



# KART News

Dear R.E. Coordinator/Teacher/Chaplain,

Welcome to the first edition of KART news for the academic year 2015/2016.

As we begin the new school year we call to mind all who are starting a new chapter in life; new teachers, first years students, new school management. We ask God to bless them and guide them, give them the strength to meet each challenge with grace and wisdom, patience and kindness.

Inside this edition I have included worksheets, prayer services, for beginning of school year, materials that may be useful for Creation Time (Sept. 1st to Oct. 4th) and much more. You can click on the links included to access additional resources. Please forward any material for future editions to [tomaskenny@dioceseofkerry.ie](mailto:tomaskenny@dioceseofkerry.ie). I will be in touch soon to arrange my first school visit for this academic year.

Kind Regards,  
Tomás Kenny  
Post-Primary Diocesan Advisor



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## CREATION TIME 2015

### 1 September to 4 October is Time for Creation.

The Time for Creation is linked with the concern for creation in the Eastern and the Western traditions of Christianity, respectively.

September 1st was proclaimed as a day of prayer for the environment by the late Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I in 1989. The Orthodox church year starts that day with a commemoration of how God created the world. On 4 October, Roman Catholics and other churches from the Western traditions commemorate Francis of Assisi, known to many as the author of the Canticle of all Creatures.

The proposal to celebrate a Time for Creation during these five weeks was made by the Third European Ecumenical Assembly in Sibiu in 2007. The following year, the WCC Central Committee invited churches to observe Time for Creation through prayers and actions.



### Four Principles of Eco-Justice Education

The following can be used as a guideline for Creation Time—display this in your school...

1. Learn more about the world in which we live: the ecological state of the world; the positive actions that people, corporations and governments at all levels are taking to care for the earth, and what we can do to make a difference.
2. Learn more about the resources of faith - from the Bible, from your tradition, from current theological writings - that can inform and inspire us to see all of creation as belonging to God and then to care about it and to care for it.
3. Combine each learning experience with an action, either personal or communal; that is follow-up on your learning with decisions and actions. Then reflect on those actions and determine where to go next.
4. Learn in a way that honors people as part of creation: respect diversity; allow people to grow and change naturally; learn in a pleasing environment.



## CREATION TIME 2015

**The Sundays and weeks of Creation Time can be broken up into five different celebrations:**

**Week One of Creation Time:** Planet Earth Week

[Click here](#) for a very helpful resource for Planet Earth Week.



**Week Two of Creation Time:** Humanity Week

[Click here](#) for a helpful resource for Humanity Week

**Week Three of Creation Time:** Sky Week

[Click here](#) for a helpful resource for Sky Week



**Week Four of Creation Time:** Mountain Week

[Click here](#) for a helpful resource for Mountain Week

**Week Five of Creation Time:** Blessing of the Animals Week

[Click here](#) for a helpful resource for Animals Week

### Creation Power-points

[Click here](#) for Power-point No. 1 on Creation

[Click here](#) for Power-point No. 2 on Creation

[Click here](#) for Power-point No. 3 on Creation

[Click here](#) for Power-point No. 4 on Creation

[Click here](#) for materials from Eco- Congregation Ireland





## KERRY PRAYER SERVICE FOR CREATION TIME 2015

### World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

This service took place in Tralee town park on Tuesday, September 1st, 2015

#### Welcome and Introduction

**Leader:** *'Laudato Si. On Care of Our Common home.'* Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis issued 18 June and now September 1<sup>st</sup> has been designated as **'World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation'**.

**Leader:** **Let us be silent for a moment to truly be present**

**Reader 1:** *"LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore" – "Praise be to you, my Lord".* In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.

*"Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs" LS1*

**Leader:** First let us remember the part of the earth where we are this morning...

Near 'the pure crystal fountain, that stands in the beautiful Vale of Tralee'.

**Invite people to tell where they are from.....**

**Leader:** **Why have we invited you here?**

**Reader 2:** **This sister** now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why **the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor;** she *"groans in travail"* (Rom 8:22). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters. LS2

**Leader:** **Do we see any signs of this around here?**

(litter, loss of biodiversity, extreme weather events, food waste, maltreatment of animals, misuse of energy, new illnesses, light, noise, soil & water pollution, effluent into streams, carbon footprint growing not shrinking, the gods of profit and endless growth..... )

**Reader 3:** **Let Us Remember Who We Are**

"Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another" LS 42 Pause

"Together with our obligation to use the earth's goods responsibly, we are called to recognize that other living beings have a value of their own in God's eyes: "by their mere existence they bless God and give God glory" ..... Pause

"Each creature possesses its own particular goodness and perfection... Each of the various creatures, willed in its own being, reflects in its own way a ray of God's infinite wisdom and goodness. We must therefore respect the particular goodness of every creature, to avoid any disordered use of things." LS69 Pause

**Leader:** **Can we dare to hope?** Is there cause for hope? Let us remember all those who are acting for the good of creation, our common home, in this local community. (Invite to name) (Park staff, tidy towns groups, animal welfare groups, national park staff, wildlife rangers, biodiversity & environmental officers, workers and volunteers in community gardens and allotments, Transition Kerry, many of our farmers and gardeners.....)

## KERRY PRAYER SERVICE FOR CREATION TIME 2015

### **Commitment**

**Leader:** So we can be encouraged but not lead into any sense of complacency. What commitment can each of us can make in our daily lives, at home, at work, at schools, in our communities, parishes, villages, towns and country? Maybe something new or maybe to continue and strengthen our existing involvement?

### **SILENCE and gentle music during reading of the Hymn of St Francis..**

**Reader 4:** The hymn of **Saint Francis of Assisi:**

Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures,

especially **Sir Brother Sun**, who is the day and through whom you give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour; and bears a likeness of you, Most High.

Praised be you, my Lord, through **Sister Moon** and the stars, in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be you, my Lord, through **Brother Wind**, and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather through whom you give sustenance to your creatures.

Praised be you, my Lord, through **Sister Water**, who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be you, my Lord, through **Brother Fire**, through whom you light the night, and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.” LS 87

Praised be You, my Lord, through our **Sister Mother Earth**, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs”.

**Silence** (to hear the sounds of creation)

### **Leader: Let Us Pray**

May we will be filled with a spirit of awe and wonder for all that You have created, so that we may live in harmony with Your creation. Strengthen us with Your love to protect and care for our ‘Common Home’, bringing an end to the abuse and exploitation of the earth’s resources; and today we pray especially for brothers and sisters around the world whose lives are affected by climate change including those driven to the extreme measures of crossing the Mediterranean.

### **ALL Together (SLOWLY)**

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

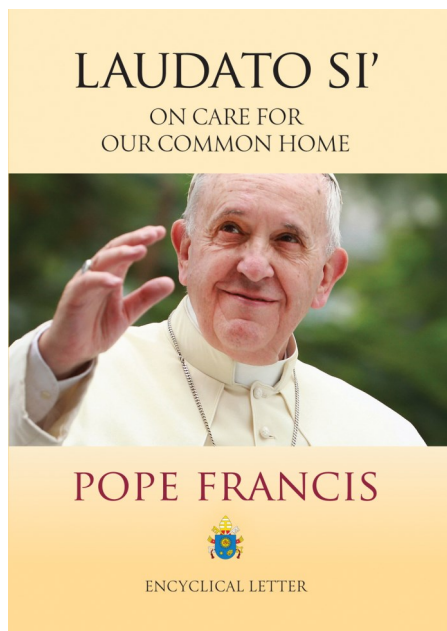
O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

**Leader: A Blessing:** Let us bless one another with ‘*sister water*’

### **MUSIC**



## FOR THE CLASSROOM 1



***Laudato si'*** (Medieval Central Italian for "Praise Be to You") is the second encyclical of Pope Francis. The encyclical has the subtitle *On care for our common home*. In it, the pope critiques consumerism and irresponsible development, laments environmental degradation and global warming, and calls all people of the world to take "swift and unified global action" thus described by Jim Yardley, writing for *The New York Times*.

The encyclical, dated 24 May 2015, was officially published at noon on 18 June 2015, accompanied by a news conference. The Vatican released the document in Italian, German, English, Spanish, French, Polish, Portuguese and Arabic.

The encyclical is the second published by Francis, after *Lumen fidei* ("Light of Faith"), which was released in 2013. Since *Lumen fidei* was largely the work of Francis's predecessor Benedict XVI, *Laudato si'* is generally viewed as the first encyclical that is entirely Francis's work.

### Useful Websites on the subject of Stewardship of Creation

To read the document [CLICK HERE](#)

Trócaire Post-Primary Education page: [CLICK HERE](#)

<http://www.cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-schools>

[www.carbonfootprint.com](http://www.carbonfootprint.com)

[www.ecocongregationsireland.org](http://www.ecocongregationsireland.org) and [www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk) for information and resources

[www.nanonaglebirthplace.ie](http://www.nanonaglebirthplace.ie)

[www.change.ie](http://www.change.ie)

[www.fairtrade.ie](http://www.fairtrade.ie)

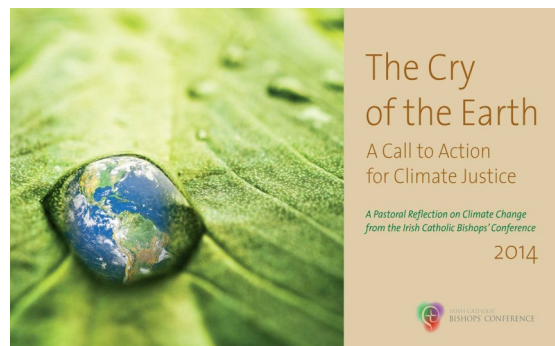
[www.sei.ie](http://www.sei.ie)

<http://www.wingclips.com/themes/creationcreator>

<http://ecofaith.org/soc/soc2013/index.html>

## FOR THE CLASSROOM 2

The Irish Bishops Conference launched a pastoral reflection on climate change last year called 'The Cry of the Earth.' It is an invitation to reflect on the challenges of climate change and the actions we can take to address its consequences. In the opening foreword of this document Cardinal Seán Brady encourages 'all people of goodwill to reflect urgently on how we can work together to take more responsible



care of our planet now and for the sake of generations yet unborn.' Our earth is complex, with systems of life that are interdependent and finely balanced. Small changes in one part of the planet's rhythms and systems can have real consequences for the whole of the Earth, which makes climate change one of the most critical issues of our time.

### **Celebrating and Enjoying Creation**

As stewards of God's creation we have a responsibility to care for and celebrate creation. How can we do this? We are very lucky here in Ireland as we have some beautiful scenery which helps us keep alive our sense of awe and wonder. However, when we pass the same lake, mountain or coastline every day, we can tend to lose sight of it. It is important to take time to look again, to look with child-like eyes, as if seeing it for the first time. Look again at creation: the sky, stars, plants, trees, animals, water.

### **Activity**

Gather some pictures and make a class collage called 'Our beautiful World.' Where is your favourite place? Why not visit it this week and take a chance to explore, enjoy and notice it again.

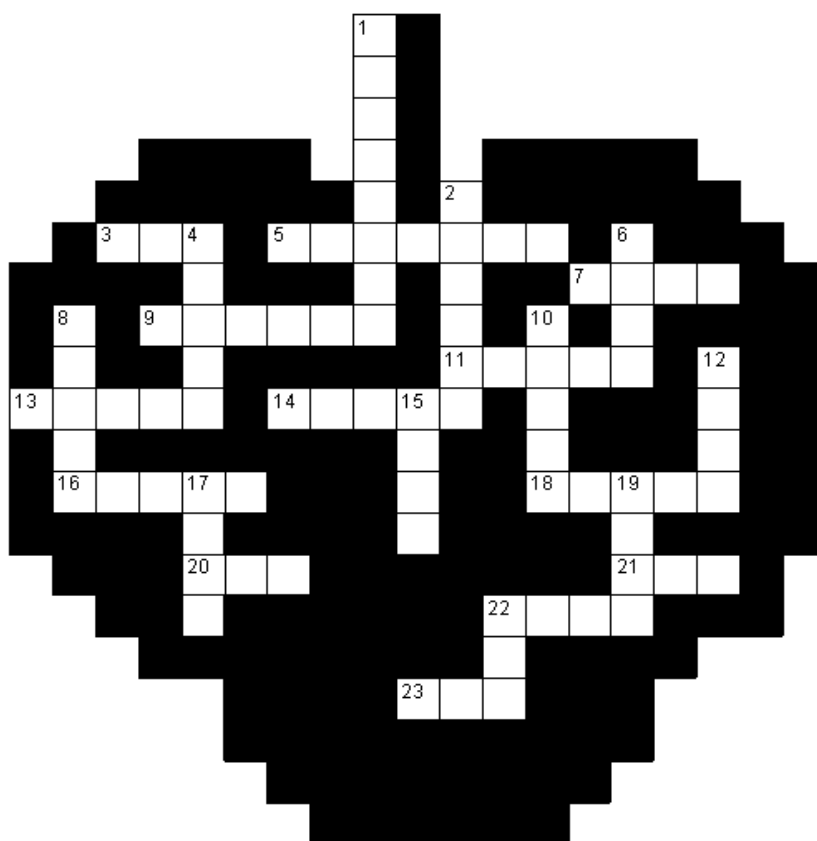
### **Environmental Crisis**

Our weather patterns are changing and becoming more unpredictable. Our natural resources are running out. The amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is increasing which is upsetting the balance that is necessary to keep the planet at the right temperature to support life. The gasses trap more heat and the temperatures are increasing, this is known as global warming. The two main effects of global warming are that sea levels will rise and climates will change resulting in floods, dryer climates, droughts which effects food supply etc.

Human activity contributes to the increase of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, methane, and CFCs in the atmosphere. We are burning too much fossil fuels, removing forests, over-fishing, using too much plastics and packaging which leads to an increase in the amount of CFCs in the atmosphere. There is an increase in the amount of methane in the atmosphere, which comes mainly from decaying matter in landfill sites.

# FOR THE CLASSROOM: WORKSHEET 1

## Creation



### Across

3. God removed one of these from man to make woman  
5. Creatures  
7. What God used to water the Garden  
9. To make from nothing  
11. Our planet  
13. Healing type plants  
14. Eve was the first one

16. Little night lights

18. Grew in the garden; one was of life; one was of the knowledge of good and evil  
20. The heavens  
21. First woman  
22. The lesser light that rules the night  
23. The greater light that rules the day

### Down

1. Another name for the Garden of Eden  
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Eden  
4. They fly in the air  
6. These swim in the seas  
8. These are sown to grow plants; fruits reproduce by these

10. Apples, oranges, and bananas  
12. God created our earth in 6 of these  
15. First man  
17. What God did on the 7th day  
19. Where God planted the first garden  
22. Adam was the first one

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## FOR THE CLASSROOM : WORKSHEET 2



The words listed below are found in the accounts of the Creation (see Genesis 1 and Moses 1). Find and circle each word in the puzzle. Then write down each of the unused letters in the blanks below to find a message from the scriptures telling us the purpose of Heavenly Father's plan of happiness.

BEAST	F	O	T	R	B	E	E	S	C	H	L	F	O	L	D
BEGINNING	S	T	H	N	I	L	S	R	R	I	S	I	I	M	Y
CATTLE	W	N	O	R	E	A	K	A	E	E	A	G	G	S	N
CREATURE	H	G	O	D	M	M	Y	E	A	A	G	N	L	H	H
EARTH	E	W	N	S	O	E	A	Y	T	R	R	I	Y	S	T
FEMALE	A	T	H	I	A	F	O	M	U	T	B	R	R	R	C
FIRMAMENT	V	I	N	A	N	E	G	T	R	H	O	E	P	A	T
FISH	E	T	A	S	L	N	S	S	E	I	T	H	T	T	I
FOWL	N	S	H	E	I	E	I	M	M	A	F	T	O	T	U
FRUIT	M	A	S	T	A	R	S	G	W	R	L	A	H	T	R
GATHERING	O	E	A	D	L	I	B	T	E	E	Y	G	A	N	F
GOOD	O	B	O	D	E	R	T	E	R	B	I	F	O	W	L
HEAVEN	N	O	N	A	E	D	N	A	L	N	E	L	A	M	L
HERB	G	L	I	H	F	E	D	E	E	S	O	F	M	A	N
LAND															
LIGHT															
MALE															
MOON															
NIGHT															
SEASONS															
SEED															
STARS															
WATERS															
WHALES															
YEARS															

## PRAYER FOR STAFF AT THE BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR

### Opening Prayer: (Leader)

As we gather here today to begin our new school year we take time to pause, and become aware of the presence of God here with us this morning. *(Short silence)*

We thank God

for the energy we have gained during our summer break.

for each other: for colleagues we know already and have worked with, and for new colleagues whom we welcome into our school community today.

for the students we will meet and teach during this school year.

We pray that we will always be mindful of each other; and thankful for the gifts and talents of our students, which we will endeavour to enable each to develop to the best of his/her ability.

*A suitable piece of music may be played here. Hymn, sacred song or instrumental.*

### Reader 1:

People of goodness do not need to bestow blessing; instead they become a blessing. Their presence is goodness and they engender new life, strength, courage and vitality by their presence. That was exactly how Jesus blessed the people around him.

Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy.

### Leader.

Jesus was a model teacher. He met people where they were at; spoke to them in a way that they could understand; was a great storyteller – but his parables always had a much deeper meaning than might appear on first telling. His style of teaching invited people to explore their own lives and to grow into a deeper relationship with God and with each other. He both inspired and challenged his listeners. He connected with them.

Teaching is not only a matter of covering a syllabus, but is about enabling students to gain an understanding of the meaning of their lives; the extent of their giftedness; their value as human beings.

### Reader 2

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark 4:26-29

Jesus went on to say: “The Kingdom of God is like this. A man scatters seed in his field. He sleeps at night, is up and about during the day, and all the while the seeds are sprouting and growing. Yet he does not know how it happens. The soil itself makes the plants grow and bear fruit; first the tender stalk appears, then the ear, and finally the ear full of corn”.

The Word of the Lord

*Short silence for reflection.*

## PRAYER FOR STAFF AT THE BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR

### **Leader:**

Henry Adams said that teachers affect eternity; they can never tell where their influence stops. Bearing this in mind let us pray together:

### **All:**

God Our Father,

We ask that, during this school year, your Holy Spirit will guide us in all we do:

In our relationships with colleagues - that we will always be supportive of each other.

In our teaching - that we may inspire a love of learning in our students.

In our interactions with our students – that, no matter how difficult, we will always remember that each is a child of God.

In meeting with parents – that we will be the friendly face, and caring soul they need to meet when they sit in front of us.

We pray that we may always be inspired by the teaching of your Son; that we will remember to make space for silence and reflection in our own lives; and that we will always use the gift you have given us to enable our students to discover their own gifts and become the best people they can be.

May our school community be a place of faith; of hope; and of love.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

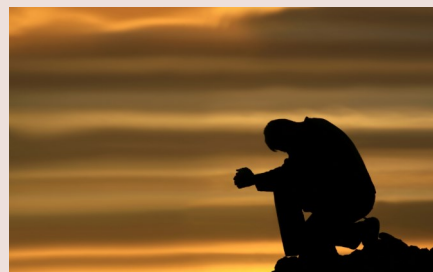
**Amen.**



## PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE CLASSROOM

### God's Blessing on the Academic Year

*"The future depends on what we do in the present".*  
Mahatma Ghandi



### Introduction

Today we celebrate the opening of our school year. During this celebration we take time to pause and to be mindful of each other. We ask God's blessing on our school and our school-work, our students and teachers, our parents and friends, our sports and activities, and on everything that is part of our school, family and community life.

We begin today by hearing Jesus' invitation to love and to respect each other. He has told us 'I am the love to be loved, I am the life to be shared, I am the truth to be told, I am the light to be lit, I am the peace to be given'.<sup>1</sup> May we share this love, life, joy, truth, light and peace with each other today and throughout the coming year.

### Light the Candles

*As the candles are lit, read this passage aloud:*

Jesus said 'You are the light of the world'. May the light of the candle and the warmth of its flame fill our hearts with the light and warmth of God's love. May we share this light and warmth with each other.

### Penitential Rite

There are times when we make mistakes or do things that are not helpful to ourselves or others. Aware of God's forgiveness, we ask for the strength and courage to move forward and be the light of the world.

For the mistakes I have made, *Lord, forgive me.*

When I am selfish and unloving, *Christ, forgive me.*

When I find it difficult to do the right thing. *Lord, give me your strength and courage.*

### Opening Prayer

God of loving surprises, thank you for the gifts of lift and love. Thank you for the gift of each other. May we recognise your presence in each person we meet and share with them our gifts of life and love.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.



## PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE CLASSROOM CTD.

### **First Reading: *Colossians 3:12-14, 23***

You are God's chosen people. Always be ready to care for others, and to be kind and gentle. Be patient and calm and never boast about or be proud of your goodness. Just as God always forgives you, so you must always be forgiving towards others. Fill your hearts with love, and whatever you do, do it for God. *This is the Word of the Lord.*

### **Responsorial Psalm**

*Only God creates* – but we are called to enhance that creation.

*Only God gives life* – but we are called to cherish life.

*Only God makes things grow* – but we are called to nourish that growth.

*Only God gives faith* – but we are called to be signs of God for each other.

*Only God gives love* – but we are called to care for each other.

*Only God gives hope* – but we are called to give each person reason for hope.

*Only God gives power* – but we are called to get things going.

*Only God can bring peace* – but we are called to build bridges.

*Only God brings happiness* – but we are invited to be joyful.

*Only God is the way* – but we are called to show the way to others.

*Only God is the light* – but we are called to make that light shine in the world.

*Only God makes miracles happen* – but we must offer our loaves and fishes.

*Only God can do the impossible* – but it's up to us to do what is possible.<sup>2</sup>

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Jesus said, 'Love one another as I have loved you.'

Alleluia.

### **Gospel: *Mark 12:28-34***

One of the Scribes came to Jesus and asked, 'Which of God's commandments is the most important?' Jesus answered, 'To love God with all your heart and all your mind and all your strength, and to love others as much as you love yourself. These commandments come before all others!' Then the Scribe said to Jesus, 'What you have said is true because nothing is more important than loving God and loving our neighbours. Seeing that the Scribe was wise and good, Jesus said to him, 'My friend, what you have said will please God and keep you close to God.'

*This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.*

Grant that students and teachers alike may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## BEGINNING OF SCHOOL PRAYER CTD.

### **Creed**

I believe in the God of life who loves me at each moment without any conditions whatsoever and who wants to see me alive and well.

I believe in the God who always forgives me and opens to me a future full of life and hope.

I believe in the God who is with me every second of my life to help me, heal me, console me, strengthen me, suffer with me and be my best friend.

I believe in the God who knows only love and compassion: who is a 'lover of life' and who begs me to 'choose life'.

In this faith I find joy and peace in the present life and hope for the life to come.

### **Closing Prayer**

Lord God, your Spirit of wisdom fills our lives and teaches us your ways. Look upon our young people. May they enjoy their learning and take delight in new discoveries. Help them to persevere in their studies and give them the desire to learn all things well.

Look upon our teachers. May they strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience and endeavour always to bring the truth to eager minds.

Grant that students and teachers alike may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## MORE FOR THE CLASSROOM: WORKSHEET 3

### How can we get involved?

Get informed. What are the critical issues? What are the affects of Climate change? What do we have to do to help care for the earth and its people?

Take some time for personal reflection, what do you already do to celebrate and care for creation? What would you like to do more of? Less of? **or** What would you like to start doing?

Launch an awareness campaign in your school for the duration of Kerry Earth Week, using sacred spaces, prayer services, reflections, a thought for the day, posters, power point presentations, notice boards etc.

Try to reawaken your and others' sense of awe and wonder to the beauty around us.

Hold a day to 'Care for Creation' in your school perhaps you could organise a quiz or a tree planting ceremony.

Make a commitment to use less electricity at home or school.

Have a photo exhibition on 'Our beautiful World' or on the 'Effects of Climate Change.'

Do a school/parish/class/home audit of how green you are.

Encourage people to check their carbon footprint and how to offset it.

Make posters to inform people about Kerry Earth Week, or posters that give people ideas on what they can do to combat climate change.

Give a talk at mass about our role as stewards of God's creation.

Invite in a guest speaker on caring for our environment.



## WORKSHEET 4



## Autumn Wordsearch



See how many of these autumn related words you can find in the puzzle.  
The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

Created by Sue Lindlauf  
Grand Forks Herald 2013

1. Autumn
2. Fall
3. Leaves
4. Colors

5. Raking
6. Harvest
7. Pumpkins
8. Apples

9. Gourds
10. Football
11. Season
12. Scarecrow

13. Corn
14. Maize
15. Yellow
16. Orange



## LITURGICAL MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS

### LET EVERY HEART SING

#### *The Schola at Mercy Navan*

The beginnings of the Schola at St Joseph's Secondary School, Navan can be traced back to 2008, when Ephrem Feeley and David Burke, two of the music teachers approached the Principal with an idea that an organ would be a great investment that would complement the thriving choral programme already in the school. Permission was given, fundraising was done, and over the summer, a digital organ was purchased from Content, a company based in Holland.



The proviso for this considerable investment was that a long-term programme would be set up to teach and train young people as church musicians. The previous year, a series of extra-curricular classes in Gregorian chant had been offered which proved very popular, and it was felt that there was a genuine desire amongst the student body to continue to sing and explore the richness of liturgical music.

From small beginnings with only six courageous students, the Schola has now grown to twenty-three students who commit to one lunchtime rehearsal per week. During these sessions, they explore music from chant to early polyphony, through the chorale tradition to music in a contemporary style by living Irish and international composers. It is during general rehearsals that students are also taught conducting and choral direction.

Each year, the parish of Navan and the Bishop of Meath have given financial support to the programme; this subsidises individual organ and vocal tuition for Schola members, and has also allowed our students to attend workshops in liturgical music, including the annual Summer School run by the Irish Church Music Association. There they have the opportunity to meet other church music from all ages and backgrounds, and to participate in the high standard of liturgy at daily Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours.

Central to our philosophy is that Schola should participate in and contribute to the liturgical life of the parish. Throughout the year they minister at occasional masses and services in the parish of St Mary's in Navan, and lead the music at the Confirmation ceremonies. There are no soloists in Schola – students are either cantors or psalmists, who understand that their ministry is to lead the assembly in song. The Schola programme feeds into the liturgical life of both parish and school. Each rehearsal is also an opportunity for catechesis as the words of hymns, chants and psalms are reflected on before the music is learnt.

## LITURGICAL MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS

The Schola at St. Joseph's is an example of a valuable extra-curricular programme that costs relatively little, and simply requires teachers with skills and with an interest in developing an appreciation of high-quality church music amongst young people. Liturgical arts are often under-developed and under-appreciated, but a model such as this programme could, and perhaps should, be replicated in any Catholic school – and be of enormous benefit to students, the school community and the wider parish community.

*Ephrem Feeley*

*October 13 2014*



*Picture of the Mercy Schola in Navan—Conducted by Mr. David Burke*

## CEILIÚRADH NA NÓG 2015-2016

The purpose of Ceiliúradh na nÓg is **to develop the faith life of the students of Transition and Fifth years.** This will be achieved through school or parish based initiatives.

In collaboration with the principals, teachers, chaplains and students of the diocesan Post-Primary schools, the programme is coordinated by the Diocesan Advisor, Diocesan Steering Group for Youth Ministry and the Diocesan Pastoral Team.



For the academic year 2015-2016, the programme will be carried out through a number of stages. The students will actively participate in a faith based programme of exploration, action, reflection and presentation.

**More details and a resource booklet will be forwarded to your school.**




# WORKSHEET 5

M	I	W	E	R	D	N	A	P	M
S	U	L	E	D	E	B	E	Z	E
E	J	A	M	E	S	T	N	E	U
E	A	E	N	I	E	H		B	A
D	E	E	A	R	O	J	H	U	N
E	M	L	R	J	E	N	A	L	R
B	S	I	M	O	N	P	I	U	E
E	I	L	A	T	H	P	A	N	P
Z	N	A	D	R	O	J	S	C	A
N	U	G	U	B	E	Z	I	N	C

GALILEE  
NAPHTALI  
SIMON  
JAMES


CAPERNAUM  
JORDAN  
PETER  
ZEBEDEE

ZEBULUN  
ISAIAH  
ANDREW  
JOHN



I	E	Y	H	E	A	L	I	N	G
T	N	V	S	O	M	L	E	S	N
A	N	G	I	O	Y	E	T	E	I
P	D	W	S	D	R	R	P	E	R
L	P	E	O	R	E	P	O	N	E
E	S	N	R	T	V	N	E	K	F
A	E	K	C	U	O	H	C	L	F
D	N	H	O	H	C	U	A	E	O
E	E	R	E	P	E	L	C	N	N
D	E	R	E	D	R	O	S	H	D

LEPER  
PLEADED  
HEALING  
EVIDENCE  
RECOVERY  
TOWN  
STRETCHED  
HAND  
TOUCH  
KNEES  
CURED  
OFFERING





## WORKSHEET 6—THE CELTIC SEASON OF LUGHNASADH

**Lughnasadh** or **Lughnasa** is a Gaelic festival marking the beginning of the harvest season. Historically, it was widely observed throughout Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man. Originally it was held on 1 August, or about halfway between the summer solstice and autumn equinox. However, over time the celebrations shifted to the Sundays nearest this date. Lughnasadh is one of the four Gaelic seasonal festivals; along with Samhain, Imbolc and Beltane. It corresponds to other European harvest festivals such as the Welsh *Gwyl Awst* and the English Lammas.

Lughnasadh is mentioned in some of the earliest Irish literature and is believed to have pagan origins. The festival itself is named after the god Lugh. It involved great gatherings that included religious ceremonies, ritual athletic contests (most notably the Tailteann Games), feasting, matchmaking and trading. There were also visits to holy wells. According to folklorist Máire MacNeill, evidence shows that the religious rites included an offering of the first of the corn, a feast of the new food and of bilberries, the sacrifice of a bull and a ritual dance-play. Much of this would have taken place on top of hills and mountains.

Lughnasadh customs persisted widely until the 20th century, with the event being variously named 'Garland Sunday', 'Bilberry Sunday', 'Mountain Sunday' and 'Crom Dubh Sunday'. The custom of climbing hills and mountains at Lughnasadh has survived in some areas, although it has been re-cast as a Christian pilgrimage. The best known is the 'Reek Sunday' pilgrimage to the top of Croagh Patrick on the last Sunday in July. A number of fairs are also believed to be survivals of Lughnasadh, for example the Puck Fair. Since the later 20th century, Celtic neo-pagans have observed Lughnasadh, or something based on it, as a religious holiday. In some places, elements of the festival have been revived as a cultural event.

### Questions:

- 1) Where is the season of Lughnasadh celebrated?
- 2) When is it celebrated?
- 3) List the three other Celtic festivals.
- 4) What are the customs usually associated with Lughnasadh?
- 5) Ask your parents and grandparents about their memories of this festival and list them in your copybook.
- 6) Create a display for your school assembly area to acknowledge this Celtic festival.



## PRAYER FOR THE CELTIC YEAR– LUGHNASADH

**Leader:** The earth is the Lord's

**All: And all that is upon it**

**Leader:** Created and creative things

**All: Fruit and Fruitfulness**

**Leader:** Springtime and Summer

**All: Seedtime and harvest**

**Reader 1:** For the promise of harvest  
contained within a seed

we thank you.

For the oak tree

within an acorn

The bread

within a grain

The apple

within a pip

The mystery of nature

gift wrapped

for us to sow

we thank you.



**Reader 2:** *As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.'*

*(Gen 8:22)*

**Reader 3:** We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves,  
shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow.

We sense its passing in rain that dampens,  
winds that chill, Harvest's bounty placed on show.

Creator God, who brings forth  
both green shoot and hoar frost,

sunrise and sunset,

we bring our thanks

for seeds that have grown,

harvests gathered,

storehouses filled,

mouths fed.

And, as your good earth rests  
through winter's cold embrace,  
we look forward to its re-awakening  
when kissed by Spring's first touch.



## PRAYER FOR THE CELTIC YEAR— LUGHNASADH

(Here a song, chant or hymn might be sung)

**Reader 4:** 'Sow everywhere the good seed given to you. Sow in good ground, sow in sand, sow among the stones, sow on the oad, sow among the weeds. Perhaps some of these seeds will open up and grow and bring forth fruit, even if not at once'

Seraphim of Sarov (1759-1833) Russian monk

**Reader 5:** "Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves."

John Muir



**Reader 6:** "We marvel at the Creator, not only as the one who made heaven and earth, sun and ocean, elephants, camels, horses, oxen, leopards, bears and lions, but also as the one who made the small creatures: ants, gnats, flies, worms and the like - things whose shape we know better than their names. And as in all creation we revere his skill, so the one whose mind is given to Christ is earnest in small things as in great, knowing that an account must be given even for an idle word."

Jerome (331-420) Church Father

*(A time of intercession might be appropriate at this point, either silent or aloud, praying for areas of the world where harvests are uncertain because of drought or warfare, but also praying for fruitfulness wherever it might be shown - lives dedicated to serving others, for artists and craft workers who take the natural things of this world and make something beautiful from them)*

**Reader 7:** For creativity in its many forms  
we give you thanks  
For the skill of weaver  
potter, artist, sculptor  
needle worker  
all who take that which you have given  
and make with it something of beauty.

## PRAYER FOR THE CELTIC YEAR— LUGHNASADH

*Reader 8:* For fruitfulness in its many forms  
we give you thanks  
For selfless love  
grace, wisdom, knowledge  
sacrifice  
all who take that which you have given  
and make with it something of beauty.

*Leader:* For summer's passing  
and harvest home

**All: WE THANK YOU**

*Leader:* For seed that has fallen  
the promise of spring

**All: WE THANK YOU**



Together we say:

**We bless you,  
God of Seed and Harvest  
And we bless each other  
That the beauty of this world  
And the love that created it  
Might be expressed through our lives  
And be a blessing to others  
Now and always**

**AMEN**

## HELPFUL WEBSITE—BLENDSPACE

Blendspace is an online presentation or lesson-making tool. You can collect a variety of resources, from websites, cloud storage etc. or from any other file on your computer, memory stick or portable drive. You can add videos, documents, images, web pages, quizzes and much more.

When you have created the lesson you can play it back to you class. It will be auto saved onto your file for future use. Your presentation/lesson is stored online so a live internet connection is needed.

### Tasks:

- 1) Go to [www.blendspace.com](http://www.blendspace.com) and sign up for a free account using the 'Sign Up' button. After this you will use the 'Log in' button.
- 2) Click 'New Lesson' to get started—a series of **tiles** will appear where your lesson is going to be planned.
- 3) Choose a topic and type it in.
- 4) On the right you will see a **search box** and down the right you will see further search options. The **YouTube search** is highlighted by default.
- 5) When you search for a resource you will get a series of results. You can preview this resource by hovering the mouse/cursor to the bottom right hand corner of the resource.
- 6) If you hover the cursor anywhere else on the resource it will appear as a cross. You can drag this resource over to the first/second/third tile etc. and position it there. You can add titles to this tile by clicking on the pencil symbol at the bottom right of the resource.
- 7) Repeat this until you have as many tiles as you wish filled.
- 8) At any stage you can **press play** to play your presentation.
- 9) See the sharing options if you wish to share with students—parts of your presentation can be protected from view should you wish to copyright particular items etc.





## SHAPING OUR DIOCESE

### Diocese of Kerry Pastoral Plan 2015 - 2020

This November the Diocesan Pastoral Plan will be launched. The purpose of the plan is to provide direction for the diocese over the coming years. It will enable the diocese to focus its resources and energies on what is essential. The plan is an outcome of a process of consultation which was undertaken over the past year. Over one thousand people participated in the process. It is hoped that the plan will act as a source of renewal and encouragement as we strive to witness to Jesus' work of love, peace, justice and freedom in this corner of the world. Many thanks to all the teachers and students who partook in the survey, your contribution was invaluable.



## CERTIFICATE IN YOUTH MINISTRY

The Diocese of Kerry will once again facilitate a course for all interested in Youth Ministry. The training course will nurture, develop and equip youth leaders in this area, it will also award the participant with a professional qualification.



The course will be run in the Ardfert Retreat Centre on Tuesday Nights at 8:00pm (8 to 10pm). There will be one full day on a Saturday.

The cost is **€200**. Your school or parish may help with this cost.

Contact myself if you are interested, contact details included on the back page. [Click here](#) for application form.

## WORLD YOUTH DAY—KRAKOW, POLAND 2016

World Youth Day is an International Festival which gathers young people from all over the world. This year World Youth Day will be held in Krakow, Poland from Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> until Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. This is an opportunity to learn, pray and celebrate the Young Church.



### Theme

The theme of the 31<sup>st</sup> World Youth Day is '*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy*' (Mt 5:7). Pope Francis has chosen the fifth of the eight Beatitudes given by Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, to show the importance of the Beatitudes which are at the heart of Jesus' teaching.

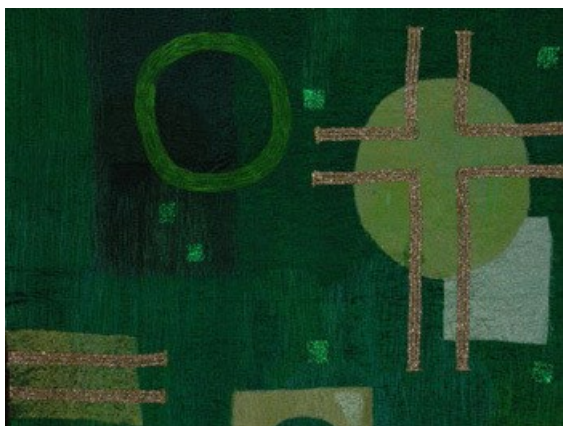
### Events

The World Youth Day program includes several days of events with Pope Francis as well as spiritual and cultural events such as liturgies, catechesis, concerts, performances, and encounters with renowned communities and religious movements from around the world. The week culminates in an all-night vigil and Papal Mass.

The Diocese of Kerry are planning to bring a group of young adults (18 – 35 years) to participate in this exciting event. If any Leaving Certificate students might be interested in participating you can contact myself (contact details are included on back page). [Click here](#) for promotional video and [here](#) for official website.



## ORDINARY TIME



Besides the times of the year that have their own distinctive character, there remains in the yearly cycle thirty-three or thirty four weeks in which no particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather the mystery of Christ itself is honoured in its fullness, especially on Sundays. This period is known as Ordinary Time. We are currently in Ordinary Time and will be until the Season of Advent which this years starts on Sunday, November 29th.

Since 1970 in the ordinary form of the Roman rite in the Catholic Church, Ordinary Time comprises two periods: one beginning on the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (the end of the Christmas season) and ending on the day before Ash Wednesday, the other beginning on the Monday after Pentecost (the conclusion of Eastertide) and continuing until the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent. This makes it the largest season of the Liturgical Year.

## CATECHETICAL SUNDAY—SEPTEMBER 20TH 2015



Each year, the Catholic Church in the United States designates the third Sunday in September as "Catechetical Sunday"—a day on which to celebrate and pray for the Church's mission to teach the Gospel

This year's theme is "Safeguarding the Dignity of Every Human Person."

As a catechist, you are responding to a call to share the gift of faith with others, even as you deepen your own faith. This call may have reached you through your pastor, the director of your parish's religious education program, or through your role as a Catholic school teacher. But know that this calling ultimately comes from God whose Holy Spirit inspires and guides you.

Take a few moments to pray in thanksgiving and ask for the grace to serve in your vocation as a catechist with a special [3-Minute Retreat for Catechists](#). [CLICK HERE](#) for more resources.



## SEPTEMBER SAINTS, FEASTS AND MEMORIALS

**Pope Gregory I** (c. 540 – 12 March 604), commonly known as Saint Gregory the Great, was Pope from 3 September 590 to his death in 604. Gregory is well known for his writings, which were more prolific than those of any of his predecessors as pope.

Throughout the Middle Ages he was known as “the Father of Christian Worship” because of his exceptional efforts in revising the Roman worship of his day.

He was the first of the popes to come from a monastic background. Gregory is a Doctor of the Church and one of the Latin Fathers. He is considered a saint in the Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Church, Anglican Communion, and some Lutheran churches. Immediately after his death, Gregory was canonized by popular acclaim. The Protestant reformer John Calvin admired Gregory and declared in his Institutes that Gregory was the last good pope. He is the patron saint of musicians, singers, students, and teachers.



His memorial is celebrated this year on September 3rd. [CLICK HERE](#) for additional resources.

### Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Feast)

The Nativity of Mary, or Birth of the Virgin Mary, refers to the traditional birthday of Saint Mary. The modern canon of scripture does not record Mary's birth.

Tradition celebrates the event as a liturgical feast in the General Roman Calendar and in most Anglican liturgical calendars on 8 September, nine months after the solemnity of her Immaculate Conception, celebrated on 8 December.

This feast, like that of the Assumption of Mary, originated in Jerusalem. It began in the fifth century as the feast of the *Basilica Sanctae Mariae ubi nata est*, now called the Basilica of Saint Anne. The original church built, in the fifth century, was a Marian basilica erected on the spot known as the shepherd's pool and thought to have been the home of Mary's parents.<sup>[2]</sup> In the seventh century, the feast was celebrated by the Byzantines as the feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



[CLICK HERE](#) for additional information about this feast.



## SEPTEMBER SAINTS, FEASTS AND MEMORIALS

### The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Feast)

In English, it is called The Exaltation of the Holy Cross in the official translation of the Roman Missal, while the 1973 translation called it The Triumph of the Cross. In some parts of the Anglican Communion the feast is called Holy Cross Day, a name also used by Lutherans. The celebration is also sometimes called Feast of the Glorious Cross. It is celebrated on September 14th. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.



### Our Lady of Sorrows (Memorial)

Our Lady of Sorrows the Sorrowful Mother or Mother of Sorrows and Our Lady of Piety, Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows or Our Lady of the Seven Dolours are names by which the Blessed Virgin Mary is referred to in relation to sorrows in her life. As *Mater Dolorosa*, it is also a key subject for Marian art in the Catholic Church.

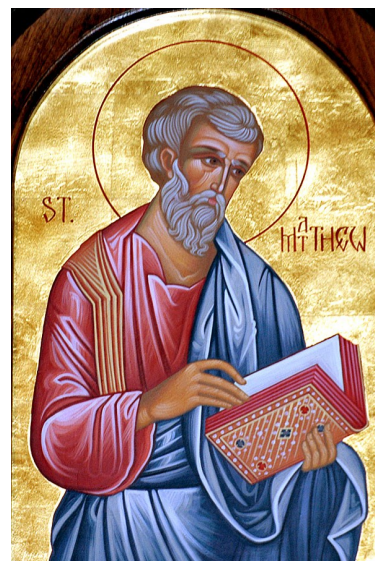
The Seven Sorrows of Mary are a popular Roman Catholic devotion. In common religious Catholic imagery, the Blessed Virgin Mary is portrayed in a sorrowful and lacrimating affect, with seven daggers piercing her heart, often bleeding. Devotional prayers which consist of meditation began to elaborate on her Seven Sorrows based on the prophecy of the Rabbi Simeon. The day is remembered on September 15th. [CLICK HERE](#) of more resources.



### St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (Feast)

Matthew was a tax collector, he is also said to be a missionary in Persia and Ethiopia. He is patron saint of accountants, book-keepers, tax-collectors, custom officers and security guards.

St. Matthew's gospel has pride of place in the canon of the New Testament. Its purpose was to convince Jews that the Messiah had come in the person of Jesus, our Lord, and that all the promises of the messianic kingdom, the promises God made to his people, the Jews, had been fulfilled in him. There is an irony in this for one who was accused of being a traitor to his people. His name means "gift of the Lord". His Feast is celebrated on September 21st. [CLCIK HERE](#) for more.

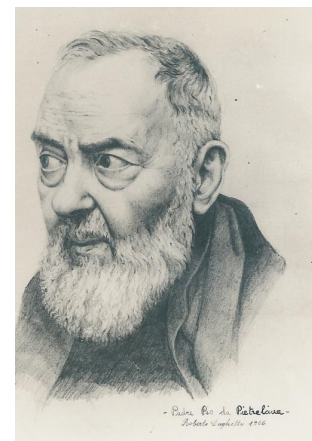


## SEPTEMBER SAINTS, FEASTS AND MEMORIALS

### Padre Pio (Memorial)

[Pio of Pietrelcina](#) O.F.M. Cap., commonly known as Padre Pio (May 25, 1887 – September 23, 1968), was a friar, priest, stigmatist and mystic of the Roman Catholic Order of Friars Minor Capuchin. Padre Pio became famous for bearing the stigmata for most of his life. This condition generated much interest and controversy around him. He is now venerated as a saint in the Catholic Church.

Pio was born Francesco Forgione and given the name of Pius (Italian: *Pio*) when he joined the Capuchins. After his beatification in 1999 he was canonized by Pope John Paul II on June 16, 2002.



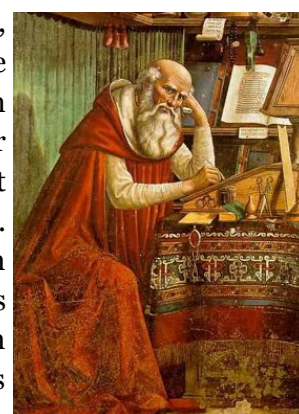
### Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael Archangels (Feast)

The liturgy celebrates the feast of these three archangels who are venerated in the tradition of the Church. Michael (Who is like God?) was the archangel who fought against Satan and all his evil angels, defending all the friends of God. He is the protector of all humanity from the snares of the devil. Gabriel (Strength of God) announced to Zachariah the forthcoming birth of John the Baptist, and to Mary, the birth of Jesus. His greeting to the Virgin, "Hail, full of grace," is one of the most familiar and frequent prayers of the Christian people. Raphael (Medicine of God) is the archangel who took care of Tobias on his journey. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.



### St. Jerome (Memorial)

St. Jerome (c. 347 – 30 September 420) was a Latin Christian priest, confessor, theologian and historian, who also became a Doctor of the Church. He was the son of Eusebius, born at Stridon, a village of Italian influence on the border of Dalmatia and Pannonia. He is best known for his translation of most of the Bible into Latin (the translation that became known as the Vulgate), and his commentaries on the Gospels. His list of writings is extensive. In many cases, he focused his attention to the lives of women and identified how a woman devoted to Jesus Christ should live her life. This focus stemmed from his close patron relationships with several prominent female ascetics who were members of affluent Roman "senatorial families".



He is recognised as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Lutheran Church, and the Church of England (Anglican Communion). His feast day is 30th September. [CLICK HERE](#) for more resources.

## NEWS FROM DIOCESAN SCHOOLS

### ***Presentation Castleisland unveils School Ethos Wall***

On 21st May 2015, Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland unveiled its school Ethos wall in the main foyer of the school. The design and creation of the Ethos wall celebrates the values it holds and share as a community in Presentation Secondary School. Pope Francis said we must be “the living presence of the Gospel in the field of education, science and culture”.

To design the wall, Transition Year students consulted with the wider student body to review and discuss the school’s purpose and mission. The wall gives witness to the founder of the Presentation sisters, Nano Nagle.



The students began by pasting a layer of encyclopaedia pages as wallpaper. They went through several encyclopaedias and carefully selected the pages which were used to ensure that every page had some educational value. They represent the broad range of subjects and wide variety of learning opportunities provided for at the school. As well as pasting the encyclopaedia pages onto the wall, the students created embroidery hoops which incorporate the CEIST core values: a motivational book containing inspirational quotes in calligraphy, several books with the pages specially folded to form artistic designs and a painting of Nano Nagle who holds a lantern to represent guiding the children out of the dark and into the light.

The Ethos wall is a visual representation of the connectedness between the spirituality which the school seeks to promote and the daily life of the school. It is the end result of a most worthwhile process and discussion on what it means to be part of the school. The story of its journey is truly an inspiration.

The commitment and dedication of the Transition year students and teachers to the project was highly commended. They gave their skills and time freely with one purpose in mind to make the wall a centrepiece for the school of which to be proud.

The school was delighted to welcome Bishop Ray Browne to unveil the wall on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015. Transition Year student **Rachael O’ Connor** said “We hope that this wall will bring hope for the future, joy of the present and appreciation of our tradition together for all our school community. Please take time to view when you visit our school”.



## NEWS FROM DIOCESAN SCHOOLS



**Picture (right):**

Bishop Ray cutting the ribbon at the unveiling of the school ethos wall.



**Picture (above):**

(L to R) Elizabeth O'Connor, Student, Sr. Teresa, Kathleen O'Sullivan, Student, Sr. Maureen, Sr. Elizabeth and Sr. Margaret.





### Liturgical Calendar for September

Thurs. Sept. 3rd:	St. Gregory the Great
Sun. Sept. 6th:	23rd Sunday in OT
Tues. Sept. 8th:	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wed. Sept 9th:	St. Ciaran, Abbot
Sun. 13th Sept:	24th Sunday in OT
Mon. 14th Sept:	Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Tues. 15th Sept.	Our Lady of Sorrows
Wed. 16th Sept.	Ss. Cornelius,
Sun. 20th Sept.	25th Sunday in OT
Mon. 21st Sept.	St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
Wed. 23rd Sept:	St. Pius and Padre Pio
Sun. 27th Sept:	27th Sunday in OT
Mon. 29th Sept:	Ss. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels
Wed. 30th Sept:	St. Jerome

## NOTICES

### ♦ R.E. Teachers In-service—October 2015

The first R.E. Teacher's diocesan in-service for next academic year will take place on Thursday, October 22nd, 2015 at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre, Killarney.

- ♦ **A free Seminar on '*Laudato Si*'** will take place in John Paul II Pastoral Centre, Killarney on Monday, September 28th September from 6-10pm.

Booking is essential— Phone 064-6632644 or email [pastoralcentre@dioceseofkerry.ie](mailto:pastoralcentre@dioceseofkerry.ie)

### ♦ Collation of R.E. Resources

This year I will compile a number of R.E. resources and post them on the Post-Primary education section of the Kerry Diocesan website. This will provide a forum of resources for R.R. teachers. Please forward any helpful materials to myself and I will post them on our site.

### Contact Details:

**Tomás Kenny,  
Post-Primary Diocesan  
Advisor for Religious Education**

**John Paul II Pastoral Centre, Rock Road,  
Killarney, Co. Kerry**

**Contact Office: (064) 6630531/(086)  
3683778**

