

**Catechetical Centre Website** [www.catecheticalcentre.org](http://www.catecheticalcentre.org)

The Catechetical Centre website has a wide variety of creative 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, parents and members of your Boards of Governors/Management. If you feel there is anything that we could add to the website, which would be of benefit, we are open to suggestions.

**Diocesan Mass for Opening of School Year**

Bishop McKeown will celebrate a *Mass for the opening of the school year on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 10.00am 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.

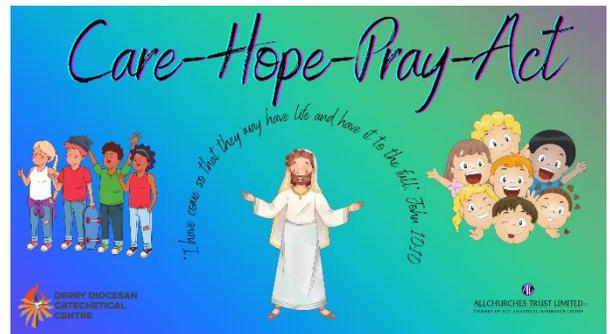
- <http://www.steugenescathedral.com/webcam.html>
- <https://www.facebook.com/StEugenesCathedral/>

**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*)

**Post Pandemic Project-Care! Hope! Pray! Act!**

To support schools in the diocese as they move forward from the pandemic, the Catechetical Centre has developed a new 6-week programme for children and young people aged 4-18. The programme aims to help children and young people develop a true sense of who they are as a unique and precious child of God and to develop resilience, rooted in a relationship with Jesus, lived out in the reality of their lives. An introduction to and training in the programme will be available soon.



**In Service Day for Religious Education Coordinators**

An In-Service morning will take place for all Post Primary Religious Education Coordinators on Wednesday 13 October via ZOOM, 9.30am-12.15pm. This day will provide an opportunity for the sharing of good practice, discussion on current issues and new resource materials to help facilitate the development of Religious Education and Faith Formation in the post primary school. Please email [mary.oboyle@derrydiocese.org](mailto:mary.oboyle@derrydiocese.org) to indicate intention to attend and to receive the ZOOM link.

## Diocesan Religious Education Conference

Following on from the success of the first Conference, our second two-day international Religious Education Conference will be held in the diocese with keynote speakers focusing on the spiritual development and ongoing formation of the Catholic Educator, the role of the leader/teacher in a Catholic school and new methodologies for Religious Education. There will be keynote speakers, discussion forums and liturgies. One day will be dedicated to Post Primary Schools 25th August 2022 and one day for Primary Schools, 26th August 2022. Further details to follow. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2; 2.1; 2.2; 3.1*)



## Season of Creation-Diocesan Online Programme-27<sup>th</sup> September-4<sup>th</sup> October

Pope Francis established 1<sup>st</sup> September as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. The Season of Creation, or Creation Time, is marked throughout the Christian world from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October (*Feast of St. Francis of Assisi*) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment. There will be a special week of focus in the Diocese of Derry and the materials are available at <https://catecheticalcentre.org/primary-school-resources/season-of-creation-2021-restoring-our-common-home/>

## Catholic Schools Week 2022

Catholic Schools Week 2022 will be celebrated from **Sunday 23rd January to 30th January**. The theme this year is *Catholic Schools – Life to the Full*. A Mass to launch Catholic Schools Week will be held in Saint Eugene's Cathedral on **Thursday 20th January at 10am**. Further details to follow. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2: 2.1: 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](mailto:mary.oboyle@derrydiocese.org) if you would like to see a copy of this document. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1,3; 3;1*)

## Fully Alive Pilot Programme

The KS3 Fully Alive Pilot programme is in progress. Five diocesan schools volunteered to participate in the Pilot of the online 'textbook.' We appreciate your commitment to the programme. The participating schools will liaise directly with Susan Morgan (author).

## Anna & Simeon Programme - Year 8/Year 1

This programme for Year 8/Year 1 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. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 2.1: 3.1*)

## Relationships and Sexuality (RSE)

The Guidance document for RSE has been sent to all schools by the Catholic Schools Trustee Service. It is hoped that this document will help schools develop/amend a school policy for RSE. A NI resource document aimed at helping schools develop an RSE teaching programme is being developed. The Junior Cycle document is undergoing amendments at present.

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

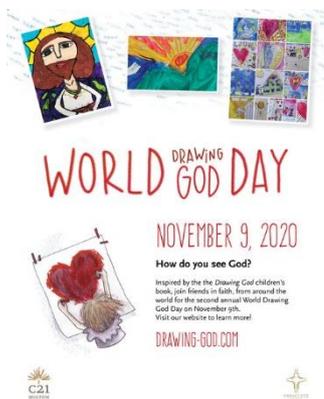
This is a parish programme. Participants are recruited through their post-primary schools and/or their parish. The programme is aimed at students in KS3/Years 1-3. Several parishes have delivered G.I.F.T 1 for year 8/year 1 students. It is hoped to run G.I.F.T 2 for year 9/year 2 students after Christmas but this will be subject to public health guidelines. Bearing in mind current social restrictions and with completion of a risk assessment the G.I.F.T 1 programme could run this Autumn in parishes. 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. There will be a training day for Parishes interested in delivering G.I.F.T. on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October in Cathedral Hall, Derry. To adhere to social restrictions places will be limited. For more details or to book your parish place please contact the Diocesan Pastoral Youth Leader at [yvonne.rooney@derrydiocese.org](mailto:yvonne.rooney@derrydiocese.org)

## 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 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021

A Mass will be celebrated for all the deceased children and young people of the diocese in Saint Eugene's Cathedral on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00 pm**. All are welcome. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2; 2.1; 3.1*)



## World Drawing God Day- 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021

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 and young people 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](http://www.drawinggod.com)) We hope as many schools as possible can participate this year. Get the children and young people 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**



## Pope John Paul II Award

The Pope John Paul II Award will be completed in local parishes and community. The Derry Youth Team have also put in place an online youth programme that will help young people complete tasks and activities as part of their award. The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Award Ceremony will take place on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2022** in Saint Eugene's Cathedral, but the form of this ceremony is dependent on public health guidelines.

Regarding the new cohort of student's materials will be sent to schools via the award leader for a video launch to Year 13/Sixth Form students before the end of September. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 13.1*) Given the significant level of change in every parish and the variation in parish ministry we are encouraging parishes to think about what ways, if any, the young people who would like to do their award this year can get involved in the parish. We propose each parish does this on an individual basis and communicates this to the new young people who sign up via a parish introductory evening virtual or in the actual parish if social distancing can be maintained and restrictions allow. If you would like more information about this please contact [yvonne.rooney@derrydiocese.org](mailto:yvonne.rooney@derrydiocese.org) or [lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org](mailto:lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org)

## **Papal Cross Award**

This is a tremendous opportunity for those students who have achieved GOLD in the Pope John Paul II Award. If you are aware of some young people completing Gold in your parish this year you might invite them to consider staying involved for another year by doing their Papal Cross. In addition to parish and social awareness involvement and the diocesan youth ministry online programme participants are asked to undertake a project of their choice. We hope Papal Cross Students will have the opportunity to do an accredited leadership course with Youthlink NI during this year. Please contact [lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org](mailto:lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org) for further information. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2:2.1:3.1:3.3*)

## **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*)

## **Derry Youth Ministry Online Programme**

The Youth Team are offering young people the opportunity to get involved in an online programme that will begin on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021. 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](mailto:lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org)

## **Derry Youth Ministry Scholarship**

Following on from the success of the Derry Youth Scholarship last year, involving 10 young people, we are now recruiting for Year 2. Senior students are invited to apply for the Scholarship. 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 1 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 [lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org](mailto:lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org)



## **Derry Youth Community**

The Derry Youth Community continue to seek new members for the incoming year. Young people are invited to commit to ten months working with the Diocesan Youth Ministry Team to serve the young people of our Diocese. Pastoral outreach for the community includes retreats, talks, Pope John Paul II Award support and other faith formation initiatives (including programmes such as Youth Alpha and GIFT). There will be a greater focus on developing and delivering online youth material this year and assisting with the Diocesan Youth Ministry Online Programme. For more information, please contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre.

## **World Youth Day 2021 - Feast of Christ the King – 21<sup>st</sup> November**

Pope Francis has called for a relaunch of the celebration of the Annual World Youth Day traditionally held on Palm Sunday, to be held on the Sunday of the Solemnity of Christ the King. World Youth Day celebrated in each particular Church has great value for the young people and the entire local ecclesial community. The

key message for young people is ‘Receive Christ! Welcome him as King into your lives! Without him there is no true peace, no true inner reconciliation and no true reconciliation with others!’ On this day the universal Church will place young people at the centre, pray for them, and engage young people as protagonists in our Church. We will provide a parish liturgy to mark this occasion and as a Diocese plan to hold a local pilgrim walk for young people and a Youth Mass.

### **Mother Teresa’s Lenten Programme**

Last year, students in Year 11/Year 4 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)*

### **Faith Feeds**

FAITH FEEDS program is designed to help people talk about their faith with others who share it. In partnership with the Roche Center for Catholic Education, the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Centre, Boston College, have developed Faith Feeds Guides for Educators around five gifts or virtues, that challenge Catholic educators to reflect on how they are living out being adaptable, joyful, attentive, visionary, and humble in their everyday life. We will be hosting Faith Feeds for Educators via ZOOM for Religious Education Coordinators who could then facilitate it for staff in their own school. Our first session will be held **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 3.30pm**. Email: [tferry@derrydiocese.org](mailto:tferry@derrydiocese.org) for ZOOM link

### **The Great Lego Challenge! Build your Parish Church in Lego!**

Some years ago, the Derry Diocesan Youth Community built a model of Saint Eugene’s Cathedral using Lego. Parishioners donated Lego bricks which they had at home and just look at the outcome!



We would like to challenge schools in the diocese to have a go at building their parish church, send us some photographs and we will create a gallery on our website and share on our social media pages.

### **Term 2-In the Name of Jesus, Reflections on Christian Leadership by Henri Nouwen**

Would you like to spend time reflecting on your call to leadership in a Catholic school and sharing your experience with others? Leaders in Catholic Schools are called to lead as Jesus led and seek solutions to the challenges they encounter, which are firmly rooted in the ‘lessons of Scripture and the lived example of Jesus.’ Not always easy!! Henri Nouwen, in his book, *In the Name of Jesus, Reflections on Christian Leadership*, offers a vision of leadership, radically different from the secular world. Leaders, he believes, must model servant leadership, following Jesus’ example, shepherding their community, aware of their own vulnerability as they proclaim to others the good news of Jesus.

Why not join us as we explore this book, with guest speakers. There will be opportunities for conversation with other school leaders, reflection and prayer. **Dates of follow.**

### **Fan the Flame Volunteers**

This year's *Fan the Flame* Primary School Celebration Mass for those who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation will take place on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022**. **The format this will take will be dependent on Public Health Guidance.** Again, we will be looking for your help in asking for youth stewards to volunteer at this Mass. *(Diocesan Pastoral Plan:1.2: 1.3: 2.1: 3.1)*

**Working in Partnership with Saint Mary's University, Twickenham, Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre** offers the MA in Catholic School Leadership. The new 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 Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre +44 28 71264087 or email [tferry@derrydiocese.org](mailto:tferry@derrydiocese.org) or visit our website <https://catecheticalcentre.org/masters-in-catholic-school-leadership/overview/>

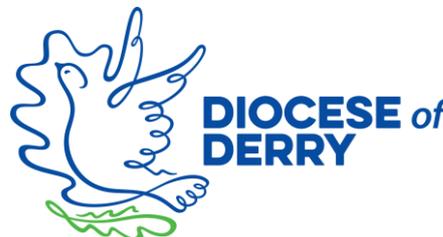


**St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London**

### **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 1500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of Saint Colmcille**

As you know we have been marking the 1500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Saint Colmcille/Columba, throughout the year. There will be a special day of celebration on 7<sup>th</sup> December to mark his birthday and bring the year to a close.

The Colmcille Project, a joint initiative, by the Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe Diocese, invited schools to participate in a competition. Cash prizes will be awarded in the Primary and Post Primary categories for work reflecting the following areas: *Local History, Our Christian Heritage, Irish Language, Environmental Awareness, Communication, Creative Expression*. Completed entries must be submitted by **15<sup>th</sup> October 2021**.



### **World Missions Ireland**

The Society of Missionary Children is the Churches children's charity for overseas mission. It is the oldest and largest charity in the world, with girls and boys actively participating in over 100 countries. It's been present in Ireland since 1853 and was founded in 1843 by Charles de Forbin Janson in France.

‘Children Helping Children’ is our motto. They encourage children to pray for each other, especially for those living in fear and poverty. They also ask children to share whatever they can – **no matter how little** – to help girls and boys who have less. Each year children in Ireland help support thousands of projects in the developing world. These projects are run by missionaries who know the value of every cent they receive. All children are helped, regardless of their beliefs or faith.

**Children’s Mission Month Resource: *Bringing Mission Month to our homes, schools and parishes***

Children’s Day of Mission Prayer is a mission-themed celebration for children, which happens on the second Friday in October (8<sup>th</sup> October 2021) The theme this year is ‘*Share the Good News*’ It helps children to develop an understanding, that by being missionary and by living out Gospel values they will become kinder and more socially and globally responsible. To help schools and parishes prepare, the Society of Missionary Children provides resources for the day. To access these resources, visit their new website [www.missio.ie](http://www.missio.ie)

Director: **Rev Paul Farren**

Advisor in Primary RE: **Thérèse Ferry**

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

Diocesan Pastoral Youth Leader: **Yvonne Rooney**

Youth Coordinator: **Lizzie Rea**

Secretary: **Anne Marie Hickey**

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**[www.catecheticalcentre.org](http://www.catecheticalcentre.org) [www.jp2award.com](http://www.jp2award.com)**



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