

Inserts for Parish Bulletin

Education Sunday – advance notice

Next Sunday is Education Sunday, marking the start of a week when we celebrate the importance of educating children and young people in faith.

Education Sunday – theme for 2020

During this Catholic Education Week we are asked to reflect on how we recognise Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life in our homes, schools and parishes.

Education Sunday – appeal for teachers

If you would like further information on becoming a teacher in our Catholic schools, please contact the Scottish Catholic Education Service: mail@sces.uk.com

Excerpts from Church Documents on Catholic Education

“At the heart of Catholic education there is always Jesus Christ: everything that happens in Catholic schools and universities should lead to an encounter with the living Christ.” (“Educating Today and Tomorrow: A Renewing Passion”, Congregation for Catholic Education 2014, III)

“Thus the Catholic school should be able to offer young people the means to acquire the knowledge they need in order to find a place in a society which is strongly characterised by technical and scientific skill. But at the same time, it should be able, above all, to impart a solid Christian formation.” (“The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium”, Congregation for Catholic Education, 1997, 8)

"The person of each individual human being, in his or her material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ's teaching: this is why the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic school." (John Paul II, Address to the I National Meeting of the Catholic School in Italy, in "L'Osservatore Romano", 24 November 1991, p. 4.)

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2020



Jesus Christ: the Way, the Truth and the Life

A Pastoral Letter
for use in Catholic Education Week
16th-30th November 2020.



Scottish Catholic Education Service
an agency of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year around this time, we celebrate Catholic Education Week. During this week we:

- celebrate the God-given talents and achievements of our young people;
- acknowledge the hard work and faith witness of the staff in our schools;
- mark the unique contribution that Catholic Education makes to our families, our parishes and to wider Scottish society; and reflect on the mission of the Catholic school for the future.

This year, the theme of Catholic Education Week is *Jesus Christ: the Way, the Truth and the Life*. This theme reflects the vision and aim of Catholic education that Catholic schools, centred on the person of Jesus Christ, help and accompany young people to discover and to follow the Christian vocation to live responsibly with and for others in accordance with the message of Christ and so to build up and transform society for the better.

This is a message to which our young people readily respond, as can be seen by the high levels of participation in the Pope Francis Faith award and the Caritas programme.

This has been a strange year for our schools. Few of us will remember in our lifetimes a period so characterised by uncertainty, disruption and even fear. Everything that formed the fabric and pattern of our lives has felt the impact of the restrictions caused by the pandemic. Families have been unable to meet and support one another at the time when that support was most needed. People have been unable to share the joy of family celebrations, and have been denied the opportunity to come together to mourn. Our young people were separated from their friends and teachers, and their learning and exams were interrupted. Our churches have also suffered, with parish communities unable to gather for many weeks. Even now, our

numbers are limited, and we long to see a time when everyone will be able to join together again and sing our hymns of praise.

It is precisely in times such as these that we search for direction and certainty, and the theme of this year's Catholic Education Week reminds us where it can be found. In recognising Jesus as the Way, we need no longer worry about which direction we take, and where that will lead; in following Jesus' teaching and example, we will inevitably come to the Father. At a time where it can be difficult to discern what is genuine, we find in Jesus a Truth to which we can hold firm. It is in living in relationship with God that we find the fullness of life for which God created us, and the promise of eternal life.

The Charter for Catholic Schools, which outlines ten characteristics of a Catholic school, proposes a rich vision of Catholic education that emphasises the Church's mission to transform society through the love, service and justice we find in the life of Jesus, and reminds our pupils and teachers that they are a part of the Church in action. These characteristics do not happen by accident. Acknowledging Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life is intrinsic to Catholic education and, along with liturgy, prayer and learning, is a central and defining mark of the Catholic school as an educational community of faith.

I encourage you then to give thanks for Catholic Education and to pray for its ongoing success. I ask you to support the work of the Scottish Catholic Education Service and all that it does on behalf of our Church, our young people and our families to promote the positive contribution of Catholic schools in Scotland. I encourage you all to speak out positively on behalf Catholic Education, sharing the good news that Catholic schools remain good for Scotland.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

✠ *Philip Tartaglia*,
Archbishop of Glasgow