

# Catholic Education Week

November  
2020

## "The Way, the Truth and the Life"

### CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK PRAYER

*Jesus our Teacher,  
in your love for us,  
help us to develop  
our own talents  
so that we may  
become like you  
and lead lives of  
goodness.*

*Bless all learners  
and all teachers.*

*May our Catholic  
schools continue to  
serve our families,  
our communities and  
our country.*

*Help us, through our  
learning,*

*to believe in you  
and to celebrate the  
life of your Church.*

*Help us to grow in  
holiness*

*as we grow in  
friendship with you  
and try to become  
saints.*

*We make this prayer  
in the name of Jesus,  
our Lord. Amen*

### Turnbull High School

#### Caritas Award 2020 and Religion, Beliefs and Values Award

A huge congratulations to our S6 pupils who achieved the Pope Benedict Caritas Award this year! Through their faith learning, faith reflection and faith witness activities, they also gained the SQA Religion, Beliefs and Values Level 6 certificate.



2020 is also the first year that the RE department has entered pupils for the SQA Religion, Beliefs and Values Level 4 certificate. This enables pupils to gain accreditation and an additional qualification with their exam results in S4 by completing our S3 course. We will be developing elements of our RBV programme this year and aim for every pupil at Turnbull achieving the award at Level 4 and all Caritas pupils achieving Level 6 - Academic and Spiritual formation enriching one another.

#### Turnbull High School has become a Laudato Si' School!

At the start of Catholic Education Week, Turnbull High School had a whole-school service on Teams to celebrate our school community becoming a Laudato Si' School.

Laudato Si' Schools aims to meet the Holy Father's goal of creating an "Ecological Education" within Turnbull High School. It is a call for our school



community to be stewards of God's creation. Our school has now answered this call and made a commitment, as a community of faith and learning, to CHANGE FOR GOOD.

As we prayed together in this service, we promised to love God, look after each other and protect the world. We started our Turnbull High School journey to CHANGE FOR GOOD. Our prayers showed our commitment and encouraged us to have greater contact with the natural world asking us to 're-see' it in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude.

#### Patronal Feast Day – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Turnbull High School celebrated its 3<sup>rd</sup> Patronal Feast day, where we celebrated our school consecration and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Plans for this Celebration have taken a different shape this year due to Covid, but we have successfully adapted our model to ensure this remains a highlight on our school Calendar.

We have embraced technology and moved our celebration to using Teams, "beamed" to all classrooms across the school.

The day began with a Service, including a very special message from Archbishop Tartaglia dedicated to the community of Turnbull High School, reminding us of the importance of following Jesus as The Way, The Truth and The Life. The day continued with a whole-school Rosary, with an Inter-house Quiz at the end of the school day.

Caritas pupils lead all events and all staff and pupils participated in all activities.

Look out for further details on this in the next Turnbull Times.



## St. Helen's Primary



**St. Helen's Primary School is celebrating its Golden Jubilee this year. Our school opened in August 1970 and throughout this academic year our pupil council will be collaborating with Mrs O'Connor to generate 50 ways to mark our anniversary.**

Our school chaplain, Father Monaghan celebrated an anniversary Mass with our school and wider community through a streamed service in August. We are thankful for the chaplaincy services provided over the last fifty years by the priests and assistant priests in St. Dominic's parish.

Our annual celebration of the Feast of St. Helen was enhanced with balloon arches at both gates in our school colours, with golden numeral balloons in the centre. What a wonderful welcome for the children! ad multos annos!



We look forward to continuing our celebrations and receiving our apostolic blessing later this session. Our Silver Jubilee blessing from St. John Paul II, Pope, still proudly hangs in our school from our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1995.

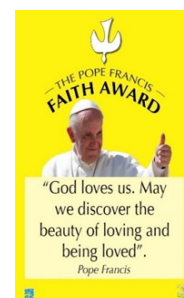


This year, the theme of Catholic Education Week is, ***“Jesus Christ- The Way, The Truth and The Life”***. All pupils have engaged in a range of learning opportunities using the SCES materials and have further developed their understanding of this verse from John's Gospel. Through scripture, we grow in faith.



Primary 1-4 also learned more about our school patron, St. Helen and some children created their own board games. Primary 5-7 have learned more about the lives of saints and the model they provide for us. May our school continue to put our faith into action and be modern day saints.

During Catholic Education Week, our Primary 6 pupils participated in their enrolment service for the Pope Francis Faith Award. Over the two years they will reflect on the Fruits and Gifts of the Holy Spirit and use these to grow in faith and to contribute to their school and parish community.



Our Primary 7 pupils have started the second year of their award. They are making excellent progress and we are blessed to support them in their faith journey.

Our Primary 5 and Primary 4 children continued on their Sacramental journey in Term 1. The sun shone brightly on our communicants as they gathered in St. Dominic's Church and received the Holy Eucharist for the first time.

The children in Primary 4 received the sacrament of Reconciliation in their First Confession.



Our Primary 7's from last session enrolled for the Sacrament of Confirmation in October 2019 and were confirmed by Archbishop Tartaglia.



## St. Matthew's Primary

***St. Matthew's Primary—"A community of learning, love, faith and justice."***

All members of our school community are, by right, valued equally and are encouraged to excel in different ways. All, regardless of gender, race and creed are offered the same opportunities to participate in the life of the school.

At St. Matthew's all parents and pupils are an integral part of our school community and, together, it is our responsibility to provide the best possible learning experiences for our children and to enhance the excellent ethos of our school community; to set a high standard for learning and achievement, behaviour and manners and have a high expectation of our children, our staff team and our school community as a whole.

St Matthew's is a denominational Roman Catholic primary school and the culture of our school is based on Gospel values and strong links with St Matthew's Parish Church. We work closely with the church's Liturgy Group for preparation of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and the Eucharist. Our Primary 7 children from last year recently received the Sacrament of Confirmation in S1 and we were very proud of them. Our Primary 4 children have recently received the Sacrament of the Eucharist in our new church. Each First Communion was a beautiful event and a special memory for everyone.

We follow *This is Our Faith*, the first religious education syllabus which has originated fully in Scotland and has been created to meet the distinctive needs of young people here. It structures learning experiences and outcomes for young people as they develop and are provided with opportunities to encounter Jesus Christ on their journey of faith.

At St Matthew's, as a Catholic school, we aim to help all children to develop their fullest potential, preparing them for life, informing their minds and forming their characters so that they can contribute with others, and above all with God, to the transformation of the world.

Through careful, considered and continuous monitoring and tracking of pupils' progress, attainment, wider achievement and pastoral wellbeing the Senior Leadership Team, Class Teachers and Support Staff identify, review and evaluate learners' needs in order to ensure the pace of learning is appropriate for individuals and sustains motivation and attention.

We celebrate achievement within the school through our regular assemblies and through our newsletters and articles in the local press. We also ensure that success is recognised at local and national level through our participation in competitions, award ceremonies and through close contact with East Dunbartonshire Council Education Department.

Members of the local community are actively involved in St Matthew's PS through collaborative working to support children and families. We work closely with Active Schools to provide sporting events and an opportunity to try a variety of activities for example Judo, Badminton, Golf and Tennis. We have close links with our associated secondary, Turnbull High School through partnership working.

We have four house groups, they are St. Catherine's, St. Therese, St. Thomas and St. Nicholas. The House group have led assemblies and events throughout the school. Being part of a house group is very important to us to make links across stages within the school. In these difficult times we are as a school addressing how we will continue our House Group Work.

In September we celebrated our Feast Day and had a wonderful assembly together. We do this now on line and enjoy sharing our knowledge and special intentions digitally with one another.

We work hard to support Charity and we have started our Advent Appeal, supporting local Charities. This year we are supporting, EDC Foodbank, The Mavis Bank Care Home, EDC Homeless Unit, Babes in the Wood Charity and Cardinal Winning Pro Life Group.



Our former pupils, now S1, had the Sacrament of Confirmation conferred upon them by Canon Hill and Archbishop Tartaglia.



Some of our Primary 4 children who recently received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in St. Matthew's Church.



## St Nicholas' Primary

Catholic Education Week provides us with the opportunity to reflect on our Catholic Schools and the role they play within our lives and society. This reflection is even more important this year as our lives are experiencing so much uncertainty and disruption. This year's theme Jesus Christ: The Way, the Truth and the Life is intrinsic to Catholic education and in conjunction with the 10 characteristics of the Catholic School, we aim to replicate the love, service and justice that we see in the life of Jesus.

Within St Nicholas' Primary school our Religious Education programme enables our children to learn about the life of Jesus and reflect on how we can be more like him in our daily lives. Following his life from the beginning to the end, demonstrates how special he was to so many different people.

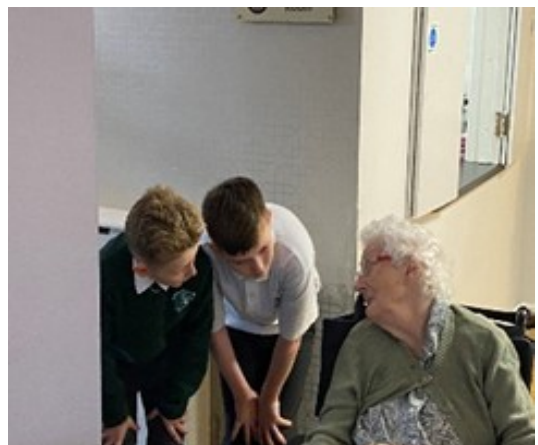
Our aim is that children know that we strive to follow Jesus and live by his example with others, recognise how their relationship with God and others can be shaped by the values of Jesus' Kingdom.

In addition to our Religious Education programme, at St Nicholas' Primary we think about the ways we can try to be more like Jesus by demonstrating the Gospel Values in our school community and beyond. Our Truly Trusted Assemblies focus on each Gospel Value, discussing the importance of it for all people in today's world. We celebrate those who consistently demonstrate these values throughout the school year. We also think about how we can promote these Gospel Values within our world outside school, encouraging this to be illustrated within our actions. Every year the community of St Nicholas' Primary support people within the locality and across the world fostering friendships with other Christians to ensure that we are supporting those less fortunate. Throughout the year we have supported many charities including SCIAF, CHAS, MISSIO and St Nicholas Care Fund. In addition to this, our Mini Vinnie Group has worked with our local SVDP. Thinking of the needs of the people from our own area has had a profound effect on the children and has made them realise how lucky we are.

We are continuing The Pope Francis Award for P7 pupils in partnership with both St Andrew's and St Joseph's Parishes. By looking more closely at the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, pupils are helped to see God in everything around them. By enrolling in this programme pupils are encouraged to be like Jesus in becoming an active participant in their parish community.

During this week and throughout the year, we will endeavour to follow Jesus Christ: the Way, the Truth and the Life in order to follow the Christian vocation and transform society for the better.

Throughout Catholic Education week we will encourage our children to be courageous in their decisions, choices and actions so that we are living by our Gospel Values in order to generate a community climate that is permeated by the Gospel.



*P7(2019-20) visiting our local care home*