

JANUARY 2025 UPDATES FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS AND CHAPLAINS.

Happy New Year and hope you all had a blessed Christmas. I've recently received a few emails that may be of interest to you. In the first attachment, you will find details of a

Godly Play :

Training beginning on January 25th in DCU facilitated by Cora O'Farrell and Rosemary Lavelle. Please spread the word to anyone who may be interested. They are also exploring the possibility of offering Godly Play training in Limerick. If you would be interested in that, please get in touch with Jessie. jessie.rogers@spcm.ie

Veritas Catechetics Desk:

Caroline Teehan at the catechetics desk in Veritas informed the Diocesan Advisors that there is no person working in the department now in case you are trying to contact them.

SAOL:

Saol are hosting their very first training day (worth 4 CPD hours) in Athlone on the 13th of February 2025. There are limited tickets and can be booked on this link

[https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/saol-training-day-4-cpd-hours-for-religious-education-teachers-tickets-](https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/saol-training-day-4-cpd-hours-for-religious-education-teachers-tickets-1041964011407?aff=AnnouncementEmail&mc_cid=ea94817659&mc_eid=df4a6a4c76)

[1041964011407?aff=AnnouncementEmail&mc_cid=ea94817659&mc_eid=df4a6a4c76](https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/saol-training-day-4-cpd-hours-for-religious-education-teachers-tickets-1041964011407?aff=AnnouncementEmail&mc_cid=ea94817659&mc_eid=df4a6a4c76)

Tickets are €20 and include everything the day offers.

Jubilee Year of Hope 2025:

Theme: 'Pilgrims of Hope'

Every 25 years the Catholic Church has a Jubilee Year. Pope Francis opened the Year of Hope in Rome on Christmas Eve. Here is a link for the calendar of events.

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/content/dam/iubilaeum2025/calendario/PDF/EN-CAL.pdf>

Christian Unity Prayer Week: Saturday 18th – Saturday 25th January 2025:

Theme: 'Do you believe this?'

Brief Background Info: <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2025/>

Resources: <https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2025/>

Catholic Schools Week 2025: Sunday 19th January - Saturday 25th January 2025.

Theme: ‘Alive in Christ!’

“Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive, and he wants you to be alive!” – Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*, Section 1.

There are some excellent resources including worksheets, PowerPoints and Prayer services at the following link to celebrate CSW:

<https://catholiceducation.ie/catholic-schools-week-2025-alive-in-christ/>

The resources explore what it means to be fully alive as a human being – living life to the full in Christ. Sensitive to the age appropriateness of the various classes and years, the theme will explore how we exist for one another in Christ, building from the wellbeing of the individual, extending the notion of true wellbeing to others, to our families and communities, and to The Other, in God. The theme will touch on hope, the true purpose and meaning of human life, and, in the more senior years, on true freedom.

ASCEND RESOURCES:

Nollaig Lillis from Waterford and Lismore has lots of interesting resources which are useful throughout the year and are categorised by theme. She adds to this list and is willing to take suggestions from RE Teachers regarding what other resources you might like to see her develop. These are accessible when you scroll down to RESOURCES on the ASCEND page of the diocesan website:

<https://waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry/>

Scripture Union: have their new 8-part mini series called ‘**The Way of St. James**’. It is free to use and has lots of resources that teachers will find useful. You simply sign-up with Scripture Union and can then access this and all their other free resources. Each episode in this series is between 5.5 and 9 minutes long, with the exception of episode 5, which is under 2 minutes. This would be a useful resource for non-exam senior cycle RE and is worth looking at. This resource is available at:

<https://nuafilms.com/the-way-of-st-james>

Their other resources can be accessed here:

<https://nuafilms.com/all-series>

Alpha Youth: Alpha Youth have their exciting new series available now. It was launched just before Christmas. Again, it is a free resource when you sign up. The link is here:

<https://alphaireland.org/alpha-youth>