudatosiactionplatform.org

Message from Rome to Scotland: The Platform sends an important message to the world after COP26

The idea of the platform dates to 2018, and the launch comes on the heels of COP26 sending a "symbolic message that the global church is ready to do its part to take action on climate change," said Fr. Josh from the Vatican who was in Glasgow for the COP conference and said: "The Platform is open to everyone, we are all invited to become ecological citizens of this common home. The first objective is to involve everyone. The second is to work towards the seven Laudato si' goals. We respond to the cry of the earth and therefore energy, water, biodiversity, but also to the cry of the poor, the indigenous communities, migrants, refugees... We need to rethink our economy, then there is a lifestyle change. There is a beautiful paragraph in the encyclical about the things that everyone can do, even simple things: turn off the lights, buy only what you really need, take public transportation... Simple things. **Because, if we don't change our lifestyle, we won't save the planet.** The two pillars of the encyclical are education and spirituality because spirituality is the source of our faith in God and all this needs to be done as a community."

Fr. Jostrom Kureethadam,
Dicastery for Integral Human Development:
ecology and creation sector

Important Dates for 2022

PFFA Verification Training Meetings	Each training session is offered to the Pope Francis Faith Award named contact of the cluster/learning community responsible for verifying the collated evidence	17/01/2022	Archdiocese of Glasgow
		20/01/2022	Archdiocese of St. Andrews & Edinburgh
		24/01/2022	Diocese of Motherwell
		31/01/2022	Diocese of Paisley
		01/02/2022	Diocese of Dunkeld
		02/02/2022	Diocese of Galloway
Catholic Deputies Scotland Conference	A day conference for Catholic Depute Head Teachers	03/02/2022	Edinburgh
Good Shepherd Recall Day	A day of formation for 'alumni' of the Good Shepherd Retreat Conference	10/02/2022	Westerwood Hotel
Teaching RERC as a Generalist Teacher	In this session participants will explore how all staff in the Catholic School contribute to the distinctive nature of the school, with a particular focus on helping generalist teachers - or potential generalist teachers - of RERC to build their knowledge and confidence.	18/02/2022	Westerwood Hotel
Principal Teacher in a Catholic School: Preparing for the Role	The day will cover the skills and knowledge required to fulfil effectively the role of PT within a Catholic school	22/02/2022	Westerwood Hotel
Depute Networking Group: Term 2	A peer group for networking and discussion for Catholic Deputies (suggested reading will be sent prior to the session to stimulate conversation)	24/02/2022	Online
Source and Summit : The Eucharist	A day focussing on teaching the Eucharist to young people	01/03/2022	Westerwood Hotel
Living Lent	A 30 minute Twilight prayerful reflection focussed on our Lenten journey: Theme 1 Temptation	09/03/2022	Online
Into Senior Leadership: Good Shepherd Pathway	A day dedicated to those discerning if their vocation is to move from middle management to senior leadership.	10/03/2022	Westerwood Hotel
Living Lent	A 30 minute Twilight prayerful reflection focussed on our Lenten journey: Theme 2 Confession	16/03/2022	Online
Teaching Called to Love	Exploring and explaining the philosophy behind Called to Love, how it sits in the framework of RERC and the nature of the Catholic school, and different pedagogical approaches	22/03/2022	SCES Offices
Living Lent	A 30 minute Twilight prayerful reflection focussed on our Lenten journey: Theme 3 Forgiveness	23/03/2022	Online
Living Lent	A 30 minute Twilight prayerful reflection focussed on our Lenten journey: Theme 4 Communion	30/03/2022	Online
Planning for Learning, Teaching and Assessment	Participants will explore the use of This is our Faith as a whole school document, a CLPL resource and as the primary source for building and teaching the RERC curriculum	03/05/2022	Westerwood Hotel
Catholic Social Teaching - The Work of Church Agencies	A day for teachers and students exploring the work of various Church agencies and how they contribute to the sharing and action of Catholic Social Teaching at a local, national and global level.	18/05/2022	Westerwood Hotel
Depute Networking Group: Term 3	A peer group for networking and discussion for Catholic Deputies (suggested reading will be sent prior to the session to stimulate conversation)	19/05/2022	Online
Preparing for PT Pastoral Care in the Catholic School	Participants will explore the distinctive approach to Pastoral Care within Catholic education. Through Church Teaching, practical workshops, peer collaboration and presentations from key partners and experienced practitioners, colleagues will be helped to build on their own experiences and develop an understanding of the invaluable role that the Principal Teacher of Pastoral Care has within a Catholic School.	24/05/2022	Westerwood Hotel

Save the date

CARITAS AWARD CEREMONY 1st JUNE 2022

Leadership CLPL Events for 2022 from SCES

Scottish Catholic Education Service: Career Long Professional Learning Catalogue 2021/22

Day Conference

A day dedicated to Aspiring Principal Teachers in a Catholic School

Participants will explore the skills and knowledge required to fulfil effectively the role of PT within a Catholic school.

Areas covered will include:

- *Effective Management and Leadership*
- *RERC—Responsibility of All*
- *Leading Within the Distinctive Nature of the Catholic School*
- *Preparing for Interview*

The conference is one in a series of CLPL events of the "Good Shepherd Leadership Pathway" and is aimed at anyone aspiring to lead within a Catholic school.

Tuesday 22nd February 2022

Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld, G68 0EW

9am—3.30pm

£85

Book via SCES



Scottish Catholic Education Service, 75 Craigpark, Dennistoun, G31 2HD
www.sccec.uk.com E: info@sccec.uk.com T: 0141 556 4727

Good Shepherd Leadership Pathway

Scottish Catholic Education Service: Career Long Professional Learning Catalogue 2021/22

Day Conference

Formational Leadership: A Leadership Conference for Aspiring Catholic Senior Leaders

A day dedicated to those discerning if their next step is from middle to senior leadership. It is open to all PTs and Acting Depute Head Teachers.

The day will explore the personal, professional and vocational characteristics of the Catholic school leader.

The conference is one in a series of CLPL events of the "Good Shepherd Leadership Pathway" and is aimed at anyone aspiring to lead within a Catholic school.

Thursday 10th March 2022

Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld, G68 0EW

9am—3.30pm

£85

Book via SCES



Scottish Catholic Education Service, 75 Craigpark, Dennistoun, G31 2HD
www.sccec.uk.com E: info@sccec.uk.com T: 0141 556 4727

Good Shepherd Leadership Pathway

Scottish Catholic Education Service: Career Long Professional Learning Catalogue 2021/22

Day Conference

A day dedicated to Aspiring Principal Teachers of Pastoral care

Participants will explore the distinctive approach to Pastoral Care within Catholic education. Through Church Teaching, practical workshops, peer collaboration and presentations from key partners and experienced practitioners, colleagues will be helped to build on their own experiences and develop an understanding of the invaluable role that the Principal Teacher of Pastoral Care has within a Catholic School.

The conference is one in a series of CLPL events of the "Good Shepherd Leadership Pathway" and is aimed at anyone aspiring to lead within a Catholic school.

Tuesday 24th May 2022

Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld, G68 0EW

9am—3.30pm

£85

Book via SCES



Scottish Catholic Education Service, 75 Craigpark, Dennistoun, G31 2HD
www.sccec.uk.com E: info@sccec.uk.com T: 0141 556 4727

Good Shepherd Leadership Pathway

Scottish Catholic Education Service: Career Long Professional Learning Catalogue 2021/22

Day Conference

A one day conference for Catholic Deputes: The Disciples, the First Deputes!

This conference will explore the biblical roots of "the depute" and through practical workshops will consider some of the current challenges for those following in the footsteps of Peter, Mary and Andrew.

The conference will begin with a meal and a time to meet other deutes on Thursday evening (7pm). We hope this time will allow you to build a peer network of support and spend time with other deutes in an informal context.

There is an option to just attend the conference, which will be hosted from 9am—4pm on Friday 4th February 2022.

Thursday 3rd —Friday 4th February 2022

Doubletree by Hilton hotel, Edinburgh

£210 including conference, D,B &B*

£110 Conference only

Book via SCES



Scottish Catholic Education Service, 75 Craigpark, Dennistoun, G31 2HD
www.sccec.uk.com E: info@sccec.uk.com T: 0141 556 4727

Catholic Deputes Scotland