### **Activity Ideas for Catholic Schools Day 2025**

### **You will shine like stars in the world: E tīaho ana koe hei rama I te ao**

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### ***Prior to planning your activities read the*** [***CSD Theme explanation***](https://www.nzceo.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Theme-of-CSD25.pdf) ***on the NZCEO website.***

It is important that as a teacher or leader you understand the Catholic Church’s understanding of Christian Hope as described in the theme explanation.

### **Storytelling Circle**

* **Activity:** Invite students to share stories about times when they felt hopeful or experienced faith in action. This can also include stories of famous pilgrims.

### **Prayer Flags**

* **Activity:** Each student creates a prayer flag with a word or image representing hope. Hang these flags around the school to create a vibrant display.

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### **Hopeful Messages Wall**

* **Activity:** Set up a wall where students can write or draw messages of hope and encouragement. Encourage them to think of ways they can bring hope to others.

### **Hope in Action Service Project**

* **Activity:** Organise a small service project where students can contribute to the community, such as making care packages for local shelters or planting a garden.

### **Songs of Hope Sing-Along**

* **Activity:** Teach students uplifting songs that reflect hope and faith. Hold a sing-along where everyone can join in.

### **Reflection Time with Nature**

* **Activity:** Take students outside to reflect on nature and God’s creation. Provide them with a moment to write down their thoughts on hope and faith.

### **Tree of Hope**

* **Activity:** Create a "Tree of Hope " where students can write aspects of today’s world that they would like to be part of transfroming school.

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### **Pilgrims’ Staff**

* **Activity:** Students can make a simple pilgrim’s staff using a cardboard tube decorated with symbols or words that represent their faith journey, how they can be ‘stars in the world’.

### **Community Pilgrimage Walk**

* **Activity:** Organise a short walk around the school or local community, stopping at significant locations to reflect on what being a pilgrim means, reflect on their hopes for the future, and praying together.
* **Activity:** Organise a school or class visit to significant areas of Catholic pilgrimage in your area.

### **School Community Mass**

* **Activity:** Organise a special Mass where students, teachers, and families can come together to celebrate their faith and school community.

### **Pilgrim Journey Map**

* **Activity:** Have students create a visual map representing their own journey of faith or the places of significant Catholic pilgrimage in your diocese.

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### **Storytime and Discussion**

* **Activity:** Read stories from the Bible or lives of saints who “Fanned the flame of home..by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision”[[1]](#footnote-1) for either their life’s journey or for the world (e.g., Abraham, Mary, the prophets, St Paul, Suzanne Aubert). Discuss how their faith guided them.

### **Hope in Action Craft**

* **Activity:** Create "hope rocks" by painting uplifting messages or symbols on stones. These can be placed around the school or given to others to spread hope.

### **Faith and Hope Collage**

* **Activity:** Have students create a collage that represents what hope means to them, using images, words, and symbols from magazines or drawings.

### **Prayer for Hope**

* **Activity:** Guide students to write their own prayers that express their hopes for themselves, their community, and the world.
* **Prompt:** "Write a prayer that includes your hopes for yourself and others. What transformation do you wish for in your life and community?"

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### **Story Time: Famous Pilgrims**

* **Activity:** Search the internet for explanations of Christian pilgrimage. Read stories about famous Christian pilgrims (e.g., Saint Francis, the Magi). Discuss the meaning of pilgrimage and how people of hope and what they learned.

**Story Time: Shrines and Saints**

* **Activity:** Read stories about saints associated with specific shrines and discuss their significance.

### **Virtual Shrine Tour**

* **Activity:** Take a virtual tour of famous shrines using online resources. Discuss what makes each shrine special.

### **Create a Shrine Prayer Corner**

* **Activity:** Have students design a prayer corner in the classroom that reflects a shrine. They can include images, candles (real or battery-operated), and prayer intentions.

### **Art and Prayer Station**

* **Activity:** Set up a station where students can create prayer cards to leave at a shrine. They can decorate the cards and write their prayers or intentions.

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### **Shrine Scavenger Hunt**

* **Activity:** Organise a scavenger hunt where students find images or symbols related to different shrines around the school or classroom.
* **Materials:** Clue cards and a checklist of items to find.

### **Shrine Model Creation**

* **Activity:** Have students create a small model of a shrine using craft materials. They can choose a famous shrine or create their own.

### **Shrine Research Project**

* **Activity:** Assign students to research a specific shrine (like Lourdes or Fatima) and create a simple poster that includes its history, significance, and interesting facts.

### **Open Day**

* Invite parishioners/whanau to school for the opportunity to look around and join in some of the activities.

### **Create a Pilgrims of Hope Acrostic Poem**

1. From CSD 2025 [theme explanation](https://www.nzceo.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Theme-of-CSD25.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)