



Post Primary School Resources 2020-2021

Catechetical Centre Website www.catecheticalcentre.org

The Catechetical Centre website has been redeveloped in recent months and this will continue in the coming year. We will continue to produce resources to support the work of schools, families and parishes for Religious Education and Faith Formation. We would be grateful if you would share the details of the website with staff and parents. If you feel there is anything that we could add to the website, which would be of benefit, we are open to suggestions.

Liturgy for Opening of School Year

Please find attached, a liturgy that may be used to celebrate the beginning of the new school year. Mindful of the current restrictions, the assembly is designed for use in the classroom-perhaps classes in the school could all celebrate this at the same time, uniting the school community in prayer. Parishes throughout the diocese have also received a liturgy to use during the celebration of their Sunday Eucharist. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 2.1; 3.1*)

Prayer for Board of Governors/Management

Enclosed is a prayer which may be used at the beginning of Board of Governors/Management meetings. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 2.1:3.1*)

Diocesan Mass for Opening of School Year

Bishop McKeown will celebrate a *Mass for the opening of the school year on Friday 25th September at 10am via the webcam at Saint Eugene's Cathedral*. I would appreciate it if you would share this information on your website and social media platforms. The Mass will be recorded.

The links for watching the Mass are below.

Watch via <http://www.steugenescathedral.com/webcam.html>

or St Eugene's Cathedral Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/StEugenesCathedral>

Season of Creation-Diocesan Online Programme: 1 September – 4 October

This month has been designated by Pope Francis as the Season of Creation. Christians around the world pray and act on ecological issues and to encourage awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment and to ensure that all of God's creation is nurtured and cherished. During the week 28 September – 4 October There will be a special week of focus in the Diocese of Derry and we will provide ideas online and via email for schools on ways to participate fully in this initiative.

Head of Department Professional Development

Current restrictions prevent us from bringing our Religious Education Heads of Department together for their annual In-Service Day. If the Public Health Guidelines change, we will arrange a date and inform schools. I am available to meet with Heads of Department on an individual/group basis via ZOOM. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2; 1.3; 2.1; 2.2; 3.1*)

School Self Evaluation

A document on *Self-evaluation of the Catholic Life of the School, Collective Worship and Religious Education/Faith Development* has been produced by the Catechetical Centre. This document is available to Principals upon request. Please email mary.oboyle@derrydiocese.org if you would like to see a copy of this document. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1,3; 3;1*)



Anna & Simeon Year 8/Year 1 Programme

This programme for Year 1/Year 8 students is intended to encourage young people to make prayer an integral part of their lives through personal prayer and prayer for others. The prayerfulness of Anna and Simeon is key to this unit of work. This programme is available on Fronter. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 2.1: 3.1*)

G.I.F.T. Growing in Faith Together Programme – Post Confirmation

This is a parish programme. Participants are recruited through their post-primary schools and/or their parish. The programme is aimed at students in KS3/Years 1-3. Last year several parishes ran G.I.F.T 1 for year 8/year 1 students. It is hoped to run G.I.F.T 2 for year 9/year 2 students after Christmas but this will be subject to public health guidelines. Unfortunately, due to current social restrictions the G.I.F.T 1 programme due to run this Autumn will not be possible in its current form and we are proposing an online version as an option. The G.I.F.T programme creates opportunities for young people to grow in faith through the experience of friendship where students have an opportunity to participate in a varied holistic programme of activities in a spirit of faith, fun and prayer together. For more details please contact the Diocesan Pastoral Youth Leader at yvonne.rooney@derrydiocese.org

Ambassadors of St Paul's Programme

This programme aims to enable young people in Year 10/Year 3 to explore the role of faith, hope and love. Resources are available in the Catechetical Centre. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 2:1:3:1*)

Diocesan Ambassadors

The Diocesan Ambassadors was a two- year scheme where schools nominated 2 students to be the voice of young people in the diocese and engage in regular dialogue with Bishop Mc Keown. We want to thank the outgoing Ambassadors who were a credit to themselves and their schools. Unfortunately, due to Covid -19 restrictions we are unable to recruit new ambassadors at this time.

God's Hope - Faith in Action - Senior Students

This non-examination Spiritual Development Programme for Senior Students is available from the Catechetical Centre. The programme consists of 10 themes. Young people are encouraged to reflect on their own spiritual and faith journey by engaging in faith activities at school and home/ parish. It comes complete with relevant and varied resources. It is an active, practical programme which gives students the opportunity to research an area of interest and then carry out a practical activity in (a) school (b) home/community/parish. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 2.1: 3.1*)

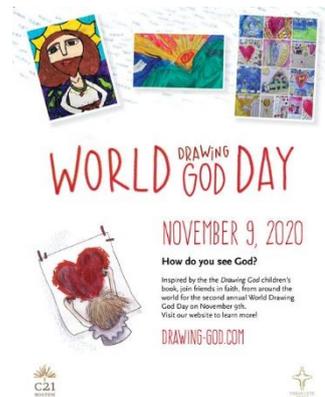
Mass for Deceased Children and Young People: Sunday 8 November 2020



A Mass will be celebrated for all the deceased children and young people of the diocese in Saint Eugene's Cathedral on **Sunday 8th November at 7.00 pm**. All are welcome. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2; 2.1; 3.1*)

World Drawing God Day-Monday 9th November 2020

Last year schools across the diocese engaged with great enthusiasm in the first World Drawing God Day. Based on the book, Drawing God, by Karen Kiefer children were invited to draw how they saw God. The results and the conversations around this were amazing and many of the diocesan drawings ended up in the Drawing God Virtual Museum. (www.drawinggod.com) We hope as many schools as possible can participate this year. Get the children chatting about where they see God, what God looks like and let us see what images they produce. If sharing on Social Media use the hashtag #drawinggod



Catholic Schools Week 2021 *Catholic Schools – Communities of Faith and Resilience*



Catholic Schools Week 2021 will be celebrated from **Sunday 24th January to 30th January. The theme this year is *Catholic Schools – Communities of Faith and Resilience***. A Mass to launch Catholic Schools Week will be held in St Eugene's Cathedral on **Thursday 21st January at 10am. Further details to follow.** (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2: 2.1: 3.1*)

Pope John Paul II Award

Circumstances have changed drastically for young people completing their PJPII Award this year and Year 14's due to complete the award have been granted an extension to 22nd January 2021 to submit record cards and reflections. The Derry Youth Team have put in place an online youth programme that will help young people complete tasks and activities as part of their award. The 14th Annual Award Ceremony will take place in March/April 2021, but the form of this ceremony is dependent on public health guidelines and may take place at local level. With regard to the new cohort of student's materials will be sent to schools via the award leader for a video launch to Year 13 students before the end of September. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 13.1*)

Papal Cross Award:

This is a tremendous opportunity for those students who have achieved GOLD in the Pope John Paul Award. In addition to parish and social awareness involvement participants are asked to undertake a project of their choice. Papal Cross Students will have the opportunity to do an accredited leadership course during the school year 2020-2021. Please contact yvonne.rooney@derrydiocese.org for further information.



Derry Youth Ministry Online Programme

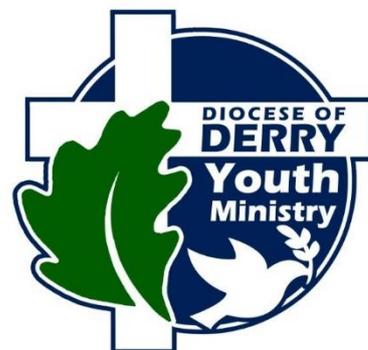
The Youth Team are offering young people Year 12 upwards the opportunity to get involved in an online programme that will begin on 19th October 2020. This programme will run for 8 weeks each term and include a range of faith, social action and personal development sessions for young people. It will be delivered via the #derryyouth media platforms of Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Youth programmes such as Youth Alpha Online will be delivered via zoom. For more details contact the Diocesan Youth Coordinator lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org

Derry Youth Ministry Scholarship

Following on from the Derry Youth Ministry Online Programme from March 2020-July 2020 senior students have been invited to apply for the Derry Youth Scholarship. This new initiative has accepted 11 students for the incoming year. The Scholarship is a programme enriched with faith formation, community involvement and opportunities to gain life and team building skills. It offers:

1. A chance to learn about and grow in faith with a community of young people
2. Gain a qualification in youth ministry e.g. Level 2 OCN course with Youth Link NI
3. Experience and participate in service through community outreach projects
4. Have a laugh and a fun time getting to know yourself better and those you journey with
5. Continue or become an active member of your parish and/or diocese
6. Be well equipped and supported with your discernment and transition from school to working life or university

For more information contact yvonne.rooney@derrydiocese.org



Mother Teresa's Lenten Programme

Last year, students in Year 11 from schools across the diocese, participated in the 'The Mother Teresa Lenten Programme; *If you can't feed a hundred people then just feed one*'. Young people were asked to bring food items to their classrooms during Lent, and each day, say a prayer written by Saint Mother Teresa. The aim of this programme is to encourage our young people not to only to think about those in need, but to help others within their own parish and school community.

(Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.3: 3.1)

Working in Partnership with Saint Mary's University, Twickenham, Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre offers the MA in Catholic School Leadership. The 6th cohort of students will begin this course in October and there is still time to enroll. This is a post graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those who have an interest in leadership roles within the Catholic School system. We are able to offer a small bursary to students who meet a set criteria. If you require any further information please contact The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre +44 28 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org.



**St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London**

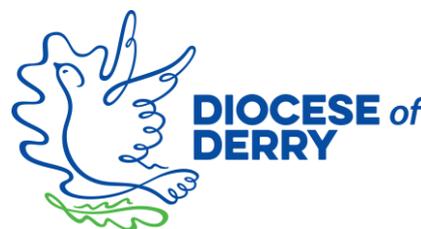
A video about the course is available to watch at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMAzq8XWBAU>

(Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 2.1; 3.1; 3.3)

Support for Religious Education, Spiritual Development and Faith Formation of Staff and Pupils

The Catechetical Centre offers support for individual schools or school clusters on request on all aspects of Religious Education, Faith Formation and Spiritual Development and can be tailored to meet individual needs. We will continue to provide this support in line with Public Health Agency Guidelines. If you wish to avail of any of the items below, please contact us and we will discuss what format is possible. *We can facilitate the areas below online.* (Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2; 2.1; 3.1; 3.3)

1. Through a school Retreat/In-Service day
2. During directed time/twilight sessions
3. Croke Park Hours
4. During the school day if support is required within class time



Themes

- Guidance for Religious Education Coordinators/New Principals/Principals
- Retreats/Spiritual Development for Principals/Teachers/Ancillary Staff/Board of Governors/Management
- Retreat days for pupils: Transition from Primary to Secondary School/Whole school retreats
- Staff Reflection Days- e.g. Catholic Ethos/ Leadership in a Catholic School/Building Peace & Community in school
- Preparing Liturgies
- Ways of praying/meditation with students/staff
- Praying the Bible stories through Art
- Induction session for parents of Year 1/8 pupils

Celebrating the 1500th Anniversary of the Birth of Saint Colmcille

This year is the 1500th anniversary of the birth of Saint Colmcille/Columba. The diocese is planning to mark this special anniversary in the coming year in a variety of ways. A resources pack for schools will be prepared and made available online and via email. *Further details to follow.*

www.catecheticalcentre.org You are invited to send photos and articles of events in your school to be included in our news or special feature sections of the catechetical centre website. You are also invited to use the post primary website (Fronter) to share resources and/or ideas.

Director: **Rev Paul Farren**

Advisor in Primary RE: **Thérèse Ferry**

Diocesan Pastoral Youth Leader: **Yvonne Rooney**

Advisor in Post Primary RE: **Mary O'Boyle**

Diocesan Youth Coordinator: **Lizzie Rea**

Secretary: **Anne Marie Hickey**



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