



Education Sunday 2026 reflection

**His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos OBE,
Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London and Papal Legate to the United Kingdom
President of Bible Society**

We have recently celebrated the centenary of the Sunday School movement in the Coptic Orthodox Church worldwide and on this Education Sunday I would like to focus on the importance of Christian Education as part of the mission of the church. Established by the now canonised St Deacon Habib Girgis, a true visionary, it is a movement that has contributed considerably to the development and formation of most, if not all, of our community both in Egypt and around the world.

Having the opportunity to provide educational classes for congregations starting from childhood until their teens, means that congregants can receive teaching on Doctrine, Scripture, theology, Christian morals, ethics, and a wide variety of other subject areas that can inform and inspire their daily life and walk with our Lord Jesus Christ. This form of education is also done in a group setting, encouraging a model for healthy social interaction and the edification of one another through the learning process. What is evident is that the Sunday School model has provided an avenue to encourage congregants to learn how to live authentically as Christians in the world, and not just within the realms of the church.

With a trajectory that begins in infancy and develops into adolescent ministry, youth ministry, and young adult industry, and so on, it also provides a means of stability, taking a person on a journey from a young age through to maturity with Faith as their anchor and lens through which to see the world and respect all of creation.

We give thanks for our children and our young people, but we also recognise that it is a responsibility to help, shape, and form them in a way that respects their own identity and their uniqueness as designed by our Creator. Education provides a means to freely explore complex concepts and allows the individual to celebrate their God-given freedom to enquire and question

and to use their unique position and ability to contribute to the world around them in an informed and empowered way. This is a direct response to our Lord's plea and direction, "Let the little children come to Me..." (Matthew 19:14).

Echoing this, Education Sunday is an opportunity to reflect on the truly formational nature that education can have on our young people, in underpinning their lives, and providing a foundation on which to build upon the knowledge they receive. Education Sunday reminds us that, as stewards of our young members, we can focus on their right to learn and flourish through that learning so that they can also become wonderful contributing members to not only the Body of Christ in the church, but witnesses to His love and Salvation before the world at large.

For more Education Sunday 2026 resources visit: cte.org.uk/educationsunday2026

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