

## PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

18 January 2026

### Catholic Schools Week 2026

Catholic Schools Week begins on **Sunday, 18 January**, celebrating the vital role Catholic schools play in faith formation and community life. The theme for 2026, “*Normal Lives, Called to Holiness*,” highlights how everyday life is a pathway to Christian discipleship. Resources for schools and parishes are available at [catholicschools.ie](http://catholicschools.ie).

Ahead of the week, over **250 post-primary students** gathered for Mass with **Bishop Paul Dempsey** at St Patrick’s DCU Campus Chapel.

The **Laudate 2026 Festival**, celebrating pupils and school communities, takes place:

- **Tuesday 27 January**, 7pm – Church of Our Lady of Victories, Ballymun Road
- **Wednesday 28 January**, 7pm – Church of St Therese, Mount Merrion

All are welcome to join in song and reflection.

---

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** runs from **18–25 January** under the theme “*One Body, One Spirit*.”

The opening ecumenical service will be held on **Sunday 18 January at 8pm** in **St Thomas Indian Orthodox Church, Palmerstown**.

Prayer resources, including Irish-language material and daily reflections, are available from **Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI)** and the **Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity**. Archbishop Farrell reminds us that this week is “a privileged moment of prayer, encounter and dialogue” and an opportunity to seek the gift of unity.

---

## EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### University Church (St Stephen’s Green)

- **Taizé Service for Catholic Schools Week**: Tuesday 20 January, 6pm, followed by pizza.
- **St Brigid’s Celebration**: Tuesday 27 January, 6pm – prayer, cross-making, music, and refreshments.
- **Wedding Anniversary Mass**: Sunday 15 February, 6.15pm, celebrating couples married in University Church.

---

### Retreats & Formation

- **Day in Avila**: Exploring the Carmelite way of life, **Saturday 28 February**, Avila Carmelite Centre.
- **Walking in Mercy – Lent Retreat**: Online retreat hosted by Mercy International Association on **Tuesday 17 February**, offered at 10am and 2pm.
- **Marriage Enrichment Weekend: 20–22 March** at St Mary’s, Knock, offering couples a reflective space to renew their commitment.

---

## NOTICES, VACANCIES & SUPPORT

### Parish & Diocesan Updates

- The **Diocesan Diary 2026** is now available online.
- The diocesan **Secure Area** is now known as the **Login Area**.
- The **CSPS Child Safeguarding Newsletter** for January is available online.
- **TheWay.ie**, a new digital faith platform from the Irish Bishops’ Conference, has launched to support faith exploration and witness.

---

## COMMUNITY & PASTORAL CARE

- **Vocations:** Please pray for seminarians and those discerning priesthood.
- **Ethnic Chaplaincies:** Ukrainian, French-speaking, and Italian communities continue to gather for regular liturgies.
- **Support Services:** Towards Peace, Bethany Bereavement Support, Aware, and services for birth mothers remain available to those in need.