

Education Sunday 2014

Mass Booklet Sunday 16th February



Foreword

Education Sunday is a day of celebration for all those involved in the world of education. For over a century it has been part of an ecumenical celebration in which the Catholic Church participates.

The ecumenical theme for Education Sunday 2014 is 'Going Above and Beyond...'

Amongst those who 'Go Above and Beyond' within our community, it is fitting to use Education Sunday to celebrate and give thanks for all those who work so hard in and for Catholic schools and colleges across the country.

The Churches provide one-third of all schools in England and Wales. The Catholic Church is the largest provider of secondary schools, and the second largest provider (after the Church of England) of primary schools. We also have a thriving University and College sector.

Catholic schools are inclusive, and truly reflect the vibrant diversity of the Catholic communities they serve: for instance, they have significantly higher proportions of children from ethnic minorities than other schools. Not only do Catholic schools perform better than most in academic terms, but, remaining true to our mission to the poor, they also serve significantly higher proportions of children from the poorest neighbourhoods. They are also welcoming to others, as over a quarter of pupils in our schools are from outside the Catholic community.

The Church is rightly proud of its nationwide network of schools, making an authentic and holistic vision of Catholic education a reality, often in the most difficult circumstances. This has a huge impact on the well-being of our country and is truly a service to the Common Good of our nation.

It is therefore important to pay tribute to the many Teachers, Leaders, Support Staff and Governors, without whose dedicated commitment it would be impossible for us to provide such a service to society. Nor must we ever undervalue the foresight and sacrifices of past generations in building the solid foundations of such a precious inheritance.

We therefore hope that these resources will help you plan your Education Sunday as a celebration of the achievements of Catholic Education. Education Sunday provides an opportunity for schools to share their work, strengthening the partnership with parishes, which is vital in maintaining the ethos and mission of Catholic schools.

Paul Barber

Director of the Catholic Education Service

Education Sunday- 16th February 2014
6th Sunday of Year 1

1st Reading: A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus (15:15-20)

He never commanded any man to be godless

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
To behave faithfully is within your power.
He has set fire and water before you;
Put out your hand to whichever you prefer.
Man has life and death before him;
Whichever a man likes better will be given him.
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
He is almighty and all seeing.
His eyes are on those who fear him,
He notes every action of man.
He never commanded anyone to be godless,
He has given no one permission to sin.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 118: 1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R v 1)

They are happy who follow God's law

They are happy whose life is blameless,
Who Follow God's Law.
They are happy who do his will,
Seeking him with all their hearts.

You have laid down your precepts
To be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm
To obey your statutes.

Bless your servant and I shall live
And obey your word
Open my eyes that I may consider
The wonders of your law.

Teach me the demands of your statutes
And I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law,
To keep it with my heart.

2nd Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (2: 6-10)

God predestined wisdom to be for our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity; not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (5: 20- 22)

You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; but I say this to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Bidding Prayers

For the needs of the Church

For the Church, that it may continue to serve the global community through its commitment to Catholic education. May our schools and parishes be a support to young people throughout their faith journey so that they may confidently fulfil their role in the Christian community

Lord in your mercy

Public Authorities and the Salvation of the World

We pray for Educators throughout the world. Let us give thanks for all those who work in Catholic schools. We pray that the Lord will send his Holy Spirit to guide them so that they may continue to nurture the minds of future generations.

Lord in your mercy

For those burdened by difficulty

We pray for all those who are facing difficulty, at home, at school or at work. We pray Lord, that you will give us the courage, strength and faith to overcome our hardships and let us know the truth and power of your love through our times of sadness.

Lord in your mercy

For the local community

We offer up our parish community to the Lord and all of the good work and relationships that are contained within it. May our schools and parishes continue to work together to carry the message of faith to our wider community.

Lord in your mercy

Own intentions

Scripture readings from The Jerusalem Bible © 1966 by Darton Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Company Ltd.

Psalm 118 from The Psalms: A New Translation © 1963 The Grail (England) published by HarperCollins.