



ARCHDIOCESE OF ARMAGH

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Via email

To All Primary and Post Primary Schools in the Archdiocese of Armagh

Dear Principal and Chairs and members of the Board,

A Happy and Blessed Christmas and New Year to you and all your school community. While we look forward in joy and hope to many blessings, I urge you all to continue to pray and work for peace and justice everywhere in these dark and broken times.

Catholic Schools Week will take place from **Sunday 21st to Saturday 27th January 2024**. The theme for this year is **"Catholic Schools – Communities of Service."** National Resources for use in schools can be accessed on www.catholiceducation.ie and our own blog www.resource-ni.com.

We hope to hold the Armagh Diocesan Launch Liturgy during the week before CSW24 on **Tuesday January 16th 2024**, led by Bishop Micael Router. The launch celebration will be in **The Church of the Holy Family, Coalisland, at 11.00 am**. Please note that the chosen time is early as schools may wish to be back to base for lunchtime.

The following week, within CSW24, we will have **Seinn, Songs of Praise in the Church of the Holy Redeemer, Dundalk**. I hope to be present myself for this celebration.

You are encouraged to attend either liturgy (or both if you wish!) with some students and members of staff. Representatives from your Board of Governors /Management and parents are also most welcome. A video of the Coalisland celebration will be made available afterwards to download for class assemblies at www.resource-ni.com.

Summary of Venues and dates are as follows:

Tuesday, 16th January 2024 at 11.00 am - Holy Family Church, Coalisland;

Thursday, 25th January 2024 at 11.30 am - Seinn, Songs of Praise at Holy Redeemer Church, Ard Easmuinn, Dundalk.

For those attending the Dundalk service, the hymns are available on youtube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D4hXJ9ax2FY&list=PLnir72zWkEJTB4IidbqgccJF-WhAzlMZ1>

Some advance preparation would enhance your students' participation on the day.

We all hope for a joyful celebration on both occasions - the perfect overture for Catholic Schools Week. You may wish on the day to make a small donation of £20 or €20 to support Catholic Education in Africa. (Missionary Franciscan Sisters Mount Oliver.) If using a cheque please make payable to Archdiocese of Armagh.

Wishing you and your school community a joyous Christmas,

Yours sincerely,

+ Eamon Martin

Eamon Martin
Archbishop of Armagh