

Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith and Resilience.

Catholic Schools Week Catholic Schools Week 2021: The overarching theme for CSW 2021 will be

Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith and Resilience.

This particular theme will be especially relevant given the pandemic experience that is affecting the entire country. The following will be the daily themes for CSW 2021:

- (1) Monday: *Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith.*
- (2) Tuesday: *Catholic Schools: Communities of Learning*
- (3) Wednesday: *Catholic Schools: Communities of Love*
- (4) Thursday: *Catholic Schools: Communities of Resilience*
- (5) Friday: *Catholic Schools: Communities of Hope*

As in previous years, the National resources for Catholic Schools Week will be uploaded on www.catholicschools.ie in time for January. Posters in English and Irish will be sent to all schools in early January.

DIOCESAN CELEBRATION AT LOCAL LEVEL.

During COVID 19 Schools are now used to working in class Bubbles for safety. Any large gatherings are not safe. Most schools are in a state of on-line learning. For this reason a Diocesan Gathering is not feasible at the end of January, We have prepared a service using symbols for the KEY DAILY THEMES. Students might decorate these in colours and laminate them to suspend from a small tree at home or as a mobile using coat hangers. If you are a special school with children attending school in class bubbles you might suspend these from the trees we planted last year. Bishop Michael blessed these trees in Portadown last year.

For CSW 2021 Archbishop Eamon has recorded a message directly speaking to students. He situates this into their lives coping with learning at home, family life in the pandemic and new school realities and learning situations. He thanks students and gives them his blessing for this year. This will be available to view or download here and on the Diocesan website from Thursday. We think students should view this prior to the prayer service on-line.

OUTREACH

Over the past two years schools have made a small contribution for an outreach to an educational project in Africa. £500 was sent each year through the Franciscan Missionary Sisters in Mount Oliver Dundalk to a school in EMBICO. Please consider sending an offering made out to Archdiocese of Armagh and post to Ara Coeli Cathedral Rd Armagh BT61 7QY Mark your envelope CSW 2021.

All Blessings Susan and Declan