

# Suggestions for Diocesan Celebrations of Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week is celebrated in dioceses across the country in many different ways. The diocesan celebration, in whatever form it takes, serves to highlight this important week in the Catholic school calendar. It can also act as a catalyst to encourage school and local faith communities to participate more fully in Catholic Schools Week at a local level. The following may help diocesan leadership as they plan for Catholic Schools Week 2016.

## Diocesan Liturgical Celebration

This can be a Mass or Prayer Service at diocesan or deanery level to which representatives of school communities are invited. An opportunity to visit the diocesan cathedral and walk through the Jubilee Door of Mercy might be considered. A gift that supports their Catholic identity is sometimes presented to the school communities in attendance on behalf of the diocese: candles, Bibles, a framed picture of Pope Francis, an image of the diocesan patron, a copy of the diocesan prayer, or a Teacher's Prayer are some of the gifts that might be used. As this is the Jubilee Year of Mercy, a framed copy of the Jubilee Year of Mercy Prayer might also be considered.

## Celebration of the Ministry of Teachers in the Catholic School

There is a template for such a service on [www.catholicschools.ie](http://www.catholicschools.ie). This might be done at diocesan or deanery/cluster level depending on numbers.

## Gathering of Chairpersons, Members of Boards of Management and Principals

Catholic Schools Week provides an opportunity to gather these key people in Catholic education. This gathering can be one of affirmation of the important work done by board members and one at which some ongoing formation is offered. In the Republic of Ireland, new boards of management will have been in place for just over two months. This might be an opportune time to formally commission board members at parish or diocesan level. A resource to help plan this event is available on [www.catholicschools.ie](http://www.catholicschools.ie).

## Schools Project

Consider a project or initiative to encourage schools to participate in Catholic Schools Week.

## Local Radio

Religious programmes on local radio might be asked to include a discussion on Catholic Schools Week in their schedule.



iCatholic.ie will host a number of programmes for Catholic Schools Week 2016, including a programme for primary schools. Keep an eye on [www.icatholic.ie](http://www.icatholic.ie) for further details and publicise upcoming events to schools, board members and parish communities.



## Catholic Schools Partnership: A Process for Understanding, Supporting and Taking Ownership of the Characteristic Spirit in a Catholic School

If the diocese has not yet launched the CSP process in its primary schools, consider the possibility of beginning it in Catholic Schools Week 2016. Further details can be found at [www.catholicschools.ie](http://www.catholicschools.ie).