

# Catholic Education Week 2023

## *"Pilgrims of Faith"*

"The beauty of the Christian faith lies not in its theological explanations but in the lives of people who dedicate themselves to prayer, charity and sharing the Gospel..Be discoverers of beauty, seekers of the treasures of faith...because faith cannot remain a memory of the past, something 'museum-like.' No, it always lives again in the joy of the Gospel, in the community made up of people, in the assembly of those who experience mercy and recognize themselves as brothers and sisters loved by God by grace..."

Always remember: the witness of life communicates the beauty of faith,"

Pope Francis May 2023

### **Leader:**

Each year, during Catholic Education Week, we are encouraged to take time to reflect on the ways in which our homes, schools and parishes work together to accompany our young people on their faith journey.

As we pray together today, filled with the Spirit, let us use this opportunity to quietly reflect on the ways in which we can strive to ensure that our school community, is one in which all are encouraged to use and develop their God given gifts, to bring Christ's love to all. Is our school community one in which we encounter Christ in our daily lives and sharing journey of faith with each other?

### **Let us pray together:**

**Opening Prayer - *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus***

**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.**



SCOTTISH CATHOLIC  
EDUCATION SERVICE

**Leader:**

We pray that we will be open to welcoming the Holy Spirit to be at work in us, so that we may be a community and a people of grace.

**Liturgy of the Word**

**A reading from the Book of Proverbs**

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,  
and favour is better than silver or gold.

<sup>2</sup>The rich and the poor meet together;  
the LORD is the Maker of them all.

<sup>3</sup>The prudent sees danger and hides himself,  
but the simple go on and suffer for it.

<sup>4</sup>The reward for humility and fear of the LORD  
is riches and honour and life.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>5</sup>Thorns and snares are in the way of the crooked;  
whoever guards his soul will keep far from them.

<sup>6</sup>Train up a child in the way he should go;  
even when he is old he will not depart from it.

<sup>7</sup>The rich rules over the poor,  
and the borrower is the slave of the lender.

<sup>8</sup>Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,  
and the rod of his fury will fail.

<sup>9</sup>Whoever has a bountiful<sup>[b]</sup> eye will be blessed,  
for he shares his bread with the poor.

<sup>10</sup>Drive out a scoffer, and strife will go out,  
and quarrelling and abuse will cease.

<sup>11</sup>He who loves purity of heart,  
and whose speech is gracious, will have the king as his friend.

<sup>12</sup>The eyes of the LORD keep watch over knowledge,  
but he overthrows the words of the traitor.

<sup>13</sup>The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside!  
I shall be killed in the streets!"

<sup>14</sup>The mouth of forbidden<sup>[c]</sup> women is a deep pit;  
he with whom the LORD is angry will fall into it.

<sup>15</sup>Folly is bound up in the heart of a child,  
but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

<sup>16</sup>Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth,  
or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Let us pray:**

O God, help us to recognise in ourselves and in others, the gifts that have been given by the Spirit. Help us to understand that these gifts are given freely and given to help us to serve the common good. May we use our gifts to do good work to the glory of God and for the benefit of the entire Church.

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:**

He said,

‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.  
Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations;  
Baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son  
And of the Holy Spirit,  
And teach them to observe all the command I gave you.  
And know that I am with you always;  
Yes, to the end of time.

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**Let us pray**

O God, we pray that with the Spirit’s strength and guidance we will willingly accept the invitation to take Christ’s peace, joy, and love to all.

**Leader:**

In a letter from the Vatican, ‘The Identity of the Catholic School for a Culture of Dialogue’ we learn that, ‘Christian presence must be shown and made clear, that is, it must be visible, tangible and conscious.’

**Let us pause to consider the ways in which our school community can reflect this message:**

How do we, as members of the faith community, make our Christian presence clear to those around us?

We also learn that ‘In many parts of the world even today material poverty prevents many youths and children from having access to formal education and adequate human and Christian formation. In other areas new forms of poverty challenge the Catholic school.’

**Let us pause to consider the ways in which our school community can reflect this message:**

How do we, as individuals, and as a school community, respond to those in need of spiritual, and material sustenance.

Are we united in our faith community, as pilgrims on a journey towards spiritual fulfilment?

Do we actively seek new ways to help others become ‘more aware of the gift of faith’?

Are we faithful to our identity as a Catholic school?

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Lord bless our bishops, priests, deacons and religious leaders: help them use to their gifts in our schools and parishes to foster a spirit of communion, participation and mission.

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Lord, bless our world leaders: grant them the gifts of courage, compassion and wisdom to enable them to govern wisely and justly. May they be inspired by the example of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Lord, bless all staff working in our school communities. May they be filled with the Spirit's strength, growing in love, patience, forgiveness and understanding as they accompany our young people on their faith journey.

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Lord, bless those who suffer in any way. May your healing hand guide those who care for them and help them to use their gifts to bring them comfort and support.

Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Lord, we pray for all who have died. May they rest in the peace of Christ and rise in glory on the last day.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

*Dear brothers and sisters, let us have a good journey together! May we be pilgrims in love with the Gospel and open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit. Let us not miss out on the grace-filled opportunities born of encounter, listening and discernment. In the joyful conviction that, even as we seek the Lord, he always comes with his love to meet us first.*

Pope Francis October 10, 2021