

Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full

23 JANUARY – 30 JANUARY 2022

JUNIOR AND SENIOR INFANTS/P1 AND P2





Christian Faith	Word of God
<p>Mystery of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christians bless themselves in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God is our loving Father and Creator (Gn 1:26–7). God is good (Ps 116:1). God knows us and loves us (Ps 139). God is my friend. <p>Mystery of the Church/Kingdom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The way of life of the parish involves caring, sharing, and praying together (CCC 2179; CSRE 2a). The Church is a special place where God's people gather to pray. Our family helps us become friends of Jesus. The priest/teacher helps us to become friends of Jesus (LG 10). 	<p>Sacred Scripture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew 7:12
Liturgy and Prayer	Christian Morality
<p>Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God calls us to prayer and we respond (GS 18; CCC 2567). God always hears our prayers. The church is God's house, where his family comes together (CCC 1180; LG 6; 1 Tm 3:15). God's family gathers in the parish church to pray and celebrate (CCC 1069–71, 2179). The church is a holy place where people go to pray and talk to God (CCC 1181). 	<p>Human Dignity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God loves each one of us (Jer 31:3; 1 Jn 4:10–11; CSRE 3a). I am unique/special because God created me (CCC 1004; Gn 1:26–7; Ps 137:14). I am called to love God and to love others (Mt 22:36–40). Every person is special in the eyes of God (CCC 225, 356–61, 369, 1604, 1700–01, 1944–46, 2319, 2334; CSRE 3a).





Monday – Living Life to the Full with God

24 January 2022



Consider:

Every one of us is different. We are all unique and special. We are all born with different talents and strengths. What kind of talents can we have? Talents include sports, art, music, maths, writing and many other things.

In our Catholic school, each of us is different and unique and we are called to live life to the full. This means that we learn together but also that we learn to be kind to each other, as everyone deserves to be cared for.

Explore:

God loves us and wants us to live as Jesus did in our thoughts, words and actions.

The children could be asked to consider how we could live like Jesus and how we should treat each other every day in our thoughts, words and actions.

When we show love and kindness to each other, we are being the best that we can be.

Activity:

The song 'God's Love is so Wonderful' can be sang by the class, as it is a simple way of explaining how much God loves us and how each of us is born with different gifts and talents. A video accompanying the song can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ju38Sdc2cSg>.

The children can also draw and colour a picture of themselves participating in their favourite hobby or something they recognise they are talented at.





Tuesday – Living Life to the Full Together

25 January 2022



Consider:

We all belong to a family and we all like to have friends.

In our Catholic school, we are called to help and be kind to each other, as each person should feel welcome, included and cared for.

Today we celebrate the fact of God's love for each of us and how he made each of us special and unique.

Explore:

Remind the children how much God loves each one of us. God gives us all gifts that make us special and that we can share with others in our lives. We can use our gifts and talents to make the world a better and kinder place.

How can we use our talents and gifts to make our school a better place? Brainstorm with the children about what actions could be taken or are already being done, e.g. playing with others on yard, paying compliments to people, celebrating when we succeed or others succeed, using kind words and actions in school.

Activity:

Have the children draw and colour a picture of something they could do in school to make it a loving and happy place, as God wants it to be.





Wednesday – Grandparents’ Day: Celebrating Being Together Again



26 January 2022

Consider:

There are lots of different types of love. There is love that parents or grandparents have for us. There is our love of doing the things we enjoy. There is the love we have for a pet or a teddy bear or doll or toy.

When we love something it means we care very much about it and it has a very special place in our hearts.

Today we celebrate the love our grandparents have for us. Our grandparents are an important part of our family that we can go to for advice and help when we need it.

Explore:

Ask the children to think for a moment about someone or something they love. They can also discuss this in pairs. Hints or prompts can be given, such as family members. These can be written on the board.

Discuss how we love our parents and grandparents and how they love us. We spend time together. We are kind to each other. We go places together. We celebrate special occasions together. This can include celebrations at the church, such as weddings and First Holy Communions, as well as sadder occasions like funerals. We show our love by being there for each other.



God loves us and will always love us. Prayer helps us to talk to God, who always hears our prayers. Talk about some of the prayers the children are learning, such as the Morning Prayer.



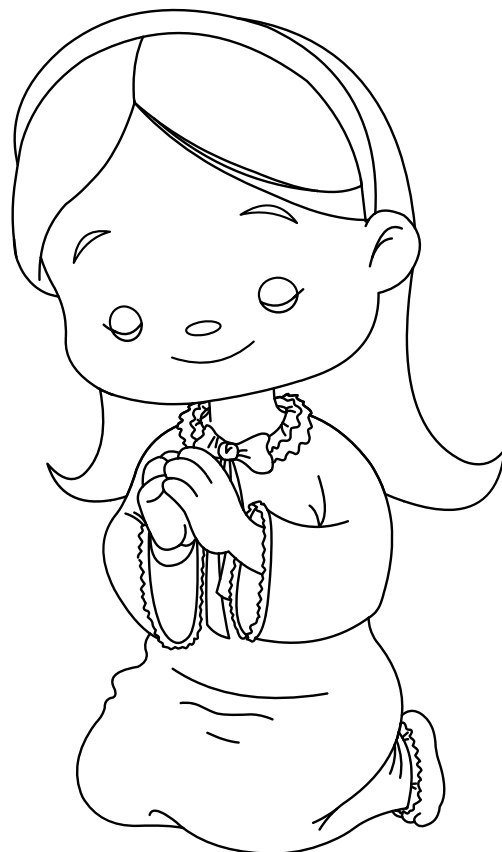
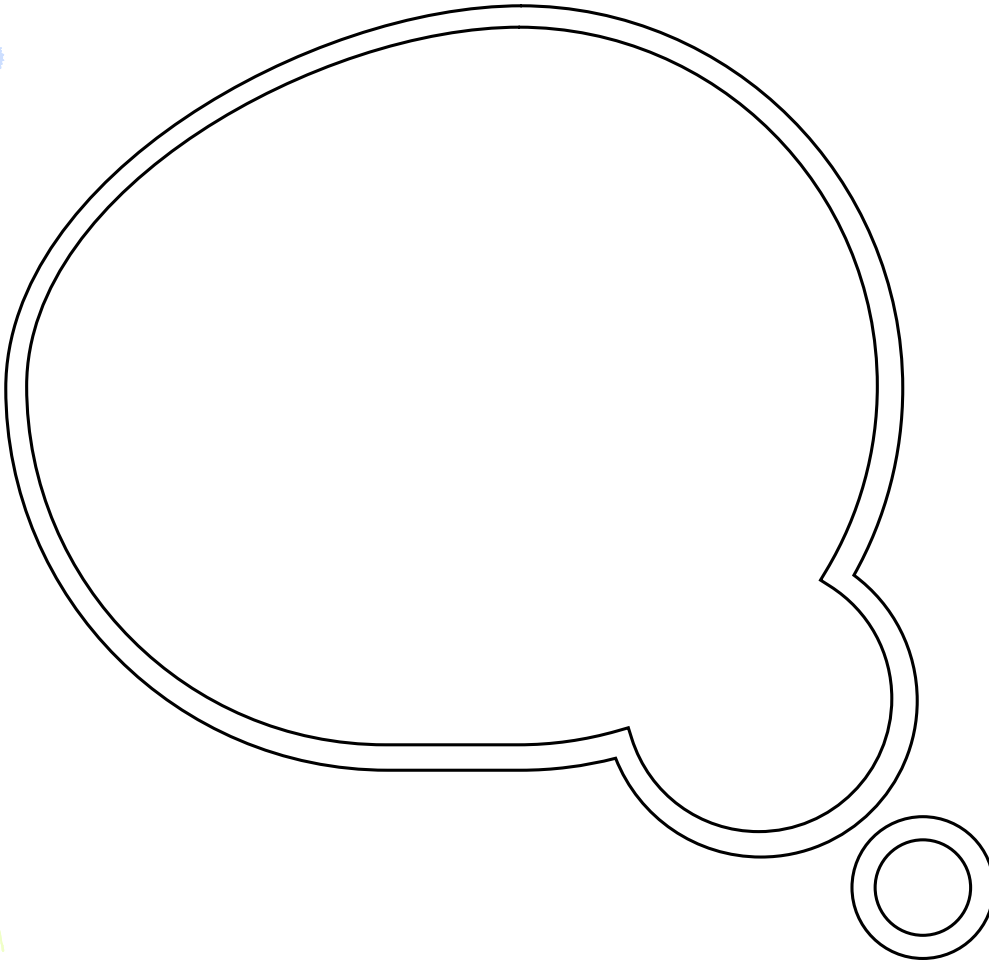
Activity:

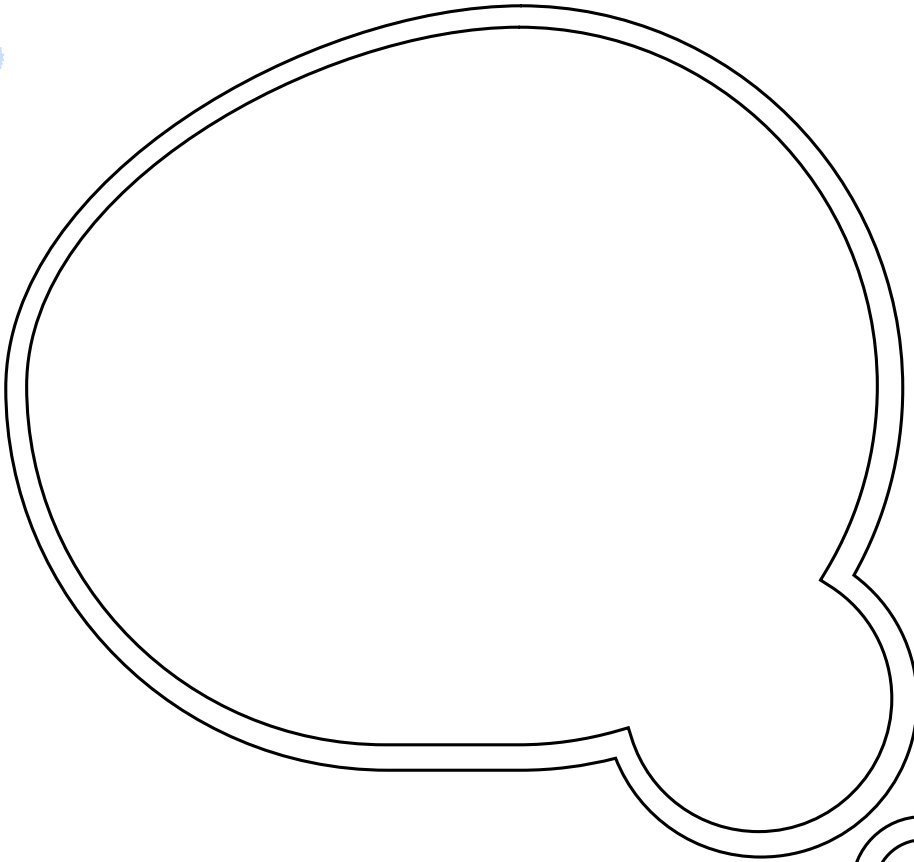
On the colouring sheet, the children can colour, write or draw a picture of their grandparents.

Alternatively, the children can write and design a postcard to send to their grandparents, thanking them for all that they do in their lives.

Following this, the children can be invited into silent prayer. Prayer can be talking to God aloud, but we can also pray by being still and silent by listening to our breath. The children can pick each person they want to pray for and, for a few seconds each, talk silently to God, asking him to take care of the people they love.









Thursday – Living Life in Wonder and Awe



27 January 2022

Consider:

Can you think of a time that you saw something amazing? Living life in wonder and awe means seeing the world as really special and as something that takes our breath away.

In our Catholic school, we can start to see the world as a wonderful place. Can we think of things in life that makes us really happy or make us go 'Wow'?

Explore:

Watch the following David Attenborough video about the wonderful world we live in: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=auSo1MyWf8g>. Talk with the children about what images in the video they liked the most and why they liked them.

The world is part of God's creation and it is important that we keep the world clean and healthy. Talk about what people can do to make sure the world can stay as wonderful as it is.

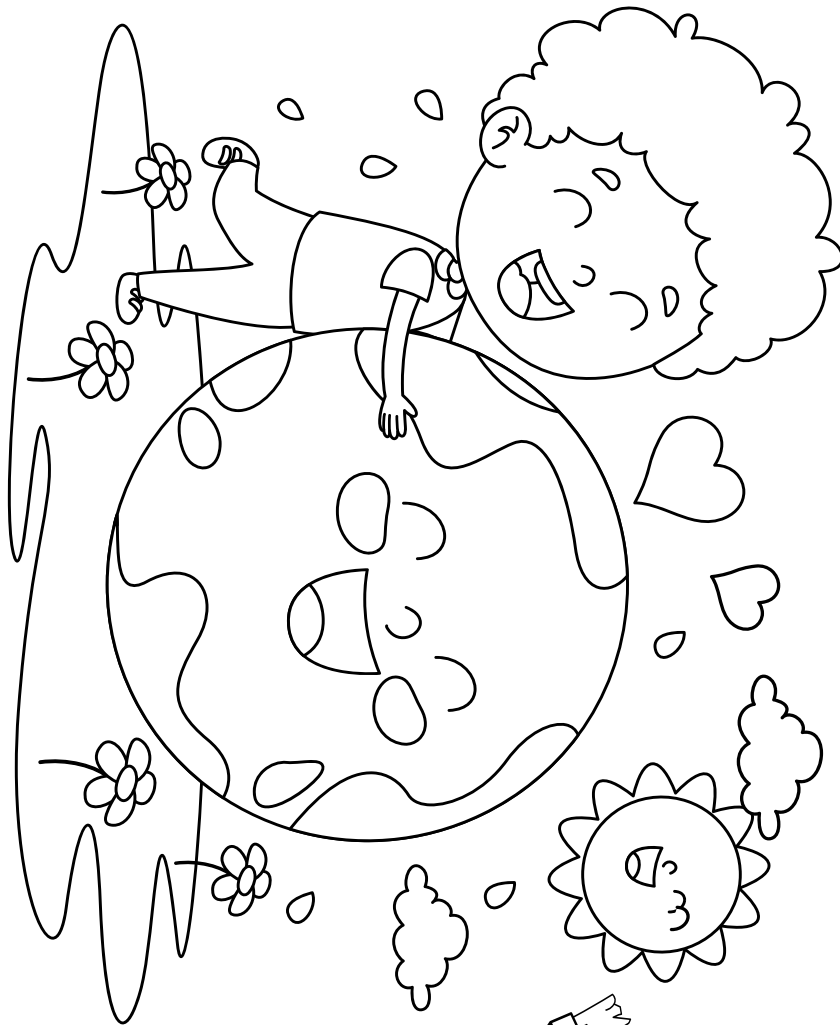
We should not litter and throw things away when they can be recycled. We should not waste water or electricity. Brainstorm what the class can do to make sure that we keep creation wonderful and awesome.



Activity:

Complete the colouring sheet about taking care of our world and, as a class, decide on a weekly target that will help to keep our home, school and parish clean and happy place.







Friday – Living Life and Facing the Future



28 January 2022

Consider:

Our Catholic school is a place where we come together to learn many different things each day. We also learn how to care for ourselves, for others and the environment. We learn to follow the Golden Rule of Jesus.

Explore:

Ask the children what rules they follow in the classroom and in school. Why are the rules important?

Introduce Matthew 7:12 to the class:

‘Do for other people the same things you want them to do for you.’

(From the *International Children's Bible*)

Ask the children what they think Jesus meant by this. Brainstorm on the board how we could do this in the future in our classroom.

Activity:

Make a ‘Golden Ruler’. Give each child a ruler-sized piece of card. They can write the Golden Rule onto the card or decorate it with a picture of them living by the Golden Rule with others.

Alternatively, type out and print the Golden Rule text that the children can paste onto their card. The Golden Ruler can then be decorated with gold glitter or foil. These can be placed on the wall or in the classroom sacred space to help remind the class about the Golden Rule. We want to treat others the way Jesus treats us.

