

“Catholic Schools in the Community of Faith: Sharing the Good News.”

Catholic Schools Week 2013

Special points of interest:

- “Catholic Schools in the Community of Faith: Sharing the Good News.”
- Year of Faith
- Share the Good News
- Sunday January 27th 2013 to Sunday February 3rd 2013.

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2013 is: “Catholic Schools in the Community of Faith: Sharing the Good News.” Catholic Schools Week 2013 will be mindful of two major subjects for the year 2013 (a) *Year of Faith* and (b) *Share the Good News*. The theme of CSW 2013 reflects both. CSW 2013 will begin on Sunday January 27th 2013 and end on February 3rd 2013.

The Year of Faith, declared by Pope Benedict XVI, is an opportunity for Catholic schools to re-commit themselves to

strengthening and celebrating their Catholic identity. It also provides other schools serving Catholic pupils opportunities to celebrate the faith tradition and heritage of these pupils.

The *Year of Faith* began on October 11, 2012, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the 20th anniversary of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and will end on November 24, 2013, the feast of Christ the King. This time will provide Catholics locally and throughout the world an



opportunity to celebrate, deepen and share the richness of their Catholic faith.

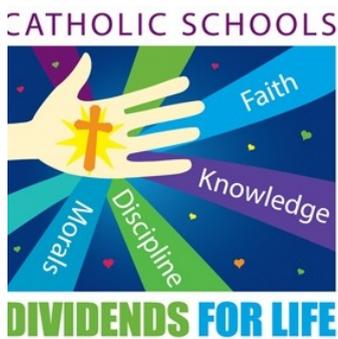
Share the Good News in Home, School and Parish

Share the Good News is the National Directory for Catechesis in Ireland. It challenges all of us to reimagine the relationships between home, school and parish in the

service of faith development. CSW 2013 offers Catholic and other schools serving Catholic pupils opportunities to celebrate and invoke God's blessing on their contribution to

pupils' faith development. The week should also provide opportunities to celebrate the links between schools and parishes.

Joy of Believing



Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that the *Year of Faith* is a time to “rediscover the joy of believing.” *Share the Good News* highlights the synergy between the aims of the *Year of Faith* and the day to day work of the Catholic School: “Catholic primary schools in the Republic

and in Northern Ireland are required to follow a religious education and formation programme that fosters and deepens children’s Catholic faith.” #100 *Share the Good News* p. 14. The Directory comments further that ... “the local Catholic school, a constitutive part of the par-

ish, contributes generously to the children’s faith development, seeking ‘to inculcate in pupils the qualities of personal integrity and moral courage which are marks of an authentic Christian personality.’”#91 *Share the Good News* p. 131

Developing, Loving and Caring Community



During CSW 2013 Catholic schools are invited to celebrate and experience the joy and happiness of being part of a developing, loving and caring community. *Share the Good News* characterises...“the ultimate aim of Catholic education...” as “the full

growth of the individual, a fully alive person for self and for others, in communion with Christ.” #28 *Share the Good News* p. 44. It also points out that ...“it should be remembered that children can teach one another much, as they journey together in faith.” #93 *Share the*

Good News p. 134. In Catholic schools pupils are encouraged to grow in communion with Christ and with each other. Not alone as individuals but with the help of each other the school community achieves its goal: ‘the fully alive person for self and for others.’

Prayer, Witness, Jesus Christ

Catholic Schools Week has its ultimate inspiration in the person and life of Jesus Christ. Home, school and parish are called to be witnesses of Christian life in the world in

which we live. Catholic Schools Week supports this witness through times of thanksgiving, reflection, petition and renewal in a bid to further our communion with Christ and with one

another. *Share the Good News* provides many ideas on how to nurture the life of faith in homes, schools and parishes.

Grandparents and Saints

CSW 2013 will firstly encourage schools to take time in prayer giving thanks for the gift of faith and praying for growth in faith. Secondly during the week schools will be encouraged to reflect on the witness of the Christian life that is available to us

in the lives of those around us and in the lives of the saints that we celebrate during CSW 2013 (Monday 28th January – St. Thomas Aquinas, Thursday 31st January – St. John Bosco, Friday 1st February- St. Brigid). Finally we will be en-

couraged to look to Christ because faith has its starting and finishing points in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.



Launch of CSW 2013

The launch of CSW2013 will take place in Roscommon on Monday 21st January 2013. The schools of the town will come together to celebrate in prayer and reflection as the Catholic community in Ireland

looks forward to Catholic Schools Week which will begin the following Sunday. Resources have been prepared to assist Schools, Homes, Boards of Management and Parishes celebrate the crucial work of nurturing

the faith of pupils in Catholic schools especially during the *Year of Faith*.

Resources for CSW 2013

An important element of the CSW 2013 will be prayer time at liturgy and in quiet times of reflection. Resources have been prepared to encourage pupils to appreciate

the witness of Grandparents to the faith and the witness of the saints whose feasts are celebrated during the week. Pupils will be called again to look to Christ

as the pattern of life for all who call themselves Christian and Catholic.





“The life of prayer and worship is central to the school community, both inside and outside of the educational setting.”

*Bishop Brendan Kelly, Chairman
Council for Education of the Irish Episcopal Conference*