

Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith and Resilience.

Catholic Schools Week Catholic Schools Week 2021: The overarching theme for CSW 2021 will be

Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith and Resilience.

This particular theme will be especially relevant given the pandemic experience that is affecting the entire country. The following will be the daily themes for CSW 2021:

(1) Monday: *Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith.*

(2) Tuesday: *Catholic Schools: Communities of Learning*

(3) Wednesday: *Catholic Schools: Communities of Love*

(4) Thursday: *Catholic Schools: Communities of Resilience*

(5) Friday: *Catholic Schools: Communities of Hope*

As in previous years, the resources for Catholic Schools Week will be uploaded on www.catholicschools.ie in time for January. Posters in English and Irish will be sent to all schools in early January.

DIOCESAN CELEBRATION AT LOCAL LEVEL.

During COVID 19 Schools are now used to working in class Bubbles for safety. Any large gatherings are not safe. For this reason a Diocesan Gathering is not feasible at the end of January, indeed things may be in greater lockdown given infections rising over the Christmas period. I have prepared a school-based prayer service using symbols for the KEY DAILY THEMES. Students might decorate these in colours and laminate them to suspend from the trees planted last year. No Matter if a tree was not planted last year perhaps a 5ft sapling with branches can be planted this year instead. Bishop Michael blessed the trees in Portadown last year.

I have a proposed school-based Bubble celebration which ties in with aspects of CSW 2020

During CSW 2021 Archbishop Eamon records a message directly speaking to students about his understanding of the theme this year. He situates this into their lives coping with learning at home, family life in the pandemic and new school realities and learning situations. He thanks students and gives them his blessing for this year.

This will be viewed in Class bubble prior to going out to when their tree was planted in school last January. Around the tree a short 20minute max prayer service will happen. The key words will be hung from the tree branches after a short read prayer by a student. When all five symbols are in place all pray the concluding prayer as an act of dedication or a school promise.

This service can be recorded and shared within the school bubbles. Or It can be repeated with different bubbles participating. May God bless you all and may this mark a lovely CSW 2021 for you. Over the past two years schools have made a small contribution for an outreach to an educational project in Africa. £500 was sent each year through the Franciscan Missionary Sisters in Mount Oliver Dundalk to a school in EMBICO. Please consider sending an offering made out to Archdiocese of Armagh and post to Ara Coeli Cathedral Rd Armagh BT61 7QY Mark your envelope CSW 2021.

All Blessings Declan.

+ In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit Amen

Community of Faith Day 1. Bubble Prayer. Student 1.

Lord as we gather around our CSW2020 Tree planted last year, we thank you for helping us all get safely through the past year with all the stress of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We believe as a school community that you care and love us all. We promise to do our best to be Faith filled people always. May you bless us and our families at home.

We Pray this in Jesus's Holy Name Amen

A Pupil from the bubble hangs the Faith symbol on the tree.

Community of Learning Day 2. Student 2.

Lord you have blessed us all with intelligence, imagination and memory. As we grow up we learn at home and school all about the wonders of your creation and how to live successfully in our human community. As a school community help us share knowledge and experience and through learning may we become educated caring grown up people caring for our world with all its creatures and resources. We pray this in Jesus's Holy Name. Amen.

A Pupil from the Bubble hangs the Learning Symbol on the tree.

Community of Love Day 3. Student 3.

Lord we are all made in your image and likeness. You are a community of love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are made to be community, giving and receiving love just as you. As a school community help us all to seek to love one another. Help us not to be self-seeking or centred. May we accept all our fellow students and teachers and treat each person with the love and care they deserve. We pray this in Jesus's Holy Name. Amen.

A Pupil from the Bubble hangs the Love Symbol on the tree.

Community of Resilience. Day 4. Student 4.

Lord resilience means being strong and refusing to give up or give in no matter what we experience in life. Jesus showed great resilience when he faced His

Passion and Death. He was strong when people criticised Him unfairly and He continued always to do the will of His Heavenly Father. Help us be resilient as we face into our future together. Keep us from giving into temptations and depression. May we draw strength from Him our true Master and Teacher. Help us to give courage and energy to one another always. We pray this in Jesus's Holy Name. Amen.

A Pupil from the Bubble hangs the Resilience Symbol on the tree.

Community of Hope Day 5

Student 5

Lord hope is so important for us all. We all need to have reason to live well and to keep us going through good times as well as difficult times. You are our Shepherd who seeks to protect his flock always and who looks out for those who stray. On Easter Day your Apostles had lost hope because you had been put to death. Yet You rose up from the grave and appeared to Mary and to the Apostles showing them you had overcome death and evil. As our Risen Lord You have given us the amazing gift of living forever in your sacred presence. May our school be a place of such hope always. Help us to give hope and encouragement to one another always. We pray this in Jesus's Holy Name Amen

A Pupil from the Bubble hangs the Hope Symbol on the tree,

Lord we as a school community pledge ourselves to living as a community of Faith, Learning, Love, Resilience and Hope. Fill us with energy and strength to work together to bring this about. Bless our Students, Teachers, Staff Members and Families. May Mary Mother of Jesus be there for us as she always was from Him. Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with you etc.

We finish our prayer as we invoke the Holy Trinity. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end