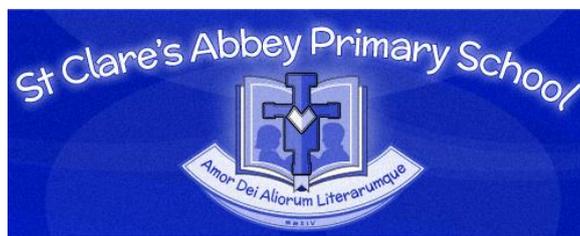


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25 January 2016

Dear Parent

Catholic Schools Week will take place from January 31st to February 6th 2016. It is a week when we as a school family have an opportunity to celebrate the Catholic School which is at the heart of every parish in Ireland.

As part of this special week, pupils from each school in the local area are being invited to bring up a gift symbolising Catholic Education at each of the Masses in the parish on the weekend of the 30th/31st January.

This is a week of a celebration of Faith. Our families commit themselves to the mission of Catholic education; celebrating Catholic Schools Week is part of that. We take time out to celebrate our faith, family, friendships, morals and service.

The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year is **Catholic Schools: Challenged to Proclaim God's Mercy**. It is hoped that this theme will help contextualise the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis.

Pope Francis wants this to be the year when we remember that our God is a God of mercy, a God of love and compassion, a God who forgives all and always forgives. God's mercy is for everyone; no one is excluded. This year we are invited to consider what that means for each one of us as a member of God's family.

During this Catholic Schools Week, we will explore with the children how they can be the face of God's mercy in our classrooms, the playground, our school, our families and our community.

Each day has a specific theme that, we hope, will help the children to come to understand how they can proclaim God's mercy every day.

The daily themes are as follows:

- Monday:** I am the face of God's mercy when I am kind and compassionate
Tuesday: I am the face of God's mercy when I forgive and reconcile
Wednesday: Grandparents are the face of God's mercy
Thursday: I am the face of God's mercy when I am fair and just
Friday: I am the face of God's mercy when I live like Jesus

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Sweeney

