

PRIMARY BLOG OCTOBER 2021

‘We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard.’ (Acts 4: 20).

In summer 2021, the Olympic Games and Paralympics took place in Tokyo. The media could not but speak about what they saw and heard. Participants counted for future role models for society and rightly so. Just think of what you saw and heard in Tokyo!

The Church also has its role models, the saints and its Christian heroes and heroines, many of whom feature in the *Grow in Love/InGrá Dé* RE programme.

Traditionally October is the month of the Rosary. The feast of Our Lady of the Rosary falls on 7 October. This year, schools have an opportunity to win a prize of 400 euro pending whether the sacramental classes, First Communion and Confirmation enter the Rosary project (hosted by the Vincentian priests). In addition, families might pray ‘a decade a day’ in honour of Our Lady.

October is also Mission month. Disciples of Jesus make every effort to follow Jesus’ way of love as they continue his daily mission. Let us listen to the encouragement Archbishop Dermot Farrell offers in his pastoral letter- to pray and live our faith. God sent Jesus to tell the Good news, to heal the sick and forgive people their sins. The theme of Mission month 2021 is ‘We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard.’ (Acts 4: 20). Jesus’ followers continue to speak about God’s unconditional love, which they experience, see and hear.

The saints spoke about what they saw and heard about Jesus and his love. The Church celebrates their lives through the Liturgical year.

St Thérèse of Lisieux, (1 October) is a popular saint, especially known for her ‘little way’. That means she chose to do ordinary things with an extraordinary love, because she loved Jesus. God’s people might strive to do that daily in family life.

On 4 October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, the Church concludes the celebration of the season of creation, which commenced on 1 September. Pope Francis chose St Francis as his ‘guide and inspiration’. In *Laudato Si’* Pope Francis writes of him as an ‘attractive and compelling figure’. The Pope claims St Francis ‘as the patron saint of all who study and work in the area of ecology’ and notes, ‘he was concerned for God’s creation and for the poor and outcast.’ (LS, 10). The Pope quotes the famous hymn of St Francis of Assisi, ‘Praised be you...’ (LS, 87).

On 2 October, the Church invites the faithful to celebrate the feast of the Guardian Angel. We honour our Guardian Angel by acknowledging the angel’s presence and protection in our lives. We might hear the prompt to say the prayer to the Guardian Angel.

There are also many more feast days in October you may like to check out. Then, like the early Christians we will say, ‘We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard.’ (Acts 4: 20).