

# 100th Anniversary of the Eucharistic Procession in Cork

St. Carlo helping us to prepare

Primary Pupil's Booklet



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you to our friends at the Diocese of Salford, UK, for their generosity in allowing us to use and adapt the booklet they created for their primary school pupils.

## Belonging

As well as our own families, Catholics belong to another family: the Catholic Church. This is a very big family; Catholics have brothers and sisters in every country. The leader of the Catholic Church is Pope Leo.



The family of the Church is so big Catholics cannot meet altogether in the same place. Instead Catholics meet in a much smaller group: a parish family. A **diocese** is made up of lots of parish families.



Map of the Dioceses of Ireland taken from the *Grow in Love* 5th class programme.

Your school is in the **Diocese of Cork and Ross**.

**Can you find the Diocese of Cork and Ross on the map?**



The Bishop leads the Christian family in his Diocese. Bishops are the successors of the Apostles. The Bishop of Cork and Ross is Bishop Fintan Gavin.

## Who was Carlo Acutis?

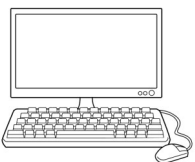
Carlo Acutis was born in London in 1991 to Italian parents. Carlo grew up in Milan. From a very early age, people felt that Carlo was a particularly special boy. Carlo showed a great devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist and to Our Lady, even though his parents didn't practice their faith.



Growing up, Carlo was lively, popular and cheerful. He wasn't always the most prepared for class and he sometimes distracted others during lessons, but when this was brought to his attention by his teachers, he stopped completely. Carlo was popular at school. He had a particular gift for kindness. He stood up for those who were picked on by others because they were different. Carlo wanted his friends to know and love God like he did. Carlo was his own man - he wasn't bothered by what other people thought about him.

Young Carlo didn't just talk to his schoolmates about prayer. He was a regular teenager, who enjoyed joking and laughing, hanging out with his friends and making videos with them. He liked quizzes, flying kites, watching action films, playing soccer and being on his Playstation too. Even though Carlo enjoyed playing video games such as Pokemon and Super Mario, he tried to be disciplined and limited his time playing video games to one hour per week. He knew that even though video games are enjoyable, it is possible to spend too much time on them and miss out on other important parts of life, such as spending time with God and doing good things to help others.

Carlo cared for animals, especially his dogs, cats and goldfish. His friends knew Carlo was always there for them, especially if they were going through a hard time in their families. Carlo also volunteered as a catechist for younger children preparing for their confirmation.



Carlo was really talented with computers. He taught himself to design websites and could understand computers as well as older students at college. He helped to create a website for his school and his parish.

Carlo understood the internet was a powerful tool that connected the world, but it could also be used for bad things such as spreading lies and false news. Carlo wanted to use the internet differently, he wanted to communicate the Good News of the Gospel on his web page and connect young people to Jesus. Carlo used the internet as a tool to spread the message of holiness. He created a website about Eucharistic Miracles which can be still viewed online today!



Carlo's family were wealthy, but Carlo never bragged or boasted, he was very humble. Carlo was aware of the number of homeless people in the city of Milan, where he lived. Carlo felt compassion for the poor and he would often stop and talk to them, listening to their problems. He wanted to spread God's kindness and love everywhere so asked his mother if he could help them by taking hot meals and sleeping bags to them. He also volunteered at a soup kitchen.



Carlo knew it was important to care for the planet, and this was a good way to share God's love. He enjoyed walking his dogs and swimming in the sea. Whenever he did this, he took time to pick up litter caring for God's creation.

In 2006, Carlo began feeling very ill, he was diagnosed with a very aggressive form of Leukaemia. When Carlo received his diagnosis he smiled, saying "God gave me a beautiful alarm clock." He accepted his illness as part of God's plan and he felt happy at the thought of going to heaven and being with Jesus forever. Even though he was really sick in hospital, he still thought more of other people, and nurses noticed that he didn't want to wake his mother when he was in pain: "She is very tired as well, and she will only worry even more about me."

Carlo died on October 12th 2006.



Carlo, our millennial saint, was beatified on 10th October 2020 (that is a step on the journey to becoming a saint).

On 7th September 2025 Carlo was proclaimed a Saint in St Peter's in Rome by Pope Leo XIV.

**His feast day is 12 October.**

St Carlo Acutis shows us that holiness and even sainthood are possible for teenagers and young people today, in the ordinary circumstances of everyday life. Saints can wear runners and jeans, play computer games and use the internet too!



### **Cork and Ross Prayer to Saint Carlo**

Saint Carlo Acutis,  
you remind us that holiness is possible  
when we place Jesus at the centre of our lives,  
especially in the Eucharist,  
which you called your "highway to heaven."

Be with us as we prepare  
for the 100th anniversary  
of the Eucharistic Procession in Cork.  
As we accompany Jesus in the Procession,  
teach us to walk with Him each day,  
and to see Him in each person,  
especially those who are most in need.

We pray for our Diocese of Cork and Ross,  
that, nourished by Jesus in the Eucharist,  
we may grow in faith, hope, and love.  
May we be true disciples of Jesus,  
sent on mission,  
bringing His love, mercy, and peace  
to everyone we meet. Amen.

Saint Carlo Acutis, pray for us.

## St. Carlo Acutis Biography

Fill in the information about St. Carlo Acutis – can you remember any facts?! *Don't worry if not, all the answers are in 'Who was Carlo Acutis' , p. 3–5.*

Date of birth:

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Place of Birth:

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Where did Carlo grow up?

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Hobbies:

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Did his family practice their faith?

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Aspects of the Catholic faith Carlo particularly loved:

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Example of how Carlo served others:

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How he used technology to spread the faith:

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Date of death:

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Feast day:

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## What is a relic and why are they significant to Catholics?

A **relic** is a part of the physical remains of a saint after their death, or an object which has been in contact with their body. The word relic comes from the Latin word "relinquere," which means "to abandon or leave behind." Relics are **venerated** to help us feel closer to God, to honour the saint themselves and so that we might receive God's grace and blessings. We can be inspired to be better people by the lives of the saints whose relics we venerate.

The relics of St. Carlo Acutis that are visiting the Diocese of Cork and Ross include part of his heart, which is kept in a beautiful **reliquary**.



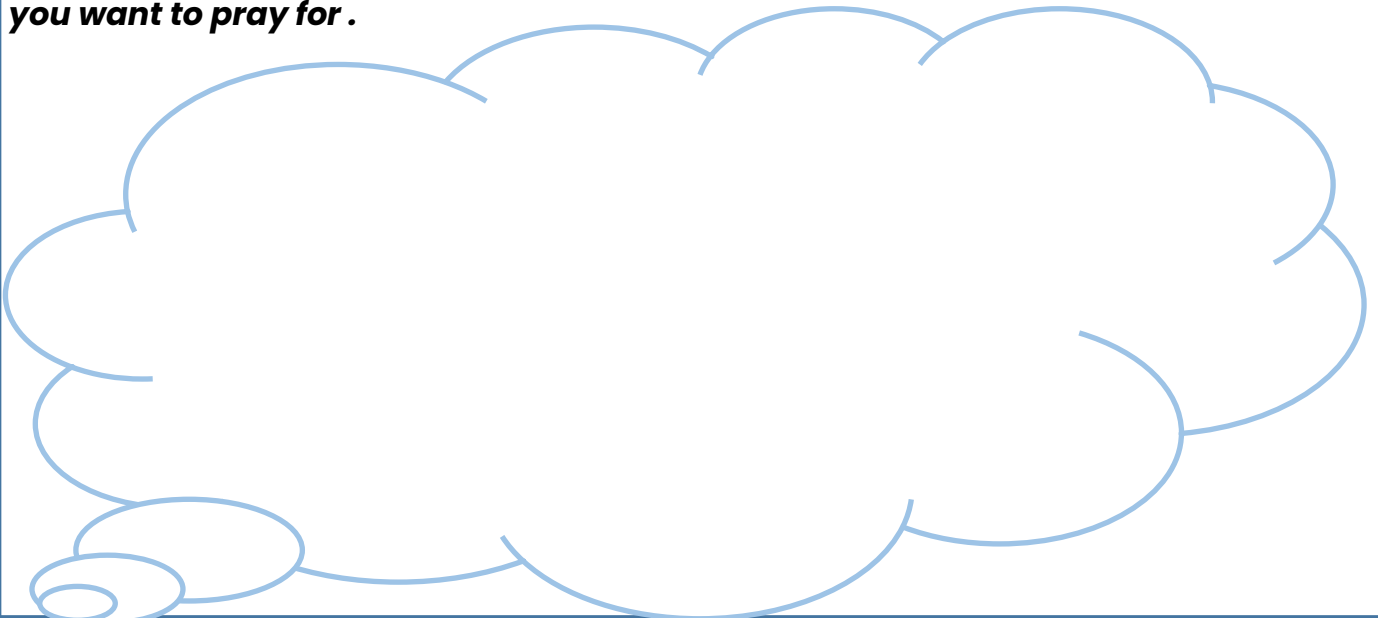
**Relic:** a sacred object.

**Venerate:** to regard with great respect; revere.

The veneration of relics is found in many religions and is rooted in the natural human instinct to treat anything connected with those we love, who have died, with care and reverence (deep respect for someone or something).

Relics help us to feel close to a holy person, making the communion of saints more real. God wants to draw our attention to the saints as "models and intercessors" (prays on behalf of someone) *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 828*

**When you get to visit the relic of St. Carlo, do you have any special intentions that you want to bring to St. Carlo Acutis in prayer? Write down who and what you want to pray for .**





## Celebrating gifts and talents

Carlo Acutis was a gifted young man: kind, generous, cheerful and sociable. He also had an incredible understanding of computers and programming, which amazed older college graduates.

Carlo also loved playing computer games, photography, video production, playing football, hanging out with his friends: all the regular things young people might enjoy. However, Carlo did not waste his time. He was disciplined, spending just one hour a week on gaming. God and prayer came first in his life, then serving others .

Based on what you know about Carlo, what do you think were his greatest gifts and talents?

How did Carlo use these gifts and talents to serve others and serve God?

### **What gifts and talents do you have?**

List three ways you can use your gifts and talents to serve others and serve God

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

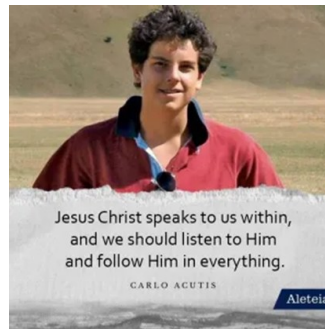
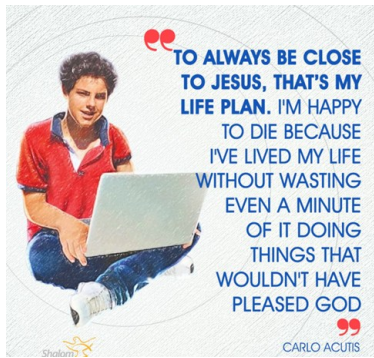
Choose one and pick something you can do this week to develop that talent or skill and use it to serve God and/or others:



*"I am happy to die because I have lived my life without wasting even a minute of it doing things that wouldn't have pleased God."*

## In his own words.

These are some of the things that Carlo said in his life.



**Which quotation from St Carlo Acutis stands out to you?**

*What do you think it means for your life?*

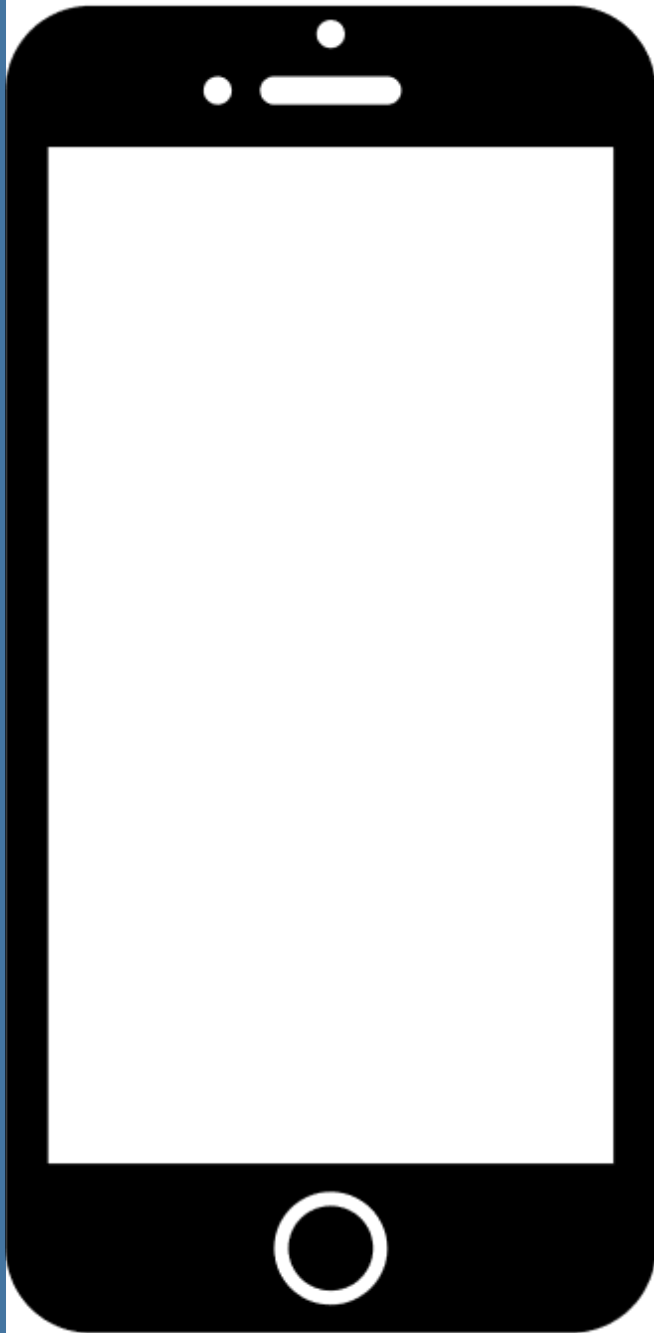
My favourite quote is:

because:

It might help me in my life by.....

## Carlo's phone

Imagine this was Carlo Acutis' phone when he was aged 14.



**WALLPAPER:** Sketch what you think his phone wallpaper could be, and then explain why Carlo might choose this image.

**EMAILS / TEXTS:** Imagine Carlo just received two emails or texts. Using your knowledge of Carlo, who do you think could be messaging him and what would the content of each message be?

**YOUR MESSAGE:** How could you use social media for good? What positive messages could send? Write your ideas here: