

Catholic Education Week



8th - 15th February 2015

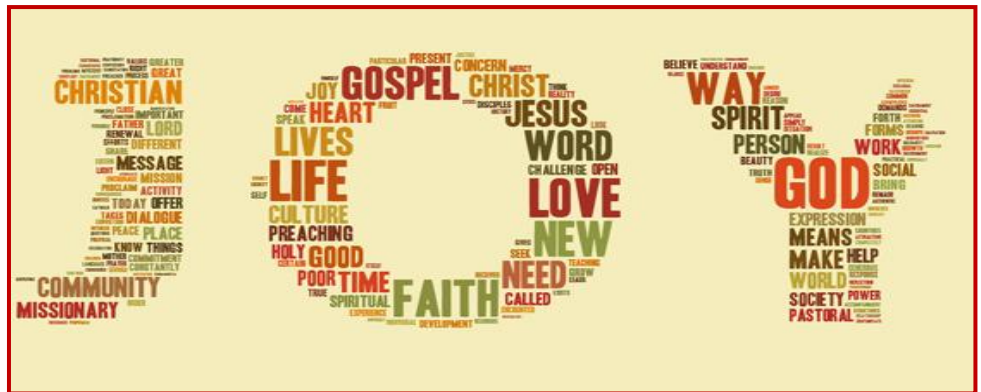
Proclaiming the Joy of the Gospel



15th February
2015

“Jesus understands our weaknesses and sins; and he forgives us if we allow ourselves to be forgiven.”

Pope Francis



A message from the Bishops of Scotland

We want you to know how much we appreciate all the work being done to proclaim the joy of the Gospel in family homes, parishes and schools.

We know that it isn't easy at times to show your faith in the world. Sometimes it can be really challenging and it can take a lot of effort. But Pope Francis has reminded us that our faith in Jesus should be joyful - a source of great happiness, not a cause of embarrassment or anxiety.

He encourages us to recall how, in the Gospels, those who meet Jesus are filled with joy in their hearts because of the love he shows them. The Holy Father assures us that no one is excluded from the joy brought by Jesus and that no one can take this joy from us. He invites us to be "missionary disciples" who follow Jesus and "Spirit-filled evangelisers" who proclaim the Gospel through our lives.

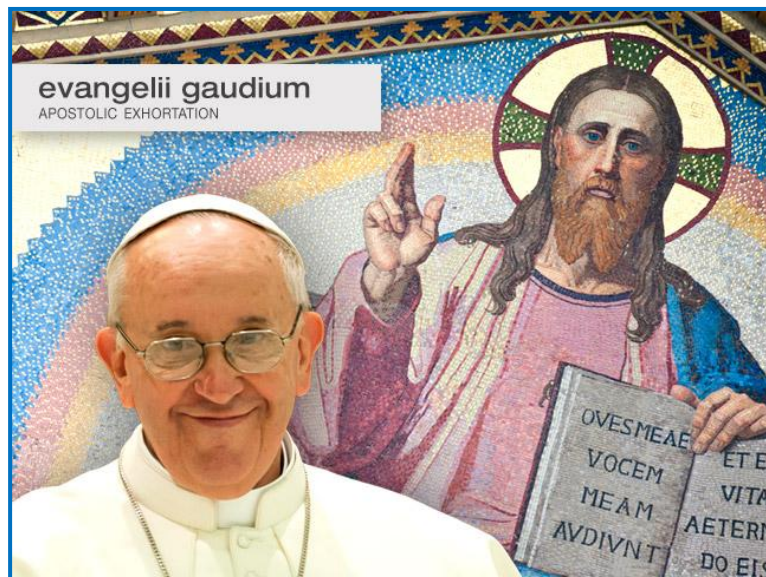
So, our invitation to you during this Catholic Education Week is to consider this question:

*How do you show the JOY of knowing Jesus Christ
- in your family, at school, at work, with friends?*

The Joy of the Gospel

“God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.”

Pope Francis



Pope Francis begins this important document with these words:

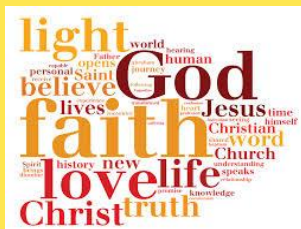
I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since “no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord”. The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.

Now is the time to say to Jesus: “Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace”. How good it feels to come back to him whenever we are lost!

Let me say this once more: God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy. Christ, who told us to forgive one another “seventy times seven” (Mt 18:22) has given us his example: he has forgiven us seventy times seven. Time and time again he bears us on his shoulders. No one can strip us of the dignity bestowed upon us by this boundless and unfailing love. With a tenderness which never disappoints, but is always capable of restoring our joy, he makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and to start anew. Let us not flee from the resurrection of Jesus, let us never give up, come what will. May nothing inspire more than his life, which impels us onwards!

To read the whole text, use this link:

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium_en.html



“There is the tendency to place ourselves and our ambitions at the center of our lives. This is very human, but it is not Christian.”

Pope Francis

Religious Education for Young People



God's Loving Plan in St. Mark's

This session we are introducing a new addition to our program for religious and moral teaching and fostering loving relationships, **"God's Loving Plan."**

**"For I know the plans I have for you
Declares the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future and a hope. jeremiah 29:11**

Christian moral teaching positively affirms all human life as precious. Our Catholic faith recognises that all people are created in God's image and are loved in a unique way by God. It encourages us to appreciate the value of our lives, to develop self respect and to live life to the full, in loving communion with others as God intended.

The basis of Christian moral teaching is that God has a loving plan for each of us- to help us to share love in our relationships with family, with friends and in lifelong loving relationships.

The school supports parents, as the first teachers of their children, in helping to know their own worth and to know that their lives are precious to God. The Church urges parents to ensure that their children develop a healthy regard for their bodies and are formed for love which is true and faithful. Teachers help children to inform their minds and form their consciences, to understand God's loving plan and to follow it through their lives. We offer our learners:

- Values and principles to guide their moral choices and actions;
- The fostering of relationships which are sustainable and affirmative;
- Opportunities for developing skills in discernment and reflection;
- A positive and prudent education in matter relating to their sexual development;
- Opportunities to grow spiritually through prayer which will nourish a personal relationship with God, personal integrity and respect for others.

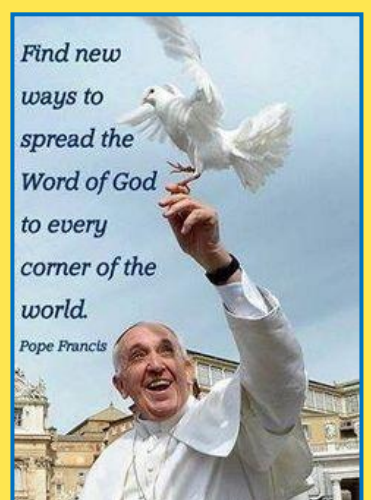
If you wish any further information or to view the new program please contact the school office. Tel:01698 283727

"Living together is an art. It's a patient art, it's a beautiful art, it's fascinating."

Pope Francis

"Let us ask the Lord to remember us, in the certainty that by his mercy we will be able to share his glory in paradise. Let us go forward together on this road!"

Pope Francis



Faith Awards for Young People



The Pope Francis FAITH AWARD



The Pope Francis FAITH AWARD will encourage young people to make and sustain an active commitment to Faith in their everyday lives. Its title stresses the most significant feature of this award - i.e. it's about Faith, one the 'theological virtues' of Faith, Hope and Love which are offered to all as the foundation for living good lives.

The Faith Award will help children in Primary 6 & 7 to realise the meaning and potential of the Gifts and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit which are offered to them for use in daily living. By providing opportunities for Prayer, Reflection and Faith Witness, this award will encourage young people to apply these gifts and to see how they can bear fruit in their homes, schools, parishes and communities. It will help them to understand how their simple, everyday acts of service, inspired by Faith, can transform the world.

"A true missionary, who never ceases to be a disciple, knows that Jesus walks with him, works with him, speaks to him, breathes with him. He senses Jesus alive with him in the midst of the missionary enterprise."

Pope Francis

Meeting about the Sacraments in School Hall

This Thursday, 17th February

7.00pm Reconciliation

7.30pm Communion

A short meeting about learning and teaching of the sacrament.