



Archdiocese of Dublin
Ard Deoise Átha Cliath

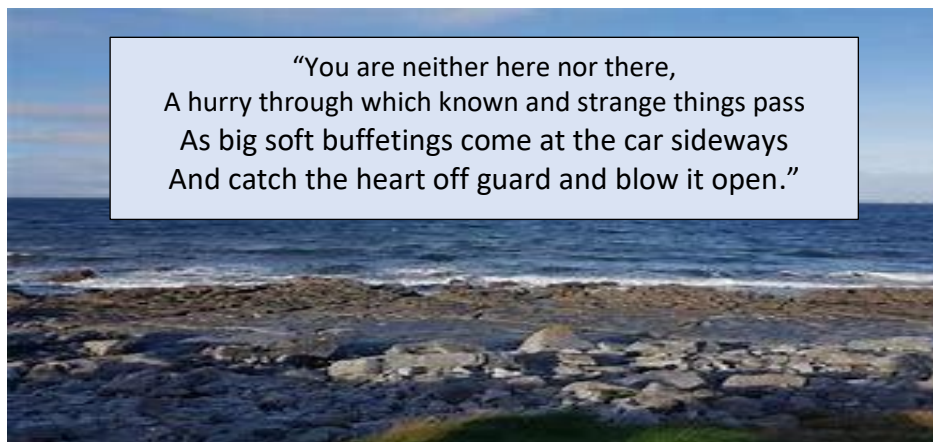
Education Secretariat

Post-Primary Diocesan Advisers Blog - September 2025

Dear Chaplain and R.E. Teachers,

Welcome back to this new academic year with all its hopes, dreams and challenges. May it bring many blessings to you and your school communities. As you go about meeting the demands of looking after others and plan for the year ahead, may I suggest you also consider planning some down time throughout the year, both for you and your students. We all need to reflect on and deepen our self-care so that we can better care for others.

We plan for targets and learning objectives. How about planning for time when we stop, when we take time to really look and to allow God to surprise us in a way that only he can. I am reminded of Seamus Heaney wonderful poem Postscript – driving by a Flaggy Shore he describes how:



We have hearts that can be blown open. But sometime, if you can, make the time. Put yourself where the buffetings and the good people can find you. Place yourself and your students where God can find you and see what happens.

My greatest wish for you this year is that you have many special moments where you can let the Spirit catch you off guard and experience the joy of having your heart blown open in wonder, in reverence and in peace.

Wishing you all a successful and fulfilling year ahead.

Sr. Bernadette Carron, Post-Primary Diocesan Adviser

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*Grasp the
moment...*

*"To live life well, we must live the present moment.
But it is not easy to be present to the present,
because we are constantly told to be looking in front of us.
Very often we are not here at all, we only think we are here.*

We live with one foot in tomorrow: what is coming is seen as more important than the now; what is yet to be got, to be seen, to be achieved, can easily become the all- important thing; and while we wait for it and live with our plans, the present moment, which is very rich within us, is lost."

Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy

Take time

Take time to live - It is what life is for;

Take time for justice - It is the beginning of peace;

Take time to look afresh - It will fill you with surprise;

Take time to search - It is the secret of perpetual youth;

Take time to laugh - It is music to the soul;

Take time to pray - It is the greatest poser on earth;

Take time for solitude - It revives the spirit;

Take time with the earth - It speaks of harmony and balance;

Take time at home - It renews the heart;

Take time to sow - It gives perspective on life;

Take time to reap - It brings gratitude;

Take time to heal - It is full of hope;

Take time to love - It is the reason for living;

Take time to die - It is part of life.

***It is when we stop and take time for silence and solitude that we can learn to be
attentive, and attentiveness is a prerequisite for wonderment.***

***If we paid attention to everything we hear, see, smell, touch we would be totally
different people.***

***We would be constantly moved to be surprised, to be amazed, to be a state of wonder
and awe.***

Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy



Meditation is the process in which we take time to allow ourselves to become aware of our infinite potential.

John Main



"Meditation is a wonderful way of helping us to come home to ourselves, to stay centred, more resilient."

Terry Doyle, Speaker - Caring for Oneself, for Others and for Us – Young Adults Retreat in Bonnevaux Retreat Centre, France

"Cast all your anxiety on him because He cares for you."

(1 Peter 5:7)

Meditation can be a breakthrough from despair into hope, and a contemplative practice built into our daily life in a simple, ordinary way is so essential for our development, for our well-being, for being able to deal with the complexities of the world that we've created, that **to take meditation into a school is one of the most powerful contributions we can make to the future.**

Breakthrough by Laurence Freeman OSB

The wisdom of the young is a real source of wisdom for us today, it's of great value in every generation. It doesn't mean that you should elect only young people, but we should listen to them and train them how to speak, and how to give them the mythos, the stories that allow them to think, and to think critically, and to risk actually having a conversation with people that they may not agree with. In this respect, we have failed the young and we carry the consequences. There's been a break in the conversation. And that conversation between the different sources of wisdom, the old, the young, all the different traditions, that conversation allows all the sources of wisdom to flow together and to remind us of a common source, the Spirit.

([Sources of Wisdom](#) by Laurence Freeman OSB)

Getting to know our new Pope... Pope Leo XIV

“The Holy Spirit has given us a pope that we need, that the church needs and that the world needs at this time in history.” Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Archbishop Emeritus of Bombay.

Known as Robert Prevost, Augustinian friar; trained as a canon lawyer in Rome; early ministry in Peru as a canon lawyer, priest and formator of friar and diocesan priests; leader of the Augustinian order worldwide; a return to Peru as bishop; and finally to the Vatican – first as cardinal and now as pope.



Pope Leo to young people: Be agents of peace in a divided world

Saturday, June 14th, 2025

Pope Leo XIV in a video message urged thousands of young people who gathered in his home town – Chicago – to build community, embrace God’s love, and become “beacons of hope” in today’s world.

Pope Leo XIV encouraged young people to open their hearts to God's presence, "to that longing for love in our lives, for ... searching, a true searching, for finding the ways that we may be able to do something with our own lives to serve others."

Pope Leo XIV highlighted the healing power of faith and community, and encouraged young people to seek friendship, support, and shared mission in their parishes and neighbourhoods. He called on those present to become "beacons of hope" in a world often burdened by division and despair.

God works through our lives

Referring to Saint Augustine's reflections on the "restless heart," Pope Leo XIV reminded young people that their longing for meaning is a sign of spiritual vitality rather than something to suppress.

"We shouldn't look for ways to put out the fire," he said, "but to recognise that God can work through our lives."

Young people, the Pope reiterated, are called to be agents of peace and unity.

"The world looks to you to announce a message of true hope and to promote peace."

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, Christ, who is our hope, indeed calls all of us to come together, that we might be that true living example: the light of hope in the world today.

"So I would like to invite all of you to take a moment, to open up your own hearts to God, to God's love, to that peace which only the Lord can give us. To feel how deeply beautiful, how strong, how meaningful the love of God is in our lives. And to recognise that while we do nothing to earn God's love, God in his own generosity continues to pour out his love upon us. And as he gives us his love, he only asks us to be generous and to share what he has given us with others".

Pope Leo dialogues with children: "Build bridges from an early age"

<https://www.heraldmalaysia.com/news/pope-leo-dialogues-with-children-build-bridges-from-an-early-age/83434/4>

Pope Leo to young people: Be agents of peace in a divided world

June 14, 2025 · **In a video message**, the newly elected Pope, formerly Archbishop of Chiclayo, Peru, expressed gratitude and encouragement to the young people of his hometown and the world.

<https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=b74c10e35ba47e62a24ffbb7216cf3ac108cd68ed617f7d6dc2bc1e56ae43e93JmltdHM9MTc1MTg0NjQwMA&pptn=3&ver=2&hsh=4&fclid=0462dd9b-88d9-6925-1150-cb8589a668ec&psq=Pope+Leo+words+to+young+people&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudmF0aWNhbm5ld3MudmEvZW4vcG9wZS9uZXdzLzlwMjUtMDYvcG9wZS1sZW8teGI2LXZpZGVvLW1lc3NhZ2UtY2hpY2Fnby15b3VuZy1wZW9wbGUtaG9wZS1wZWwFjZS5odG1s&ntb=1>

Addressing the young people gathered for the **Jubilee of Youth in Rome**, and encouraging them in their desire to transform our world for the good:

Pope Leo said:

‘We are with the young people of Gaza, we are with the young people of Ukraine, with those of every land bloodied by war.

My young brothers and sisters,
you are the sign that a different world is possible:
a world of fraternity and friendship,
where conflicts are not resolved with weapons
but with dialogue.’

(Pope Leo XIV, Angelus, 3rd August 2025).



Seeds of Peace and Hope' marks Pope Leo's first Season of Creation



As the Church prepares to mark the **Tenth World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on 1 September 2025**, Pope Leo XIV's message for the occasion urges Christians and all people of goodwill to recognize the urgent need for environmental and social justice in a world increasingly scarred by climate change, conflict, and inequality.

Entitled **Seeds of Peace and Hope** and released on July 2, the Pope's message resonates with the spirit of the ongoing Jubilee Year, calling the faithful to embrace their role as "pilgrims of hope" and stewards of God's creation.

Justice in a wounded world

Echoing the prophetic words of Isaiah, Pope Leo invites the global community to envision a transformation of today's "arid and parched desert" into "a fruitful field." This biblical vision, he explains, is not a poetic metaphor but an urgent call to action in the face of alarming ecological and human crises.

Quoting extensively from Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato si'* in the year of its 10th anniversary, he writes, "Injustice, violations of international law and the rights of peoples, grave inequalities, and the greed that fuels them are spawning deforestation, pollution, and the loss of biodiversity."

Linking environmental destruction to the exploitation of the poor and marginalized, he highlights the disproportionate suffering of indigenous communities and the widening gap between rich and poor as hallmarks of a system that treats nature as a commodity rather than a common home.

Nature as a battle ground

He laments the fact that nature itself has become “a bargaining chip,” subjected to policies and practices that prioritize profit over people and the planet. From agricultural lands riddled with landmines to conflicts over water and raw materials, Pope Leo paints a sobering picture of a creation “turned into a battleground” for control and domination.

These wounds, he says, are “the effect of sin,” a betrayal of the biblical command not to dominate creation, but to “till and keep” it, a call to cultivate and preserve the Earth through a relationship of care and responsibility.

Environmental justice as a moral imperative

The Pope’s message reaffirms the Church’s commitment to an “integral ecology,” a concept at the heart of *Laudato si’*. Environmental justice, the Holy Father affirms, is not an abstract or secondary concern but a “duty born of faith.”

“For believers,” he writes, “the universe reflects the face of Jesus Christ, in whom all things were created and redeemed.” In this light, caring for the planet becomes not only an ecological necessity but also a profoundly spiritual and moral vocation.

Seeds that bear fruit

Encouraging concrete action, Pope Leo calls for perseverance and love in sowing “seeds of justice” that will, in time, bear the fruits of peace. He cites the *Borgo Laudato Si’* project at Castel Gandolfo as a tangible example of how education and community life rooted in ecological values can shape a just and hopeful future.

“This may take years,” the Pope acknowledges, “but years that involve an entire ecosystem made up of continuity, fidelity, cooperation and love.”

A blessing for the future

Concluding his message with a prayer for the outpouring of God’s Spirit, Pope Leo XVI invokes the hope of the risen Christ as the guiding light for a world longing for healing.

“May [*Laudato si’*] continue to inspire us,” he writes, “and may integral ecology be increasingly accepted as the right path to follow.”

STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

“ The earth and all life on it are part of God’s creation. We are called to respect this gift. We are responsible for taking care of the world we live in and for sharing all the wonders and resources the earth gives us.

(Caritas, 2024)

“Creation with tremendous voice cries out:
All holy is the might Lord of days.”

Hymn, Evening Prayer from the Divine Office, Psalter Friday, Week 1

ACTIONS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

FROM TODAY I WILL:

- Turn off lights when I leave a room
- Switch off and unplug TV's, chargers, tablets and all devices.
- Save water by not running the tap and taking shorter showers
- Recycle clothes, paper and electronics
- Avoid using plastics, especially bottles and bags
- Use public transport
- Actively engage in lobbying and campaigning to protect creation
- Encourage my family and friends to do all of the above.

SMA Justice Office, African Missions, Wilton, Cork

*“Let us become agents of his mercy,
channels through which God can water the earth
and protect all creation.”*

Pope Francis

Prayer for the Care of Creation

Lord, you made us part of your creation but we are,
by the way we live and the pollution we cause,
destroying the world you gave us.

Those who do least to cause climate change are unjustly suffering
the most as a result.

Many people, especially those in poorer and war-torn parts of the
world,
are without water, cannot produce food
and are forced to leave their homes and countries.

***I promise to take greater care of my environment in my home,
school and community.***

***I promise to make better choices about the way I live
because I know that my actions and choices affect the world
and the lives of others, those living near and far.***

***Lord, I ask you to help me to act justly by my actions
and in the example I give to others. Amen***

SMA Justice Office - Adapted

Teaching Resources

The **Laudato Si' Champions Project** focuses on integral ecology in Catholic schools offering guidance and resources in three main areas:

- teaching and learning for integral ecology in schools
- young people's experience of the ecological crisis
- policy - making for sustainability in Catholic schools.

<https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/research/areas/theology-and-ethics/guardians-of-creation-project/laudato-si-champions.aspx>

LISTENING TO NATURE

“Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God.”

Laudate Si', 84

Trocaire – TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD



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https://www.trocaire.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/CH2_2025_web.pdf?type=parish

School Ethos / Characteristic Spirit.

At the beginning of the new school year is a good time to reflect and review our Ethos and Mission statements as we gather for whole school staff meetings, year head and department meetings.

The Purpose of the Catholic School is that it be a place where Good News is shared, specifically the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Good News about who we are, and the Good News about God's gift to us in the gospels.

WHAT IS SCHOOL ETHOS?

"Ethos can be a vague and somewhat covert term that is commonly employed in order to describe the range of values and beliefs which define the philosophy and orientation of an organisation.

It can be defined as the characteristic spirit of a culture or community as manifested in its values, attitudes and aspirations.

The ethos of a school permeates every aspect of life therein, giving meaning and direction to school activities.

It finds expression in shared rituals, in the quality of relationships, in the day-to-day running of a school.

When I think of the ethos of a school, the feeling of the organisation comes to mind and the character of the school that one experiences on visiting the establishment."

Gene Meighan – Marino Institute of Education.

"For a Catholic school ethos to be part of the narrative in its teenagers' lives, it ought to have authenticity that radiates from a living, breathing pulse, a pulse that speaks of justice, equity and energy.

A living ethos can only be authentic if the learning community has a sense of belonging to it.

Perhaps a living ethos in a Catholic school can simply be understood as 'creating a space for God'.

Setting out to have a school ethos that is alive is to embrace it as a vital and life sustaining pulse nurturing and nourishing the entire school community."

Orla Walsh – Education Consultant

“Catholic education will only bear enduring fruit in a context where schools live out their ethos authentically. The school is the gateway to the social, intellectual, mental and moral development of students which is achieved in a holistic way, education the whole person. Education is a factor that humanizes society, because it helps us to transcend individualism, to appreciate differences, to discover community, to be responsible for our common home.”

Archbishop Dermot Farrell

We aspire to create an open, happy, stimulating environment in which the students are able to develop the full range of their talents and abilities, to grow in confidence and maturity striving to be the best they can be in all aspects of their lives.

We nurture in each student a deeper understanding of what it means to be a human person, made in the image of God as an unique gift and to live in relationship with others.

We challenge and guide our students to strive for academic excellence, gaining good results in state examinations whilst also living out our core values.

We help and equip each student to develop his or her full potential with the skills, attitudes and values that will enable them to become discerning thinkers.

By educating our students in a time of rapid ongoing social and technological change, taking into account the climate of religious and cultural diversity, we assist in enhancing not only the lives of the students, but also, through them, the wider community and society as a whole.

To live our characteristic spirit, we integrate our faith-based values into the classroom while ensuring each student receives the support they need to grow academically and personally.

As teachers and chaplains, we create a climate of respect for the beliefs of all students and affirm the worth of each person. We listen to and dialogue with the students, giving them opportunities to reflect on “who I am” and “how I am.”

The School Ethos:

is the privilege and responsibility of every member of the school community

lives because we acknowledge it in our lives

matters because we make it matter

Core Values

Core values play an important role in shaping the religious, moral and academic landscape of our schools. These values articulate the expectations for everyone in the school community, ensuring that all students who attend are aware of what the school aims to achieve for them.

The core values are instrumental in setting standards, reinforcing the school's policies. By teaching and consistently modelling these values, schools not only shape the character of their students but also support the holistic development of each student.

The importance of a values-based education cannot be overstated. It is deeply intertwined with the ethos and principles guiding all aspects of school life.

The characteristic spirit will form the foundation of all that we do as we strive to integrate it with the students' experience of the world as studied in all subjects.

The core school values are the fundamental principles that guide the overall culture and mission of a school. Every school has its core values which shape the way we live our lives.

We aim to promote the values of Respect, Kindness, Compassion, A Sense of Community, Personal and Faith Development, Integrity, Patience, Equality, Service, Humility, Trust, just to name a few.

We believe that these values are fundamental to the formation of who we become as students and teachers.

I encourage you to look for these values in other people because if you have the eyes to see them, you will see them; they are there in all of us and perhaps more importantly look for them in yourself and you will see them too.

Animated by the Gospel spirit, we are challenged as a school staff to model and make these values a living reality in our daily lives and in the lives of our students. Our core values are rooted in practicality; how we live as a school community is built on these values.

We are also challenged to help our students develop a gospel vision of life which means developing our understanding of how our faith expresses itself in the practical details of everyday life.

- How do we show respect for ourselves and each other?
- At a practical level how can we express our core values?
- Do our practical expressions include respecting the physical environment of our school – not littering, picking up rubbish and leaving each area of the school ready for use by all?

Promotion of Values

*During the school year, could we celebrate a particular week,
when we have a values-centred programme of activities?*

Core values can be explored and promoted in different ways - recognition of achievement, as well as discussions and lessons in the classrooms. Our core values can be addressed during whole school or year group assemblies encouraging students to give input. In this way, we help to create a sense of belonging and community.

Visuals posted throughout the school are a very good way of reminding students of the core values.

Faith in Action – Involvement in charity, social justice and integral ecology

Schools have always been places where outreach to others has been evident. Our characteristic spirit enables our students to develop awareness that supporting others is so important, building a sense of connection, compassion and empathy with, and towards, other people and causes.

With the students, it is important to put emphasis on the personal integration of faith and life by encouraging them to become involved in some form of service – Faith in Action, taking into consideration the age and context of students while respecting their dignity and in light of the spirit of the school. We strive to do this in partnership with all members of the school community which include family involvement.

Reflecting together

In helping students understand their own values, it is good to ask them whether they always thought as they do now:

Can they recall a time when they had different ideas and thought other things much more important?

Providing opportunities for faith-sharing among students helps them to:

- explore with others where they are on their faith-journey
- recognise and own what they believe and value
- discover for themselves what gives meaning to their lives
- articulate how they can translate their faith into daily living
- become challenged by the gospel message.

Questions for Staff Reflection through the Lens of the Gospel.

- ❖ How do we accompany students on their faith-journey?
- ❖ When and how do we invite the students to reflect on what they experience and value?
- ❖ What are the challenges and opportunities?

When we step out in faith and share the gospel, then, like the disciples we will be astonished and will rejoice as we see the power of the gospel at work.

Striving to live by our core values, we become followers of Jesus. We look to the disciples as models to show us the way. The twelve disciples of Jesus were not perfect. But Jesus was faithful to them.

We believe that our ethos gives us a reference point and an anchor to who we are and who we would like to be. I attended a Graduation Mass in one of our schools during the month of May. The priest during his homily said that we are asking the students the wrong question today – “what are you going to do after the Leaving Cert.” Instead of asking this question, we should be asking – “what are you going to be.” We hope that all of our students will, in whatever walk of life they choose to follow, be people who make a difference.

Care of the Environment

We educate our students to develop an understanding as to how their decisions and actions can impact the climate and the planet.

*Providing a good quality education
within our characteristic spirit
means being part of a warm,
caring and compassionate school community
in which everyone is encouraged to think
about others
and care for the environment.*



JUBILEE: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Students aged 13-18 were invited to produce a piece of writing or create an image on the topic '**Jubilee: Pilgrims of Hope**' for the 2025 Columban Schools Media Competition.

www.columbancomprtition.com

Their task was to highlight a community or group bringing hope in this Jubilee Year, making a difference locally, nationally, or globally.

First place in the winners for his article, "**Beyond the Classroom**" was awarded to **Odhran McGowan** from St. Louis Grammar School, Ballymena, which I would like to share with you at the beginning of this school year.

"I am so honoured to have won 1st place! A huge thank you to the judges for considering me and acknowledging my efforts into my written piece. I would like to recognise the remarkable work carried out by the Columban Fathers who focus on aspects such as justice and peace, and who engage us young people in a series of modern day global and ethical issues. I learned so much about the meaning of 'pilgrims of hope' when researching it prior to my piece and hope that more young people such as myself would like to take part in the competition as it is such a rewarding experience!" **Odhran McGowan**

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Published in the Far East Magazine of the Columban Missionaries – May / June 2025

In the quiet spaces of classrooms around the world today, a remarkable story unfolds daily. It is the story of our teachers. They are ordinary individuals partaking in extraordinary work to bring hope to a world that quite often can feel fractured and uncertain. These educators are far more than conveyors of knowledge. They are companions who guide us on a very important journey: life. They provide us with much more than just facts and figures; they also provide us with resilience, dignity, and a vision for a hopeful future.

To teach is to believe in the potential of the human spirit, even under circumstances that may seem bleak. Teachers strive to work in the midst of brokenness, such as broken systems, broken homes, and sometimes even broken dreams. Yet, they show up every day, not because the work is easy but because they understand the importance of their role in the lives of young children today. In their persistent efforts lies a reflection of what Catholic Social Teaching calls the dignity of a person and their individuality. Each student who enters a classroom is a unique and unrepeatable expression of society, carrying with them the possibility of greatness. A teacher's vocation is to uncover that greatness, even when hidden amongst layers upon layers of anxiety, insecurity or fear.

Teaching is not merely about imparting knowledge, it is about forming children's personalities and morals. Every lesson, every conversation, every act of kindness speaks to the core of who

a child is, and who they might become. There is a quiet wholeness in this work. It requires deep trust, both with the student, the process, and trust in the belief that even the smallest acts of love and patience can ripple outward transforming lives in ways that may never be fully seen or known.

Hope is not always to sustain, especially in a world that often feels weighted by division and despair. Yet teachers are uniquely equipped to cultivate hope because they work hand in hand with possibility. They see the sparks of creativity, curiosity, and potential in their students, and they nurture those sparks even when others may overlook them. This is a profoundly hopeful act, a declaration that no matter how dark the world may seem, there is always light to be found and tended.

Solidarity is another hallmark of teaching, woven deeply into the fabric of Catholic Social Teaching. To teach is to enter a profound relationship with students, sharing in their joys, struggles, and aspirations. It is an act of accompaniment, walking alongside young people as they navigate the complexities of life. Teachers do not stand above their students but beside them, helping them to see that they are never alone.

This solidarity extends beyond the classroom. Teachers are often the heart of their communities, building bridges where there are divides and fostering a sense of collective purpose. They understand that the success of one student is tied to the wellbeing of the whole community and that education is not merely a personal achievement but a communal good. In this way their work reflects the principle of the common good, a commitment to building a society where everyone can thrive.

To be a teacher is to enter a space of profound vulnerability. It requires openness to the need, questions, and struggles of others, as well as willingness to confront one's own limitations and doubts. Yet, this vulnerability is also a source of strength. It is what allows teachers to connect deeply with their students, to offer guidance not from a place of authority but from a place of compassion and shared humanity.

There is a deep spirituality in teaching, in the sense that the work is more than just the academic, it is also about transformation. Teachers are called to see their students as God sees them, as people of infinite worth and potential. The vision sustains them through the long hours, the setbacks, and the moments of doubt. It reminds them that their work is not just a job, but a ministry, a way of participating in the ongoing creation of a more just and loving world.

For many teachers, the classroom becomes a sacred space, a place where miracles happen in the form of small victories and quiet breakthroughs. It is where a child who once doubted their abilities begins to believe in themselves, where a quiet student finds their voice, or where a community begins to imagine new possibilities for its future. These moments are not always celebrated or recognised, but they are the quiet foundation upon which hope is built.

Teachers remind us that change does not come from grand gestures or sweeping reforms alone. It comes from the patient, daily work of planting seeds and tending to them with care. It is in the relationships they build, the encouragement they offer, and the truths they help their students uncover that the world is transformed.

As pilgrims of hope, teachers walk a path that is often challenging and uncertain. Yet they walk it with courage and conviction, knowing that their journey is not just about education, but about healing and renewal. Their work calls all of us to see the world not as it is, but as it could be, a world where every child is valued, every voice is heard and every person has the opportunity to flourish.

In their quiet, steadfast way, teachers show us what it means to be people of hope. They remind us that the future is not something to fear but something to build together, one lesson, one child, and one act of love at a time.

“An eloquent celebration of teachers and that vocation.”
Editor and Journalist William Scholes of the Irish News

“A wonderful testament to and a recognition of a group in society that doesn't really get the acknowledgement it deserves.”

Dr. Toni Pyke - Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland (AMRI)

Sing and Pray...

I had the privilege of being present with young people, singing and praying together during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Camp Veritas held in Clongowes College in the month of June. The reverence of their singing and praying together made a deep impression on me.

For more information on Camp Veritas: www.campveritasireland.org/

❖ **GOODNESS OF GOD** – Special Hillsong Worship Songs Playlist 2025

https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=9d2b310f2fbbfab2234b8213a41f6856c030c0a0ddfe04708efb5f5974feb297JmltdHM9MTc1NDUyNDgwMA&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=4&fclid=0462dd9b-88d9-6925-1150-cb8589a668ec&psq=goodness+of+god+youtube&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cueW91dHVhZS5jb20vd2F0Y2g_dj1lYU5RTzhJSjV5QQ&ntb=1

❖ **The First Hymn**

Chris Tomlin ‘**The First Hymn**’ new Worship Song, Lyric Video in wonder and awe of God. From the beautiful sun rising in the morning to the twinkling stars at night, God is the Creator of them all. **Psalm 148:7-10**

Watch The First Hymn – A Documentary by John Dickson with.....

<https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=5ce92f9fd860acb8d92a5a2052b03bb2c87913b9cc41505e70efc3b7702c76f2JmltdHM9MTc1NDUyNDgwMA&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=4&fclid=0462dd9b-88d9-6925-1150-cb8589a668ec&psq=the+first+hymn+chris+tomlin&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudGhlZmlyc3RoeW1ubW92aWUuY29tL3dhdGNo&ntb=1>

Chris Tomlin & Ben Fielding Lyrics – The First Hymn

<https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=0496cbabd6e4c3d403d3ff7544f7a3a2fd2d744fef4a0a517b34e9622f804997JmltdHM9MTc1NDUyNDgwMA&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=4&fclid=0462dd9b-88d9-6925-1150-cb8589a668ec&psq=the+first+hymn+chris+tomlin&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYXpseXJpY3MuY29tL2x5cmJlcy9jaHJpc3RvbWxpbj90aGVmaXJzdGh5bW4uaHRtbA&ntb=1>

To Conclude – As we begin a New School Year:

New Beginnings

“And suddenly you know:

It’s time to start

Something new and trust

The magic of new beginnings”

Meister Eckhart

I would like to wish you and all our Principals / Deputy Principals together with the school communities the very best for 2025 / 2026. May this academic year be full of joy and God’s blessings. May it be a year of hope, trusting in the future and what it holds for each of us.

I offer you this Daily Prayer:

I sing as I arise today,

I call on my creator’s might:

The will of God to be my guide,

The eye of God to be my sight.

The word of God to be my speech,

The hand of God to be my stay,

The shield of God to be my strength,

The path of God to be my way.

Hymn - Lauds (Morning Prayer)

Feast of St. Declan, 24th July.

St. Mary’s Abbey, Glencairn, Co. Waterford



*May the Holy Spirit enlighten our minds and renew our hearts
throughout this school year.*