

Ennis Parish Link

Issue 50 June 2013



Bóin Dé



Coláiste Muire



Transition Year class wins Young Social Innovators award

Transition Year class (TY1) from Coláiste Muire recently took part in the Young Social Innovators competition with their project Sexication. Their project focused on the lack of Sexual Education in Ireland today. The aim of their project was to rid society of the awkwardness and stigma attached to Sexual Education in Ireland. They made lesson plans suggesting a future template for Sexual Education in secondary schools. On the 8th of May, the Transition Year class travelled to Dublin for the final stage of the competition. Sexication won the YSI category of 'Sexual Health and Relationships'.



Ennis Community College and Gaelcholaiste an Chlair



As another year draws to a close for Ennis Community College and Gaelcholaiste an Chlair, it is simply impossible to fathom where all the time has gone, but busy schools make for fun days and as the saying goes "time flies when you are having fun...."

And what fun have we been having?

Well, recently, sports have been to the fore, with the annual school sports day and rowing workshops and while it's been cold it didn't dampen spirits - these were of course, only building on the sporting successes of the year, with the junior girls leading the way in Munster finals for Football and Basketball and the boys (Stiofain and Kadri) picking up awards for Munster in 5000m and triple jump and now progressing to the All-Ireland stage.

Our artistic sides have hit high notes, with the first ever Munster Seo Talun in Glór, bringing together schools from around the province, awards for our Junk Couture designers and three full house showings of our Idir Bhlain production of JB Keane's *Sive*.

In educational partnership, we have hosted one of the EUs largest Comenius projects in the shape of 'Stay On' and have continued our popular ORBITAL (Outdoor Resources Brought Into Teaching And Learning) Programme with second year trips all year, linked to History, Geography, Business, Science and PE for their Junior Cert.

Our continued support of Charities was most recently seen in the strong school involvement in the Darkness into Light walk in Lee's road.

This is all the while against a back drop of educational excellence, which was made exceptionally sweet in the celebration of the Gaelcholaiste's 20th Anniversary - fiche bliain ag fas and still growing strong.





St. Flannan's College



The Parish Mission

Senior students from St Flannan's College were actively involved in the recent Parish Mission. St Flannan's College commenced its involvement on the first night of the mission. This night focused on community and several students represented the college during this celebration. On Tuesday night, the focus turned to the sacraments, when two students, Heather Black and Ben Sweeney spoke about their involvement as leaders in the Faith Friends programme. They had acted as leaders in this programme for several primary schools and were given the opportunity to address the congregation in the Cathedral, on the importance of Confirmation as a Sacrament. They also spoke about how participating in this programme reaffirmed their faith and personal commitment to a Christian way of life. Senior students, Molly Brannock, Orla O'Halloran, Joanna Bogucka, Rachel Coote and Liam Mullins, led parts of the liturgy during the third night which centred on the theme of Reconciliation. The students performed liturgical dance, which symbolised the themes of forgiveness and reconciliation. The students also led the music liturgy on that night. An unusual feature of Mission Week was The Street Mission. This included daily prayer and worship at The Height in the centre of Ennis. The participating students included, Joanna Bogucka, Rachel Coote, Elie Mundu, Vicki O'Halloran, Naomi Smith and Shauna O'Connor. **Photo L to R: Shauna O'Connor, Rachel Coote, Myriam Black (teacher), Joanna Bogucka, Elie Mundu.**



The Faith Friends Programme

This year, the Parish's Faith Friends programme was more popular than ever, with approximately forty students from the senior cycle participating as leaders. This programme prepares sixth class students from several Ennis primary schools for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Many of the College students were keen to be leaders, due to their own personal experience as Confirmation candidates of the Faith Friends programme in primary school. They wished to get involved, as many of the leaders of the Faith Friends Programme in which they participated as Confirmation candidates, were role models for them in terms of their faith development. Involvement in this programme allowed the College students to reaffirm their own Christian faith and get a better understanding of the significance of Confirmation for their own lives. Leadership of this programme also enabled the students to get involved in Youth Ministry in the parish and to bear witness to their own faith. Involvement with the Confirmation candidates showed the leaders the spiritual benefits of being actively involved in the parish.

Photo L to R: Heather Black, Ben Sweeney, Myriam Black (teacher), Sheelagh Barry, Ellis Ryan.

Calcutta

A group of 18 students and 6 teachers from St. Flannan's College travelled to Calcutta in India during their Easter Holidays this year. While In Calcutta, the group worked in orphanages for severely mentally and physically handicapped children and a hospice for sick abandoned adults. These homes are run by the Missionaries of Charity set up by Mother Teresa. In the evenings, the group taught English to street children in Howrah. The work was extremely challenging physically, emotionally and psychologically.

"In Calcutta I learned what true happiness really is. Happiness has nothing to do with material things. Happiness is to do with living. You will never be truly happy until you are fully alive. The happiest people I



have ever seen are the people of Calcutta. These people live in extreme poverty, are homeless and struggle to survive everyday. They are truly content and filled with gratitude just for the sheer joy of being alive. I saw this rare happiness in the six boys I taught English to in Howrah. These boys have nothing, they live in shocking conditions of depravity. I initially found it so hard to understand how they could be so happy when they have nothing, they taught me a true lesson in life, appreciation for all we have. I was the teacher but it was them that really taught me. I've been told that at least once in your lifetime you will meet someone who leaves an imprint on your soul that time will never erase. I have only begun my life's journey but I know that these six boys left an imprint on my soul that time will never erase. Volunteering in Calcutta was a most unforgettable life-changing experience for me. It changed my whole view on the world. I am so thankful for having had the opportunity to experience the other side of life and to see the injustice in the world, for myself. I cannot wait to return to Calcutta and use my life to strive for change." -Eleanor Custy, 16,

Lough Derg



Time For Body & Soul

3 day Parish Pilgrimage to Lough Derg on **Monday 5th August to Wednesday 7th August.**

Booking Parish Office 6824043.

First Holy Communion

We congratulate the children from all the Parish Schools who received the Sacrament over the past few weeks. We thank the teachers, school staff and parents and all who have helped in the preparations.



The word 'Communion' means 'to be united with'; Catholics believe that in Holy Communion, we are united in a special way with Jesus Christ.

"Take this and eat, this is my body", Jesus said of the bread he shared among his followers at his last supper. Then taking a cup of wine he said, "take this and drink, for this is my blood".

Catholics believe that in a mysterious way, when we receive Holy Communion, we are sharing in the body and blood - the very life - of Christ our Saviour. Holy Communion, and the whole Mass is also known as Eucharist, from a Greek word meaning thanksgiving.

St Anthony Novena



led by

Fr. Gabriel Kinahan OFM

Tues 4th to Thurs 13th June:

Mornings Sessions 10am.

Sunday Morning 10.30am.

Evening Sessions 7.30pm.

Sunday 9th: Mass at 10.30am and Healing Service at 7pm;

Feast of St. Anthony 13th June: Blessing of Children at 4pm; Blessing of Lilies at all Masses.

Bóin Dé

The Lady Bird or Lady Beetle is known and loved all over the world. There are over 5,000 species. In our Irish Tradition they are known as Gods little Cow, *Bóin Dé*.

Tradition tells us that in the Middle Ages swarms of insects were destroying the crops. The farmer prayed to the Virgin Mary for help, soon afterwards the Lady Birds came devouring the plant eating insects and saving the crops. The farmer called these beautiful insects - Beetles of our Lady or Lady Beetles. Their red wings are said to represent Mary's cloak and the black spots were symbols of her joys and sorrows.



Summer Blessing for Pre-Schools



Special Summer Blessing will take place here in the Cathedral on Saturday 22nd June at 12 noon. All children, families and extended families from the parish and surrounds are invited.

Confirmation

We congratulate the children from our Parish who were Confirmed recently. We congratulate and thank all who were part of their formation in the faith, their parents, teachers, school staffs, Faith Friends and the Parish community that nurtured these young people in the faith formation.



A Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, replace the tension within us with a holy relaxation. Replace the turbulence within us with a sacred calm. Replace the anxiety within us with a quiet confidence. Replace the fear within us with a strong faith. Replace the bitterness within us with the sweetness of grace. Replace the darkness within us with a gentle light. Replace the coldness within us with a loving warmth. Replace the night within us with your light. Straighten our crookedness. Fill our emptiness. Dull the edge of our pride. Sharpen the edge of our humility. Light the fires of our love. Let us see ourselves as You see us.