

# Education Sunday 2014

Mass Booklet Friday 14th 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 Friday- 14th February 2014  
5th Friday of Year 1

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (13: 46-49)

*We must turn to the pagans.*

Paul and Barnabus spoke out boldly to the Jews, 'We had to proclaim the Word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

'I have made you a light for all nations, so that my salvation shall reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: (Ps 116. R. Mk 16:15)

*Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News.*

Alleluia!

O praise the Lord, all you nations,  
Acclaim him all you peoples!

Strong is his love for us;  
He is faithful forever.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke (10: 1-9)

*The harvest is rich but the labourers are few.*

The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself wants to visit. He said to them, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest. Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road. Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, "Peace to this house!". And if a man of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on him; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house. Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is set before you. Cure those in it who are sick, and say, "The kingdom of God is very near to you".'

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