



Catholic Schools Week 2026

Catholic Schools: Normal Lives, Called to Holiness

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week 2026 in Your School

**The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2026 is
Catholic Schools: Normal Lives, Called to Holiness.**

We all have dreams and hopes in life. For some, this might be playing football or hurling for your county someday, becoming a famous singer or becoming a doctor or an astronaut when you grow up. No matter what our dreams are, we can feel called to do something wonderful with our lives. Catholics are called to chase our dreams too, as God has blessed us with gifts and talents to make the world a better place. Catholics are also called to holiness. What does this mean? It simply means bringing God's love into our actions every day.

Jesus, throughout his life and ministry, showed what is meant by holiness. Jesus prays to his Father and serves others, especially those on the margins of society. Every Catholic school is called to be a place where each child is called to holiness. This means the school is a community that nurtures

students, helping them realise their full potential and putting their gifts and talents at the service of others. In our schools, we model love, kindness and care towards ourselves, others, God and creation. In this way, our Catholic schools help students to hear God's call to holiness, following the example of Jesus. This Catholic Schools Week, we celebrate and recognise the unique contribution our schools make at the service of our pupils, communities and our Church. May the Lord bless us and guide us all towards holiness in our thoughts, words and actions.

'What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.' (Micah 6:8)

The daily themes are as follows:

Monday	Called to Holiness through Prayer
Tuesday	Called to Holiness through Love and Friendship
Wednesday	Called to Holiness in Family Life (Grandparents' Day)
Thursday	Called to Holiness through Courage and Service
Friday	Called to Holiness through Joy and Mission

As in previous years, the daily themes contain resources for the class groupings: Junior and Senior Infants/Primary 1 and 2; First and Second Class/Primary 3 and 4; Third and Fourth Class/Primary 5 and 6; and Fifth and Sixth Class/Primary 7.

The relevant strands and strand units of the *Catholic Pre-School and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland* (2015) are also listed for each class grouping at the beginning of the lesson plans.

On Wednesday, we celebrate **Grandparents' Day**. On that day, we offer some suggestions for class activities. Schools are encouraged to celebrate this day in a manner they deem most appropriate and manageable in accordance with their own local circumstances, such as with an in-person Mass for grandparents. A prayer service for use in the school or classroom is also available, as well as suggestions for parish celebrations.

All resources are available to download online at: www.catholicschools.ie.



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Thoughts for Each Day

These reflections can be read out loud every day in each classroom or over an intercom system to the whole school community. They can be read by pupils or staff. The spoken reflection might be followed by a short period of Christian meditation.



MONDAY

Today is the first day of Catholic Schools Week 2026. Our Catholic school is a place where we are called to put our gifts and talents at the service of others. Jesus shows us what it means to be a friend: to be kind and caring to others, especially those who are lonely and made to feel left out. May we learn to be a school community where everyone has friends and where everyone feels safe, happy and loved.

Lord, help us to live as you taught us. Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: Our Father ...

TUESDAY

Today we are asked to think about how we are called to holiness by caring for one another in our Catholic school. In school, we learn important things like maths, science and art. But we also learn how to be a friend to others, to listen to others and to include others. Jesus teaches us how we can do this with the Golden Rule: to treat others as you would like to be treated. Today we will remember to serve one another with patience, kindness and friendship as children of God.

Lord, help us to live as you taught us. Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: Our Father ...





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WEDNESDAY

Today, in our Catholic school, we are called to celebrate our grandparents. Grandparents are a special gift in our lives. They see the goodness in us and they teach us important lessons about life and about faith. Grandparents can teach us how to pray and how to trust in God that all will be well. We are called to care for our grandparents and to help them, remember them and pray for them. When we return the love they show to us, we are putting ourselves at their service.

Lord, help us to live as you taught us. Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: Our Father ...



THURSDAY

Today we are asked to think about how we are called to holiness by serving our community. Our environment is a precious gift that we share with all the plants and animals in nature. In our Catholic school, we learn that our environment is sacred and that when we use our skills and talents to care for the world around us, we are living holy lives. May we learn to serve our communities for the common good of everyone.

Lord, help us to live as you taught us. Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: Our Father ...



FRIDAY

As Catholic Schools Week comes to a close, we are asked to think about how we are called to holiness through our joy and mission. The lessons we learn in our Catholic school, the dreams and hopes we have, our gifts and our talents, these are all meant to be shared with the world. In our Catholic school, we learn that we are a faith community, a part of the Christian family. As we go forward in hope and faith, may we always use our gifts to live like Jesus in the service and care of others.

Lord, help us to live as you taught us. Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: Our Father ...

