

R.E. News

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Welcome to the third edition of R.E. News for this academic year.

This edition of R.E. News features resources for Lent including a Lenten meditation and a Penitential service. Thank you to those who contributed to this Newsletter. It is wonderful to read of the many excellent activities that have taken place in our schools this year. If you have any interesting events coming up please let me know, as I would love to feature them in the next R.E. News.

Resources are always available on our website www.education.dublindiocese.ie under Religious Education, Post-Primary. Over 450 teachers have already signed up to receive regular resources and R.E. updates. If you would like to join the mailing list, please send an email with your name and school to garyabrahamian@gmail.com

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Catholic Schools Week 2012

Seachtain na Scoileanna Caitliceacha 2012

CBC Monkstown

Every year, the *Irish Catholic Bishops Conference* dedicates their time and passion into preparing, promoting and delivering the message of community in Christ throughout Irish Catholic schools. The celebrated theme for 2012 is 'Catholic Schools: Christ's living body active in our world.' As we await the visit of the 50th International Eucharistic Congress this year, it is fitting that the theme chosen for this year is based on the presence of Christ in our world. To coincide with the arrival of Spring, *Catholic Schools Week* gives students, staff and parents the chance to reflect on the meaning of community through the breaking of Bread.

Christian Brothers College, Monkstown, took this opportunity to mark this special week by inviting students, staff and grandparents to celebrate the Eucharist with Fr. Michael Coady in our school hall. On the day, grandparents were invited as special guests because the 1st February marks not only the Feast day of St. Brigid, but Grandparents Day also. In keeping with the theme of the presence of Christ, Fr. Michael read the *Road to Emmaus* story from Luke's Gospel. The message of this Gospel reading is fitting, given that our busy lifestyles, both within and outside of school, can often dictate how we operate in the world. The simplicity of the Emmaus story not only draws us to Jesus' message of community, but also leaves some food for thought about how He is present in our everyday lives.



The use of symbolism in our mass also had a grounding impact on the congregation, reminding us of the importance of being rooted in our faith. Gifts such as light, water, an evergreen and a portrait of our founder, Blessed Edmund Rice, gave true witness to how we are all one in our faith as a very active Catholic school. With this said, it is clear that *Catholic Schools Week* represents another meaningful stepping stone in our school calendar and teaches us how to press pause and find meaning in our busy lives.



Tom Farrell, School Chaplain, Christian Brothers College, Monkstown



Catholic Schools Week 2012

Seachtain na Scoileanna Caitliceacha 2012

Rockbrook Park School

This was our first year to undertake anything special for *Catholic Schools Week*. We were conscious of the unreasonable and negative press around Catholic institutions so we decided we should do something to increase our Catholic students' pride in their faith. The centrepiece of our week was a display in the school's assembly hall. Entitled '*What is a Catholic?*' it featured contributions from around sixty students in the school.



Some first years undertook to produce A4 sized artwork all around the theme 'A Catholic is...' highlighting how one can live one's Catholicism in ordinary life. Messages included: 'A Catholic is someone who takes their study seriously', 'A Catholic is someone who goes to Mass on Sunday', 'A Catholic is someone who is not racist', 'A Catholic is someone who helps his classmates', 'A Catholic is someone who goes to Confession'. The quality of the artwork varied but everyone who wished to have their work displayed was accommodated.

A small group of second years produced an impressive timeline of the Catholic Church which was prominently displayed. Some fourth year projects on 'Saints of our Time' also featured in the display.

The Week happily coincided with an exchange visit of ten students from Zagle School in Warsaw in Poland. As a result, we included in the display a short history of Catholicism in modern Poland. The visiting Polish history teacher, Mr Piotr Podemski, also give a series of lectures to various class groups on Catholicism in the 20th century, drawing on his intimate knowledge of Poland's experience under Communism and the contribution of Blessed John Paul II to religious freedom and to ecumenism.

The school's art teacher, Dónal Murray, used the occasion to have a special art class with Transition Year and the Polish visitors on the painting of icons. Over a two-hour period much good work was done and these finished miniature icons went on display at the end of the week.



It is customary in Rockbrook to have a class Mass once per week, with different class groups attending on different days. The recent changes in the liturgy encouraged us to purchase missals which could be used by students to follow the Mass more attentively. During Catholic Schools Week students began to use the missals, learning how to find the Mass of the day, and the associated readings and preface. Apart from helping students participate more, the missals are very beneficial for the more distracted students, helping them to be more involved in the action of the Mass. A short homily was given each day, explaining the importance of living one's faith well.

With the International Eucharistic Congress on the horizon, our Week closed with a short lunchtime exposition and Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament on the Friday. Students were encouraged to drop in for ten minutes of their lunchtime period to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament or to participate in the Benediction. For some, it was a first experience, and the singing, the music and the incense made it a memorable one.



Catholic Schools Week 2012

Seachtain na Scoileanna Caitliceacha 2012

Willow Park Secondary School

For Catholic Schools Week this year we prepared projects focusing on the Spiritans (our schools founding order) and the work that they do not only in Ireland but across the world. I chose a couple of projects to look at and write about.

One project was very intuitive and used cartoons with speech bubbles to give information on Spirasi and their work with torture victims and immigrants.

Another project focused on Ghana and gave a lot of information on the work done over there including building water pumps for the communities.

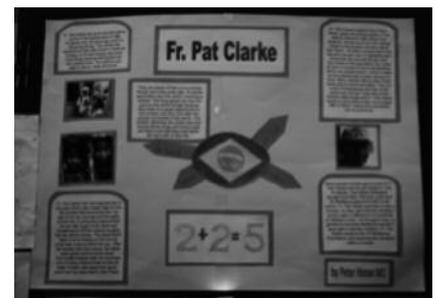
Over 200 projects were laid out in the reception area so there was a lot to read and learn. The projects were all excellent and really showed the hard work that we are able to put in here in Willow Park.

By Peter, 1st Year



This year, to mark Catholic Schools Week we researched everything the Spiritans have done and contributed to society. Some boys chose to research Fr. Pat Clarke and all his works for the people of Brazil. When you first looked at one of the projects one thing popped out at you, it said 2+2=5. This is something Fr. Pat often said, meaning nothing is impossible, even getting rid of world poverty.

By Alex, 1st Year



As it came up to Catholic Schools Week, Willow Park 1st year decided to learn more about our Spiritan culture and how these Spiritans are "*Christ's living body active in our world*". Everyone put in a huge amount of effort which left us with a colourful display of well thought-out projects. These projects all incorporated our rich ethos and culture. There were projects about the Spiritan Fathers missions in Bolivia, where they help villages to survive, be it teaching new farming methods or building a water pump to provide drinkable water. The most striking projects were on Spirasi. Spirasi was set up by Spiritan Fathers who saw the need for care of asylum seekers in Ireland. They also set up a rehabilitation centre for victims of torture, as about 35% of immigrants to Ireland have been tortured. These projects gave us many insights to the global world of poverty and how Spiritans have responded and helped the developing world. Many thanks to our teacher Ms. Sheehan, who organised everything for our projects and Catholic Schools Week.

By Joseph, 1st Year



My Experience of Religion in Secondary School

My name is Adam and I am in first year in *Tallaght Community School*. When I started secondary school my class was given three religion projects to do. Each student had to write a prayer, a reflection and write about one of their favourite songs. We had done religion before in primary school but it was mainly the facts about religion and not about how you felt. So the concept of a reflection and making our own prayer was pretty alien to me. But I think I understand now what it means.

The Prayer was to be your own original prayer, it couldn't be already written by somebody else. The prayer, should show what you care about, what's important to you yourself and really show what kind of person you are.

We were quite nervous about doing a prayer and reading a prayer which showed how we felt to everyone else. It was personal enough. At that stage I only knew a few people in the class. I was glad I didn't go first! It's funny how it works when someone else does it, it's not so bad. When I heard other people's prayers I thought "if they have the courage to stand up in front of the whole class and say a prayer then I can".



The Reflection made us nervous at first as we didn't even know what it meant to do a reflection. A reflection is something you think and feel, it challenges you to think deeper, about a quote or saying in order to interpret the meaning of it. It was definitely easier to read it out to the class this time as we had gotten over reading the prayer. It was harder to think of a reflection though. When people did start reading out their reflections I started to understand what it meant. Listening to other people's reflections got your mind thinking.

The Song was different to all of the other projects I had done. You had to listen to the lyrics and try and understand what the songwriter was trying to say to you, what message the song held. The song didn't only have to be about the lyrics, it could be a favourite song, a song that reminded you of a person or a time in your life. We could relate to a song easier than a piece of writing that we had never heard before. We'd all heard songs but the new thing was explaining why it was special to you or why you liked it so much. This was even hard to explain to yourself.



I really enjoyed doing the lessons even though it was a new experience for me. It took a bit of getting used to but I can't wait to see what we have to do next.

By Adam Carr, 1st Year, Tallaght Community School

Tallaght Community School & the Religion Department INTER-FAITH WEEK

March 2012



The aims of this week are:

1. Celebrate the multi-denominational identity of our school.
2. Strengthen good inter-faith relations amongst students in our school.
3. Encourage students of different faiths to reach out to each other and build stronger bonds of understanding and cooperation.
4. Increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in Ireland, with a particular focus on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society.
5. Gain a positive profile for inter-faith initiatives in the school community.
6. Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

Activities for the week:

1st Year Scripture: A reading from two holy books. Reflection: Exploring religious music. Film: The Prince of Egypt: Biblical Judaism. Liturgy: Creating a Prayer Space.	2nd Year Artwork: Becoming an iconographer. Festivals: Exploring a sacred Hindu festival. Prayer: Praying the Muslim way. Activity: The big Religion taste-off.
3rd Year Symbols: Examining sacred symbols of Judaism. Reflection: Meditation in the oratory. Scripture: Making Ancient Scrolls. Prayer: Praying in an ancient language.	TY Seminar: How Interfaith co-operation can inspire positive action in the world today. Reflection: Prayer and discussion in the Oratory. Activity: Stewardship in action: Honouring our green flag. Scripture: Word of God Speak.
5th Year Debate: Does God really Exist? Speaker: Homelessness in Ireland. Documentary: Would You Believe? Meditation: Experiencing the Daily Ritual of the Buddhist.	6th Year Speaker: The work of Ecumenism and Inter- Faith Dialogue in Northern Ireland. Quiz Time: The Ultimate World Religions Quiz. Documentary: Exploring a New Religious Movement. Meditation: Exploring our inner desire for peace.

Competition for the week:

- Write a short essay based on the title: The importance of respecting the beliefs of all religious and non-religious people.

By Christopher Gueret, Tallaght Community School

Lenten Calendar

This Lent, you are invited to pray with a line of God's Word each week and to express that Word in action each day...

Ash Wednesday: Turn away from sin and believe in the Good News

Thurs: Let God reveal his Good News to you
Fri: Turn away from what keeps you from God
Sat: Fast from unkindness

1st Sunday of Lent: Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love

Mon: Thank God for the gift of love in your life, wherever you find it
Tues: Pray for those who have forgotten how to love
Wed: Fast from jealousy – love the giftedness in others
Thurs: Remember those who have been betrayed
Fri: Let your prayer be for the ones who live in sadness and loss
Sat: Be a loving presence to all you meet today

2nd Sunday of Lent: I will walk in the presence of the Lord

Mon: Let God walk through your day with you
Tues: Give thanks for those who reveal God to you
Wed: Clothe those you meet in loving kindness
Thurs: Pray for those who feel they walk alone
Fri: Fast today in solidarity with those who never have enough to eat
Sat: Cherish those who are in your life today

3rd Sunday of Lent: Lord, you have the message of eternal life

Mon: Notice signs of new life around you and give thanks
Tues: Give to those who are in need
Wed: Pray for those who feel unloved
Thurs: Fast from what does not bring life
Fri: Pray for the gift of trust in God
Sat: Cherish the unexpected moments of wonder

4th Sunday of Lent: God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son

Mon: Pray for loved ones who show us a glimpse of God's love
Tues: Make an effort with someone you find difficult
Wed: Let the News today call you to pray
Thurs: Fast with Jesus
Fri: Take time today to believe in God's love for you
Sat: Show love for someone else today

5th Sunday of Lent: Create in me a new heart, O God

Mon: Let your heart be filled with God's view of life
Tues: Fast from selfishness, go the extra mile today for someone else
Wed: Welcome the stranger, in yourself as well as in your neighbour
Thurs: Pray for those whose hearts are filled with anger and hatred
Fri: Remember those who live in darkness and despair
Sat: Give to the poor

Palm Sunday: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

Mon: Be just in all you say and do
Tues: Let the blessings of others be a source of joy for you
Spy Wed: Pray for those whom we have betrayed and those who have betrayed us
Holy Thurs: Sharing a meal makes us family – look around at your family
Good Friday: Fast and pray
Holy Sat: Wait with Mary and the disciples



What is Lent?

The period of forty days (not counting Sundays) before Easter is known as Lent. This is the time of year in Ireland when the days begin to lengthen with the coming of Spring.

The weeks of Lent were once the time when new Christians, who were to be baptized on Easter Eve, were taught about the Christian faith and life. Those who had already been baptized thought again about the promises they had once made and promise to be true to them. Lent was a time for spring-cleaning lives, as well as homes.

When does Lent begin?

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, the day after Pancake Tuesday and six and a half weeks before Easter Sunday. The last week of Lent begins with Palm Sunday, which celebrates the day Jesus entered Jerusalem and the people lay down palms at his feet.

When does Lent end?

Lent lasts for 40 days and ends the day before Easter Sunday, which is known as Holy Saturday. Sundays are not counted in the 40 days.

In the Roman Catholic Church, Lent officially ends at sundown on Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), with the beginning of the mass of the Lord's Supper.

Why does Lent last for 40 days?

The 40 days mark the 40 years of the Israelites going through the desert and the traditional 40 days of Jesus fasting in the desert.

Why are Sundays not counted in the 40 days?

Sundays are always a day of celebration in the Christian church and so they cannot be included in the 40 days of Lent.

What happens during Lent?

During Lent Christians used to fast (give up food) but nowadays people try to give up something like chocolate. Lent is a time when Christians remember the 40 days and nights Jesus spent alone in the desert without food being tempted by the Devil. Jesus used this time to prepare for His work by fasting and praying.

There are many special days in Lent leading up to Easter, the most important of all Christian festivals.

Ashes

Lent

In old English “Lenten” meant Spring and as in March the days begin to lengthen the Saxons called it “lencten monath.” Usually most of the days of fasting between Ash Wednesday and Good Friday fall in March and so this period was given the name “Lencten Faesten”, or Lent. In the earliest days of the Church there were only two or three days of fasting before Easter. It was not until around the fourth century that the longer period was introduced. At first, it was thirty six days but later became forty days to correspond with Christ’s fast in the wilderness.

The ashes we receive on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday are an annual reminder of the passage of time and our constant need of repentance, our need to change. The ashes were made from the burning of the palms which had been blessed last Palm Sunday. We had waved palms in praise of Christ at the beginning of Holy Week and now we have failed him many times since that day. Even in their origin therefore, the ashes show the passing of this world and all created things.

Centuries ago it was custom, at the beginning of Lent, to sprinkle ashes on public sinners as they came into the church in repentance. Now, we acknowledge publicly that we are all sinners and in need of repentance. Carrying the ashes on our forehead indicates our willingness to do repentance for our sins. The traditional words used as the ashes are placed provide a timely reflection: “Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return.” The alternative verse used in many churches focuses our attention on the deep meaning of our Lenten observance: “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel.”

Lent is....

A time to struggle with our selfishness.
A time to struggle with our lack-lustre performance on many fronts, a time to improve.
A time to struggle with insensitivity in our dealings with family, with teachers, with friends.
A time to struggle with attitudes that are negative.
A time to struggle against our compulsions – to eat too much, to waste time, to talk too much, to talk too little.
A time to struggle with the things that knock us off the path of friendship with God.
A time to struggle to be more of what we might be.
A time to struggle to lift our life-act onto a new level.
A time for new timetables and good resolutions.
Jesus struggled. An inner struggle, inner turmoil, inner distress.
The kind of struggle that drives people mad. Or the kind of struggle that makes saints.

Forty Days

What’s all this about forty days? Lent is from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday and that makes forty-six days. The answer is that we do not count Sundays in the forty days of Lent. You can enjoy the Sunday as the Lord’s Day to celebrate. Why not treat yourself to something as an encouragement to get on with Lent on Monday?

It was quite early in the history of the Church that the preparation for Easter took the form of forty days special prayer and penance. The number forty was in imitation of Christ who spent forty days in the desert. The Christians in the Eastern tradition needed seven weeks to complete their forty days because they excluded Saturday as well as Sunday from their days of penance. The Western tradition excluded Sunday only so six weeks provided thirty six days, nearly enough. Still four days more were needed to make up the forty. The solution was to start Lent three days before the first Sunday. They did this in the Seventh century and so today we have Ash Wednesday, forty days (and six Sundays) before Easter.

A Lenten Meditation

Theme: The Cross

INTRODUCTION

(With soft background music and a candle lighting the students make themselves comfortable and restful in a circle around a cross with a purple cloth draped across the two arms. Paper and pens by their side)

.... Close your eyes. Be aware of the touch of clothing on your back, or the pressure of your back against the chair... now be aware of your hands resting on the chair... your sitting position... Now feel your feet touching your shoes.

Move to being aware of your breathing. Become aware of the air as it comes in and goes out through your nostrils... Do not concentrate on the air as it enters your lungs. Limit your awareness to the air as it passes through your nostrils. Do not control you breathing.



MEDITATION

People have different crosses to carry in life – physical, emotional, social We carry our crosses carefully, trying to make sure they don't take too much out of us. That Jesus could act out of love to the extent of dying on a cross is a mystery which is hard to imagine.

Come with me as in my imagination I draw my cross...

- I think of the hardships I see in my own family... the ones I try not to see, the struggles that make life difficult for my friends.
- I think of the journeys I find difficult to make... being kind to the people who hurt me, asking forgiveness from someone I have hurt, being truthful... are there others?

From all of this what does my cross look like... Is it harsh, dark, covered in thorns? Perhaps it is smooth and well-worn as I never leave it for too long without climbing onto it?

In your imagination *draw your cross*, the one made from the journey of your life.

ACTIVITY

- Lower the music and invite students in their own time to open their eyes and come back to the room.
- The cloth is removed from one of the arms of the cross, symbolising our commitment to live as a loving person.
- Invite students to take up their paper, pens and in silence draw their own cross, the one imagined in their meditation.
- When each one has completed the task and placed their drawing around the cross, ask some to describe their drawing.

CONCLUSION

We have a variety of crosses and we need one another and God's help to carry them.

Lent is a time when we are reminded of God's love for us especially when we are weighed down.

The purple cloth is fully removed from the cross as a symbol of the depth of God's love for us. The empty cross reveals that death and resurrection are also possible for us.

We ask you loving God, to strengthen our character so that we might grow in our relationships with each other. Help us to be sincere and tolerant in our attitudes to others.

Amen

Lent Prayer Space

We Carry Our Crosses

PREPARATION

In or near your prayer space hang a large drawing of a cross, beneath which these words are written: “*We want to follow Jesus.*” Have small slips of paper and pencils for each student as well as a piece of blu-tack or alternatively use Post-its. Place on your prayer table a Bible (open to Luke 23:44-47) and a votive candle.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. We greet you with love, and ask that you help us to listen carefully to your words.

All Please open wide our minds and hearts. Amen

Leader Lent is a six-week period when the whole church focuses on Jesus. During these weeks we are invited to think about things that he said and did. We move together toward Good Friday, and we move from these to Easter Sunday and beyond, where we experience Jesus as our risen Saviour.

Reader 1 During Lent, with our eyes on Jesus, we try to spend more time at prayer, more time talking to God and listening to God.

Reader 2 During Lent, with our eyes on Jesus, we try to be more aware of the needs of others, and to share our time and our money with the poor, the hungry, and the homeless.

Reader 3 During Lent, with our eyes on Jesus, we try to grow stronger as persons by learning to say no to our sins and our failings.

Leader With our eyes on Jesus, we journey through Lent trying to understand and accept what God has in store for us. Jesus did this, and he is our example. Even as he died, Jesus gave himself over to whatever God wanted of him. Let us listen now to a description of his death on the cross.

Reader 4 It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. Jesus, having been on the cross three hours, uttered a loud cry and said: “Father, into your hands I give over my spirit.” After he said this, he died.” *The Word of the Lord.*

GUIDED MEDITATION

Leader Close your eyes and slowly breathe in and out. Imagine that you are present at the crucifixion and that Jesus looks straight at you. What are your thoughts and feelings? (Pause) What do you want to say to him about your life right now? Talk to Jesus now in your own words about how you want to change and grow with his help. (Pause)
After a minute or so, have all open their eyes.

GROUP RESPONSE

Leader I will now distribute small slips of paper on which you can write a word or two to describe how you will try to become a better person this Lent. Allow time for writing and then have students come forward one at a time to attach their papers to the cross. When all are attached, have two students hold up the cross for the closing prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader Jesus, please receive our good intentions. Help us to be true to them through all of Lent. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. Amen.

A Reflection for Lent

Today I invite you to come in spirit to a courtyard.
It's chilly. A warm charcoal fire is ablaze.
Let us get up to the fire and warm our hands.
A young man joins us. He is bearded, strong, commanding.
He too warms himself by the fire.
A young girl appears "you too were with Jesus"
She is composed, firm in her conviction.
The young man denies it "I do not even know the man."
Peter the friend of Jesus, one of his faithful companions.
Peter who had sworn "I will never forsake you" now denies that he ever knew Jesus.
Why? ... Fear.
Fear overcame Peter.
A young girl representing the super power of the day – the Roman Empire – instills a fear so great, that Peter denies Jesus.
Jesus arrested, is now in the hands of the ruling power.
Experience had taught that crucifixion was imminent.
So Peter slipped away and fled... in fear.
Not much had changed.
The oppressor and the oppressed.
Jesus in his day was on the side of the oppressed.
In reaching out in love he broke down the social barriers of his day.
He spoke to the Samaritan.
Jews and Samaritans did not mix.
He healed the leper.
Lepers were despised.
He healed on the Sabbath.
In doing so he was a threat to the ruling bodies of his day.
So they feared him.
They plotted his death.
Faithfulness to his call, led to his death.
Likewise with Martin Luther King, who spoke out for the cause of African Americans.

Archbishop Romero, who worked tirelessly for the poor and oppressed in El Salvador.
Gandhi who advocated peace in India.
The list goes on.....
For each, the price was high – death.
Fear, at all levels.
Fear in the hearts of the oppressor.
Lest their power be taken from them by the power of those who advocate justice.
And fear in the hearts of the oppressed because if they speak out, they could be shot down, their life taken from them.
It is not easy to solve the problem of oppression, of greed.

"Make me a channel of your peace"
How?

In our day-to-day living, let us not be oppressors.

Let us not instill fear

On our classrooms

In our homes

In our places of recreation

In our streets.

Let us be instruments of peace

Let us be instruments of love for perfect love casts out all fear.

That is the ultimate call of God to each of us.

After the Resurrection, Christ appeared to Peter...

No recriminations...

Jesus simply calls Peter by name

"Peter, do you love me?"

And in reply he says "Feed my sheep".

Christ calls you now by name

"_____", do you love me?"

And in reply he says

Care for one another

Love one another.



Penitential Service during Lent

Entrance Hymn/Song

Sign of the Cross

Introduction

God loves us even when we sin and God is always waiting to forgive us.

No matter how many times we have failed,

No matter how serious we think our sin is,

God waits for us.

In the parable of the Prodigal Son, Jesus gives us a picture of God as someone who loves and forgives.

The Prodigal Son wasted every gift he had.

He made a mess of his life.

He turned back to his father only when he had nowhere else to go.

But, his father gives him an unbelievable welcome home.

He is already out searching for him, and when he sees him,

he runs to his son, hugs him

and throws a big party to celebrate his return.

He forgives his son and welcomes him home

Even before his son has a chance to open his mouth.



Gospel Reading – Luke 15: 11-32 (The Prodigal Son)

Leader

The way the loving father welcomed his son back home is the way God welcomes us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

All God asks is that we return and try again.

God does not hold the number of sins against us.

God just wants us to turn away from our sin, to say we are sorry and to try and change for the better.

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God forgives our sins and we make a new beginning.

Hymn/Song

Examination of Conscience

Do I respect God	<i>or</i>	Do I create Gods: e.g. money, power, ownership, success.
Do I respect God's name	<i>or</i>	Do I misuse it: e.g. perjury in court, wishing evil on others.
Do I respect God's time	<i>or</i>	Do I disregard it: e.g. refuse to listen, fail to build a believing community, laziness, ungrateful.
Do I respect parents/authority	<i>or</i>	Do I cause pain: e.g. demanding, unhelpful, disrespectful, fail to grow in responsibility.
Do I respect life	<i>or</i>	Do I diminish it: e.g. drinking, eating, use of addictive substances.
Do I respect property	<i>or</i>	Do I damage it: e.g. school property, home property, public property, environmental property.

Prayers of Repentance

Lord,

For the times we have failed to build our relationships with you and have chosen to be blind to your presence in Scripture, creation, community and ourselves.

Lord, we ask your forgiveness.

For the times we have failed to grow in family relationships by selfishness, lack of affection, broken promises and unforgiveness.

Lord, we ask your forgiveness.

For the times we have failed to build friendships and community through indifference, laziness, fear, jealousy or violence.

Lord, we ask your forgiveness.

For the times we have failed to grow in truth to ourselves.

Lord, we ask your forgiveness.

For the times we have caused damage to the environment and property.

Lord, we ask your forgiveness.



Conclusion

Before we finish... we look to the future realising that we are all slowly growing towards that person we will yet be. With that in mind, we might listen to the following piece of advice found in 1962 on a Baltimore tombstone.

Reader 1: Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and ignorant; they too have their story.

Reader 2: Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Reader 3: Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Reader 4: Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Reader 5: Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Reader 6: Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

Final Prayer

Let us bow our heads and ask for God's blessing.

Let us go forth to spread God's peace and mercy.

We make our prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Conclude with a Hymn/Song

Human Rights

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.



Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 2

FOR YOU TO DO:

In your copy book consider:

- How you develop yourself – physically, socially, spiritually and intellectually.
- How the right to development of members of your own family, friends and classmates is promoted by you.

Now reflect on your efforts to promote the rights of people in:

- Ireland
- A developing country

Make a list of the values supported by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

CHRISTIAN VIEWPOINT

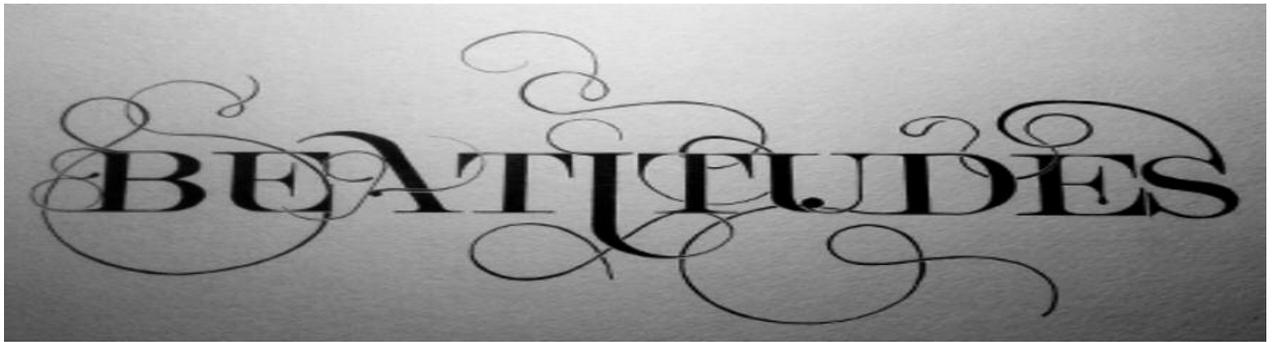
'Each individual is truly a person, with a nature that is endorsed with intelligence and free will, and rights and duties... these rights and duties are universal and inviolable.'

(Encyclical letter of Pope John XXIII)

'No rights are possible without the basic guarantees for life, including the right ... to adequate food, to guaranteed health care, to decent housing ...'

(World Council of Churches)





Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall possess the land.

Blessed are they who mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice: for they shall have their fill.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5: 3-10

**BLESSED ARE THE
POOR IN SPIRIT
MOURNERS
MEEK
HUNGRY
MERCIFUL
PEACEMAKERS
PERSECUTED**

THE BEATITUDES

FOR YOU TO DO:

In your copy book consider:

- Which beatitude do you feel most comfortable with?
- Which one do you feel is part of who you are?
- Which one do you think you reflect most in your life? Briefly explain your answers.

Make a list of the values supported by the Beatitudes.

Compare this list with the list you made about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Look up the following biblical references: *(Numeracy)*

Lk. 6:35; Mt. 5:43-48; Lk. 6:27-35; Mt. 5:46,47; Gen. 1:27; John. 13:34;
Lk. 10:27; James 2:20 and Lk. 10:29-37

Using one of these references, **design a poster** for your school prayer room or classroom.

Post Primary Religious Education Lenten Resource



Rebuilding Lives is the latest resource from Trócaire for Religious Education teachers.

This resource has been written by Rosie Murray and Bríd Dunne from the education unit in Trócaire. Rosie travelled to Uganda in the summer of 2011 to meet with the young people, families and communities featured in this resource. Bríd recently joined the education team after 5 years teaching Religious Education at junior and senior cycle.

Solidarity Action

Included in this resource is a *Solidarity Action* to help protect a way of life in Uganda for small scale farmers. As students find out more about the community featured in this resource, they may want to do something to support them. They have included ideas on Page 6 and 10 and provided teachers with a blank poster for the students to fill in and return to Trócaire.

Contents

- Teachers' notes: you will find useful background information here to support your students as they learn.
- Activities for Junior Cycle RE
- Activities for Senior Cycle RE
- A Prayer service

All of the activities and information in this resource can be adapted to suit the needs of your class. The activities are designed to stimulate discussion, reflection and action.

Online

Trócaire has videos and photos online to enrich the content of this resource. The online materials are ideal for use on whiteboards and will allow the students to see and hear more about Trócaire's work and the lives of the communities featured in this resource: www.trocaire.org/education

Pope John Paul II Award Resources 2011/2012

FAITH IN ACTION

This educational resource has been designed for use on interactive whiteboards. Each unit contains supplementary notes for teachers, packed full of background information and group activity ideas.

The 'Faith in Action' resource contains four weeks of engaging lesson material for the Pope John Paul II Award. Students are then encouraged to spend another four weeks carrying out action projects within their communities. (The resource can be adapted to fit a longer or shorter timeframe.)

<http://www.trocaire.org/resources/pjpii-education-resources>

Prayer Service for Feast of St. Patrick Bishop, Principal Patron of Ireland

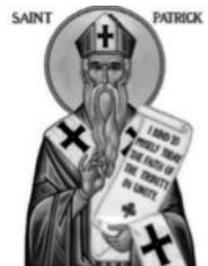
Set up a prayer space:

1. Picture or statue of St. Patrick or a mountain scene with sheep grazing. Students may do centre piece in art class.
2. Green material on which symbols may be placed - rocks/stones/plants/flowers/shamrock/candles.

Gathering song: Ag Críost an Síol

Introduction

Saint Patrick was born early in the 5th century in Britain. At the age of sixteen he was taken captive and brought to Ireland where he worked as a slave. Life was not easy for Patrick as a young man as he worked long hours on the bleak hillside minding sheep. After six years he escaped back to Britain to his family who were glad to see him return home.



Patrick became a Christian and he visited France where he continued his studies after scriptures and reflected on Christ's teaching. Near at the end of his life he put in writing his reflections on his search for God and the blessings God had given him in his life. In the Confessions of St. Patrick, we read of the absolute trust Patrick had in God's loving care for him, his gratitude for the gift of faith and he rejoiced in the way God had transformed the lives of Irish men and women who became Christian on his return to the island as a missionary. Today we celebrate the great blessings entrusted on Patrick by God to bring the good news: Christ the Light of our World to our land.

As we gather to celebrate the feast of St. Patrick let us remember the many Irish people who are far from home. Let us give thanks for the gifts that each of us have received and we ask the Spirit to help us to be generous in using our talents for the good of the community.

Prayer

We realise, O Jesus, your presence among us, for we are gathered together in your name. Awaken us to your glory that we may see you in your creation the goodness of those who live with us and touch our lives. May we be true to God the Father who created the world, to the son of God who redeemed us and to God the Holy Spirit who sustains and guides us. Amen

Litany of Praise

We give thanks for St. Patrick who worked hard as a slave minding sheep on the hillside.

Response: Praise the name of the Lord

We give thanks for St. Patrick who returned home to be with his family and for the courage he had to study the Christian way of life.

Response: Praise the name of the Lord

We give thanks for St. Patrick who journeyed to France to increase his knowledge of the Scriptures and to discover what the gift of faith had to offer.

Response: Praise the name of the Lord

We give thanks for St. Patrick who reflected on his experience of God in the beauty of nature and in the lives of people who shared in his life's journey.

Response: Praise the name of the Lord

We give thanks for St. Patrick's call to convert the people of Ireland to follow Christ in his way of love.

Response: Praise the name of the Lord

Reading (Extracts from St. Patrick's Confession)

“So I am first of all a simple country person, a refugee, and unlearned. I do not know how to provide for the future. But this I know for certain, that before I was brought low, I was like a stone lying deep in the mud. Then He who is powerful came and in his mercy pulled me out, and lifted me up and placed me on the very top of the wall. That is why I must shout aloud in return to the Lord for such great good deeds of his, here and now and forever, which the human mind cannot measure.

If I am most looked down upon, yet he inspired me, before others, so that I would faithfully serve the nations with awe and reverence and without blame: the nations to whom the love of Christ brought me. His gift was that I would spend my life, if I were worthy of it, to serving them in truth and with humility to the end.

In the knowledge of this faith in the Trinity, and without letting the dangers prevent it, it is right to make known the gift of God and his eternal consolation. It is right to spread abroad the name of God faithfully and without fear, so that after my death I may leave something of value to the many thousands of my brothers and sisters – the children whom I baptised in the Lord.”

Quiet moment for reflection. Music playing softly in the background.

Psalm 117

Praise the Lord all you Nations!
Praise him, all Peoples!
His love is strong and his faithfulness is eternal.
Praise the Lord all you Nations.



Gospel Reading: Mark 16: 15-18

Prayers of Intercession

Response - Lord Hear our Prayer

Christ within us, help us to spread the word of love, peace and justice in our world.
Lord Hear our Prayer

Christ in all hearts, be with your people as they share the good news of the gospel in places where your word is not known.
Lord Hear our Prayer

Christ beside us, help us to trust in you when we meet difficulties and sustain us in our journey of faith.
Lord Hear our Prayer

Christ, who guided Patrick through the struggles of slavery and poverty be with the Irish people as they face hardship in their everyday life.
Lord Hear our Prayer

Christ be the light of all our immigrants as they face challenges far away from home. Help them through loneliness and the fear of the unknown.
Lord Hear our Prayer

Christ be with all our Missionaries who are working to bring the gospel to our brothers and sisters in different lands. Be with each of us gathered in your name and help us to be true to the faith that St. Patrick preached to our ancestors.
Lord Hear our Prayer

Prayer of blessing over the bowl of shamrock. (All extend their hands as a gesture of unity)

Lord, bless these sprigs of shamrock which St. Patrick used as a symbol to help our ancestors understand the mystery of the Blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Let us ask God to bless each of us and help us to remain faithful to our baptismal calling by living lives of faith, hope and love. Amen

Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

Reflection

I bind unto myself today
The strong name of the Trinity
By invocation of the same,
The three in one and One in three.

I bind unto myself today
The power of God to hold and lead.
His eye to watch. His might to stay,
His need to harken to my need.
The wisdom of my God to teach.
His hand to guide, his shield to ward;
The word of God to give me speech,
His heavenly host to be my guard.
(taken from the Breastplate of St. Patrick)



Concluding Prayer

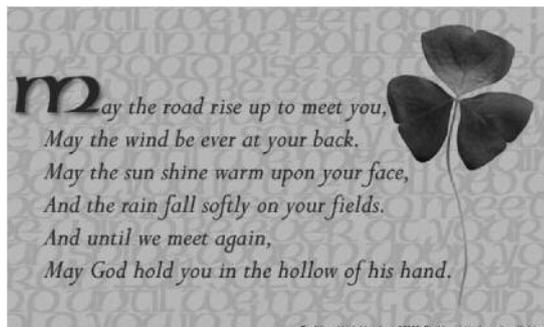
O God, we celebrate your gifts of holiness, leadership and service in the life of St. Patrick. Bless our country, renew the faith of our people and breathe new life into each of us as we give thanks for our love and care of our nation, in the name of Jesus our Lord who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

Blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep you. Amen
May his face shine on you and be gracious to you. Amen
May he look upon you with kindness and give you his peace. Amen

Recessional Hymn

Hail Glorious St. Patrick
(CD Faith of our Fathers the 10th Anniversary RTE/classical religious anthems of Ireland)



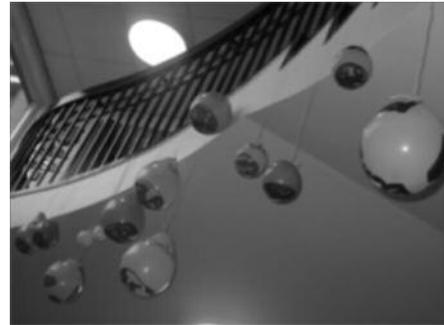
One World Week

One World Week, the national event run by the National Youth Council of Ireland, is an annual activity-based week that took place from the 14th – 18th November. This year the students in **Loreto High School, Beaufort** participated in the event again. The national theme was ‘A Rich Man’s World?’ and from this we chose our sub-theme ‘Global Issues and how they affect Young People’s Lives’.



The overall aim of the week was to raise awareness throughout all year groups on global issues and how they are affecting all young people’s lives and the impact they are having on them. We planned on promoting actions that will help young people to get involved and to ensure that their voices are being heard.

The Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation (JPIC) group in transition year was in charge of the event. There is a JPIC group in every Loreto school in Ireland, the aim of these groups is to create awareness on issues in the developing world. The JPIC captains in Loreto High School are led by the four captains Eve Conlon, Rebecca McCarthy, Órlagh Palmer and Moninne Murray and also Ms. Donohue, the school Chaplain. Together they planned activities for each year group. These activities were based on peer teaching carried out by members of the JPIC group. This included PowerPoints and fun educational activities. The group also worked closely with the RE department, who organised lessons for the fifth and sixth year students during the week to ensure that they also became aware of the issues around them that are having an effect on their lives.



At the end of the week we also distributed a survey from the NYCI just to see how aware of social justice people in the school community were. Each year group was represented by a different colour to enable the JPIC committee to put together specific results.

For the first time in the history of Loreto High School, Beaufort, our four JPIC captains attended a staff meeting. On a Wednesday afternoon, we explained to the staff all that we were hoping to do during the week using an exciting PowerPoint containing all the main activities of the week.

Art and Preparation

One World Week was a busy week for the art group in our JPIC group. Our display at reception was the main focal point of the week and advertised to the students what was going on throughout the school. Banners, globes, flags and various other symbols were used to convey social inequality on a visual scale.

The display was a success as it grabbed the attention of students, parents and teachers who entered the reception area and raised awareness of what was going on throughout our school community and of global issues throughout the world.



1st Year One World Week

Under this year's theme we decided to focus on the issue of Child Labour for the first years in our school. We decided to go into Religion classes to give presentations on Child Labour and do an activity with them.

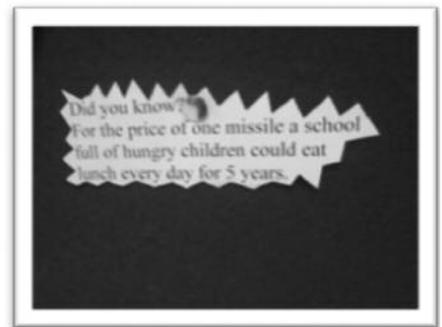
On the Thursday of the week we hosted an activity-based lunch for the first years. This was an informal way for the first years to get involved in the week away from the classroom setting. We played a game of snakes and ladders with them, also from the pack, which focused on different social groups in society and issues that affect them. We also had groups draw a poverty tree showing the causes and effects of poverty. This afternoon went very well and a lot of first years came to the event and joined in the activities. I think people really did enjoy this event and learned some more about the week as a whole.

Overall the first years entered into the spirit of One World Week very well. They were open to learn new things and curious about what we taught them. I hope they all took away something new from the week and that it will have an effect on them so that they too can make a difference and promote social justice.



2nd Year One World Week

For One World Week with the 2nd years we decided to focus on the theme of "Poverty and Economic Recession" We designed a PowerPoint that would be interesting and informative. We asked the classes to fill out an average weekly budget for a family of 2 adults and 4 children in a city in Ireland, in Rural Ireland and in Lusaka in Zambia. We gave them titles such as transport, educational costs, personal care, communications and heating. We then gave them the actual average costs which most were very surprised by.



We also set up a competition for them in which we asked them to write a reflection on if they were Taoiseach for a day what aims would they make and how would they achieve those aims. We had prizes for the three best reflections which were a 30 euro voucher for Dundrum, a 20 euro voucher for Dundrum and a 15 euro voucher for iTunes. I think the 2nd years really enjoyed One World Week because they didn't just learn about poverty and economic recession they also got involved and had a lot of fun!

4th Year One World Week

On Thursday 17th we organised an activity for all 4th years to teach them about Social Justice and Social Inequality and to emphasise that question 'Is it a rich man's world?'

Each student was assigned to either a blue, green or red group for the day. The blue group represented the highest class in society, the green represented the middle class in society and the red group represented the lowest class and the minority groups in society. The blue group was treated the best. They sat at the front of the classroom in every class, they received the majority of the teacher's attention and they were given rewards for answering questions and for helping out. These rewards were sweets provided by the JPIC group.

The green group was treated quite ordinarily. They had to sit in the middle of the classroom for every class, received some of the teacher's attention but would not receive any rewards from the teachers for doing anything.

The red group were treated appallingly. They were made sit at the back of the classroom in every class, they would not receive any of the teacher's attention and definitely would not receive rewards, but punishments instead.

Following the activity based day, the transition year religion teachers facilitated a discussion on the day and asked them to journal their experience. This activity was a great success.



Conclusion

A lot of work went into the week as a whole and I'd like to think it really paid off. The whole school was aware of One World Week and there was a lot going on. At the start of the week our main goal was to raise awareness about certain issues under the theme and I think we did this successfully. We did peer teaching among the first, second and fourth years which turned out to be a great success and I think both those giving the presentations and those receiving them all learned new facts from each other which really is the essence of peer teaching. The feedback from the week was that people really enjoyed it and it made people think about certain issues they may have never addressed before and it gave them the opportunity to discuss them among their peers.

The week was a huge success and every member of JPIC was proud of the efforts we made. We hope we encouraged other people to think about issues that affect us all and what we can do to make a difference and bring about social justice.

By JPIC Group, Loreto High School, Beaufort





What is the Young Christian Workers Movement?

Mission Statement

The YCW is an international youth movement, which values the dignity and worth of each young person. It enables its members to challenge social exclusion and take action to bring about change in their home, workplace and society.

The YCW is a movement of young adults who, by reflection and action, attempt to change and improve their lives and society.

Who runs YCW?

YCW is organised and run at every level (local, regional, national and international) by young adults (YCW members are aged 18+ while IMPACT! members are 16-18 years old). They decide the programme of action after reflecting on their reality and the conditions of those around them.

What does YCW do?

YCW brings people together in local groups and helps them answer their own needs and the needs of those around them through taking action. This action is decided in the group through discussions called enquiries.

Using the YCW method of analysis - See, Judge, Act, Review the group reflects on issues of concern and takes appropriate action in response, either individually or as a group. Actions are often taken in the local community, organising events or activities at local level.

In this way YCW can help to develop the individual and the local community.

What is so good about YCW?

In addition to the fact that YCW is organised by the members themselves, there are three other good reasons for being involved:

- It is a chance to take action to improve local communities and our society, effecting real change.
- YCW helps to develop the confidence, social skills, faith and social awareness of the young people it touches.
- YCW helps young people meet new friends from all over the country and even world-wide through its actions, meetings, training events, holidays and social occasions. YCW is an enjoyable worthwhile experience.

How did it start?

YCW was founded in Belgium by a young priest called Joseph Cardijn in 1925. He believed that each young person had a unique and special contribution to make to society. However, he knew that the experience of young people was somewhat different, they were often treated unfairly and denied the opportunity to participate and bring about change. If this situation was to change the only way was to organise young people to take actions for themselves. And so the YCW was born.

How important is the Movement today?

YCW is presently active in over 100 countries, and in every continent with more than 3 million members.

The Movement has been a dynamic force of change as it has expanded throughout the

world. The YCW has contributed to the lives of many young people in Ireland and has enabled them to bring about positive change by empowering them to make informed judgements and choices, enabling them to influence the decision-making bodies which control and dictate the quality of their lives.

How do I join?

There are small groups at local level all over the country. These meet regularly to plan actions and activities together in order to serve, educate and represent young people.

If no group exists in your area why not start one yourself. You can contact the **YCW National Office, 11 Talbot St., Dublin 1, Tel: 01-878 0291, email: info@ycw.ie**, they will be happy to assist you. Alternatively you could inquire at your local parish or youth information service.

Will I have to contribute money?

Yes. Each young person pays a small contribution to their local group. By means of this commitment, the members build, organise and actually own the movement themselves.

How is it organised as a movement?

YCW exists at several levels of organisation. The most immediate and important is the local group called a section. Each section is organised round a parish or local estate/community and consists of young people who meet together, elect their leaders, finance themselves and decide their action in accordance with their own needs and those of the local community.

YCW group members meet regularly for training and social events, nationally and internationally, to support and develop the work local groups and the Movement as a whole.

How is YCW a Christian Movement?

YCW recognises the dignity and worth of each young person, which is the basis of the Christian message. It vigorously affirms that dignity in the working, social and community experience of its members. YCW welcomes all young people as members irrespective of whether they are members of a faith community or not. In this way it is truly an ecumenical Movement.

What is the role of the Animator / Chaplain?

In addition to the elected officials in a section there is also a Chaplain or Animator. The work of a Animator/Chaplain is important for the formation and support of the members, it is a role of support not leadership. The movement has its own structure of support and training for Animators and Chaplains.

IMPACT! - What's that all about?

IMPACT! is for young adults 16-18 years. The **“Change Through Action”** programme consists of 10 exciting sessions, each one designed to enable young people to explore an issue of concern in a fun way, debate it and plan actions to bring about change.



***Further details on YCW & IMPACT!
available from the YCW National
Office,***

11 Talbot St.

Dublin 1. Tel: 01-878 0291.

Email: info@ycw.ie

Web: www.ycw.ie

youthalpha.

Youth Alpha – making an impact – 16 Schools – 400+ students Training Day 24th March 2012

Many parishes and schools are struggling as to how to reach their young people. Sadly in many cases the Sacrament of Confirmation has become nearly the Sacrament of exit. Many young people find going to Mass (or service) to be irrelevant and boring. Many others consider that Christianity is simply untrue. They have questions like *Why does God allow suffering? Is there a conflict between science and Christianity? Did Jesus really exist and is there objective evidence for the resurrection?* The Alpha Course is one course that answers these questions. Alpha is happening in 168 countries and 2 million people around the world have done Alpha; many people have found a personal relationship with Jesus through it. The course is having a major impact on young people in schools and universities in many countries.

Youth Alpha is an 8/10 week course exploring the Christian faith, which is now being used in schools, churches and youth groups around Ireland. The course looks at topics from “*Who is Jesus?*” and “*Why did Jesus die?*” to “*How & Why should I read the Bible?*” In the middle of the Course there is a day on “*Who is the Holy Spirit?*”, “*How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?*” and “*How can I make the most of the rest of my life?*” It is a more informal version of the Alpha Course using the main teaching elements but adapted in a way to better engage with teenagers. Youth Alpha also shares the same important elements as any Alpha course – food, presentations and small group discussion with fun and games as the added ingredient.

A **Youth Alpha** training day was held in Maynooth in 2007 at which Bishop Donal McKeown was the guest speaker. In his inspiring address Bishop Donal said: “*Ireland is not the easiest place in which to talk about Jesus. Most people born here have been sacramentalised but huge numbers have never been evangelised. ... Ireland needs evangelisation. Alpha has shown that it is making an invaluable contribution to that process of proclaiming the Good News.*” In March 2010 a second YA training day was held in Marianella College attended by 40 RE Teachers/ chaplains and youth workers.

In response to a big demand for Youth Alpha in Irish secondary schools Alpha Ireland joined with Catholic Youth Care and Scripture Union in appointing Jonny Somerville as a full time Youth Alpha Coordinator in July 2011. Jonny had previously been part of the Scripture Union retreat team that had led retreats in many secondary schools around Ireland.

Last Autumn Jonny, along with School Chaplains and RE teachers, ran 13 Youth Alphas for 272 students in secondary/community schools mainly in Transition Year. This included schools in Tullamore, Sligo and Dublin. The feedback from these Youth Alpha courses has been great. It is wonderful to see young people enjoying these courses and many coming alive in their faith. From 200 feedback forms over 90% said they enjoyed the course and would recommend it to others. 75%+ said it had brought them closer to God. 70%+ said they would like a follow on course. One 4th year student said of the YA course, “*it strengthens your relationship with God and with others.*” Another said “*it’s a fun way of getting closer with God*”. One 5th year student answered on the feedback form: “*it made me believe in God again. Before I thought I was an atheist*”; a sixth year student wrote: “*it made me view God differently as now I know that I can let him into my life*”

In this term Jonny is running Youth Alpha in 11 different schools including Knocklyon Community School.

A Youth Alpha Training Day will be run in Dunshaughlin Parish Centre on Sat 24th March from 10am to 4pm - email alphairel@eircom.net for details. It is wonderful to see that many of the chaplains/R.E teachers are as excited as we are about facilitating the students to engage more with the Scriptures and enabling them to explore the person of Jesus. This training day will be very helpful to you in communicating the good news with your students. The cost is €20 and includes lunch. To book online log onto www.youthalpha.ie

IEC 2012

50th INTERNATIONAL
EUCHARISTIC
CONGRESS



The daily programme for the 50th International Eucharistic Congress from 10th until 16th June 2012 will take place in the Royal Dublin Society (RDS).

The programme of the Congress is built around the daily celebration of the Eucharist and each day has a theme of its own, related to the main Congress theme

The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and with one another.

Eucharistic Procession: The Blessed Sacrament Procession, beginning and ending at the RDS, will take place on Wednesday evening, June 13th.

Among the talks/workshops that may be of interest are:

Mon 11th	Fr. Michael Drumm	<i>Christian Initiation and Koinonia</i>	7pm
Tues 12th	Jo Culhane Breda O'Brien	<i>Catechesis of the Good Shepherd</i> <i>Sharing Faith with the Next Generation</i>	10am 7pm
Wed 13th	Fr Peter Hannon SJ	<i>Film & Faith</i>	10am and 11:30am
Thurs 14th	Sr Brigid Reynolds Justin Kilcullen	<i>Social Justice and Inclusion</i> <i>Communion and Solidarity in</i> <i>World Development</i>	12pm 1:30pm
Fri 15th	Fr Liam Lawton Fr Peter McVerry SJ	<i>Sacred Song</i> <i>Communion and Inclusion</i>	10am 7pm
Sat 16th	Brendan O'Reilly Joe McDonagh & Ian Murphy	<i>Share the Good News</i> <i>Christian Meditation</i>	2pm 3:30pm

Youth Programme at the Congress

A dedicated Youth Space will roll out a programme for young adults between 17 and 25 years of age integrated with all other activities. For youth resources and more information on the youth programme visit www.iec2012.ie/youth

For Secondary School resources to prepare for the Congress visit www.iec2012.ie/schoolresources

Download the full programme at www.iec2012.ie/media/IEC2012ProgrammeofEvents1.pdf

Attendance for the Opening Ceremony and *Statio Orbis* can be booked as part of a 3 or 7 day registration. A limited number of *Statio Orbis* tickets will also be available through each diocese.

For further details: www.iec2012.ie/registration

The *Statio Orbis*, the Liturgy on the final day of the 50th International Eucharistic Congress, will be celebrated by the Papal Legate in Croke Park on Sunday 17th June 2012. It is a time to pause (*Statio*) and come to terms with what it means to celebrate, receive and live the Eucharist. Thousands will gather together in celebration and song; bringing their deepening faith and understanding into their everyday lives.

