

R.E. News

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Welcome to the first edition of R.E. News for the school year 2010/2011.

This edition of R.E. News has a variety of articles to offer our readers.
Grateful thanks to all those who contributed to this Newsletter.

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I hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter. If you have any interesting events coming up please let us know with a view to featuring them in the next edition. Wishing you every blessing this term as we continue our journey in faith together.



Mount Seskin College

Thursday, 30 September 2010 was a day in the history of our College Community that we will remember for many reasons. On that day we celebrated our Liturgy of Welcome for our First Years and their families. This is an annual event with special guests invited to join us. Back in 2004 the theme was 'Sowing the Seeds of Love' and we were honoured by the presence of our special guest of honour, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin. This year, it was the turn of Archbishop Diarmuid's counterpart, Church of Ireland Archbishop, John Neill.



Here at Mount Seskin we recognise that it is as equally important to 'welcome' as it is to say 'farewell' and so to mark the beginning of our First Years within our College Community, we celebrated our annual Liturgy of Welcome with the theme; 'New Beginnings - Building up our College Community.' We have a great relationship with all of the many denominations that reflect the cultures and religious traditions of our College Community and so we set about preparing for this milestone for our First Years with the idea that we would invite Archbishop John Neill to our College.

The Religion teachers and the College Chaplain who happens to teach one of our First Year classes this year, met regularly with the local Church of Ireland Rector, Rev. William Deverell, Tutors and Year Head. Preparations continued within the First Year R.E. Classes. The Chaplain augments the syllabus with such annual celebrations, often marking them with a visit by a leader of a particular faith community. It was also an opportunity to acknowledge our thanks for the ongoing support we receive from Rev. William by inviting his Archbishop to join us.



The day itself was very special. The Liturgy took place in our College Library and the second part of the ceremony was celebrated at the 'Sunny Side' of our College. This is an area that has been taken on by two gardening clubs called 'The Blooming Great Parents' Team, and the 'Blooming Great Students' Team.' It is called the Sunny Side as it is south facing. On Thursday last, our Liturgy culminated with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque and the blessing and planting of a 'Golden Privet' tree.

The First Year students gathered outside at the Sunny Side, each holding a slip of paper on which was written one way in which they would build up their College Community. The Sunny Side is also the students' entrance each day. So the idea is, as students enter the College each day, that they would see the Golden Privet tree and be reminded of the challenge of helping our College grow by building it up in their own way. Just as the tree grows, so too by their efforts, our College Community would grow. On the day, students were invited to place their slip of paper into the hole where the Golden Privet Tree is now planted!

With grateful thanks to Patrick Doyle, Seskin College, Tallaght



Coláiste Iósaef, Kilmallock

As chaplain in Coláiste Iósaef, Kilmallock I have been visiting the local nursing home with some of our students for the past three years. The TY class are the students I encourage as it helps them to achieve the Presidential Gaisce awards and interact with a senior citizen. Not all volunteer to do this and this year I have twelve eager students. The residents of Maria Goretti Nursing Home really value the time, energy and commitment the students give. It is wonderful to see them in action and the students are very much aware that their face may be the only young face that the residents see from one week or month to the next.



For some of the residents it is the highlight of their week and they always enquire as to how the students are getting on in school. The students love hearing stories about what life was like in Ireland in the days before electricity, or the shortages of food and other items that were experienced during World War II. Watching the students show some elderly residents how to send text messages on mobiles and listen to their I-pods is a wonderful thing to see. The ease with which both age groups seem to connect is so genuine and carefree that I believe all TY students should be exposed to it.

I am also very much aware that there is not much point in my going on about living a Christian life if all I do is talk about it. Going out and living it is a far bigger challenge and it is one that brings its own rewards. Prayer is very important to the residents of Maria Goretti and our visit each week ends with a prayer. I am very proud of what we do in Coláiste Iósaef re the nursing home, yet I am also aware that when young people do bad things it is invariably plastered all over the media. By visiting the nursing home our students do something that is kind, genuine and sincere. The students also know that when exam time comes around they will have the prayers of the residents of Maria Goretti on their side.



The Pope John Paul II Award



Catholic Youth Care, in association with the Dublin Diocesan office of Evangelisation is delighted to announce a new pastoral programme for young people in the diocese as part of the Year of Evangelisation. The Pope John Paul II Awards will be run by CYC in Dublin. CYC will be supporting parishes, schools and young people in this new Award.

Welcoming the initiative Archbishop Martin said:

"The Pope John Paul II Awards offer young people the chance to learn the way of service and to develop the skills of Christian leadership. Christian service gives them the opportunity to think beyond themselves and their own needs and to reach out to others. The way of leadership based on knowing the person and the teachings of Jesus gives them the skills to use their talents with enthusiasm and energy for the benefit of all".

The Pope John Paul II Awards were created to commemorate the late Pope John Paul II who was so committed to young people. The Awards are open to young people of all abilities between the ages of 16 and 18. There are four Awards:

- The Papal Cross Award
- The Gold Award
- The Silver Award
- The Bronze Award.

The Award requires a commitment from the young person and a lead person in the school/parish. They are non competitive. They also show young people a pathway back to their Parish Community with two areas covered: Parish Involvement and Social Awareness. Having actively participated in a meaningful way within a parish context for an agreed period of time, the young people are then required to prepare a presentation reflecting on their experiences.

This is an exciting new project that has the ability to show young people how to actively live out their faith. This is the first time the awards will be given by the Archdiocese of Dublin. We warmly welcome young people between the ages of 16 and 18 years in schools and parishes throughout the Diocese to become involved in the Pope John Paul II Awards.

For more information contact
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The Pope John Paul II Awards
Office of Youth Evangelisation
CYC, Arran Quay, Dublin 7
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Tel: 01 8725055
Fax: 8725010

catholic
Youth
care

November Prayer Service

‘Awake my soul, Awake Lyre and Harp I will awake the Dawn; Ps. 56

‘He will visit us like the dawn from on high.
He will give light to those in darkness
Those who dwell in the shadow of death
And guide us into the way of peace’.



Scripture Reading:

1 Jn. 3: 1-2.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God’s children; and that is what we are. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

Hymn:

My Lord, What Love is this. Graham Kendrick

Litany of the Saints:

St. Patrick – Pray for us
St. Brigid – Pray for us
St. Kevin – Pray for us
St. Lawrence O’Toole – Pray for us
Catherine McAuley – Pray for us
Nano Nagle – Pray for us



Invitation to call on the names of our loved ones,
grandparents, parents, relatives, and friends:
Let us remember too all those who have no one to pray for them.
_____ - **Pray for us.**

Prayer for the Healing of the Memories

Reflect, for a moment, on a particular memory that comes to mind of a loved one. Stay with it. Don’t judge it. In an attitude of humility and love for that person say;
‘Father, I give you this memory of _____.
I give it to you in Jesus’ name
and through the power of the Holy Spirit’

Intercessory Prayers:

- R/ Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**
1. Receive your departed into your eternal kingdom; - sustain our hope to reign with you forever. R/
 2. Show mercy to the dead: - may they rest in Christ. R/
 3. Awake the dead to a glorious resurrection: - may we be united with them at the end of time. R/



Poem:

On the death of the Beloved: John O'Donohue.

Though we need to weep your loss,
You dwell in that safe place in our hearts,
Where no storm or might or pain can reach you.

Your love was like the dawn
Brightening over our lives
Awakening beneath the dark
A further adventure of colour
The sound of your voice
Found for us
A new music
That brightened everything.

Whatever you enfolded in your gaze
Quickened in the joy of its being;
You placed smiles like flowers
On the altar of the heart.
Your mind always sparkled
With wonder at things.

Though your days here were brief,
Your Spirit was alive, awake, complete.

We look towards each other no longer
From the old distance of our names;
Now you dwell inside the rhythm of breath,
As close to us as we are to ourselves.

Though we cannot see you with outward eyes,
We know our soul's gaze is upon your face,
Smiling back at us from within everything.
To which we bring our finest refinement.



'As you are
I was.
As I am
You too will be'

Let us not look for you only in memory
Where we would grow lonely without you.
You would want us to find you in presence,
Beside us when beauty brightens,
When kindness glows
And music echoes eternal tones.

When orchids brighten the earth,
Darkest winter has turned to spring;
May this dark grief flower with hope
In every heart that loves you.

May you continue to inspire us:

To enter each day with a generous heart.
To serve the call of courage and love
Until we see your beautiful face again
In that land where there is no more separation,
Where all tears will be wiped from our mind,
And where we will never lose you again.



Concluding Prayer:

**All On the cross, Lord Jesus Christ,
 You stretched out your hands for the salvation of the human race;
 Grant that our life and work
 May be pleasing to you
 And bear witness to the power of your redeeming love.
 Who lives and reigns forever and ever.**



Song:

Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

College Chaplaincy

Here at Mount Seskin, integral within the Chaplaincy Service is its relationship with the Religious Education Department.



Our College Mission Statement

states that the Chaplain is part of the R.E. team and has responsibilities in teaching the syllabus. The Chaplain is a qualified teacher and exercises the role of teacher, preparing Junior Cycle students for the Religious Education Exam and taking senior classes in the Leaving Certificate Applied Course.

Chaplaincy also has responsibilities not only as a member of the Religious Education Team but in its relationship to it as Chaplain.

The Chaplain endeavours to support and resource the R.E. Team. Through Chaplaincy services, the Chaplain enhances the syllabus by way of Liturgies, pastoral programmes and Spiritual development. Class conduct, especially during R.E. time is vital to the continued unique and professional relationship between Chaplaincy Services and the R.E. Department.

The Chaplain is responsible for the Sacred Space of the College, Shalom, facilitating the R.E. Department with creative and life enhancing Liturgies.



Integral to this, the Chaplain forges connections with the relevant 'outside' agencies that can enrich and cultivate the teaching in the classroom and in the implementation of the R.E. Syllabus and in Senior R.E., in particular the L.C.A. and L.C.V.P. programmes.

At Mount Seskin a number of initiatives take place as part of Chaplaincy Services. Here are some that are part of the life of our College that enhance and support the R.E. Department:

The Connections Programme, The College Prayer Garden, The Blooming Great Students` Team, Shalom, Retreats, The Green School Initiative, Liturgical Celebrations marking poignant moments in the life of our College Community, First Year Welcome Liturgy, 6th Year Graduations, Leaving Certificate Applied 'Reaching Out' Liturgy, What's the story, Christmas? Carol Services for Junior and Senior Cycles, Staff Remembrance Service, November: Time to Remember Liturgy, Major World Religions and their relevant sacred moments throughout our College Year, Being a member of the Local Parish Pastoral Team, Beginning of Year liturgies for all classes, Christian Unity Week.

With grateful thanks to Patrick Doyle, Mount Seskin, Tallaght.



Advent Prayer Service

Wait for the Lord

Reader One: James 5: 7 – 8

Leader:

God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy, so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory.

Reader Two: John 1: 1 - 8

Leader:

Lord of hope and joy, we pray that the unfolding days of Advent may open up possibilities for deepening our appreciation of the precious gift that is Jesus, your loving Son. Hold us in a spirit of anticipation that we may truly rejoice on Christmas Day at the wonder of the eternal promise he brings.

Reader Three: Luke 1: 26 – 28

Leader:

Lord God, so often in the Bible you tell us not to fear, that you are here and that you are in control. Often our lives seem out of control, manipulated by others. That is when we fear. You sent an angel to Joseph to reassure him and to point him in the right direction. May we be open to the message of the angels you send us today to remind us of your presence.

Reader Four: Matt. 1: 18 - 25

Leader:

Gracious God of hope, be with us in these dark days of winter. As the gradual light of the season fills our souls, may we be ready to receive the graces that come to those who wait. Bless our families and all those we love with the richness of possibility. Look with kindness on those who are in need and move our hearts to be with them. Bless these gifts and all that they represent and may we receive in abundance this Christmas from the endless flow of love which is Jesus, our Emmanuel, the perfect present. We ask this in the Spirit, through Christ our Lord.

Advent Blessing

You believe that the Son of God once came to us;
you look for him to come again.
May his coming bring you the light of his holiness
and free you with his blessing.
Amen.

May God make you steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope, and untiring in love
all the days of your life.
Amen.



You rejoice that our Redeemer came to live with us as man.
When he comes again in glory,
may he reward you with endless life.
Amen.

May Almighty God bless you,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Classroom Resources for Advent and Christmas



Activity Links

domestic-church.com - <http://www.domestic-church.com/>

Advent and Christmas references. Click on Fridge Art, then Advent and Christmas. Activities, crafts, coloring pages, puzzles, etc.

rca.org - <http://www.rca.org/NETCOMMUNITY/Page.aspx?&pid=1600&srcid=1880>

Resources listed that are available online to assist in the planning and development of programs for the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons.

annieshomepage.com - <http://www.annieshomepage.com/advent.html>

Annie's Advent Page- Dictionary meaning, What does the Bible say about Advent?, More Information from The Word Book Encyclopedia, Compton's Encyclopedia tells us about Advent, Advent Links Page, etc.

apmethodist.org - <http://apmethodist.org/advent-activity.htm> Advent activities.

catholicculture.org -

<http://www.catholicculture.org/lit/activities/browse.cfm?actionfiltered=list&filter=seasons&id=1>
Advent activities.

herbaltreas.com - <http://www.herbaltreas.com/AdventWreath.html>

Background and Historical Symbolism, Candle "Names" & Symbolism: Meaning & Order of Lighting, Advent Wreath Making, etc.

Catholic Schools Week 2011

THEME

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2011 is:

‘Catholic Schools – Rooted in Jesus Christ’



The theme is inspired by the Pastoral Letter of the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI to the Catholics of Ireland. The Pope addresses the children and young people of Ireland.

Young people, the Pope reminds you that

“He (Jesus Christ) loves you and he has offered himself on the cross for you.”

The Pope encourages you to:

“seek a personal relationship with him...because he will never betray your trust. He alone can satisfy your deepest longings and give your lives their fullest meaning..... Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and his goodness, and shelter the flame of faith in your hearts.”

THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The Catholic School is dedicated to the education and formation of the young. It seeks to lead children towards the fulfilment of their deepest longings. It is built on the belief that pupils begin to understand the fullest meaning of their lives when they are in touch with Christ. And so the words of the Pope... “Keep you eyes fixed on Jesus and his goodness, and shelter the flame of faith in your hearts” has a special resonance for the education project of the Catholic School. In it the young person is introduced to the love of Christ and is invited to enter a personal relationship in which their trust will never be betrayed. And so the Catholic School is truly rooted in Christ.



When?

Catholic Schools Week 2011 will begin on Sunday, 30 January, 2011 and will conclude on Saturday, 5 February, 2011. Catholic Schools Week will be launched on Monday, 24 January at two venues: Edmund Rice International Heritage Centre, Mount Sion, Barrack Street, Waterford and at a venue to be announced in Northern Ireland.

Resources

Schools (Boards of Management, Staff and Students), Parishes and Homes will be provided with resources for the celebration of Catholic Schools Week 2011. On Wednesday, 2 February first-level schools are encouraged to invite Grandparents of students to celebrate the CSW 2011 with their Grandchildren. Resource material will include suggestions for prayer, reflection on the Catholic traditions of the school, liturgical ideas for prayer and Eucharist, crosswords and quizzes. A special feature of this year’s resources will be a guided reflection on the *Pastoral Letter of the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI to the Catholics of Ireland*.

PRESENTING YOUR SCHOOL

Second-level students, individually or in groups, are invited this year to make a presentation on their school. The presentation may highlight the following:

- The history of the school
- The achievements of staff and pupils
- The patron saint of the school

All presentations will seek to show how the entire school community puts its faith into action. A prize will be given for the presentation judged to capture best the identity and life of the Catholic school.

Seirbhís na Nollag



Cearúil - Oíche Chiúin

Oíche Chiúin, oíche Mhic Dé,
Cách na suan dís araon,
Dís is dílse 'faire le spéis.

Naíon beag gnaoigheal ceananntais caomh
Críost, 'na chodladh go séimh
Críost 'na chodladh go séimh.
Oíche Chiúin, oíche Mhic Dé,
Aoirí ar dtús a chuala an scéal
Alleluia aingeal ag glaoch
Cantain suairc i ngar is i gcéin.
Críost ár Slánaitheoir féin.
Críost ár Slánaitheoir féin.

Cuireann na ndaltaí na coinneal ar an gcoróin Adbhinte ar lasadh.

1. Cuirimid an chéad coinneal, corcra ar lasadh, is siombail é de'n **Dochás**, is é Íosa ár ndóchas.
2. Cuirimid an dara coinneal corcra ar lasadh, is siombail é de'n **Síochan**, is é Íosa ár síochan.
3. Cuirimid an triú coinneal, le dath bán dearg ar lasadh, is siombail é de'n **Gaudate**,
4. Cuirimid an ceathrú coinneal, is dath corcra é ar lasadh, is siombail é de'n **Grá**, taispeánann Íosa, conas a thugann tú grá do dhaoine eile.

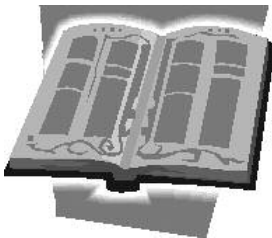
Léacht: - *Sean Tiomna* : - - *Míocá 5; (1 – 4) Pól*



Ach tusa, a Bheithil Eafráta bíodh gur beag thú i measc chlanna Iúdá, is asatsa a thiocfaidh chugam, an té a bheidh ina cheann urra, ar Iosrael, an té a dtéann a shinsearach na cianta siar, go dtí an t-am fadó. Sin é an fáth a dtréigfidh Dia iad go dtí go mbéarfar mac di siúd, a bhfuil tinneas clainne uirthi, ansin fillfidh iarmhar a bhráithre ar chlann Iosrael. Seasfaidh sé go daingean agus beathóidh sé a thread trí chumhacht an Tiarna agus le mórgacht ainm an Tiarna, a Dhia. Mairfidh said go slán sábháilte mar leathnóidh a chumhacht amach ansin go críocha na cruinne. Beidh sé féin ina údar síochána, nuair a thiocfaidh an Asaír isteach inár dtír, nuair a chuirfidh siad cos laistigh dár gcríocha, músclóimid seachtar aoire agus ochtar taoiseach ina gcoinne. Sin é briathar Dé.

Salm: - Bhí leanbh ag Muire

Léacht: - *Tiomna Nua* : - *Eabhraigh 10: (5 – 10) Adam*



Sin é an fáth a ndéir Críost agus é ag teacht isteach sa saol seo, níorbh áil leat íobairt ná tabhartas ach d’ullmhaigh tú corp dom. Ní raibh dúil agat in íobairtí uileloishte ná sna ofrála a dhéantaí ar son peacaí. Dúirt mé ansin, féach táim ag teacht, a Dhia chun do thoil a dhéanamh faoi mar atá sé scríofa fúm sa Leabhar. Sa chéad áit dúirt sé, níorbh áil leat íobairtí ná tabhartais ná íobairtí uileloishte ná ofrála a dhéantaí ar son peacaí ná ní raibh aon dúil agat iontu, bíodh go n-ofráltar iad de réir an dlí. Ansin dúirt sé, féach táim ag teacht chun do íobairtí ar ceal d’fhonn an dara ceann a bhunú, agus toisc gurbh é sin ba thoil leis, naomhaíodh sinn tríd an ofráil a rinne Íosa Críost dá chorp féin an t-aon uair amháin ar fad.

Sin é briathar Dé.

Seinn Alleluia, Seinn Alleluia, Seinn Allelu, Seinn Allelu, Seinn Alleluia.

Soiscéal: *de réir Naomh Lúcas 1 (26 – 38)*

Sa séú mí cuireadh an t-aingeal Gaibriél ó Dhia go dtí cathair sa Ghailíl darbh ainm Nazarat chun maighdine a bhí luaite le fear de theaghlach Dháiví darbh anim Íosaef agus b’é ab ainm don mhaighdean Muire. Agus ar a theacht isteach chuici dúirt: “Sé do bheatha atá lán de ghrásta tá an Tiarna leat: is beannaithe tú idir mná.” Ach bhí buaireamh uirthi de chionn na cainte, agus bhí sí ag machnamh cén sort beannachadh é seo. Ach dúirt an t-aingeal léi: “Ná bíodh eagla ort, a Mhuire óir fuair tú gean ó Dhia, agus féach, gabhfaidh tú gin agus béarfaidh tú mac agus tabharfaidh an Tiarna Dia dó ríathaoir Dháiví a athair agus beidh sé ina Rí ar theaghlach Iacóib go brách agus ní bheidh deireadh lena ríocht.”

Dúirt Muire leis an aigeal: “Conas a bheidh seo amhlaidh agus gan cuid agam d’fhear chéile?” Dúirt an t-aingeal a freagairt: “Tuirlingeoidh an Spiorad Naomh ort agus sin é an fáth a mbeidh an leanbh naofa; glaofar Mac Dé air, agus féach Eiliosaibeit do bhean ghaoil, ghabh sise mac freisin ina seanaois, agus is é seo an séú mí aici siúd a dúradh a bheith aimrid. Óir níl ní ar bith dodhéanta ag Dia” . Dúirt Muire: “Féach, mise banóglaigh an Tiarna, déantar liom de réir d’fhocail”. Agus d’imigh an t-aingeal uathí.



An smaointe:

- Ag Seasamh san Fhearthainn (piosa ceol ciúin)

Ná bac le cnagadh ar an bhfuinneog
Ní feidir faic a dhéanamh a dhuine uasal
Tá na leapaí uilig san áireamh
`S níl spás fágtha duitse, a dhuine uasal
Ag seasamh san fhearthainn
Ag cnagadh ar an bhfuinneog
Ag cnagadh ar an bhfuinneog ar lá Nollaig éigin
Seo chugainn arís é
Ag cnagadh ar an bhfuinneog
Ag cnagadh ar an bhfuinneog mar a bhí cheana
Ná bac le cnagadh ar an bhfuinneog
Tá an t-ádhdh ar roinnt agus mí-adh ar eile
Is Críostaí cráifeach sinne
Coinneoidimid ár gcuid againn, a dhuine uasal
Níl mainséar againn
Níl stábla againn
Is Críostaí sinne
Toillteanach i gcónaí, ábalta ariamh
Tá Íosa Críost ar neamh
Tiocfaidh sé an athuair, a dhuine uasal
Cuirfear fáilte roimhe sa tigh seo
Ag guí Nollaig Shona ort
Fillfimid ar an leaba, a dhuine uasal
Gur mhúscail tú sinne le do chnagadh
Bhíomar i gcodladh na marbh.



Paidreacha:

Guí an Phobail

1. Guímid ar son na ndaoine bochta ar fud an domhain. *A Thiarna éist linn.*
A Thiarna, bí ceansa agus éist linn
2. Guímid ar son na ndaoine go léir atá tinn. *A Thiarna éist linn.*
A Thiarna, bí ceansa agus éist linn.
3. Guímid go mbeidh síocháin ar fud an domhain.
A Thiarna éist linn. A Thiarna, bí ceansa agus éist linn.
4. Guímid orthu san go léir a fuair bás agus na daoine a fhágann siad ina ndiaidh.
A Thiarna éist linn. A Thiarna, bí ceansa agus éist linn.
5. Guímid ar son na ndaltaí, na múinteoirí agus gach duine sa Cholaíste
A Thiarna éist linn. A Thiarna, bí ceansa agus éist linn.
6. Guímid ar son na ndaoine atá gan chlann, gan chairde.
A Thiarna éist linn. A Thiarna, bí ceansa agus éist linn.



Ár nAthair



Ár n-Athair atá ar neamh,
Go naofar d'ainm,
Go dtaga do ríocht,
Go ndéantar do thoil ar an talamh mar a dhéantar ar neamh.
Ár n-arán laethúil tabhair dúinn inniu,
agus maith dúinn ár bhfiacha
mar a mhaithimidne dár bhféichiúna féin
Agus ná lig sinn i gcathú, ach saor sinn ó olc, Amen.

Beannachtaí

Amhrán nó Píosa Ceol



With grateful thanks to Stiofán Díomasaigh, Coláiste de Híde, Tallaght

If in Doubt Draw It!

This may be old hat to experienced and creative teachers, but if you haven't tried it, or feel daunted by the prospect, I'd really recommend using drawing as an aid in R.E. classes. Whatever the topic is, there will probably be some aspect of it that lends itself to getting the students drawing. They might be asked to draw something based on the theme or topic, come up with a logo to illustrate it, draw a cartoon strip if a narrative is needed or design a poster to promote something good.



This approach has so many advantages. First off it helps those students who learn visually, or who excel at art but not at more wordy pursuits. It introduces more variety into our approach to class. While students are drawing it gives the teacher a chance to stroll around the class discussing informally each student's effort as it progresses. It helps to allow a little buzz of conversation rather than having to have absolute quiet in the classroom. It encourages a better relationship with the students while keeping them on task in a worthwhile way. It's worth stressing to students that artistic proficiency is not necessary – drawings with stick people will do fine and can be quite effective in conveying a point. Further, I find this approach just as effective at senior and junior level.



I have found this approach useful in several contexts. One obvious case is when class is studying images of God. They can be invited to draw their own images as a preliminary exercise. A lot of discussion can be sparked, e.g. by the likely prominence of old men with beards! Dealing with the events of Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday lends itself particularly well to the cartoon strip approach. Over the years I've got hugely detailed pictures of the Last Supper, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection.

When studying topics like forgiveness and reconciliation, the designing of logos and symbols can be very effective. I find that pictures of hands predominate in these cases which is rather telling and can lead to interesting discussions. Asking students to draw conscience might make them look puzzled to start with, but very often you end up with lots of drawings that feature angels and devils sitting on people's shoulders. A few Jiminy Crickets will probably creep in there as well! The abstract drawings can be most intriguing – the students who are into symbol and metaphor will have a field day here, and what an effective way it can be to get them thinking about the topic under discussion.

Drawing posters can be a great way of focussing on key words – requiring students to combine words and pictures to convey an idea for example. Posters could be designed to encourage students to keep the commandments, be more active in their parish communities, be more honest etc. Some of these can be displayed in the classroom and used as reference points for future discussions. Bible quotes, e.g. from the Beatitudes, could be decorated and used as posters, as could meaningful and inspirational quotes from famous people.



Admittedly all might not go smoothly. The teacher may have to stress the need for respect. Even then a few pictures of a dubious nature might surface, but it's rarely that any malice would be involved. The teacher can deal with such cases subtly – students may mean no disrespect, just copying the mockery and cynicism so prevalent in our culture. That can be challenged too.

Brendan O'Regan, Arklow CBS.

Eucharistic Congress 2012

Introduction

In June 2012 the 50th International Eucharistic Congress will take place in Ireland. A key part of this Congress will be to ensure that our preparation for the Eucharistic Congress is a journey into the mystery of faith and not just an event.

Fáilte...

IEC 2012

50th INTERNATIONAL
EUCCHARISTIC
CONGRESS

Welcome...

Ireland is preparing to host the next gathering of the International Eucharistic Congress (IEC). The IEC 2012 is not a triumphalistic manifestation of faith. It hopefully will become part of the ongoing renewal of the Eucharistic life of all the people of God. Eucharistic living is not something extra that each of us is asked to do. Rather it is the source and the summit of the life and activity of all the baptised.

The role of the Eucharistic Congress presents a two-fold challenge. It has to balance Eucharistic Piety with the social aspect of the Eucharist. There is an intrinsic bond between reverence, prayer and celebration of the Eucharist and the fundamental role of this sacrament in every activity of the Church. The Eucharist is central to our faith. There is also a requirement that it inspires pastoral activity and action in all aspects of Church activity.

The celebration of the Eucharist can very easily become routine. For some people it has lost the significance it held for previous generations. Slippage has occurred in how people take time out to fulfil not just an obligation to attend Sunday Eucharist but also our understanding of the celebration of Eucharist. Pope John Paul II in *Novo Millennio Ineunte* 36 highlighted the importance of weekly Eucharist, "The Sunday Eucharist...every week gathers Christians together as God's family round the table of the word...it is the privileged place where communion is ceaselessly proclaimed and nurtured...through sharing in the Church, the Lord's day also becomes the day of the Church."



Pastoral Challenges and Pastoral Planning

Challenges have been emerging now for some time with regard to catechesis and our understanding of what Eucharist means. This has been reflected not only in school-based religious education programmes but also in a declining awareness and understanding of Eucharist among many age groups. It is no longer just a challenge to remind people that it is through the receiving of the Body and Blood that we are formed into the body of Christ. It is a wider issue of inviting people to fully understand what it means to be a Eucharistic community.

Pastoral Programme for IEC 2012

A pastoral programme for preparation is now available. It is hoped that over the coming months, dioceses and parishes throughout Ireland and beyond will take up the invitation to prepare and gather.

A two-year journey of preparation has been proposed. Along this journey towards the Congress, people are invited to gather in their communities of faith, in their parishes and to participate in a common programme of preparation. An invitation has gone out to each diocese in Ireland to commence a programme of preparation for parishes. Each diocese has appointed a co-ordinator. In the autumn of 2010, many of these people will attempt to animate pastoral activity in their locality. Catechetical material for parishes and groups is now available on www.iec2012.ie



Theme and Timeline of Preparation

The theme of the Congress is, *"The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and with another."* Over the two years that will lead up to the Eucharistic Congress, this theme will be explored in four distinct Stages of preparation. These Stages will occur seasonally. The Stages will hopefully lead people into a common programme of reflection and learning about Eucharist. The Stages are broken up as follows:

Stage One: (Autumn/Winter 2010) Christ Gathers us as a Eucharistic Community.

Stage Two: (Spring/Summer 2011) Christ gathers us to listen, to hear, to be nourished and to be formed into community by God's word.

Stage Three: (Autumn/Winter 2011) Christ gathers us to be nourished for Communion by the Bread of Life, becoming the Body of Christ.

Stage Four: (Spring 2012) Christ gathers and strengthens us for Mission by the Word and the Bread of Life.

Gathering to prepare, Stage One Autumn/Winter 2010 – explained

The first Stage of preparation *Christ Gathers us as a Eucharistic Community* – is intended to invite groups to gather and reflect about gathering together especially as a Liturgical Assembly. This Stage is broken into five distinct sections – called Movements. In the Gospel of Luke it is the community of the upper room that received the two disciples. They gathered to hear the story of *how their eyes were opened* and how the blessings of being in communion can occur through disillusionment with an encounter with the risen Jesus. It is intended that parishes, communities of faith, groups and even individuals can use, adapt and



learn using this programme. It is hoped that people in a variety of pastoral situations will incorporate and use the Movements to suit each unique context.

Parishes, including Parish Pastoral Councils and parish liturgy groups are invited to follow the Movements and create a context for helping the local faith community reflect on the question of why we gather as a Christian community. Resources have been included to help make the preparation more accessible. Apart from the group preparation time, there are prayer and liturgical suggestions that can be incorporated into parish celebrations.

Schools and youth ministry groups are also invited to engage with the pastoral programme. Some level of adaptation will be required. Teachers are invited to use the programme where possible. More dedicated resources will emerge in 2011 for teachers specifically. The appendices might also prove helpful in addition to the other pastoral and liturgical resources on www.iec2012.ie

Eucharistic Congress an opportunity for Renewal

The Eucharistic Congress 2012 provides an opportunity for each of us to reflect on how we gather as a Eucharistic community. Each of us has a role to play in celebrating and living the Eucharist. Preparation is important. The challenge is to reach a new appreciation of our role - both laity and clergy - within the Eucharistic celebration which is vitally important. Our celebration of Eucharist will improve with a fuller appreciation and understanding – facilitating our full, active and conscious participation. Over the next two years we are all invited to renew our understanding and commitment to creating parishes and pastoral occasions where Communion with Christ and one another is real, meaningful and an occasion that renews the community of faith that gathers.



Every International Eucharistic Congress has had a profound impact on the life of the Church. Hopefully the one planned for Ireland will be similar.

In an address to the Roman Curia in 2005, Pope Benedict XVI noted, “only in adoration can a profound and genuine reception mature. And it is precisely this personal encounter with the Lord that then strengthens the social mission contained in the Eucharist, which seeks to break down not only the walls that separate the Lord and ourselves, but also and especially the walls that separate us from one another.” He also said that “an authentically Eucharistic Church is a missionary Church.” There is a direct connection between the Eucharistic table and the mission of the Gospel to the world.

The encounter opens the path for new relationships and the Eucharist assumes its particular social mission. The Eucharist is bread for the life of the world (JN 6:51) It is bread broken for the life of the world and the mystery offered to the world. The Congress could deepen the understanding of the relationship between the Church and the world.



The Pastoral Committee of the IEC is planning to have resources available soon for teachers. More information will follow after Catholic Schools Week in 2011.”

Finally....firstly...If you would like to find out more about the pastoral programme for the International Eucharistic Congress 2012 it can be downloaded via the e-zine (electronic magazine) on www.iec2012.ie If you would like more information on the IEC 2012 and how you can commence pastoral preparation –contact the IEC 2012 Office on 01-8087531, Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Clonliffe, Dublin 3.

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The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and with one another.

Dublin 2012