

## **Reflection from a New Member of our Faith Community**

It's now been seven weeks since I have been baptised and confirmed. Being baptised as an adult is different. It means that one is fully aware about it. It is a conscious decision.

Sometimes I wonder when was the first time, I had contemplated

the Christian Religion? Was it on my visit in Russia 25 years ago when I saw this little, fragile looking chapel, forgotten amidst communist Stalin-design buildings on a busy main road in the city centre of Moscow? Was it with my Christian friends in former

East Germany who supported me when I was distressed and had no one else to turn to? Was it Catholic Ireland with its holy wells and smiling people? Maybe it was a bit of everything. After all I do feel different. And again what's the English word to describe this difference: Awareness? Lightness? Enlightenment? Feeling closer to God? Maybe there is no word to describe it ... Coming to this stage is like a journey, a path sometimes stony and sometimes flower-lined.



But what I can name and put into words is my feeling of gratitude. And on this occasion I would like to thank few people whom I met on my journey: Sr. Ann Boland for being so patient, kind and a good friend; Fr. Tom for being available to

answer my questions and for his wise comments when I was in doubt; Bishop Willie Walsh for his kindness and warmth during baptism and holy communion; my friend Dana for walking the path with me; my godparents

and friends Colm and Karen Nestor for their loyalty and the great times we spend together, telling stories and plunging into Irish history; The Community of Ennis Cathedral and their regular blessings and support at mass; My Son Sebastian for his understanding and support; My Friends and music-mates in Ireland and Germany for the honest discussion and for simply being my friends.

**Kerstin Meyer  
Ennis/Berlin**

## **Rice College Transition Year Students**

As we come to the end of the school year we have taken time to reflect on the various activities we have undertaken in our community. While the weather was still fine we assisted the urban council in rejuvenating the public gardens adjacent to Cois na hAbhann.

This was followed by Faith Friends which involved preparing sixth class students from the Holy Family primary school for their confirmation. Together we all developed our understanding of this special sacrament. Throughout the year we have been helping students with special needs in St. Claire's school. Some of us did our work experience module there and were made feel very welcome. Hopefully we were beneficial to those we encountered.

We held three bag packing events during the year in local supermarkets to help fund, amongst other things the day care centre in the cahercalla region. We extend our thanks to all members of the community who contributed to our causes. We are delighted that some of our sixth class girls in the C.B.S. Primary school whom we coached in Basketball during the year have now made it through to the play off stages of the primary school league.

Recently, we travelled with Fr. John Molloy and some of our teachers on a pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick. Despite the wintry conditions it was an enriching experience.

As our last contribution to the community we will fundraise for the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland and the Brothers of Charity by participating in a 10km fun run. It has been an enjoyable and rewarding experience to have been able to participate in so many community activities.

***Mile buiochas le gach duine.***



### **Well Done Holy Family Senior School**



The fifth class students of Holy Family Senior School recently won their section of the county Clare Féile Scoil Drámaíochta and the Munster Féile Scoil Drámaíochta. They also participated in the All Ireland Final in Mullingar. The play that they performed was 'An tArsalaí ó Oz'. Congratulations boys and girls on this wonderful achievement and all the hard work. Special word of thanks to Seán O' Neill and Barbara Guilfoyle (Fifth Class Teachers) and the entire staff who worked on this production. **Go mba fada buan sibh go léir.**



### **Green Flags at Holy Family Schools**

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, Holy Family Junior and Senior Schools were awarded Green School status by An Taisce and received their first green flags from Minister John Gormley in a ceremony held in the schools.

For the previous 18 months children and staff in both schools have been very busy adopting a more environmentally aware approach to litter and waste. Recycling, composting, litter picking and planting have since become an integral part of school life. The schools acknowledge the huge contribution of the staff and parents in helping to promote this awareness amongst the young pupils.



### **Green Flag for Coláiste Muire**



On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May Coláiste Muire was awarded a Green Flag at an official ceremony in the school attended by Minister for the Environment, John Gormley T.D. Coláiste Muire is the first post-primary school in Ennis to achieve Green School status.



**Coláiste Muire** were awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> prize at the Cork Choral Festival on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

The Choir also received an award for the best performance of a song through Irish.



### **Young Social Innovators Showcase**



Our fourth year YSI group won the "Step Up" category at this year's Young Social Innovators Showcase in the RDS on May 6<sup>th</sup> with their Stomp Out Bullying- Take 2 project. A wonderful achievement for the 2008 Young Social Innovators building further, on last year's work.



## **St. Flannan's College Calcutta Project**

April 2009, saw fourteen students and five teachers from St. Flannan's College embarking on a life changing journey to the city of Calcutta in India. While preparations began months in advance with weekly prayer meetings, a big fund-raising drive was also undertaken. While in Calcutta, the students spent their days working along side the Missionaries of Charity Sisters in an orphanage and a hospice and their evenings teaching English to street children. The money raised was donated to projects working tirelessly in Calcutta in an effort to alleviate the suffering and pain of poverty endured by our fellow-human beings on a daily basis. The trip was a great success and one which will not be forgotten by those involved.



**15 years of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration**



# Bulletin Board



## Parish Pilgrimage to Lough Derg



Monday August 3rd to Wednesday 5th August . Booking & details from Parish Office 6824043.  
**Time For Body & Soul**

**Special Mass for Exam Students their families & friends**  
On **Saturday 30th May**  
**St. Joseph's Church**  
**7pm**

## St Anthony Novena



led by **Fr. Malcolm Timothy**  
Fri 5th to Sat 13th June  
Mornings Sessions 10.00am.  
Sunday Morning 10.30am.  
Evening Sessions 7.30pm.  
Sunday 7th: Healing Service with Sacramental Anointing of the Sick at 7pm (No Mass).  
**Feast of St. Anthony 13th June:** Blessing of Children at 4pm; Solemn Closing Mass with Blessing of Lilies: 10am and 7.30pm.

**TROCAIRE**  
Working for a Just World

Total Collected in Ennis Parish 2009  
**Trócaire Lenten Campaign**  
**€30,000**

## Summer Blessing for Pre-Schools

Special Summer Blessing will take place here in the Cathedral on Saturday June 6th at 12 noon. All children, families and extended families from the entire parish and surrounds are invited.



## 400 Years of Religious Service



The Mercy Convent of St. Xavier's on Friars Walk opposite Dunne's Stores is home to a remarkable group of women.

There are 5 Mercy Sisters living in this Community who have lived out Religious life that accumulates to almost 400 years. Sister Patrick Maguire from Kilrush, and Sr. Brid Hogan, Milltown Malbay entered in 1931; Sr. Paul Byrne, Killaloe entered religious community in 1935; The two youngest of the nonagenarians are Sr. Teresa Meaney from Kilrush and Sr. Miriam Hansbury from Moylough in East Galway.

These remarkable women are full of life with interest in everything. Their lives and Ministry have made the difference to three generations – **Praise God for fidelity and service to the outlook of Catherine McCauley.**

