



Catholic Schools Week 2023

Catholic Schools: Walking Together in Faith & Love

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22 JANUARY–29 JANUARY 2023

JUNIOR AND SENIOR INFANTS/P1 AND P2





Christian Faith	Word of God
<p>Mystery of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christians bless themselves in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.• God is our loving Father and Creator (Gn 1:26-7).• God is good (Ps 116:1).• God knows us and loves us (Ps 139).• God is my friend. <p>Mystery of the Church/Kingdom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The way of life of the parish involves caring, sharing, and praying together (CCC 2179; CSRE 2a).• The Church is a special place where God's people gather to pray.• Our family helps us become friends of Jesus.• The priest/teacher helps us to become friends of Jesus (LG 10).	<p>Sacred Scripture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jn 11:25-26.
Liturgy and Prayer	Christian Morality
<p>Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• God calls us to prayer and we respond (GS 18, CCC 2567).• God always hears our prayers.• The church is God's house, where his family comes together (CCC 1180; LG 6; 1 Tm 3:15).• God's family gathers in the parish church to pray and celebrate (CCC 1069-71, 2179).• The church is a holy place where people go to pray and talk to God (CCC 1181)	<p>Human Dignity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• God loves each one of us (Jer 31:3; 1 Jn 4:10-11; CSRE 3a).• I am unique/special because God created me (CCC 1004; Gn 1:26-7; Ps 137:14).• I am called to love God and to love others (Mt 22:36-40).• Every person is special in the eyes of God (CCC 225, 356-61, 369, 1604, 1700-01, 1944-46, 2319, 2334; CSRE 3a).



Monday – Walking Together in Faith

Consider:

In our Catholic school, we want everyone to feel happy and safe. We work hard to show kind words and actions every day. When we are good friends to each other and are caring and kind, we are living like Jesus wants us to.

Explore:

Remind the children that our Catholic school should be a kind and happy place for everyone. Ask the children for examples of them being kind and caring to each other in school. Explain that when we do this, we are living like Jesus wants us to. Using a picture of the local church, explain to the children that the school is part of a community – a group of people who love God and try to show that love each day.

Activity:

Ask the children what they like most about God and about the Church. Ask the children what is happening in the world that makes them sad. Ask them how they think Jesus and the Church can help the world be a better place. Invite them to draw a picture of Jesus or people in their church community helping those in need.





Tuesday – Walking Together in Love

Consider:

Our Catholic school is a place where we show kindness to our students, teachers, SNAs, staff and visitors. Our Catholic school is a community where we learn and grow, developing positive relationships and reaching our full potential.

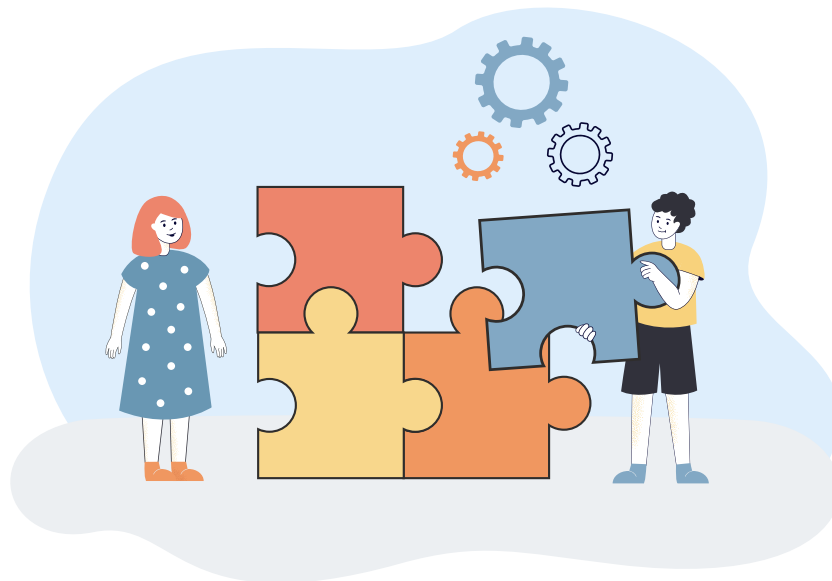
Today we celebrate the fact of God’s love for each of us and how he made each of us special and unique.

Explore:

Ask the children what ‘being kind’ means and to give examples of the ways they show kindness at home, at school and elsewhere. Explain that we are made for love, meaning that God wants us to be the best we can be, showing kindness in our thoughts, words and actions.

Activity:

Ask the children to name movies they’ve seen where people have helped one another or been kind to one another. Ask the children what they can do in the coming weeks to show someone they love them. Invite the children to draw a picture or make a card for someone they love.





Wednesday – Walking Together to Celebrate (Grandparents Day)

Consider:

Everyone likes to celebrate things. A celebration gives us a chance to be happy about something important in our lives. Our grandparents love us very much and today we celebrate the love our grandparents have for us. Our grandparents are an important part of our family that we can go to for advice and help when we need it.

Explore:

Ask the students what they think of when they hear the word 'celebrate'. What kind of things do we celebrate?

Discuss how we love our parents and/or grandparents and how they love us. We spend time together. We are kind to each other. We go places together. We celebrate special occasions together like birthday parties and anniversaries. This can include celebrations at the church, such as weddings, First Holy Communions and baptisms.

God loves us and will always love us. Prayer helps us to talk to God, who always hears our prayers. Talk about some of the prayers the children are learning, such as the Morning Prayer.

Activity:

On the colouring sheet, the children can colour, write or draw a picture of their grandparents. Alternatively, the children can write and design a postcard to send to their grandparents, thanking them for all that they do in their lives.

Following this, the children can be invited into silent prayer. Prayer can be talking to God, but we can also pray by being still and silent and listening to our breath. The children can pick the people they want to pray for and, for a few seconds, talk silently to God, asking him to take care of those they love.









Thursday – Walking Together to Transform our World

Consider:

Nature and the world around us can tell us something about God's love. Creation is filled with moments of wonder and beauty.

In our Catholic school, we can start to see the world as a beautiful place. Can we think of things in life that makes us really happy or make us go 'Wow'? What actions can we take to protect the world from being polluted and filled with rubbish?

Explore:

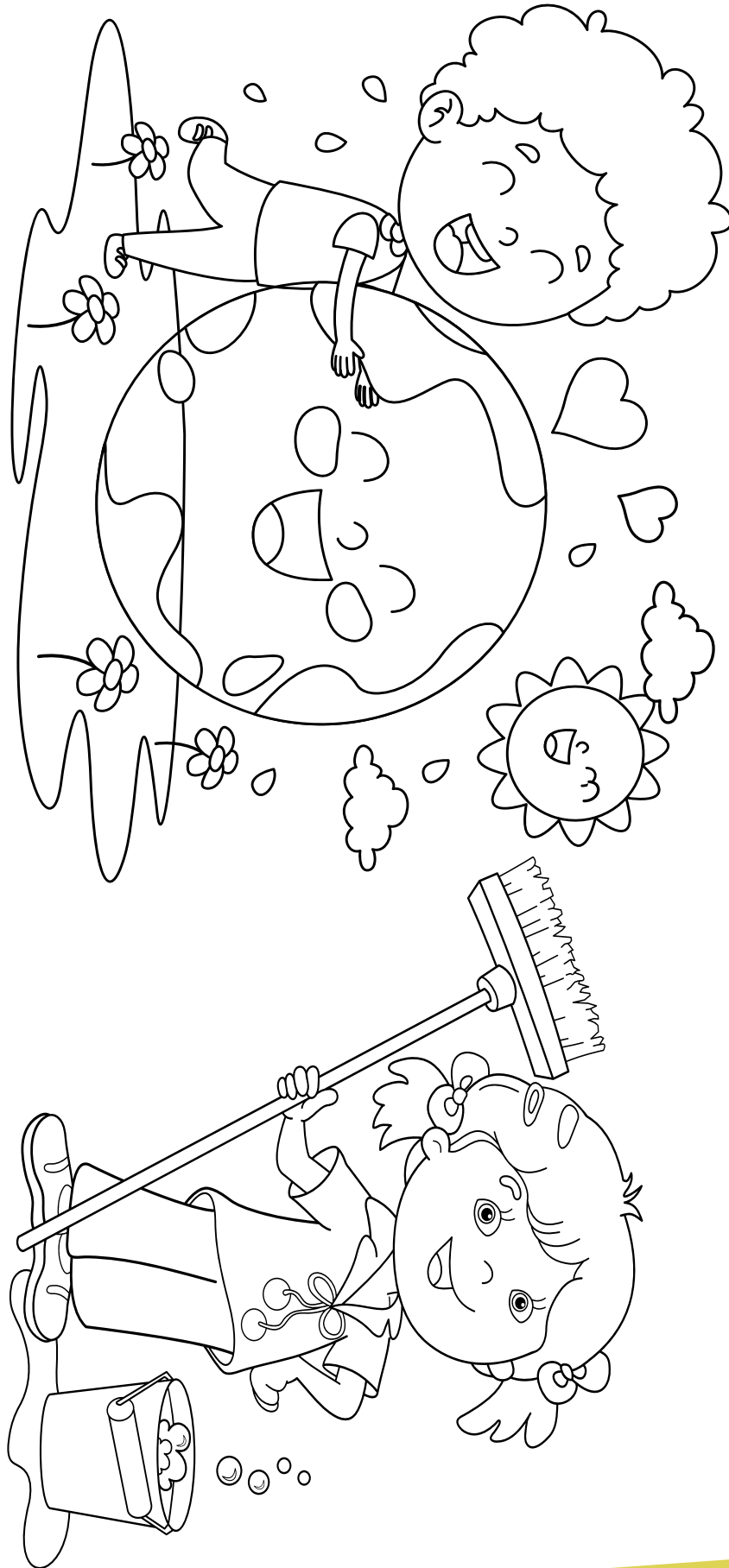
Watch the following David Attenborough video about the wonderful world we live in: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=auSo1MyWf8g>. Talk about what images in the video the children liked the most and why.

Talk about what people can do to make sure the world can stay as wonderful as it is. The world is part of God's creation and it is important that we keep the world clean and healthy. When we dump rubbish or waste resources, we take away from the beauty of creation. Ask the children to come up with ideas that will transform our world into a more beautiful place.

Activity:

Complete the colouring sheet about caring for the world and as a class decide on a weekly target that will help to keep our home, school and parish a clean and happy place.







Friday – Walking Together in Hope

Consider:

Sometimes we can worry about things and that can make us sad and upset. When we feel sad, it is important to tell someone we trust, like our parents or teachers. In our Catholic school, people care about us, and want us to have hope in the future. Jesus wants us to have hope in the future too, and tells us that God's love will be there with us on every step of the journey of life. We will show this by living up to Jesus' 'golden rule' each day.

Explore:

Ask the children what rules they follow in the classroom and in school. Why are the rules important?

Introduce Matthew 7:12 to the class:

'Do for other people the same things you want them to do for you' (International Children's Bible).

Ask the children what they think Jesus means by this. Brainstorm on the whiteboard what ways we could do this in the future in our classroom.

Activity:

Make a 'Golden Ruler'. Give each child a ruler-sized piece of card. They can write the golden rule onto the card or decorate it with a picture of them living the golden rule with others. Alternatively type out and print the golden rule text and the children can paste a copy of it onto the card. The Golden Ruler can then be cover with gold glitter or foil. These can be placed on the wall or in the classroom sacred space to help remind the class about the golden rule. We want to treat others the way Jesus treats us.

