



Catholic Schools Week 2023

Catholic Schools: Walking Together in Faith & Love

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22 JANUARY–29 JANUARY 2023

FIFTH AND SIXTH CLASS/P7





Christian Faith	Word of God
<p>Mystery of Faith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Holy Spirit works in each of us and in the Church through scriptures, the sacraments and charisms, the teaching authority of the Church, Christian works of charity, the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, prayer, etc (CCC 687-747).• God is love.• God's love is constant, unconditional and everlasting (Is 54:8; Jer 31:3; CCC 220).• God is present to our inmost being: 'In him we live and move and have our being' (Acts 17:28; CCC 300).• Faith is a gift of God through which one trusts in God's care (GDC 55; CCC 150,153, 179, 227).• Experiences of evil and suffering, injustice and death can challenge religious faith (CCC 164). <p>Mystery of the Holy Spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Holy Spirit is the gift of God's love which comes to dwell in the believer (CCC 733).• The Holy Spirit is at work in all the world (GS 22, 38).• The Holy Spirit is active and present in our world where there are people who work for justice, peace, human rights and the care of creation.	
<p>Liturgy and Prayer</p>	<p>Christian Morality</p> <p>Human Freedom and Responsibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• God calls us and we are free to respond (vocation).• Choices between right and wrong involve the whole person – emotions, feelings and reasoning. <p>God's Graceful Presence and Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The values and teachings of Jesus can help us to make good choices.• Christians do good because it is right and out of love for Jesus (CCC 1828). <p>Social Teaching of the Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus teaches his followers to have respect, tolerance and compassion.



Monday – Walking Together in Faith

‘Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

(Jn 6:35)

Consider:

Pentecost is still important to us today because it represents the beginning of the Church. It reminds us how Jesus’ promise that God would send the Holy Spirit was fulfilled. The Holy Spirit filled the apostles with courage and faith, empowering them to share the Good News with others. They began to tell others about Jesus, and that he died for us and rose to new life. When we cannot see something, we often use symbols to help us explain and understand it. In the story of Pentecost we see the symbols of fire and wind being used to describe the Holy Spirit. Wind and fire are powerful and unstoppable, just as the Holy Spirit can be for us, giving us the courage and power to witness God in our own lives. In the story of the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan, we are given the symbol of a dove to describe the Holy Spirit.

Explore:

Read the story of Pentecost from *Grow in Love Sixth Class Teacher’s Manual*, p. 406–7. Complete the worksheet with questions about the story of Pentecost below.

Discuss:

Through the Holy Spirit God gives us gifts, but not the type of gifts that come wrapped in shiny paper with a bow. The Holy Spirit shares with us seven gifts that help us to grow in God’s love as we go out into the world. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are:

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Right Judgement
- Courage
- Knowledge
- Reverence
- Wonder and Awe in God’s Presence.





In fifth and sixth class/P7, we celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, as in confirmation the Holy Spirit comes to each of us to help strengthen and guide us to become witnesses to God's great love for all.

Discuss ways that the Holy Spirit can be active in our lives, e.g. having the courage to do what is right. What is the Spirit calling you to do in your life right now that can show God's love?

Activity:

For this activity each child will need a flat, small stone and some paint and paintbrushes. It may be helpful to display images of a dove or flames for the class to see.

Discuss with the class the symbols that are used to describe the Holy Spirit: flames, wind, a dove. Sometimes when we find it hard to describe something we use symbols to represent what we are trying to describe. In the Bible, symbols of flames, wind or a dove are used to describe the Holy Spirit. Today we are going to paint flames, wind or a dove on our stones to remind us of the power of the Holy Spirit.

Each child takes a stone and paints their chosen symbol on it. Once dry, the stones can be placed in the sacred space. The stones can be distributed and held during class prayers for the week.

Prayer:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. Enkindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and we shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth. Amen.

Invite the class to write and decorate the prayer on an A4 sheet. This prayer can be included in the morning prayers for the week.

Activity 2:

Answer the following questions about the story of Pentecost.

1. At the start of the story we hear that the believers were all gathered together. These were the apostles of Jesus. That means they were followers of Jesus. How do you think the apostles were feeling when they gathered together in the room?

2. What did the apostles hear?

3. What did the apostles see?





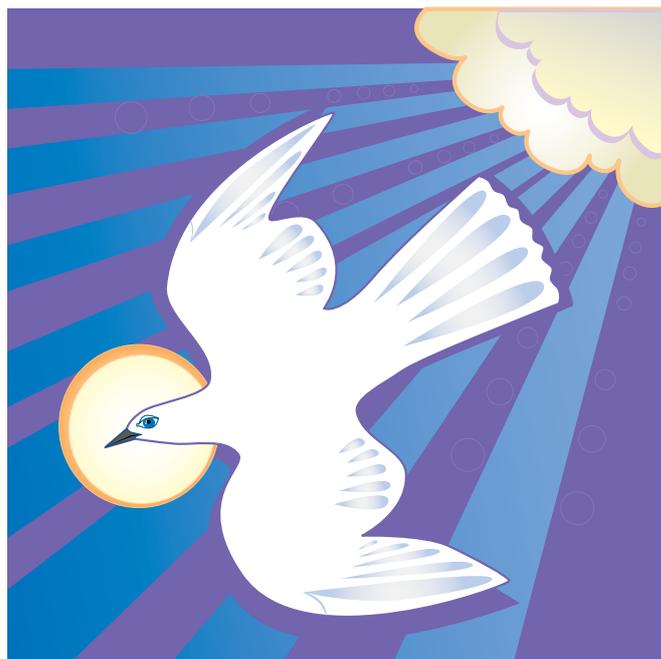
4. What were the powerful wind and flames symbols for?

5. After the Holy Spirit had touched them, what did they do?

6. After the Holy Spirit touched the apostles they were inspired. What does it mean to be inspired?

7. Have you ever felt inspired to do anything?

8. How can the Holy Spirit inspire you to live?





Tuesday – Walking Together in Love

‘Dear friends, let’s love each other, because love is from God,
and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God.
Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.’

(Jn 4:7-8)

Consider:

As a Catholic school we aspire to the golden rule of ‘love one another as I have loved you’. This rule is not just for our friends and family. This rule needs to apply to everyone we meet, including those whom we don’t really like or those who are different from us in any way. It is not always easy to live out the golden rule.

Explore:

make a list on the board of communities they belong to such as a sports team, a musical group or band, a drama group or a dancing group.

Is our family a type of community? In what ways do we show we are part of a family community?

Is our school a type of community? In what way?

What about our parish? In what ways do we show we are part of our parish community? How do we treat others in our communities?

What happens when someone new joins our school community? How should we treat them? What would happen if we treated a new member of our school community badly because we didn’t like how they looked or how they behaved?

Sometimes it can be difficult to show love to someone new, but this is what God asks us to do when he said, ‘Love one another as I have loved you.’ This is known as the golden rule.

St Paul wrote the following about love in his First Letter to the Corinthians (13:4-8):

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.





So love is being patient when that really annoying person is talking. It is being kind, even when someone is unkind to us. It means letting go of jealousy when someone else makes the football team and we do not. It means always being ready to forgive. And it means truly wanting what is best for the other person.

As we learned yesterday, the Holy Spirit was sent to guide and support us so that we are inspired to live as Jesus wants us to live. Showing love can be hard sometimes. Especially if it means sacrificing what we want for the good of another person. Jesus showed us this example. He sacrificed his life for us. When Jesus says, 'Love one another as I have loved you', he is telling us we are going to need to make some sacrifices for each other. The sacrifices we make are in the decisions we make every day. We have a choice.

Activity:

Read through the scenarios in the table below with the class. Give them time to note their answers to each on a sheet of paper. Once finished you may wish to discuss some of their answers with the whole class.

Say: I am going to read you some situations you might find yourself in and I want you to think about what you would do in each situation. I will give you a minute after each one to write down what you would do. When we are finished we will share some of our answers with the class.

If it were you, what would you do?

The new girl in class looks lost but if I stop and help her, I will be late out to break time.	
The old woman who lives beside me is walking home carrying her shopping. If I stop to help, my friends might make fun of me.	
My mum is tired after working all day but the dishwasher needs emptying. If I do it, I will miss my favourite programme on TV.	
When that person I don't enjoy talking to looks like she needs some cheering up, I can decide to go talk to her or to ignore her.	
When that boy in my class gets to play full forward where I wanted to play for the school match, I can hold a grudge or I can genuinely congratulate him.	

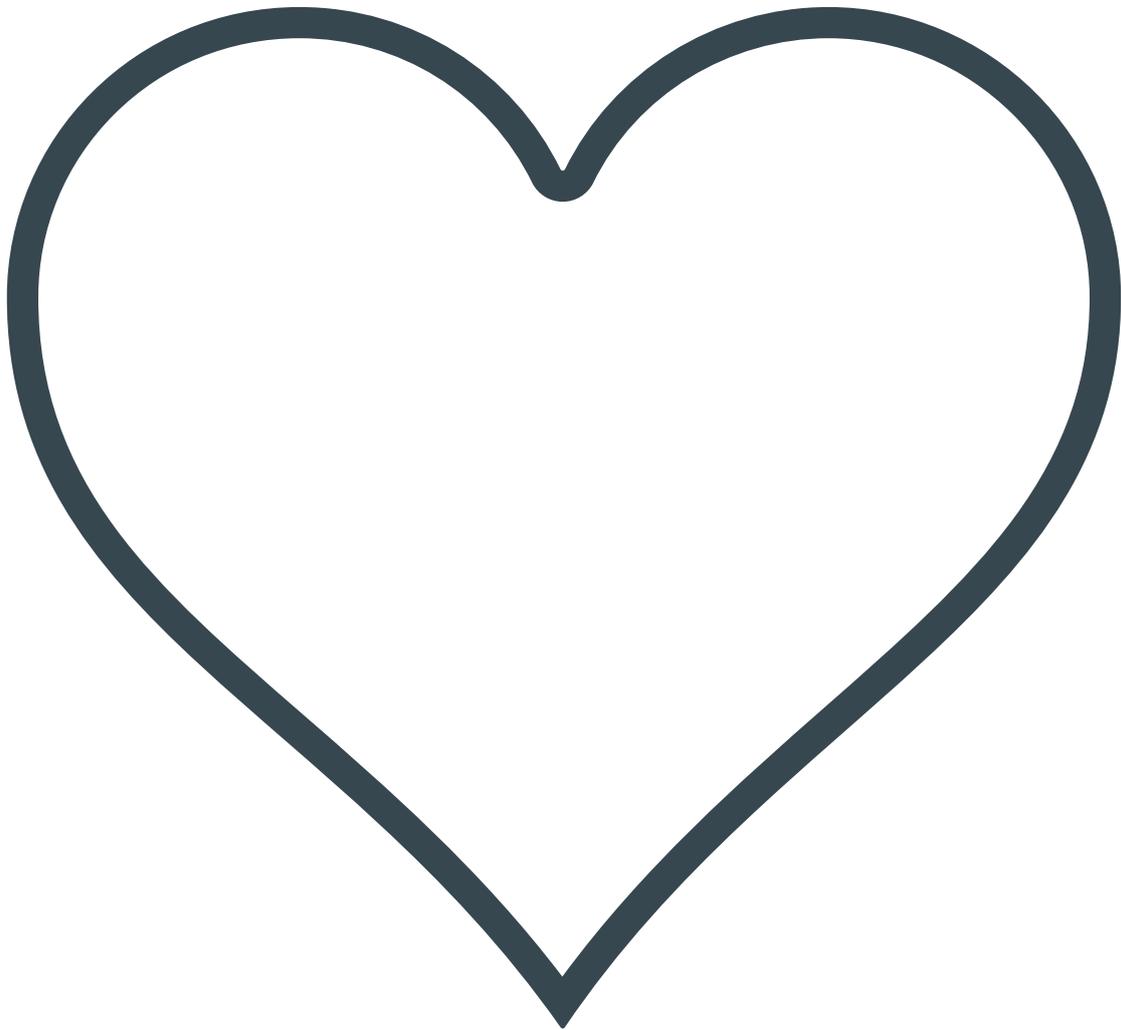


Activity 2:

Helping Hearts

Invite each child to draw or write in the heart template below some ways in which the Holy Spirit calls us to keep the golden rule to love one another. You may wish to refer to the previous activity to give them some ideas.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER



Dear God,
Thank you for caring for us
And loving us no matter what.
Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to guide us.
Help us to share your love and to care for all of your people
Even those who are harder to love.
Thank you for your unconditional love for us.
We pray that we may love one another as You love us.
Amen.



Wednesday – Walking Together to Celebrate – (Grandparents Day)

Consider:

We are learning this week about how our Catholic school is a special community, which models the love that Jesus taught us and showed us in his life. Our grandparents are members of our family community. Today, the school community celebrates and pays tribute to grandparents and the role they play in handing on the faith to their grandchildren and in supporting the community of faith at home and in the parish. They bring joy to the lives of their grandchildren and can help show us what a community of love can look like.

Explore:

Our grandparents are a special gift in our lives. They watch over us as we grow and are often some of the most important teachers in our lives. They have seen and experienced many changes in our world, both good and bad.

Ask the children: What kinds of things have your grandparents taught you? Prompts such as care, generosity, faith, love, prayer, etc., can help children to name the unique experiences and lessons they have learned from their grandparents.

Discuss the ways that grandparents show their love for us and also the ways that we can show love and care for our grandparents.

Activity:

Note: Teachers should use their discretion in relation to these activities if pupils have recently lost grandparents or are not in contact with grandparents. All classes can engage with the following activities at different levels. Choose an activity to suit your class.

Portrait of Granny and/or Granddad and Me

Encourage the children to draw and colour a portrait of them and their grandparent or grandparents, focusing on a happy time they shared.

Thank You Card

Encourage the children to make a thank you card for their grandparents with a focus on the positive influence grandparents have had on their lives. Give **the card to grandparents or if they live far away why not post it?**





A Special Memory

Encourage the children to think of a time when their grandparents shared something special with them. Invite them to write the memory down so that they can share it with their grandparents.

Prayer

Write a prayer of thanksgiving for your grandparents.

Project

Ask the children to research the life of one of their grandparents by surveying their grandparent, where possible. If they cannot talk to their grandparent for whatever reason, they can interview their parents or relatives and find out details about their grandparent's life. They can locate pictures of their grandparent, be it as a child, at their wedding or a photo of them with their grandchild. The children can then create a poster celebrating the unique contribution their grandparent has made to their life and to their family life.





Thursday – Walking Together to Transform our World

‘Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it.’

(*Laudato Si'*, 139)

Consider:

The choices we make about how we use the environment can have positive or negative effects on people and environments in other places. Pope Francis reminds us that we are all personally responsible for how we care for the earth, our common home:

Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded.

(*Laudato Si'*, 13).

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis writes of the need for a renewal of society, that is rooted in ecological education and spirituality. He says schools must ‘provide an education in responsible simplicity of life, in grateful contemplation of God’s world, and in concern for the needs of the poor and the protection of the environment’ (*Laudato Si'*, 214).

As Catholic schools, we are called on to think about how we embody the message of ecological education in our ethos and curriculum? How do we engender a love of God’s creation in our whole school community? How do we display the courage of gospel witness to the wider world?

Explore:

On the 18 June 2015, Pope Francis’s published an encyclical letter, entitled *Laudato Si'*, about caring for our common home. In this letter, which is written to every person on the planet, the causes and effects of the destruction of the environment that is being observed the world over, including climate change and the effect it is having on the most vulnerable of communities, are explored.

Sometimes developed countries can use the world’s resources in a way that leads to further injustice for poorer people. Think of the coffee we drink, the chocolate we eat or the clothes we wear. Sometimes the production of these can be at the expense of other people’s rights and needs.





The environment is given by God to be used and shared by all people. Jesus Christ showed us how to live in harmony with God, creation and others. The choices we make about how we use the environment can have positive or negative effects on people and environments in other places. All people have a right to share in the goods of creation. The choices we make about how we use the earth, and its resources need to be just for all people.

Close to home:

Students could view a diversity of images of natural and urban landscapes associated with our own country, Ireland. Get the pupils to make a list of places in this country that they have visited or would like to visit. List possible ways in which these places might be threatened or changed by development, e.g., pollution, waste, loss of ecosystem, overuse of resources.

In the wider world:

View global images of natural and developed environments from both the developed and developing worlds. Show a range of positive and negative images of these environments.

Use the following questions to generate discussion about the images.

- What is happening in this picture?
- What does that image cause you to feel or think?
- What does that picture tell you?
- Are there any pictures that concern or worry you? Why?
- Who are the people who enjoy the earth's resources?
- Who are the people who miss out?
- How does this affect how they live?
- What are some of the ways people misuse the environment? What effects does this have on others' lives?
- Am I using resources carefully?
- What do we do in school to ensure that we are caring for our environment? (Link to Green Schools or Pride of Place initiatives.)

With the whole class, brainstorm ways they can take care of the earth, God's creation, in their own lives. The school may be involved in environmental initiatives already and these can form a basis for the class discussion. Children should be encouraged to think of ways they could use their knowledge in their lives outside of school as well as within the school day.





Prayer

Thank you, God, for the earth, your wonderful creation.

Help us to appreciate its wonder and beauty.

Help us to care for the earth.

Help all those who are suffering because of climate change and help us to remember our responsibility, to do our bit to protect the earth, our common home.

Amen.

I can care for the earth, God's creation, by:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____





Friday – Walking Together in Faith

‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.’

(Rm 15:13)

Consider:

What is our mission? What are we trying to achieve? Our mission as a Catholic school community is set out for us by an agreed schedule of the Irish Bishops’ Conference. It tells us that a Roman Catholic school aims at promoting the full and harmonious development of the person of the pupil: intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual, including living relationship with God and other people. The school models and promotes a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Catholic school provides religious education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church and promotes the formation of the pupils in the Catholic Faith. How can you help the children in your class to identify their mission?

Explore

What is meant by the term mission? The dictionary tells us that it is an important assignment given to a person or group of people. In the past when a member of a religious congregation went abroad to teach others about God and Jesus we said they were on the missions. Have you ever heard someone say I am on a mission? What do you think they mean when they say that?

What does it mean to have faith in God? What do you enjoy about your faith? How do you practice your faith? Do you pray, go to mass, show forgiveness, say sorry, show kindness to others, etc.? Who are part of your community of faith? Family, grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters, teachers, priest, friends, wider family circle, neighbours, etc.?

What do you feel is your mission in life? On Monday we talked about how God sent us the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us on our mission. What is the Holy Spirit calling you to do to make the world a better place? Could that be your mission? How do you feel your community of faith could support you better to achieve this mission?



