



# Celebrating Catholic Schools Week 2025 in Your School

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2025 is  
**Catholic Schools: Alive in Christ.**

In his recent exhortation *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis tells us, 'Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!'

Pope Francis is reminding us that at the heart of each of our Catholic schools is Jesus Christ. Our schools strive to ensure each pupil reaches their full potential, irrespective of class, creed or ethnicity. Each person is welcomed and included because we share a common humanity, each made in the likeness and image of God. It is Jesus who reveals to us how much God loves us and it is Jesus who models what it is to be fully human, in our thoughts, words and actions. When we live as

Christ taught us, we too become more fully alive, flourishing into the people we were made to be.

This Catholic Schools Week, we recognise and celebrate the unique contribution our Catholic schools make to the well-being and flourishing of our pupils. In Christ, we have the ultimate role model, the one who shows us how to live authentically and to our full potential, through faith, hope and love. In our Catholic schools, we are called to bring about God's reign by following Christ's example. For when we are alive in Christ, we flourish, becoming the people we are called to be.

'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.' (Jn 10:10)

## The daily themes are as follows:

Monday	Life to the Full in Our Community of Friends
Tuesday	Life to the Full in Our Faith Community
Wednesday	Life to the Full in Our Families
Thursday	Life to the Full, for and with Others
Friday	Life to the Full for the Common Good of All

As in previous years, the daily themes contain resources for the class groupings: Junior and Senior Infants/Primary 1 and 2; First and Second Class/Primary 3 and 4; Third and Fourth Class/Primary 5 and 6; and Fifth and Sixth Class/Primary 7.

The relevant strands and strand units of the *Catholic Pre-School and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland* (2015) are also listed for each class grouping at the beginning of the lesson plans.

On Wednesday we celebrate Grandparents Day. On that day we offer some suggestions for class activities. Schools are encouraged to celebrate this day in a manner they deem most appropriate and manageable in accordance with their own local circumstances, such as an in-person Mass for Grandparents. A prayer service for use in the school or classroom is available, as are suggestions for parish celebrations.

All resources are available to download online at: [www.catholicschools.ie](http://www.catholicschools.ie).



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# Thoughts for Each Day

These reflections can be read out loud every day in each classroom or over an intercom system to the whole school community. They can be read by pupils or staff. The spoken reflection might be followed by a short period of Christian meditation.



## MONDAY

Today is the first day of Catholic Schools Week 2025. Our Catholic school is a special place where we learn to live as Jesus taught us. Jesus shows us what it means to be a good friend, to care for each other and to look out for those who might feel excluded and lonely. May we always put our gifts and talents at the service of others, for when we do so, we are alive in Christ.

*Lord, help us to live as you taught us. Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: Our Father ...*

## TUESDAY

Today we are asked to think about how the faith community in our Catholic school helps us to live life to the full. Our Catholic school is a place where we learn prayers, listen to stories from the Bible and hear the lessons Jesus teaches us about God. As a community, we come together to care for each other and to serve God in faith, hope and love. When we do so, we are alive in Christ.

*Lord, help us to live as you taught us. Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: Our Father ...*





## WEDNESDAY

Today our Catholic school is called to celebrate grandparents. Grandparents are such a special gift in our lives. They can teach us so much about life, faith and service. We are called to always remember to care for and support our grandparents, to remember them in our prayers and to live out the lessons they teach us. When we carry their love and example in faith, we are alive in Christ.

*Lord, help us to live as you taught us. Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: Our Father ...*



## THURSDAY

Today we are asked to think about how we can live life to the full for and with others. In our Catholic school, we learn that selfishness, hatred and unkindness make us turn away from God. They stop us from being the people we are called to be, from loving God, others and ourselves. Instead, Jesus' message is that our well-being is connected to the well-being of others. We are called to live out Christ's teachings to love God and love our neighbour, and to strive for goodness in our thoughts, words and actions. When we do so, we are alive in Christ.

*Lord, help us to live as you taught us. Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: Our Father ...*

## FRIDAY

As Catholic Schools Week comes to a close, we are asked to think about how we can live life to the full for the common good of all. The world is much bigger than just our Catholic school. But that does not mean that we cannot make the world a better place. Here, we learn more than just our maths, reading and writing. We learn that God's creation is all around us, and we are blessed with the gifts and talents to change the world. We can be change-makers, changing fear to hope, anger to mercy and unfairness to justice. In our Catholic school, we learn to follow Christ's teaching and be reflections of God's love in the lives of others. When we do so, we are alive in Christ.

*Lord, help us to live as you taught us. Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: Our Father ...*

