

R.E. News

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Welcome to the first edition of R.E. News for the school year 2009/2010.

This exciting 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. I welcome your thoughts and comments and look forward to your continued support and guidance as we continue our journey in faith together.

If you have any interesting events coming up please let me know with a view to featuring them in the next edition.

Wishing you every blessing this term.

YEAR OF EVANGELISATION
29th JUNE 2009 – 27th NOVEMBER 2010



All Has Changed...

(including the vocations situation!)

This article is designed to provide the RE teacher with some background information about the current vocations situation and to explore some of the issues around the recession and its impact on vocations. In particular, it addresses the role of the recession on this year's high number of vocations.

Don't Mind the Recession...

The arrival of the Big R, the Recession, has caused us all to change our habits. Some of the changes have been unusual. For example, there has been a surge of interest in growing vegetables, especially in cities where demand for allotment space has increased dramatically. Jacob's Custard Creams have enjoyed a revival too - cheap and cheerful, and a popular comfort food during the last recession during the eighties.

Other habits have changed as well. Figures show that pubs are closing in every town in the country and this has led the Vintners Association to air radio adverts encouraging people to go drinking. In an act of desperation, one publican in Cork has put a sign outside his door which reads, "All pints €3. Don't mind the recession, come in for a session!"

On a serious note, the recession has been described as the greatest challenge facing any generation for over thirty years. Sadly though there is little sense of a "Blitz Spirit" among the public. Instead, we have been treated to a scramble of self interested lobbying and protest with little mention of sacrifices for the common good. Just as we tended towards selfishness during economic good times, it looks as if we will also tend to look after number one during the bad times. Perhaps that shouldn't be much of a surprise.

So, Ireland today is a different place to the Ireland of just over a year ago.

The Vocations Surprise!

In the midst of all of this we got the news a few weeks ago that vocations for the priesthood in 2009 are at their highest level since 1999 and up almost 25% on 2008.

The news took most people by surprise and even featured as a lead story on the RTE nine o'clock news.

So why the upsurge in interest in priesthood? First of all let's take a look at the number of men who have decided to become priests since 1994.



Table 1: Numbers entering the priesthood between 1994 and 2009

Year	Number	Year	Number
1994	98	2002	20
1995	51	2003	19
1996	52	2004	28
1997	53	2005	27
1998	45	2006	30
1999	46	2007	31
2000	29	2008	30
2001	32	2009	38

Clearly, as the nineties progressed the numbers entering the seminary went into steep decline. In the early years of the new millennium the situation deteriorated even further.

However, in recent years there has been a recovery from the rock bottom situation of 2003, and in 2009, the number of men choosing this way of life is at its highest level since 1999.

Is the Recession responsible?

Many people seemed to assume that this year's increase in vocations was due to the recession.

Essentially, it is being suggested that people are entering the priesthood because they can't find work anywhere else. At first glance that might make sense but on reflecting more deeply it is highly unlikely that this is the reason.

For a start, it is hard to imagine anyone being so stuck for work that they would opt instead for a life of celibacy.

In addition, the research shows us that the vast majority of men who enter the seminary already have paid employment. This year's new seminarians include teachers, pharmacists, engineers, and a professional footballer.

In my view it is not so much the recession which is responsible for the increase but the recent economic boom. During the final year or so of the Celtic Tiger, there was a noticeable sense of unease with what we had created in Ireland. The Ceifin Conference in Ennis asked "Are we forgetting something?" Ronan Mullen secured a shock election to the Senate with a campaign slogan which spoke of a need for a society which had a "vision with values". Marc Coleman, an economist with Newstalk 106 wrote in 'The Sunday Independent' newspaper that "it's not the economy that's going to hell- it's society". Usually one would expect that from a bishop or priest but not from a former employee of the European Central Bank!

So, during the final years of the Tiger there was a sense of soul searching and introspection. During this period we started to reach the conclusion that money had not necessarily made us happy and that perhaps there was indeed a need for something more. Many commentators proposed that this "something more" included faith. Recall Emily O'Reilly's comment that perhaps it was time for us all to "tiptoe back to Church".

As Patrick Kavanagh wrote in his poem 'Advent'- "we have tested and tasted too much, lover". We certainly tested and tasted too much during the years of plenty. But despite all our tasting, we discovered that what we were consuming was not going to fully satisfy our deeper hungers- our hunger for meaning and love. This, however, is where faith has something very nourishing to offer.

So, this is perhaps the influence of the economic situation on our approach to vocation and faith. Having enjoyed the Celtic Tiger experience, many people were left feeling that we were, in fact, forgetting something.

Perhaps in the coming months and years we will see more signs of people searching for that elusive something which brings peace and happiness. We, as people of faith, would propose that this is to be found in a God who is love, and that we are not some meaningless products of evolution.

Instead, in the words of Pope Benedict XVI, we can offer something much more:

"I believe that the world and my life are not the product of chance, but of Eternal Reason and Eternal Love. They are created by Almighty God."



In the Classroom:

Testing the Waters...

(some preliminary questions)

In the summer of 2009, the results of a survey conducted by the ESRI from Nov. 2007 to Mar. 2008 were published. The figures below are taken from that survey.

1. What percentage of parents would welcome their son becoming a priest?
Answer: Greatly Welcome: 33%, Welcome with Reservation: 31%
2. What percentage of parents would welcome their daughter becoming a nun?
Answer: Greatly Welcome: 32%, Welcome with Reservation: 29%
3. What percentage of Irish Catholics go to Mass every Sunday?
Answer: 44%
4. What percentage of Dublin Catholics go to Mass every Sunday?
Answer: 33%
5. What percentage of 18-25 year old Catholics go to Mass every Sunday?
Answer: 20%

In Your Opinion...

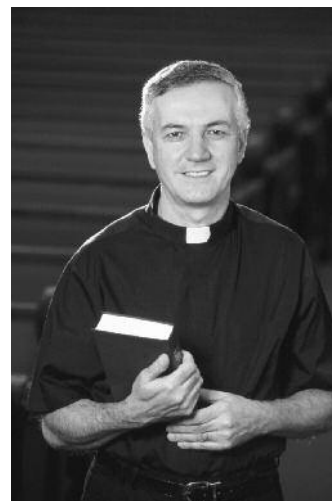
(discussion questions)

- * Why would parents be unhappy with a son or a daughter's decision to follow a religious vocation?
- * Why would a parent be happy with that decision?
- * Why are vocations on a 10 year high in Ireland in 2009?
- * What is the hardest thing about becoming a priest or a religious?
- * What is the most rewarding thing about becoming a priest or religious?

For the Teacher:

(Background information)

- * A seminary is the name given to the college where men "train" to become priests.
- * The name given to a student priest is a seminarian.
- * Ireland's National Seminary is at St Patrick's College, Maynooth. In addition, the Irish College in Rome also trains men for priesthood in Irish dioceses.
- * Men who enter religious orders usually live with their own order and spend their first year or two as novices. The training for this is usually provided "in house".
- * The name given to the training a priest/religious receives is "formation".
- * The "training" process leading to ordination last about six or seven years. It involves obtaining two degrees usually a degree in philosophy followed by a degree in theology.
- * A man interested in priesthood initially chats with a vocations director over a period of several months. The formal application process typically involves a panel interview and a psychological assessment.
- * The name given to the process of deciding your vocation is "discernment".
- * A "religious" is the noun used to refer to members of religious orders, male and female.
- * A religious brother is not ordained but often follows the same formation process as a priest.
- * A religious order is essentially the same as a "religious congregation".
- * Historically, we have used the word "nun" to refer to all female religious. However, more accurately it should only be used to refer to members of enclosed orders. Members of congregations such as the Loreto Sisters, Mercy Sisters, Daughters of Charity should be referred to as "religious sisters".
- * There are 26 Catholic dioceses on the island of Ireland. These 26 dioceses are divided into four provinces; Armagh, Dublin, Tuam and Cashel & Emly. The dioceses in the Dublin province are Dublin, Ferns (covering Co. Wexford), Kildare and Leighlin (mostly covering Kildare and Carlow) and Ossory (mostly covering Co. Kilkenny).
- * The diocesan vocations director for Dublin is Fr Eamonn Bourke.
- * The terms "enter the seminary", "joined the priesthood" and "started training to be a priest" are all pretty much interchangeable.



Useful Websites:

www.vocationsireland.com
www.priest.ie
www.vocations.ie
www.presentationbrothers.ie

Free DVD!

A special DVD to mark the Year of Vocation which ended this summer has been produced and is available free of charge. To request a copy, contact Fr Eamonn Bourke (Dublin Diocesan Vocations Director) at 01 8574198 or by email vocations@dublindiocese.ie

The DVD is about 20 minutes in length and contains interviews with a religious sister, a religious brother, a diocesan priest and an enclosed nun. It is accompanied by a booklet with some topics for a class discussion.



Andrew O'Connell is a layman and is the Communications Director for the Presentation Brothers. His office is in Dun Laoghaire. andoconnell@eircom.net

With grateful thanks to Andrew O'Connell.

Skerries Community College

School - Parish Links

In Transition Year 2008-'09 we completed a community project as part of our religion course. It was co-ordinated by our School Chaplain who was contacted by the Parish Pastoral Council. They invited us to undertake a project in our local church and we were very happy to take it on.

Every Friday a group of four or five students went down to the church and served tea and coffee to the congregation after morning mass, with the help of two parents from the school. At first we saw it as a chore or a chance to get out of school for an hour or two, but then as the weeks went on, we began to care for the people we met every week and we started to look forward to our trips to the church.

Every week the elderly people would tell the students different stories of their lives. It turned out to be very enjoyable for both sides, as the elderly loved sharing their experiences and the students loved hearing about them. It was a great opportunity for the two generations to mingle whereas normally they would keep to themselves. It shone a new light on teenagers for some of the elderly who had only heard bad stories about anti - social youths.

Of all the days of the week that tea was served after mass, 'Friday with the students' became the most popular. One of our lasting memories, apart from the fun, friendship and laughter, were the ladies and gentlemen who came to us after mass instead of returning home to an empty house all alone.

We called our project 'Care in the Community' as over the weeks we began to care for the people we talked to and shared stories with. It started off as just a bit of fun but in the end we really think the students made a difference to the lives of those who came to share our tea and biscuits every Friday morning.

We believe that the students also got something out of it, apart from the free biscuits. But now it's time to pass it over to this year's Transition Year students so that they can make a difference too.

Lisa Moran & Ronan Garrett, 5th Year Students, Skerries Community College.



Zambia

My name is Niamh Donohue and I am currently working as school Chaplain in Loreto High School, Beaufort. In my spare time, I do a great deal of volunteer work with Slí-Eile, a Jesuit youth initiative. I have been involved with Slí-Eile for the past five years and have travelled to Zambia as a volunteer on two previous occasions. In October 2008, I was given the opportunity to undertake the role of leader for the solidarity trip to Zambia 2009. The role involved selecting the volunteers through an interview process and working on an intensive preparation programme. The preparation programme involved preparing the volunteers practically and spiritually. The solidarity volunteer programme runs from a four pillar model - social justice, simple lifestyle, spirituality and community. In Zambia, we reflected on a daily basis on what was going on for us. This was a very important aspect of the trip to see how the experience was affecting us. We lived with the people of Zambia, in their communities and partook in a very simple lifestyle cooking meals, hand washing our clothes, etc.

The first project the whole group visited was Our Lady's Hospice. This is a hospice for adults and children who are infected with HIV AIDS and adults who have terminal cancer. We spent the day in this project working in the laundry room, cleaning windows, sweeping driveways and bottling tablets into jars.



The second project was St. Laurence's, Home of Hope. This project is for street boys who have ended up in this project for a variety of reasons. The boys sleep here and are educated here in very cramped conditions. Around 15 boys sleep in a room, the same size as a standard bedroom. The rooms are filthy and are very poor living conditions. The people who run this project visit the streets regularly to help the street children. On the day we arrived a woman was picked up on the street who was eight and a half months pregnant. This young woman was strung out on glue and had no idea of where she was.

Reflecting on experiences in Zambia wasn't easy. We definitely received an overwhelming feeling of appreciation of what we have and indeed our responsibility to do more. What is the something more we can do? Is it all about heading off to Africa every summer- I don't think so. Now I do realise the necessity to help out in my own country and city- but how? How do I live up to this? It is not always easy. I suppose being part of the group was fantastic and definitely an enriching experience. It has made me realise how capable I was in the role that I had. What I really became aware of is how God is influencing and working in my life. I suppose the easy thing to do sometimes is to just ignore this. It is our human responsibility and Christian responsibility to do

something more.

To anyone that may be reading this and thinking - I'd love to do something like that! Then I would say..... DO IT!

Africa is an amazing continent and Zambia in particular has so much love and compassion for everyone. Everywhere we went we were greeted by smiles and hospitality. And there are glimmers of hope in Zambia.



I was very fortunate in the group to have a fellow teacher, Ms. Alison Judge, three Leaving Cert students and one past pupil to accompany me on this trip to Zambia.

Zambian Diary

Ruth Kelly, Leaving Cert student 2009 shares her experience.....

Looking back over my diary that I kept on the trip, I'm trying to figure out how to fit everything into just one short article. We really did pack so much in!

Twelve of us set out from Dublin early one Tuesday morning and arrived in Lusaka, Zambia early on Wednesday morning. Bleary eyed but excited we arrived at our accommodation. Getting used to the food took a bit of time but we eventually persuaded our taste buds to tolerate the blandness of "shema", a maize based meal which was on offer most days. We settled into our projects:



Mother Teresa's Hospice, Our Lady's Hospice, St. Laurence's Home of Hope for Street Boys and Baulini Street Kids Project over the next few days.

Myself and Roisin along with another lad Damien were assigned to Mother Teresa's Hospice. Not knowing what to expect we were totally immersed into African lifestyle in no time. Singing, dancing, music, games and fun were not what we had expected in the

hospice but we were soon taught to be ready for anything! We arrived expecting to teach our newfound friends but instead we were taught by them, everything from their songs, "Ba Zambia" being a favorite, and their dances to card games and hair braiding.

On our last day all twelve of us went to St. Laurence's to paint the boys' bedrooms. We ended up getting more paint on ourselves than on the walls! This really was one of the highpoints of the trip. There were many tears shed leaving



all the projects. Everyone had made very close bonds with those they had met. It didn't seem fair to be leaving them there in the poverty that was so visible and returning home to our nice warm beds. This was just one of the many challenges that we faced.

Looking back on it now it's all just a blur. We all had an amazing time living and loving the Zambian people. This trip was such an eye opener for me and I think it is the start of many things to come. I do not believe this will be my last time in Zambia.

Ruth Kelly

I would like to conclude with a prayer that was my prayer in Zambia:

Gracious God, in the busy-ness of my day, I sometimes forget to stop and thank you for all the good in my life.

My blessings are many and my heart is filled with gratefulness for the gift of living, for the ability to love and be loved, for the opportunity to see the everyday wonders of creation, for sleep and water, for a mind that thinks and a body that feels.

I thank you, too, for those things in my life that are less than I would hope them to be, things that seem challenging, unfair or difficult. When my heart feels stretched and empty, and pools of tears form in my weary eyes, still I rejoice that you are as near to me as my next breath and that in the midst of turbulence, I am growing and learning.

In the silence of my soul, I thank you most of all for your unconditional and eternal love.

Amen

If anyone is interested in part taking in volunteer opportunities with Slí-Eile to South Africa, Kingston, Zambia, Columbia, one can contact Slí-Eile at www.sli-eile.com or contact (01) 8880606

World Mission Day will be celebrated this year on Sunday, October 18, with the theme:

"The nations will walk in its light."

St. Tiernan's Community College Transition Year Certificates

Principal of St Tiernan's Community School, Mr Tim Geraghty with Brigid Gilligan and the Transition Year group from the school.

On the 5th May Brigid Gilligan visited the Transition Year students from St Tiernan's Community School in Balally, Dublin to present them with certificates for their work in Religion class during the year. Each student gave a short presentation on various aspects of the work. Some of the projects undertaken included the creation of liturgical banners for use in



school services and the making of a sacred space outside of the chaplain's office in the school. They also made personal folders illustrating important elements of their lives. As a group they read and reflected upon the thought provoking book '*Tuesdays with Morrie*' by Mitch Albom. Throughout the year many of the TY students were involved in the preparation and running of school religious ceremonies, some were in the choir and others read or presented the symbols or gifts. The group helped to collect money from other students in the school during the Trócaire Lenten campaign and four of the students from the group participated in the Trócaire 24 Hour Fast. It was a very active and successful year for this group so the certificates that they received were very much deserved.



Brigid Gilligan
presenting a certificate
to Cormac Fenner from
the Transition Year class
in St Tiernan's
Community school, with
his teacher Sarah
Redmond

For further details on the
Transition Year
Certification Programme
please contact
Brigid Gilligan at
01-8379253 or
087-4192158.

FaithConnect -

Deirdre Hickey, Loreto College, D.2

In September 2008 our school was invited to participate in the piloting of a new and exciting R.E. programme entitled FaithConnect. All I knew at that point was that it involved teaching R.E. using I.C.T. Since I had just acquired a laptop and data-projector in my classroom I was asked to be the pilot teacher in our school. With an open mind I embarked on a very exciting venture throughout the course of the year with my Transition Year R.E. class.



To give some background, FaithConnect is a new project that aims to involve senior cycle students (Transition Year students in my situation) in the process of religious education using an online medium. It is a joint initiative between Veritas and the Mater Dei Institute of Education. The content for this project is a Religious Education module entitled "The Search for Meaning".

This theme is presented in three sections: **Section A:** Searching; **Section B:** The Power of Symbol and **Section C:** Religious Faith - a response to a person's search for meaning. Each of these sections is divided into stages. The student explores the topics interactively using an online workbook and blogging. The topic concludes with a series of outcomes, which are in essence projects, particularly outcomes 2 and 3. These outcomes enable the students to draw together what has been learned in a creative and reflective way.

Outcome 1 is, to put it simply, the online textbook, with plenty of web links to associated articles, topics etc. in addition to streamed video and interactive "just for fun" exercises. The material is presented in a creative web-format which enables the student to complete an online workbook and blog. The teacher can access the students' entries to their blog and workbook online and comment on them (and remove them if that is necessary). My experience last year was that the students thought the layout was very appealing. They were extremely engaged with the material and took the task of entering their answers to their online workbook in a serious and thoughtful manner. They engaged in the exercises with enthusiasm. Since the blog feature was still in development my students did not blog very much. However, I can see how this would be of interest to teenagers.

Outcome 2 involves the students creating digital resources on a topic selected by them from a series of titles directly related to the content of outcome 1 (the online text). Using video and/or photography, editing and production skills the students created very powerful digital resources which may later be used within the school community- perhaps in a presentation to the current 3rd years. Some of these were uploaded to the FaithConnect website. This element of the programme, was from the students' point of view, the most exciting. It involved team-work, creativity, sharing of ideas and resources and trust on the part of the teacher! The students put a lot of time into compiling their images, selecting appropriate music and producing their short movie. While the teacher facilitates this and initially helps the students with various practicalities, this section is very much student-led. In my class two students who were very familiar with Windows Movie Maker, taught the rest of the class how to use this technology. It was wonderful to see the short movies which the students created on their chosen titles, all related to the search for meaning.

Outcome 3 is parish-based and is entitled "Transformation". It involves the students choosing a topic from the sections studied and then engaging with people in their local area in order to explore

the topics. Unfortunately, we were not in a position to pilot this section of the programme last year due to time constraints.

From the students' perspective the FaithConnect format is visually attractive and contains a number of very appealing features including "student profile"; "moments of prayer"; "words of wisdom"; "my workbook"; "my blog". While they engaged with Outcome 1 with enthusiasm, they embraced Outcome 2 with absolute relish. It appealed to their creativity and imagination. It allowed them a forum for exploring their own quest for meaning in life.

For teachers the layout is clear and very user-friendly. As with the students, it is interactive and readily facilitates the teacher's management of student and class work. The teacher can give feedback online to student blog entries and the student workbook. The **staffroom section** has great potential for teachers of the programme to share experiences, ideas, etc. There is also a facility for contacting the FaithConnect team if a teacher is experiencing problems, which is extremely beneficial. One definitely has the sense of being supported throughout the programme.



There are a few **practical points** to consider before embarking on the FaithConnect programme. I piloted it last year using a laptop and data projector in my classroom. While I got immense cooperation from the students, it was far from ideal. The programme is designed in such a manner that students require access to their own computer during class in order to complete exercises but more importantly to access links from the given choices, which are appealing to them. All of the work for Outcome 2 had to be done by my students in small groups in one another's homes. To maximise the potential benefit of the programme for the students my Transition Year class is this year timetabled in the Computer Room and I am really looking forward to commencing the programme.

The FaithConnect programme, despite the limitations experienced in my classroom last year, was a great success. The greatest challenge is time - Transition Year students, because of the very nature of the year, are very busy. Therefore, the teacher needs to have a clear focus from the outset and students need to adhere to deadlines especially in Outcome 2. There was unanimous agreement among last year's students that FaithConnect should be a core element of the Transition Year R.E. programme again this year. It is very teacher friendly, even for those with limited technological experience and support is available when needed. My one concern is that the programme was so successful in Transition Year that it will be difficult to return to the traditional type R.E. programme in 5th and 6th Year. I hope that investment in technological resources will continue in schools to enable them to offer such progressive programmes as this to students nationwide. Each R.E. department considering FaithConnect will need to consider its own school's resources in terms of Computer Room availability, etc. This is definitely the way forward in R.E. - the exploration of religious themes through a medium and in a language which appeals to our students. The content remains challenging and thought provoking, yet its presentation is modern, appealing and meets students in their "space".

To learn more about FaithConnect visit the website:
www.faithconnect.ie or contact Ailís Travers on 01 8788177 or
via email: ailis.travers@veritas.ie

Slí Chun Dé

Cuirim fáilte ó chroí roimh *Slí Chun Dé: Searmanais Phaidreoireachta do Dhéagóirí* atá curtha ar fáil do dhéagóirí, do shéiplínigh agus do mhúinteoirí ag an tSiúr Mairéad Ní Bhuachalla, ball de Ord Siúracha na Carthannachta.

Is léir ó leagan amach na Searmanas go bhfuil tuiscint ag an tSiúr Mairéad ar mheon na ndéagóirí, go bhfuil tuiscint aici ar leagan amach liotúigeach na bliana agus go bhfuil taithí an mhúinteora aici, óir chaith sí blianta fada ag teagasc sular ghabh sí le cúrsa do Shéiplínigh in Institiúd Mater Dei i mBaile Átha Cliath. Táim in éad le scoláirí Choláiste Mhuire anseo i mBaile Átha Cliath gur acu sin atá sí ina Séiplíneach. Tá teanga na searmanas snasta simplí mar is dual do bhean a tógadh le Gaeilge agus arb as Baile Bhúirne, Co. Chorcaí di.

Tá breis is scór searmanas sa chnuasach, iad in ord na scoilbhliana agus iad ag réiteach le tráthanna liotúirgeacha na bliana. Tosnaíonn an searmanas le gearr-smaoineamh ar an ócáid ón gCinnire, m.sh. Tús na Scoilbhliana, Ceiliúradh an Fhómhair, Cuimhneachán na Marbh, Searmanas Aidhbhinte agus mar sin de.

Nuair a bhíonn téama an tsearmanais curtha i láthair ag an gCinnire (i. e. duine de na scoláirí) is gnách gníomh éigin oiriúnach siombalach a dhéanamh - m.sh. coinneal a lasadh, síolta a chur, torthaí an Fhómhair a roinnt, ainmneacha na ndaoine a fuair bás a mheabhrú, fleasc Aidhbhinte a chur in áit. Bíonn na scoláirí páirteach sa ghníomh. Díreach ina dhiaidh sin cuireann triúr nó ceathrar scoláirí (Guth 1; Guth 2; & rl) smaointe gearra i láthair an ranga.

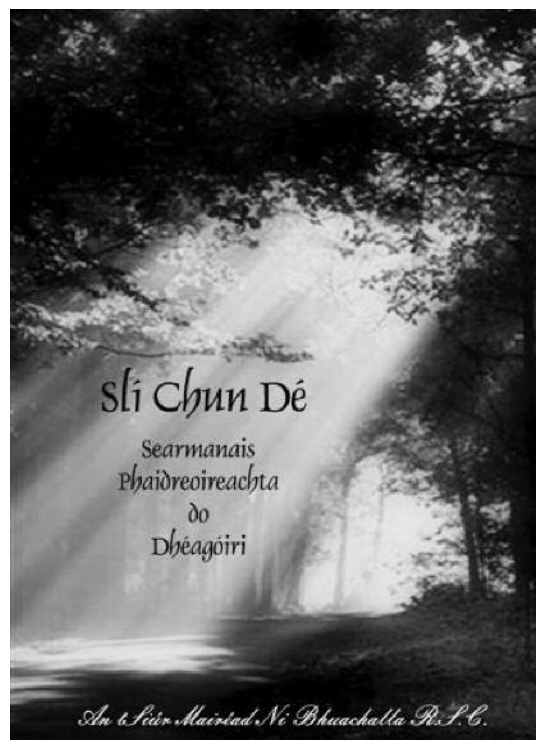
Cantar iomann. Tá na focail ar an leathanach agus cuntas ar cá bhfuil an ceol le fáil. Tá an ceol an-oiriúnach do dhéagóirí agus measaim go mbainfidh siad taitneamh agus tairbhe as. Leantar le paidreacha ar nós Ghuí an Phobail agus cantar iomann deiridh.

Is fada muid ag feitheamh lena leithéid seo de áis chun guí - chun labhairt le Dia. Tá na searmanais seo go hálainn ar fad agus níor mhiste úsáid a bhaint astu in eaglais ar bith, i bparóiste ar bith, le aois-ghrúpa nó le pobal ar bith.

Tá ár mbuíochas tuillte gan aon agó ag an tSiúr Mairéad. Guím rath Dé ar a saothar.

*An tEaspag Fiachra Ó Ceallaigh O.F.M.,
Meitheamh 2009.*

Le fáil ó: Áis. Fón 01 6616522
Foilseacháin Ábhair Spioradálta. Fón 01 7758502
Costas: €10



Macnamh ar an mBás

An Roinn Reiligiúin Coláiste Chillian: Áine Ní Choncheanainn, Padraig Swinburne agus Paul Sloan

Go tradaisiúnta b' é Mí na Samhna mí na marbh; an Mhí ina gcuimhníonn muid ar ár ngaolta agus cairde atá imithe ar shlí na fírinne. Tá an seirbhís seo a leanas feiliúnach do chuile aois ghrúpa, 12-18 bliain san áireamh.

Modh

Spás paidreoireachta: Leag amach an suíomh don tseirbhís cathaoireacha i gciorcal, coinneal mór lasta, coinneal níos lú ag na daltaí, cartaí le h-ainmneacha na marbh scríofa orthu agus ceol a roghnaigh na daltaí.

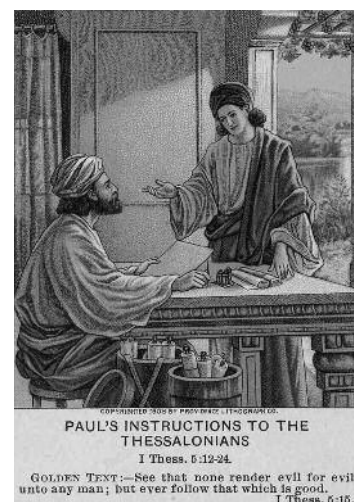
Intreoir

Déarfad cúpla focail le comhthéacs an tseirbhís a léiriú. Ag smaoineamh ar na daoine atá imithe ar shlí na fírinne: ár gcairde agus ár ngaolta agus iad sin nach bhfuil éinne acu le smaoineamh orthu. Iarrfar ar na daltaí ainmeacha a scríobh ar na cártaí do na daoine atá ina smaointe.

Léacht

(Céad Litir Teasalónaigh 4.13-18)

Níor mhaith liom, a bhráithre, go mbeadh sibh aineolach i dtaobh na marbh i dtreo nach mbeadh sibh dobrónach ar nós na ndaoine eile atá gan aon dóchas. Creidimid go bhfuair Íosa bás agus gur aiséirigh sé; ar an gcuma chéanna an mhuintir a fuair bás i bpáirt le Críost, tabharfaidh Dia iad siúd leis ón mbás chomh maith. Agus tá an méid seo le rá againn libh ar fhocal an Tiarna féin; an méid a fhágfar beo dinn go dtí teacht an Tiarna, ní bheidh aon bhuntáiste againn orthu sin a bheidh tar éis bháis; mar nuair a thabharfar an fógra le glór an ardaingil agus le trumpa Dé, tiocfaidh an Tiarna féin anuas ó neamh agus ar dtús éireoidh na mairbh i gCríost. Ansin an méid a bheidh fágtha beo dinn, ardófar chun siúil sinn mar aon leo trí na néalta in airicis an Tiarna sa spéir, agus ar an gcuma sin beimid i dteannta an Tiarna do deo. Déanaigí a chéile a mhisniú, más ea, leis na briathra sin.



Lasadh na Coinnle

Cuirfear fáilte roimh gach dalta ainm amháin nó níos mó a ghlaoch amach agus a gcoinneal féin a lasadh ón gcoinneal mór agus a gcoinneal a chur isteach i lár an chiorcail. Nuair atá gach duine réidh beidh nóimead amhain ciúnas, bhféidir le ceol sa chúlrá.

Smaoineamh

Is féidir le daltaí teacht agus labhairt faoi dea-thréithe na ndaoine atá imithe romhainn. Críochnófar an rannóg seo leis an-Ár nAthair.

Paidir Deireaneach

A Thiarna, gabhaimid buíochas ó chroí leat as ucht an deis seo a thabhairt dúinn guí ar son na mairbh. Go ndéanfaidh Dia Trócaire ar a nAnamacha.

A Thiarna éist linn

A Thiarna bí ceansa agus éist linn.

Reflection on Death

The following Prayer Service is suitable for all age groups, 12-18 years during the month of November.

Set Up

Prayer Space: prepare students in a circle and light a candle in the middle as a prayer focus, each student should then have their own smaller candle. Cards for students to write names of deceased, and some music chosen by students.

Introduction

Introduce the service with a few short words to set the context of the service, remembering those we knew that have gone before us, family friends, and also to remember those who have no one to pray for them. Then ask students to write name of those people they would like to remember on their cards.

Reading

(1 Thessalonians 4.13-18) We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.



Candle lighting

Students are invited to call out one or more names for their cards and to light their small candles from the centre candle and place their card on the floor around the main candle. When everyone is finished a prayer of silence can be used while the music can be played in the background.

Reflection

Students can reflect on the good qualities of those that they are remembering and how these qualities can influence their own lives in a positive way. Maybe the Our Father can be said out loud.

Final Prayer

Lord, we praise and thank you for bestowing this opportunity upon us to reflect and pray for the holy souls of our dearly departed. May they rest in peace. Lord hear my prayer.

Lord Hear us

Lord graciously hear us.

Leaving Certificate Religion Section F: Justice in Action

Martin Luther King

Martin Luther King Center:
www.thekingcenter.org

The Martin Luther King, Jr, Research and Education Institute, Stanford University containing Primary and Secondary Documents including "From a Birmingham Jail" and other articles.
<http://www.stanford.edu/group/King/>

Martin Luther King, Jr, Video Gallery
<http://www.mlkonline.net/video.html>

Seattle Times MLK Resource - timelines, photo gallery, links
<http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/special/mlk/>

Martin Luther King Newspaper Archive - search newspaper articles - the main site is also quite useful
<http://www.martinlutherkingjrarchive.com/Home.aspx>

The Nobel Prize Site
<http://nobelprize.org/>

Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela Foundation - photo gallery, videos gallery etc
<http://www.nelsonmandela.org/>

Long Walk to Freedom Site - excerpts from text, interviews etc
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/mandela/>

Nobel Prize - speech, biography etc
http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1993/

Aung San Suu Kyi

Aung San Suu ky - Action Burma
<http://www.actionburma.com/>

Official Site
<http://www.dassk.com/index.php>

Nobel Prize 1991
http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1991/index.html

East Timor - Ireland Solidarity Campaign
www.freedom.tp/ireland/etisc

Burma Action Ireland
www.burmaactionireland.org

Dalai Lama

Official Site containing speeches, teachings and webcast directory
<http://www.dalailama.com/>

Official UK Site containing textual resources
<http://www.tibet.com/DL/>

Dalai Lama Foundation
<http://www.dalailamafoundation.org>

Dalai Lama Centre for Peace and Education
<http://www.dalailamacenter.org/>

Nobel Prize Link
http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1989/

Buddhist Studies Virtual Library
<http://www.ciolek.com/WWWVL-Buddhism.html>

Buddhist Education and Information Network
<http://www.buddhanet.net/>

Irish Buddhist Centre
<http://www.buddhism.ie>

Buddhist Society UK
<http://www.thebuddhistsociety.org/>

Disclaimer

The Links provided are for your information and convenience. It is strongly advised that you check all sites thoroughly before use with a class group. The sites are subject to change without our knowledge. We cannot accept responsibility for the link sites available through those sites or any information found on them.

With grateful thanks to Sabrina Tormey, Mater Dei Institute of Education

Skerries Community College - Youth Mass Team

As a group of fifteen Transition Year girls, we had one mission, and that was to start a choir. Not knowing how to go about this we went to our school Chaplain for some advice. 'We'd like to start a choir' we announced. The ever enthusiastic Ms. Egan told us about Emmanuel, the Diocesan liturgical music project - which was designed to promote the use of sacred music in secondary schools. The concert would be held in March and we were ecstatic to have our choir.

After three months of practice the day of the concert finally arrived. In the morning a very excited gaggle of sixteen girls (that's us plus Ms. Egan, school Chaplain) boarded the minibus that was to bring us to Clonliffe College. When we arrived we did some spiritual workshops based on different religious aspects which were very interesting. After a quick lunch we headed off to the Helix for our rehearsal.

It was at 8pm, as the hundreds of students from many different schools sat anxiously looking down from the balcony watching the audience file in, that the adrenalin really started pumping. It only took a nod and a hand movement from the brilliant conductor, Ian Callanan, for the live orchestra to render all of us speechless for a second as the power and beauty of the music took over. But we were ready and waiting to get our nod from the conductor and when we did, the words sprung out of our mouths and as the singing and instruments blended into one the atmosphere became truly electric.

It was a wonderful night that was had by all. Ms. Egan has asked us to take part in the Emmanuel project again this year, and there'll be no stopping us!

Inspired by the success of Emmanuel, a committee got together to set up a youth mass once a month on a Saturday evening in our local parish church. With the help of one of the parents on the Parish Pastoral Council, Suzanne, we set up a choir for the mass with some new faces in tow. Suzanne taught us some new songs and played guitar for us at the mass. Each week different people did readings and gave people refreshments after the mass. We had lots of help and support from other parents on the Pastoral Council and of course the ever supportive Ms. Egan who backed us 100% of the way. Our monthly Youth Masses have proved to be a huge success and we're looking forward to doing it all over again this year. We have grown in confidence as singers and musicians and our involvement in the Youth Masses has led to many invitations to take part in other musical ventures too. We would encourage any students who think they have a good idea to approach their School Chaplain... you could end up on stage in the Helix!!

Amy Whelan, 5th Year, Skerries Community College.



Emmanuel 2009

Emmanuel 2009 was the title of the music programme offered in Second Level Schools this year which culminated in an evening of music and reflection in the Helix on 11 & 12 March. Over 1,200 young people joined with a large orchestra to sing liturgical music of various styles learnt over the previous months. The students had spent the morning at workshops on spiritual topics before the



grand rehearsal in the afternoon. It would be good to include music from this programme in parish liturgies in order to make the vital connection between music and the living prayer of local communities.

As part of the Autumn Liturgy Gathering one of the workshops offered will introduce this programme - see booking form for details. Plans are already in place for Emmanuel 2010 which will take place on 25 and 26 March in the Helix, Glasnevin. Schools are being contacted at the moment to arrange study days and rehearsals.

