

Catechetical Centre Website 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, please contact us.

Diocesan Mass for Opening of School Year

Bishop McKeown will celebrate a Mass for the opening of the school year on **Thursday September 22nd** at **10.00am** via the webcam at Saint Eugene's Cathedral. You are welcome to bring some pupils to this Mass if you wish. I would appreciate it if you would share this information on your website and social media platforms.

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*)

In-Service Day for Religious Education Coordinators/ Post Pandemic Project-Care! Hope! Pray! Act!

An In-Service day will take place for all Primary Religious Education Coordinators on **Wednesday 19th October** in St. Cecilia's College, Derry City. 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 primary school.

A key aspect of the In-Service Day will be our project to support schools in the diocese as they move forward

from the pandemic. 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 at the In-Service Day. This is a programme which will build year on year.

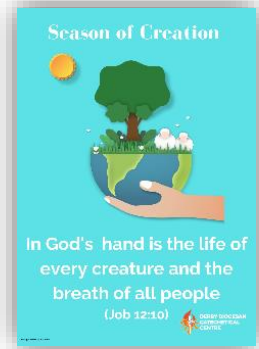
Please note: Due to special funding received for this project, we are able to offer schools £100 towards subcover for the day, if required. Please complete the attached reply slip and return to amhickey@derrydiocese.org by **Friday 7th October 2022**.

(*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2; 1.3; 2.1; 2.2; 3.1*)



Season of Creation

Pope Francis established 1st 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 1st September to 4th 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. The theme this year is ***Listen to the Voice of Creation***. Resources to support schools can be found on our website, <https://catecheticalcentre.org/primary-school-resources/season-of-creation-2022-listen-to-the-voice-of-creation/>



Sacramental Preparation

The Diocesan Catechetical Centre offers a comprehensive programme for schools and parishes as they prepare children to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Children's Sacramental Preparation Workbooks - '*Journeys in Faith*'

Our Sacramental workbooks, **Shalom** for First Reconciliation, **Celebrate** for First Eucharist and **Filled With Joy** for Confirmation are available from the office. These workbooks are very helpful for children who are preparing for the sacraments. The accompanying teachers' notes are available by email on request. An Irish translation of the sacramental workbooks is also available. (*See attached order form*). (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2: 2.1 :3.1*)

Sacramental Talks/Parent Booklets

The Catechetical Centre Team offers Sacramental Talks evenings for parents. These can be presented face-to-face or via the Catechetical Centre Webcam. We are happy to engage with schools and parishes to discuss what best suits their needs. Parishes may wish to consider clustering for the talks. We also have family preparation booklets available in English and Irish. ***Friends of Jesus/Cairde Íosa*** for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion preparation and ***Disciples of Jesus/ Deisceabail Íosa*** for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Suggested Formats for a Sacramental Preparation Evening

- Face-to-Face Talk for parents with appropriate activity for children to complete at home. Parents are invited to a talk delivered by the Catechetical Centre's preparation team. An activity for the children to do at home accompanied by a video with instructions will be sent to the school/parish beforehand.
- Face-to-Face Talk for parents and children. Parents and children are invited to a talk delivered by the Catechetical Centre's preparation team. The team will pray with parents and children, talk to both parents and children and the parents and children will complete an activity together.
- Live talk via webcam for parents with appropriate activity for children. The family preparation booklets and children's activity accompanied by a video with instructions will be delivered to school/parish beforehand.

If you are interested in finding out more about the sacramental talks or the parents' booklets, you can indicate it on the order form attached. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan:1.2:1.3:2.1:2.2:3.1*)

Online Sacramental Preparation Programmes

Disciples of Jesus Filled with Joy-Confirmation Programme 16th - 19th January 2023

For the past two years we have offered a 4-day online Confirmation Preparation Programme for Year 7/6th Class Pupils. A survey carried out of schools overwhelming supports the continuation of this programme. The first Confirmations in the diocese happen at the end of January, so to enable all schools to avail of this programme it has to be delivered before then. This year's programme will take place from **Monday – Thursday 16th- 20th January 2023**. Further information will be sent to schools closer to the time along with the pupil activity pack.

Friends of Jesus -First Communion Programme

In response to requests from schools a two-day online First Communion Programme will be delivered via the Catechetical Centre Webcam, **Tuesday & Wednesday 27th & 28th February 2023**. Further information will be sent to schools closer to the time along with the pupil activity pack.

Saints Section on Website

For Confirmation students choosing their Confirmation name is a key part of their preparation. The Catechetical Centre has developed a section on Saints and their lives on our website. This is also a useful resource for studying the lives of the Saints throughout the year.

<https://catecheticalcentre.org/category/lives-of-saints/>

Fan the Flame Mass 2023

The annual Fan the Flame Mass, for young people who will receive the sacrament of Confirmation in the coming year, will take place on **Thursday 8th June 2023**. I would be grateful if you could pass the date on to the Year Seven/Sixth Class teachers. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2; 2.1; 3.1*)



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, workshops, discussion forums and liturgies. One day will be dedicated to **Post Primary Schools - 29th August 2023 and one day for Primary Schools - 30th August 2023**. Schools have already begun to book places at this conference. If you wish to book for your school, please email your school's name and the number of places you require to amhickey@derrydiocese.org Further details to follow. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2; 2.1; 2.2; 3.1*)

Catholic Schools Week 2023 *Catholic Schools- Walking together in Faith and Love*



Catholic Schools Week 2023 will be celebrated from **Sunday 29th January to 4th February**. The theme this year is *Catholic Schools – Walking Together in Faith & Love*. The Mass to launch Catholic Schools Week will be held in Saint Eugene's Cathedral on **Thursday 26th January 2023 at 10.00am**. Further details to follow. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2; 2.1; 3.1*)

Mass for Deceased Children and Young People: Sunday 6th November 2022

A Mass will be celebrated for all the deceased children and young people of the diocese in Saint Eugene's Cathedral on **Sunday 6th November at 7.00 pm**. All are welcome. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2; 2.1; 3.1*)



Working in Partnership

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 programme 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 or visit our website <https://catecheticalcentre.org/masters-in-catholic-school-leadership/overview/> (Diocesan Pastoral Plan:2.1; 3.1; 3.3)



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 are also able to facilitate any of 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
3. At twilight sessions
4. Croke Park Hours
5. During the school day if support is required within class time

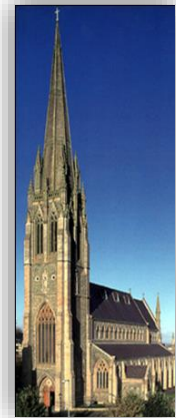
Themes

- Guidance for Religious Education Coordinators/New Principals/Principals
- Retreats/Spiritual Development for Principals/Teachers/ancillary Staff/Board of Governors/Management
- The Examen for staff and/or pupils
- Retreat days for pupils preparing for First Communion/Confirmation/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
- Liturgical Dance
- Do This In Memory-First Communion Programme
- God's Confidence-Post-Confirmation Programme
- Ways of praying/meditation with children/staff in the Primary School
- Praying the Bible stories through Art
- Induction session for parents of Year One pupils
- Praying in Colour
- Faith Feeds for Catholic Educators



Saint Eugene's Cathedral 150th Anniversary

Saint Eugene's Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Diocese, will celebrate 150 years on the 4th May 2023. This significant milestone provides a wonderful opportunity for schools to deepen their understanding of the key role played by the Cathedral in the faith journey of the people of this diocese. There will be materials available for schools soon to help prepare the children and young people really feel part of this special time in the life of Saint Eugene's Cathedral. We hope as many schools can visit this beautiful Church in the coming year.



Diocesan Schools Staff Choir

We are delighted to announce the return of the Derry Diocesan Schools Staff Choir. Under the direction of Naoimh Moore and Emmet Doherty, we welcome anyone who has a love for singing and music making! This is an opportunity for all staff in primary and post primary schools from across the diocese to come together in song! If you have an interest in choral singing and/or play an instrument, then please get in touch. You can register your interest by emailing Naoimh Moore at naoimhmoore@hotmail.co.uk

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 21st 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. If you would like to host Faith Feeds for staff members in your school, an information session will be held via ZOOM on **Tuesday 8th November at 3.30pm**. This would be a lovely programme to run for your staff during Advent or Lent. If you would like the link to this session, please email tferry@derrydiocese.org (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 1.2; 2.1; 3.1; 3.3*)

Godly Play is a gentle way to invite children to listen to God's word and explore its meaning for their lives. It does not tell the children what to think, or give them 'the right answer', but sets up a safe and sacred space in which to proclaim Scripture in a way that facilitates children's hearing, understanding and response. Godly Play can be used in children's play and prayer groups, schools, family worship, as part of Sacramental Preparation etc. (*Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 2.1; 3.1; 3.2*)

World Drawing God Day - 3rd November 2022



Last year again schools across the diocese engaged with great enthusiasm in 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. 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

<https://www.drawing-god.com/world-drawing-god-day>

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 (14th October 2022) The theme this year is '*You Shall Be My Witnesses*'. 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

Director: **Rev Paul Farren**
Advisor in Primary RE: **Thérèse Ferry**
Advisor in Post Primary RE: **Mary O'Boyle**
Diocesan Youth Coordinator: **Lizzie Rea**
Youth Coordinator: **Niamh Mc Laughlin**
Secretary: **Anne Marie Hickey**

Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre
The Gate Lodge, 2 Francis Street, Derry, BT48 7DS
Tel: +4428 71 264087 Email ddcc@derrydiocese.org
www.catecheticalcentre.org www.jp2award.com



The Door of Faith @derrydiocese.org



door_of_faith



Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre