

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

20th to 26th February 2011



“When I invite you to become saints, I am asking you not to be content with second best.”

Pope Benedict XVI

“Think of all the love that your heart was made to receive and all the love it is meant to give. After all, we were made for love.”

Pope Benedict XVI

“I promise to pray for you, and I ask you to pray for me.”

Pope Benedict XVI

**“Grow in holiness:
become saints of the 21st century.”**

“What God wants most of all for each one of you is that you should become holy. He loves you much more than you could ever imagine, and he wants the very best for you. And by far the best thing for you is to grow in holiness.”

Pope Benedict XVI



The Holy Father spoke these significant words at the Big Assembly in Twickenham where 4,000 children and young people had gathered from every Diocese in England, Scotland and Wales. Many thousands more ‘connected’ to the Assembly through the Internet. We were lucky enough to have 3 pupils present. Daniel Canning presented the Pope with a gift.

What struck all those listening and watching was the obvious sincerity of the Pope as he spoke from his heart to all those who were listening to him. He taught his ‘pupils’ a simple but important lesson - how to be close to Jesus, how to follow his ways, how to grow in holiness and how to follow a path toward sainthood.

For every Catholic school participating, these words struck a chord because that is precisely their mission: to help their pupils on their journeys towards excellence, success and happiness. The Holy Father described this as “not being content with second best”.

The main purpose of Catholic schools is to help young people realise what is meant by wanting “the very best” in their lives. We know that this is not about money, or fame; it’s not even about having lots of friends and exciting experiences; it’s about developing our relationship with God who created us in love, who calls us to love him and to show this same love to others.

The Holy Father described this as “the bigger picture” which Catholic schools help young people pupils to see - the connections between what they are learning about the world and how they are developing in faith.

During this Catholic Education Week, young people, teachers, parents, clergy and parishioners are asked to reflect on the various lessons which Pope Benedict XVI taught during his visit to the UK. In particular, each Catholic community should consider how it can respond to his teaching with the confidence of faith.

Our Lady's High School



Our New School Prayer

Sign of the Cross: In the name of the Father

Lord, we pray that today we will work to the best of our ability and use the talents that You have given us.

We give thanks for the gifts that we have received: Our Families, Friends and the gift of Learning.

Bless our teachers and the school which we are fortunate to have and may Our Lady continue to be at the heart of our school community.

We ask that we may always find comfort and peace here in Our Lady's High School.

Mary, Seat of Wisdom – Pray for Us



In Our Lady's High we have three main aims to guide our work:

- To be a Christian Community that lives out Gospel values in all aspect of its life
- To provide teaching and learning which promote the Spiritual, Moral, Physical, Social, Aesthetic and Intellectual Development of all of its members
- To work in collaboration with a community which includes Parents, Parishes, other Schools, Education Service and a range of Outside Agencies

We try to achieve these aims by measuring our progress against the Charter for Catholic Schools in Scotland.

We are lucky to have a School Chaplain, Father Frank King who is with us at least two days each week. Father King celebrates Mass in our beautiful War Memorial Chapel two mornings each week.

A number of our sixth Year Students have been trained by Father King and enrolled as Eucharistic Ministers. These fine students are actively involved in preparing the liturgy of School Masses and Services and provide Eucharistic Services in the absence of Father King.

Father King visits classes, helps organise retreats and is a well known, well respected presence in our community. Arrangements are made near the end of Advent and Lent to allow all of our young people the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Each class has a Class Mass during the year. This is celebrated in the War Memorial Chapel and is organised by the R.E. Teacher and Father King.

Our Lady's High School

The **School Chaplaincy Team** plays a leading role in maintaining and developing our Catholic ethos. It organises events such as Patron's Day Mass and Patron's Day activities. This team comprises our Chaplain Fr Frank King and numerous staff drawn from all areas of the school's work. Senior pupils are also vital members of the team.

All pupils have 2 periods of **Religious Education** each week to help them grow in knowledge, understanding and experience of their own faith.

S1-S3 pupils all have the opportunity to take part in **Religious Retreats** held outwith the school. This year sixth year pupils enjoyed a retreat at Carfin Grotto.

Through our **Kamwokya Partnership**, Our Lady's High School continues to play a leading role in assisting SCIAF with projects in the Developing World. Both staff and pupils have spent time living with our partners in Kamwokya, Uganda. Along with other partner schools in North Lanarkshire, we have taken on the responsibility of providing money for a canteen as well as assisting with education.

Service To Others In Need

Since August our pupils have raised a substantial amount of money for charity:

£2,500	St. Andrew's Hospice
£2,500	S.C.I.A.F.

are a few examples. Almost 100 parcels were delivered to the local community at Christmas time. Back packs were filled and sent to Mary's Meals to assist with projects there.

The school is a thriving Community and pupils are happy to be involved in all aspects of school life.

Catholic education is, first and foremost, a partnership between school, parish and home. These three partners, by working closely together, have a powerful effect on the physical, social, academic and moral development of all our young people. Especially in Catholic Education Week, we ask for your prayers to make sure that Catholic education continues to maintain the high standards that are the trademark of our schools and the envy of many people both within and beyond Scotland. We also organise a Senior Citizens' Lunch with entertainment; with Father King as MC. It is always entertaining.

O.L.H.S. Eucharistic Ministers – Appointed February 2011



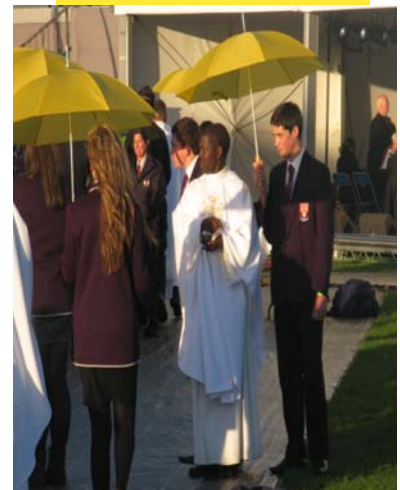
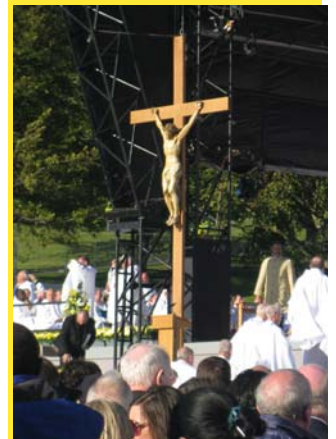
The Papal Visit

There was great excitement in the build up to the visit of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI. With the great support of the Scottish Catholic Education Service, pupils learned all about the papacy and the pope, through power-point presentations and assemblies. Beautiful Spiritual bouquets were conducted by the young people. The words of John Henry Newman giving them food for thought. *“To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.”*

The day of the visit to Scotland, our two School Captains, Christopher Costello and Paula Jane Graham, left first thing in the morning along with Mrs Mulholland for their Pilgrimage. They were joined by hundreds of other Scottish pupils on their Pilgrimage to Twickenham. At the same time Daniel Canning was flown down to England to prepare him to meet the Pope and present him with a book of Scottish Poetry (we did sneak in some Our Lady’s High School Prayer Cards!)

What a marvelous experience all of the young people had listening to his inspirational words.

Our other pilgrimage involved 90 pupils and 20 staff. We set off with banners, picnics and good spirits at 12 noon. After a long wait on the bus and a very long walk we arrived in Bellahouston – what a sight. Some of our other young people had travelled with their families in Parish buses. Many came to join us before Mass. Our Stewards were trained to assist with Holy Communion and were delighted to keep their Yellow “brollies”.



The Papal Visit

What a roar when Pope Benedict finally arrived. We all celebrated together on a sunny September afternoon. No one will forget the experience as the Pope waved to us. Some photos tell our story –



Back at school the whiteboards were filled with images of the Pope arriving in Edinburgh and then Bellahouston. A day we will never forget.

We will strive to Grow in Holiness: become Saints of the 21st Century.

Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral P.S.

On the occasion of His Holiness' Pope Benedict's visit to our country in September 2010, all young people were called 'to lead lives worthy of the Lord.' For those of us working with young people in Roman Catholic schools, it is our responsibility and privilege to provide opportunities and experiences to allow this spiritual development.

In Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral Primary School, we aim to provide opportunities to allow all of our pupils to 'lead lives worthy of the Lord'. We focus our Religious Education throughout the year on the Church's teaching, Church seasons, Sacramental Preparation and Lenten Almsgiving. This session, we will celebrate 3 Sacraments, Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation, in two Parishes, a wonderful way to strengthen the links between Home, School and Parish.

Involving our pupils in celebrating Mass, through reading, and altar serving, allows our pupils to take their place and play their part in their own parish life.

Last session, through working as a Faith Community, we were able to think of others before ourselves. At our Leaver's Ceremony in June, we were able to support the following Charities:

SCIAF; Gorsilaure; Missio; St Andrew's Hospice; Let the Children Live; Wayside Club; Lanarkshire Cancer Care; Ozaman Club; British Heart Foundation and a charity of Bishop Devine's choice. On this occasion, we were able to donate over £4600

This session, we have been able to support charities closer to home, Starlight charity, which supports terminally ill children, and Cash for Kids. Through this, we are making our children aware of those less fortunate than themselves.

In Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral Primary, we aim to provide a whole school experience for pupils to live their Faith on a daily basis, in everything they do. Our staff serves as a living witness to Christ's teaching, no more so than our janitor, Mr George Smith, who sadly and suddenly died recently. As an example Mr Smith lived his Faith, a shining example of Pope Benedict's request for staff, pupils and the whole of Catholic Education:

'When I ask you to become saints, I am asking you not to be content with second best.'

As Catholic teachers and Catholic Parents, we can aim for no less than this for our children.



St. Bernadette's Primary School News

The theme of Catholic Education Week in 2011 is "Grow in Holiness: become saints of the 21st century."

During this week we are called to look at our lives, to consider what we value, to put aside the things in our lives which are superficial, and to respond to the deep and intense love that God has for each of us by leading lives worthy of him.

We are asked to reflect what it means to be "holy" or to become a saint.

In St. Bernadette's we believe that a sense of identity, pride and success is very evident in our school. The welcoming environment, daily expectations and supportive partnerships with pupils, staff, parents, church and our local community work together to achieve this. When we come together within any of these branches of our community we hope that we extend our respect and care for each other. The opportunities of Class Assemblies, Presentation of Sacraments, Open Day, Parents' Evenings.

Book Week, Class Masses and Services, and School Shows provide us with regular occasions to strive for success and give us all the chance to reflect on how important it is that we all play a full part in our community.

On Education Sunday the staff and pupils would like to say a very big thank you to the parishioners of St. Bernadette's. You provide our school with great support in many ways such as:

- ❖ The Children's Liturgy
- ❖ Choral and music groups and
- ❖ Prayer Partners for Confirmation

With the help and support we receive from the Canon and Father Reilly, throughout the school year, we recognise that we are indeed a fortunate school to be so well placed within such a parish.

Kind hearted pupils and generous parents

Let the Children Live received £750, St. Andrew's Hospice £2086, Sciaf £1000, Missio £1000 and McMillan Cancer Care £111.

Our PTA, as always, has been working hard for the pupils' and the school.

Highlights and Achievement

- 1 We continue as a Gold Health Promoting and ECO School.
- 2 We continue to promote Fair Trade within our community.
- 3 Our Athletics team again are already running on the road to success in NLC's Cross Country Championship.
- 4 We were delighted with the wonderful attendance and support of our parents on 'Open Day'.

Preview for 2011-2012

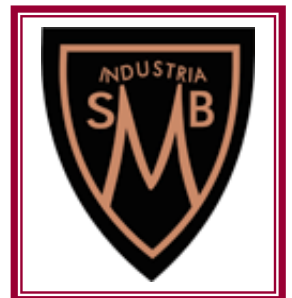
Sacraments

Pupils in Primary 3 will be presented for Reconciliation on Wednesday 16th March.



Pupils in Primary 4 will be presented for First Holy Communion on Saturday 14th May with Thanksgiving on Sunday 5th June.

Pupils in Primary 6 & Primary 7 will be presented for Confirmation on Thursday 3rd March.



St. Brendan's Primary & Nursery School

This year's theme, "Grow in Holiness, become saints of the 21st century," is taken directly from the words of the Holy Father, spoken to children and young people of the UK during the recent Papal visit in September 2010 where we are invited to consider the meaning of holiness, discipleship and sainthood.

In Saint Brendan's Primary, we aspire to the knowledge that these qualities cannot and should not be taught as part of any subject or curricular area but should form the core values which are present in the day to day life of our school.

We realise the importance of producing good students but it is vital that we provide an education for life, which gives our youngsters an emphasis on being treated with dignity, respect and love and, in turn, placing a huge emphasis on forming and nurturing these values in the daily lives and attitudes of our pupils.

Throughout the school we establish and opportunities to encourage care and respect for each other, including our programmes of Buddying and peer support, and we try to ensure that differences are resolved by open discussion and mutual respect, love and understanding of the feelings of others.

We also encourage these values in a more formal sense through our Citizenship programme where we give ongoing support to SCIAF and various other organisations such as Missio, who in turn supported our school service on the day of the Papal visit to Scotland by providing us with a special rosary for each child in the school, We were also proud to present a Missio rosary, each decade representing one of the five continents of the world, to our parents and friends who joined us for our service on that memorable day.

It is, however, important to consider that our aspirations and values in Saint Brendan's Primary will not be fully effective without the support, encouragement and example shown by you, the parents and by our parish community.

Let us work together to ensure our youngsters realise the importance of God's love in their lives and that they in turn, as citizens of the 21st century have the confidence and common sense to aspire to and live their lives in a way which shows, and will encourage in others, a deep sense of justice, respect and goodness

S Fraser
Headteacher

