



Catholic Schools Week 2010

January 31st - February 6th 2010

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What Is Catholic Schools Week?

Catholic Schools Week gives us the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the tremendous contribution that our Catholic Primary and Post Primary Schools make not just to Irish society but to the mission of the Church. Last year marked a very successful beginning of an all-Ireland celebration of Catholic Schools Week and we hope this year to build on that foundation and continue to create a space where we can proudly articulate and celebrate our ethos and identity. Catholic Schools Week is organised by a joint steering committee of IEC and CORI and will be launched nationally on Thursday 28th January 2009

What Is The Theme Of Catholic Schools Week in 2010?

This year the theme for the week is **'Catholic Schools – A Light for Every Generation'**.

Catholic schools are committed to the education and formation of the young person in every aspect of their lives. Thus Catholic Schools are light for parents, pupils, staff and society in every generation. In selecting this theme we are clearly connecting the vision of Catholic Education with the mission of the Gospel, to bring the light of Christ to the world and to allow that light to shine through and in all that we do in Catholic Schools. This theme reminds us that

we are constantly challenged to let that light shine for the present generation and this will remain part of our task for future generations. It also allows us to remember with great gratitude all those who through their work in establishing schools and places of education brought the light of Christ to many generations of Irish people in the past.

Pope Benedict in a letter to the faithful of the diocese and city of Rome on the urgent task of educating young people in January 2008 said:

The soul of education, as of the whole of life, can only be a dependable hope. Today, our hope is threatened on many sides and we even risk becoming, like the ancient pagans, people "having no hope and without God in the world", as the Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians of Ephesus (Eph 2:12. What may be the deepest difficulty for a true educational endeavour consists precisely in this: the fact that at the root of the crisis in education lies a crisis of trust in life.

Catholic Schools shine the light of hope on the educational endeavour in



Is Catholic Schools Week Only For Schools?

The events scheduled for Catholic Schools Week will take place in schools, in parishes, at diocesan and at national level. A Resource Pack will be provided to all schools, Boards of Management and priests. This will provide resources to help extend the celebrations into homes all over the country. There are also resources to help dioceses

and parishes to be involved in the celebrations. The December/January issue of *Intercom* will contain resources to help parishes plan for a Mass on January 31st. In this way we hope that the key mission of Catholic schools in the Church, the home, in parishes and in the life of the nation will be highlighted.

Year For Priests

This year Pope Benedict has asked us to pray especially for priests. We are reminded of the need to support one another in living good Christian lives. We pray for one another and we pray for our priests who serve us in their leadership and pastoral care of the community. During this week we express our gratitude for the commitment of our priests to Catholic

schools and their ongoing interest in the work of schools. Priests are encouraged to visit schools during Catholic Schools Week. The staff and pupils of schools will pray for their priests during this week. The resources prepared for CSW 2010 will contain ideas on how to mark the Year for Priests within Catholic Schools.

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The Role of Grandparents in Catholic Schools Week

For the first time we are inviting Grandparents to participate in Catholic Schools Week. We are designating Wednesday, February 3rd as 'Grandparents Day' and



we hope that on this day all schools will invite grandparents to come to school with their grandchildren and participate in some of the activities outlined in the Resource Pack. We are delighted to acknowledge the support and help given to us by the National Grandparent's Pilgrimage and look forward to making this event a part of our annual celebration.

How do I Get Involved?

Keep a look out in local and national media for activities connected to Catholic Schools Week. Ask your local school Principal/Parent Association/Board of Management representative how the school is celebrating Catholic Schools Week. More information will be available on

www.catholicbishops.ie/education

