



ARCHBISHOP OF GLASGOW

Curial Offices,
196 Clyde Street Glasgow,
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Catholic Education Week 2024
The Feast of St Margaret of Scotland 16th November
Until
The Feast of St Andrew 30th November

We are blessed in Scotland to have so many people committed to the education of our young.

Yes, we can look around and see that all is not perfect in our schools or in our parishes. We can bemoan the fact that there are pupils, parents, teachers, whose commitment to the faith is not as strong as we would wish, and we can look at the threats to the Catholic education system coming from the secular world. But we should really rejoice that so many good people do so much good work in the field of Catholic education.

That is why we are *pilgrims of hope*. That is this year's theme for Catholic education week. We are all pilgrims as we journey through life, often facing an uncertain future. But we journey with hope, and we face the future with hope - because we put our trust in God. And we see the signs of hope in Catholic education. We see the seed of faith being sown. Yes, sometimes it lands on barren soil or is choked by weeds, but elsewhere it produces a harvest thirty, sixty, a hundredfold.

Catholic education is for all of us and it is for life - it is an ongoing lifelong experience. We often concentrate our thoughts on Catholic schools, but we, each of us, at every age and at all stages of our pilgrim journey, need to benefit by being educated in our faith and having an understanding of that faith relevant to our situation in life.

It is not easy to live the faith in today's world - it is not easy to pass on the faith to a generation immersed in a secular world.

But we are *pilgrims of hope* in the world of today, and what gives us hope are the signs of faith, the visible shoots, which in some places might just poke through the weeds of secularism.

We are *pilgrims of hope* because we are like grains of salt scattered over the land. Like salt enhancing a meal, every follower of Jesus is there to enhance the world, to bring to it the flavour of Christ's teaching

Our hope comes not from our own abilities, it comes from God, knowing that the Spirit of God is with us and is working through us. It is a hope that is not based on seeing results. As St Paul says: one sows another reaps. We may be the one sowing the seeds of faith, but we may not be the one to see the fruits of the harvest

We are all pilgrims. Some of us are further along the journey of life than others by time and age. Those of us who are older must have a special concern for ensuring that our young people

receive a Catholic education: an education that gives them insight into the meaning and purpose of life, an education that assures them of the personal love that God has for each one of them. But we all need to educate ourselves continually in the faith, so that we can better understand and come closer to God.

Our faith is a great blessing to us. We would all benefit from understanding it better. As we progress on our pilgrim journey, we need to keep the faith, but not keep it to ourselves. We need to share it, to pass it on. So that all generations can journey through life as *pilgrims of hope*.

With every good wish and blessing,

Devotedly in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a small cross symbol followed by the name "William Nolan" in a cursive script.

+ William Nolan

Bishop President for Education