



Catholic Schools Week 2024

Catholic Schools: Communities of Service

# Catholic Schools: Communities of Service

21–27 JANUARY 2024

**MONDAY: SERVICE IN OUR COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS**





## Key Words: Friendship, Service

### Introduction

Friendship is one of life's gifts and a grace from God. Through our friends, the Lord refines us and leads us to maturity. Faithful friends, who stand at our side in times of difficulty, are also a reflection of the Lord's love, his gentle and consoling presence in our lives. The experience of friendship teaches us to be open, understanding and caring towards others, to come out of our own comfortable isolation and to share our lives with others. For this reason, 'there is nothing so precious as a faithful friend' (Sir 6:15).

(Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*, 151)

This quote can be read without comment as an introduction, or read with instrumental music in the background (e.g. from album *Ripples of the Divine* by Marie Dunne CHF). Alternatively, the following questions could be explored informally:

- How can friends lead us to maturity?
- What are the downsides of 'comfortable isolation'?

For more detailed exploration of these themes see Worksheet 1 below.

### Music

The following songs are on the theme of friendship – play one or more of these, with the option of using Worksheet 2 below to explore the themes of each song. Songs available on Spotify.

- 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus': Chris Rice: <https://open.spotify.com/track/3ZM93obTrc8ou-uxBXOpO7g>
- 'Friend of God' – Israel Houghton: <https://open.spotify.com/track/3p7HRdAoTkzSjhAwgGd-5nv>
- 'You've Got a Friend' – Carole King: <https://open.spotify.com/track/1qhp5owrFGeZ5Jgin28nwR>
- 'Count on Me' – Bruno Mars: <https://open.spotify.com/track/3B5UbSndRz9o7lZhhmUfLi>
- 'You've Got a Friend in Me' – Randy Newman: <https://open.spotify.com/track/2stkLJoJNcX-kIRDNF3ld6c>





## PowerPoint

The Monday PowerPoint can be used to explore themes of service and friendship.

Quotes from *Christus Vivit* by Pope Francis are combined with questions that students can answer orally or in writing.

## Prayer

Dear God,  
I bring before you my friends.  
Protect them from all evil and guide them safely on their journey.  
Help us to discern what unites us and what divides us,  
What sustains and oppresses us.  
Enlighten our sight, strengthen our hearts, bless our friendships,  
Guide our steps and let us remain in your love.  
Amen.

(Adapted from 'For my friends', *YOUCAT Youth Prayer Book*, London: Catholic Truth Society, 2013)





## Worksheet 1

1. What are the qualities of a good friendship?

---

---

---

---

2. List three ways in which we can be of service to our friends.

---

---

---

---

3. In what ways can we be friends of Jesus?

---

---

---

---

4. Why is listening an important feature in friendship?

---

---

---

---



5. In what ways can friendship be seen as a journey?

---

---

---

---

6. List three practical ways by which you can improve your friendships.

---

---

---

---

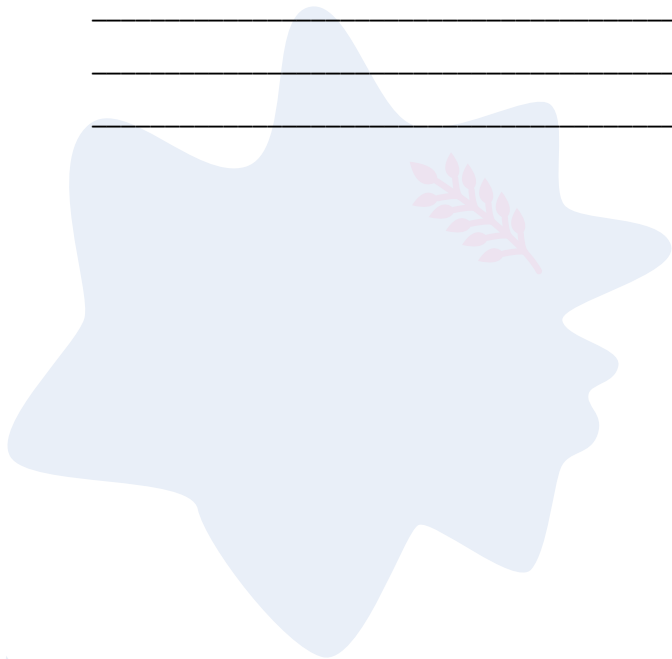
7. List one practical way you can improve your friendship with God.

---

---

---

---





## Worksheet 2

Listen to the song about friendship that your teacher will play for you. Answer the questions thoughtfully.

1. What does this song say about friendship?

---

---

---

---

2. What is your own personal response to this song?

---

---

---

---

