



project

leadership education
and formation project

*'Leading with Faith
in the Future'*

On the Frontline

CCR past pupil Prof. Conor Deasy

A Great Cause

The Danny Crowley Swim Re-imagined

A School with Spirit

Br. Simon Fernandes joins the CSN Community

Profile in Courage

Danny Peilow's Journey

An Extraordinary Principal

Tribute to Anthony Kenneally

Huge Response to Film Messages

from P.B.S.T. Schools

Br. Denis Minehane

A Lifetime of Service in Birr

Meet Trinity Provost,

Prof. Linda Doyle

Margaret Murphy

A force for change in Health Care

News from the Schools

Sr. Imelda Wickham

'Unheard Voices'

Meet the Brothers

Maiville Golden Jubilee

Retreat

Inspired by Edmund Rice

in Haiti

NEWSLETTER

December 2021 Issue No. 6

Christmas Edition



*Wishing you a holy
and a happy Christmas*

Beannachtaí na Nollag



**CORK'S OWN
NIAMH O'SULLIVAN
A RISING STAR**



Presentation Family - Our People - Our Stories - Our Hope





And the Word became flesh, and lived among us' (John 1:14).

Another Covid Christmas... The Future is Community Our Stories – Our People – Our Hope

'Good is the flesh that the Word has become', a reflection from the poet and hymn-writer Brian Wren, features on our L.E.A.F. Christmas card this year. The poem celebrates the goodness of the human body.

For the Christian, this is at the heart of the Christmas message – God enters the human story in the person of Jesus Christ. This is the mystery of the Incarnation:

'And the Word became flesh and lived among us' (John 1:14).

The coming of Jesus Christ affirms the goodness of all that is authentically human. At Christmas, we celebrate hope and joy to the world!

We need this message of hope as we continue to live with and face the challenges of Covid.

We need one another, as never before.

The future has to be about relationship, about friendship, about family and community.

This is where women and men today, and especially young people, discover meaning, transcendence, and wholeness.

The future is community! This community must be broad enough to welcome the stranger and be attentive enough to hear to the cry of our now wounded Earth.

Pope Francis warns Christians against becoming self-referential. We are about mission – becoming 'missionary disciples' – spreading the joy of the Gospel. The future of humanity and the future of our planet depend on this. In this edition of the L.E.A.F. Newsletter, we feature stories on people of all ages, from different walks of life, who are part of, or friends of, the Presentation Family. For me, they are signs of hope at this time. Their faith, generosity and commitment make me proud that they are part of our Presentation Family.

Those featured in this Newsletter are all leaders, in many different ways, skilled in relational leadership and networking. Relational leaders are learners, enthusiastic listeners, engaging and inclusive. They serve causes beyond themselves for the good of others. Our world needs such leadership!

This Christmas, let's make a special effort to reach out to people – whether they are near or far away. A card, an email, a text, a phone call, a helping hand – even small gestures done in love, can make a big difference. Let's try to take some time as well to reflect, to pray and to join the faith community at Mass or some other Church service. The future is relationship and community!

Thanks to our contributors and you, the readers for your on-going support of the L.E.A.F. PROJECT and its' mission.

**Wishing you all the blessings of the Holy Season,
Beannachtaí na Nollag!**

Br. Martin Kenneally

Hitting the High Notes: Niamh O’Sullivan – Rising Star of the Opera World

Interviewing young Cork woman, and mezzo soprano, Niamh O’Sullivan, is a joy! You encounter someone who genuinely loves people and is passionate about her music and the challenging career she has chosen.

Family and School

“There was music in my family on both sides” says Niamh. Dad, Paul, used to sing around the house. Mother, Regina, a primary school principal, supported Niamh’s talent so much. Both parents were always encouraging.

“I have happy memories of singing in Church choirs at Christmas. I also sang a solo piece at my Confirmation ceremony. Mum and granny both recall that as a special moment. My family have always been so encouraging and supportive, including my sister, Nicola”. It was in school at Regina Mundi, that Niamh’s great gift was further nurtured and developed. “I loved singing with the Regina Mundi Choir”. Niamh pays special tribute to her music teacher and friend, Rose Beecher.

A “bewitchingly beautiful, dark vibrant voice”

Niamh has been praised for her “bewitchingly beautiful, dark vibrant voice” (Süddeutsche Zeitung). She studied at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin under the late and legendary Veronica Dunne, a great mentor and an icon of the Irish music world. She followed her studies by joining the Opera Studio at the Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich, in 2016.

“Arriving in Munich as a young twenty-one-year-old, was a major challenge” says Niamh, “I had to learn a lot very quickly, including coming up to speed in several languages. But I love this world, the people, the music, the excitement and the spontaneity. You never know what’s coming next”.

Roles To Date

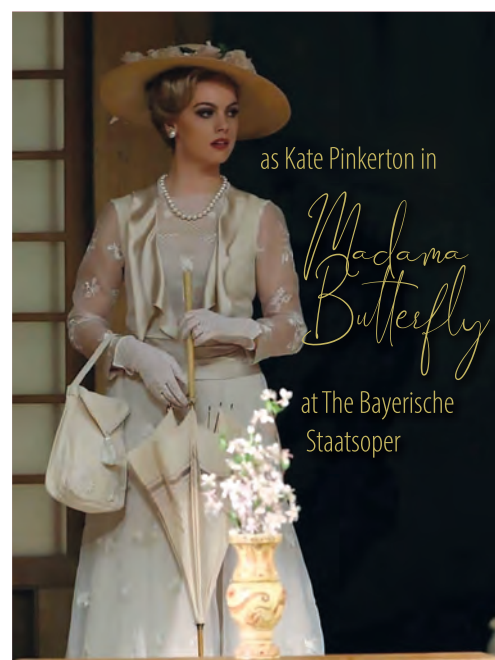
Niamh’s numerous operatic engagements in Munich include Hänsel in Humperdinck’s Hänsel und Gretel, Kate Pinkerton in Madama Butterfly, the Secretary in Menotti’s The Consul, Flora in La Traviata and Barena in Jenůfa. She also travelled with the company of the Bayerische Staatsoper for a concert performance of Der Rosenkavalier at Carnegie Hall, New York, conducted by Kirill Petrenko. Other appearances include her 2018 Irish National Opera debut as Tisbe La Cenerentola, Third Maid Elektra with INO and in Cousser’s The Applause of Mount Parnassus at the Wigmore Hall with Ensemble Marsyas, under the musical direction of Peter Whelan.



Niamh O'Sullivan



Verdi's La Traviata
at the Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich.



as Kate Pinkerton in
Madama Butterfly
at The Bayerische
Staatsoper

Highlights

Niamh lists the concert performance of *Der Rosenkavalier* at Carnegie Hall as one of the highlights of her career to date. "I also sang the role of Flora in *La Traviata*, alongside the great Plácido Domingo, in Munich in 2019. It was an amazing experience".

And in concert...

In concert, Niamh has performed Elgar's *Sea Pictures* at the Prinzregententheater as part of the Munich Festspiele in July 2019 and sang both Mozart's *Requiem* and Handel's *Messiah* with the Müncher Hofkantorei. She also performed the main role of 'Cain' in Scarlatti's *Oratorio Il Primo Omicidio* with The Jakobsplatz Orchester conducted by Daniel Grossmann.

Favourite Singers

Asked about her some of her own favourite singers, Niamh mentions the Latvian soprano, Elina Garanca and Ermonela Jaho from Albania. "Among the men, of course, Jonas Kaufmann, whom I know here in Munich. Jonas is one of opera's greatest ever tenors. The range and versatility of his voice are just stunning. And he is such a lovely person to meet".

Looking Ahead

In the 2021-22 season, Niamh will make her Zurich Opera debut as Wellgunde in *Das Rheingold*, returning later in the season for Meg Page in *Falstaff*. She also makes numerous appearances with Irish National Opera including Alva in the World Premiere of *The First Child*; Asteria Bajazet at both the Linbury Theatre, Royal Opera House, and across Ireland on tour as Mercédès in *Carmen*. She made her Wexford Festival Opera debut as Paulina in *Ein Wintermarchen*, in October, also appearing at the festival in recital and gala concert.

Follow Your Dream!

Niamh is encouraging of young people who dream of a career in the music world. "It's really hard work, of course. You need a certain mental toughness. My advice is go and see everything, listen to everyone and learn from the greats. You also need to get comfortable in several languages. But it is such an amazing and rewarding life".

Gratitude

Asked about future plans, Niamh mentions auditioning for several major roles. "I am so grateful to my family, my friends and all the people at home for their support. I have been given this gift and I look forward to continuing to develop it in the years ahead. In the challenging times in which we live, the gift of music can so enrich people's lives". Niamh dreams of future debuts in Vienna, Paris and many of the world's major opera houses. Surely, not far away, in the coming years!

Congratulations Niamh!

Niamh, we wish you every blessing and success in her life and career. Cork and Ireland are so proud of you!

When I listen to Haydn's The Creation, I am transported into the glory of God in the beauty of created things. At the end, in the long duet of Adam and Eve, you meet a man and a woman enraptured by the beauty they have been given. Beauty, like creation itself is pure gift, a sign of the God who overflows with love for us.

Pope Francis

The Spirit continues to guide us in our translating the Good News into different contexts, so that the words of Jesus continue to resound in the hearts of men and women of every age. That is why I like to quote Gustav Mahler, that "tradition is not the repository of ashes, but the preservation of fire."

Pope Francis



The Danny Crowley Christmas Swim Goes Hybrid for 2021!



The Crowley and Cohalan families

DANNY CROWLEY SWIM

Choose to swim when it suits you and your friends,
to support Cork's youngest cancer patients.

This year the Danny Crowley Christmas swim continues to be re-imagined! The Swim went virtual, due to Covid challenges in 2020. This year both the virtual option and, we hope, the Christmas morning swim options, will exist. The choice is yours!

A Great Cause

All funds raised will go towards the Mercy Kids & Teens Appeal, which supports the youngest patients at the Mercy Hospital, by providing services such as the Paediatric Oncology Outreach Nursing Service (POONS). These funds could not be going to a better cause. Speaking on the importance of the service, Olga Buckley, Paediatric Oncology/ Haematology CNS at The Mercy said "The Covid-19 pandemic has now made this service absolutely necessary. Our young cancer patients are considered within the critically vulnerable group as their treatment, including chemotherapy, causes immunosuppression. The POONS service will help these patients to stay at home and keep them safe in the months ahead."

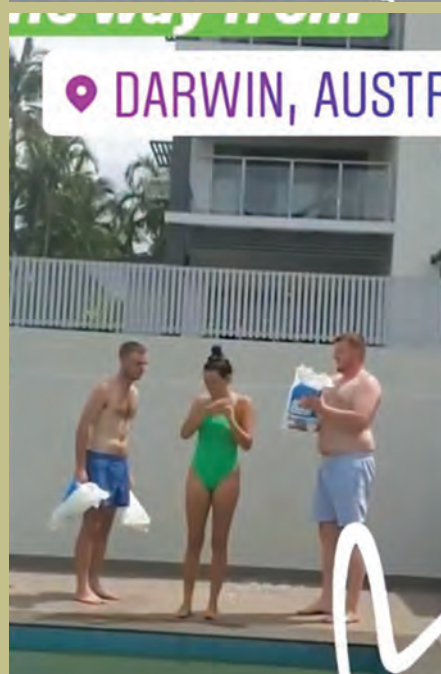
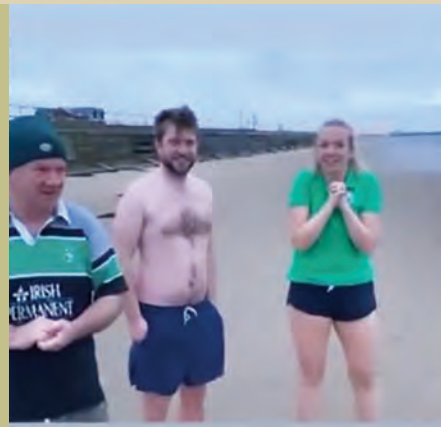
The Swim Re-Imagined!

The Swim has been running now for the last 9 years. It was started by his school friends to remember Danny, who passed away after a long battle with leukaemia, in 2013. To date the swim has raised over €130,000 for the Mercy Kids & Teens Appeal. Traditionally the Swim was always held at Myrtleville Beach, but due to COVID restrictions, swimmers were asked to swim wherever they safely could, and upload videos of their swim online in 2020. The 2021 Swim provides both options this year. For your safety, the choice is yours!

A Swim Community – Local and Global

The Virtual Swim last year had swimmers from all over Ireland and around the world, including swimmers from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United States. Swimmers included many of Danny's friends from the many sports clubs in which he was involved. They also included the Carrigaline community more broadly, his primary school friends from Gaelscoil Carrig Ui Leighin, his secondary school friends from Presentation Brothers College (including none other than Ireland and Liverpool keeper Caoimhín Kelleher!) and the wider Presentation Family.

We would like to thank everyone who supports this annual swim in any way. A special mention goes out to Brother Martin Kenneally from the Presentation Brothers, who has been a key supporter, swimmer, and fund raiser with the swim for many years. His support and friendship have been greatly appreciated by the Crowley family. We have a busy organising committee led by Alannah & Katie Crowley and Amy Cohalan who focus on social media to launch and promote the swim. We also thank Calie Cohalan, Debra Lonegan and Jennifer Kelleher for their tireless support, behind the scenes.



Mercy T-Shirts

Many of you already have the Mercy T-Shirt from previous years so in the interests of reducing waste and sustainability please re-use if possible. If you need a T-Shirt this can be collected from Mano Mano Barbers, Main Street Carrigaline, or message the Instagram page. Unfortunately, due to Covid, refreshments will not be served Christmas morning, but it won't take from the great fun of helping others!



The Impact of Danny's Life

Danny's life, though short, had a lasting impact on everyone he met. He was a fun loving, sporty, bright, and wonderful teenager who loved life. This year he would have been 21 years old, and it is so special to see how his friends and supporters honour him via this swim. We look forward to great 2021 swim!

Dr. Seán Crowley is Danny's older brother.

Fundraising pages can be set up online at

www.justgiving.com/campaign/DannyCrowleyXmasSwim

for family and friends to support. This link can also be used by anyone who wants to make a one-off donation.

To show your support and to get involved visit

www.justgiving.com/campaign/DannyCrowleyXmasSwim

Be sure to also check out

@[thedannycrowleyswim](https://www.instagram.com/thedannycrowleyswim) on Instagram

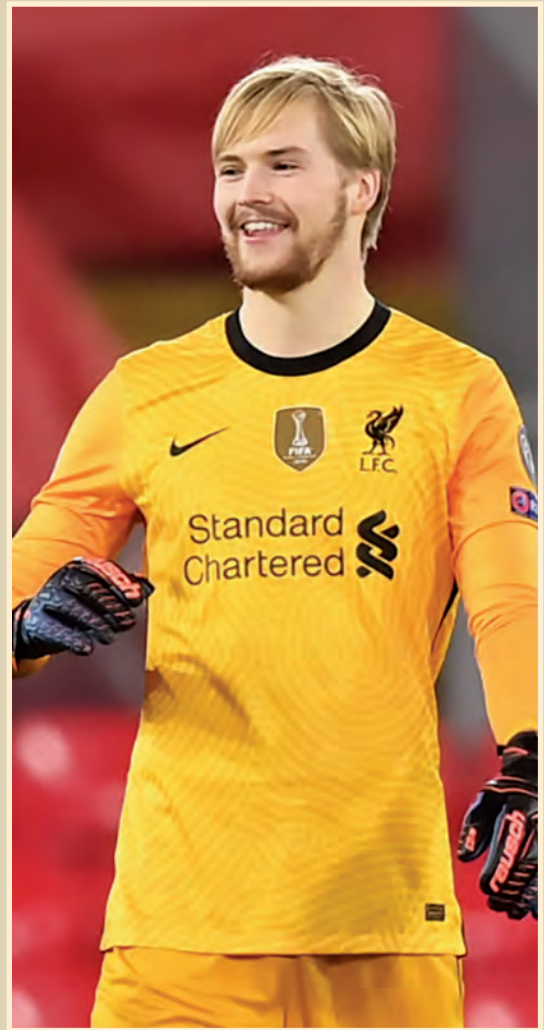
@[DannysXmasSwim](https://twitter.com/DannysXmasSwim) on Twitter



The Danny Crowley Memorial Christmas Swim on Facebook to see those braving the elements Christmas week and send in any pictures or videos of you taking part.

For more information on the Mercy Kids & Teens Appeal visit

www.mercyfundraising.ie



"I'm delighted to support the Danny Crowley Christmas Swim. The swim honours Daniel's memory and supports a wonderful cause. Daniel was in my class at school, in Pres, where both of our brothers also went to school and where my own father was a teacher. So, we all feel part of the Presentation Family.

I know Danny's family and his friends in Carrigaline. They have been doing amazing work in aid of the Mercy Hospital Services for children with cancer. Really looking forward to another memorable Christmas Swim in 2021 and hope to see another year of great participation."

Caoimhín Kelleher



“Tom was my Irish teacher. He was a rock and a source of constant support and encouragement to me and my family during that time”.

Conor highlights a key life skill he acquired while at CCRi was the ability to debate, stand up and make a cogent point and argue a position.

“Tony Power, my English teacher, taught me the value of content preparation, practice and delivery. I use these skills daily in my role as a leader and manager in health care advocating for patients and the services they need”.

Best wishes to Conor in his important work. We take this opportunity to salute the commitment of all those involved in our health services during this time of pandemic.

Beir bua!

ON THE FRONTLINE

MEET PROFESSOR OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE AND COLÁISTE CHRÍOST RÍ PAST PUPIL **CONOR DEASY**

Conor is Professor of Emergency Medicine and Clinical Director of Unscheduled Care at Cork University Hospital (CUH) and University College Cork. He is an Associate Adjunct Professor at the School of Primary Care, Monash University, Australia.

Having studied medicine at University College Cork, Conor completed his specialist training in Emergency Medicine in Ireland before moving to Australia where he worked as a Consultant in Emergency Medicine at the Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre, Melbourne. While there he completed a PhD at the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University in collaboration with Ambulance Victoria. To date Conor has published across the domains of patient safety, quality of care, systems of care, procedural sedation, trauma care as well as out of hospital cardiac arrest.

Conor Deasy entered Coláiste Chríost Rí in 1988. He attributes his initial interest in Science and Biology to legendary teacher, the late Jim Cremin (RIP). “Jim was an amazing educator and a huge influence”, says Conor. “To this day I use the explanatory diagrams taught by Jim in explaining medical conditions to my patients”.

In 1990 Conor’s Dad was diagnosed with head and neck cancer and died in 1991. “I am so grateful for the pastoral care provided to me by the staff in Chríost Rí” Conor mentions the late Tom O’Keefe (RIP).

A few years ago in a Coláiste Chríost Rí publication, Conor (while working in Australia) reflected on how the caring Christian ethos of Coláiste Chríost Rí is an inspiration to his work as an emergency physician:

“In my daily work as an Emergency Physician, I aspire to the ethos I personally saw manifest in Chríost Rí. When the chips are down, the resuscitation room patient fights for their life, the waiting room heaves with palpable and understandable impatience. The the Chríost Rí hard work ethic comes to the fore. When breaking bad news to patients or their families that empathetic eye that once looked into mine becomes focussed in my consciousness. When tensions are high, as they often are in the work I do, the Chríost Rí sense of humour is th release valve that keeps all sane. So tonight, as I cycle along the banks of Melbourne’s Yarra River, I look forward to a time when I can bring the skills, attitudes and behaviours acquired over the years to the city by the Lee to serve the people with whom my heart lies. This will be my thank you to the Chríost Ri community who harnessed the passion of a young boy.”

We are so glad you are back among us, Conor! All in the CCR Community and the Presentation Family are so proud of you and wish continued blessings on the work you do!

PRESLINK

Leadership Seminar with Brother Martin
12 November 2021

LEADERSHIP TRAINING



PRESLINK Committee with Aelin O'Donoghue (Deputy Principal) and Mick Carey (Director, Mission Development Office).

On Friday last, November 12th, the TY members of Preslink had a leadership seminar in Mardyke House. We were welcomed and introduced to the seminar by Br. Simon Fernandes. After the brief introduction, Br. Martin Kenneally, Director of the LEAF Project, discussed how Preslink started and why it started. He then spoke about leadership within Preslink. We learned leadership skills to assist us throughout our Preslink journey such as, making people feel welcome when we meet them, inspiring others to share our goals, recognising that we are in some ways privileged and how we then have certain responsibilities to those less fortunate than us and of course we must be proactive as a student group. Subsequent to the discussions with Br. Martin, we had a presentation from Mr. Mick Carey, Mission Development Officer. This gave us a great insight into what happens with the money we raise.

We learned about the dangers students in Ghana and Nigeria face on a regular basis, about the new schools built, feeding programmes set up and how the Presentation Brothers dealt with COVID-19. I personally found this presentation very useful because I now feel more connected with Preslink and motivated to help as much as I can. At the end, we discussed the presentation and concluded with some prayer. Overall it was a very productive day and I think everyone who attended learned some valuable skills to aid Preslink. *Maurice Minogue, TY Preslink Committee.*

November Staff Prayer

A Moment of Prayer and Reflection

God of Love, bless us as we approach Presentation Day.
Bless our school community.
Bless our students, staff and parents.
In the month of November,
we remember in a special way our deceased loved ones,
including past staff members and students of our school.
We pray for courage in our work as educators in these
challenging times of the Covid 19 pandemic.
Help us to be there for each one another and for our students.
Help us to support one another.
Help us to bring hope to young people.
May Mary of the Presentation,
woman of courage, guide our path and our way.
May the liberating vision of Blessed Edmund Rice inspire us.
We make this prayer, through Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.



L to R: Br. Barry; Ms Brenda Moriarty (Principal); Ms. Anne Cleary (Teacher)

BR. BARRY NOEL VISITS COLÁISTE AN SPIORAID NAOIMH

BR. BARRY NOEL is a member of the Congregation Leadership Team of the Presentation Brothers. He is a native of the island of Grenada in the West Indies and is a past pupil of PBC, St. George's Grenada. Barry has now lived in Ireland for several years and is an Irish citizen. He is in charge of our Formation House in Glashule, Dublin, where a number of young men from Sri Lanka and Pakistan are training to be Presentation Brothers, while studying at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. Br. Barry has been centrally involved in planning for new Presentation missions in the coming years in Sri Lanka and Haiti.

A School with Spirit!

Br. Simon Fernandes joins the Team at Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh



Ms. Aghna Fallon, R.E. Teacher, Colaiste an Spioraid Naoimh and Br. Simon Fernandes at Mass in Church of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, Dennehy's Cross, with second year class group. As part of the 'Presentation Week' celebrations in the school, each year group did something special to mark the feast. Second years went to Mass in class groups in the local Church. The Mass was preceded by a talk and tour of the Church by Fr. Bertie O Mahony. Well done to all concerned for celebrating the feast in such a lovely way!

Thanks to Mr. Philip O'Sullivan, Deputy Principal, who also accompanied this class and sent on the photo!. Thanks to Ms. Anne Cleary for information on the various Presentation Day celebrations in CSN. Comhghairdeas!

In at the Deep End!

Br. Simon Fernandes attended his graduation ceremony in Maynooth on Saturday, moved to Cork on Sunday, and at 8 a.m. Monday morning, he was in Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh, Bishopstown, helping to film the school's message for Presentation Day! "It was in at the deep end" according to Simon, "but I loved it from the beginning. Everyone has been so welcoming".

A Young Presentation Brother

Simon, originally from Pakistan, is a Presentation Brother in training. "I have just finished a degree in theology and sociology, and I would have about three more years of further studies, before I would be due to take final vows".

A Great Welcome

With the support of P.B.S.T. and the school Board of Management, Br. Simon was given the opportunity to do pastoral placement in CSN this year, helping with the R.E. and Chaplaincy Department.

"I got a great welcome from our Principal, Ms. Moriarty and our Deputy Principals, Mr. Ó Tuama and Mr. O'Sullivan. I work closely with a number of teachers, especially Ms. Cleary,

Ms. Fallon and Ms. Dorgan. I am learning a huge amount from them. All the staff and students have been very welcoming. There is clearly a very special spirit in this school" says Simon.

This was evident in the recent film message from CSN for Presentation Day, which evoked a hugely positive response. Messages of appreciation came in from all over the world.

Special Spirit

"Spioraid Naoimh first years are often told that they have landed in a very good school" says Simon "I feel that's true. I feel like a first year with a lot to learn, but I feel very privileged to be part of this school community. I hope I can contribute in some small way as well".

Br. Simon says his first weeks in the school have been busy but very enjoyable. "It's a new experience for many staff and students to meet a young Presentation Brother. However, I hope my presence can provide a link between Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh and the wider Presentation Family. For me, it's just great to be here" says Simon.

Best wishes to Br. Simon in his pastoral placement. May the Holy Spirit guide bless and guide all in the Community of Colaiste an Spioraid Naoimh.



Br. Simon with his Director of Formation, Br. Barry Noel



Br. Simon with Archbishop Eamon Martin (Chancellor, Pontifical University, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth) and fellow students on Graduation Day



Graduation Ceremony in historic Maynooth Chapel



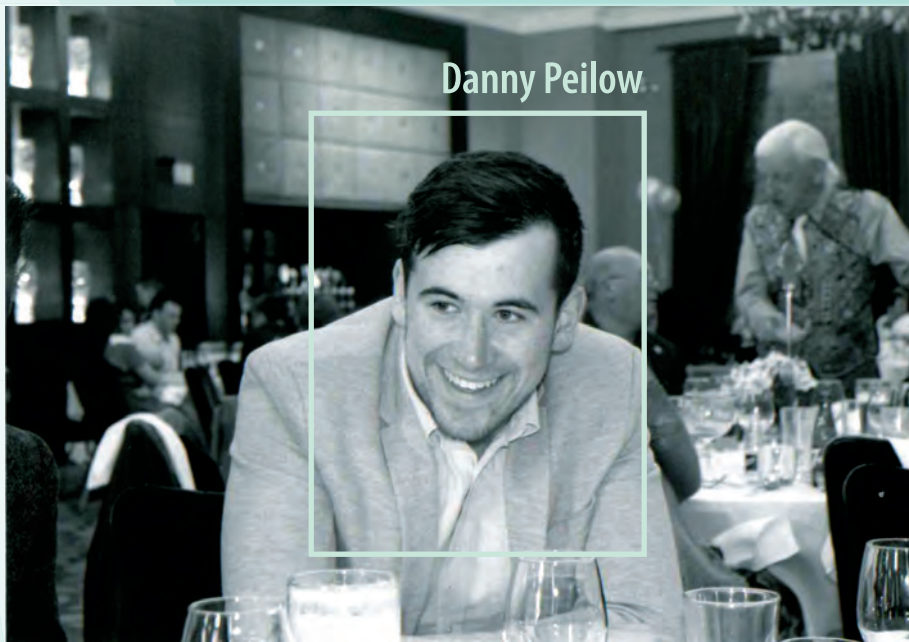
Spioraid Naoimh Students gather around School Advent Wreath with Br. Simon.



Br. Simon with Students in the Prayer Room, Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh.



Spioraid Naoimh Students at Christmas Crib with Br. Simon.



Danny Peilow's Transplant Journey

A Second Chance at Life

"It feels like I've been given a second chance at a life. I'm so grateful to my family and friends and so many medical people. I now intend to live life to the full".

As Danny Peilow reflects now on his journey, this side of successful kidney transplant surgery, it's a long way from a dark day in September 2020, in C.U.H., when he was diagnosed with kidney failure. His only chance of survival was a kidney transplant.

"It hit me like a tonne of bricks" says Danny and turned my life upside down".

Life-Changing Diagnosis

Danny, a past pupil of PBC Cork and a graduate of UCC, was working in Laya Health Care at the time. He was loving his first job and enjoying an active life. "I was always into sport. I had rowed in school and loved swimming. I had a kidney issue since childhood but had no idea it would take this turn".

Danny's diagnosis would have an equally life-changing effect on his family – parents, Eileen and Pat, his brother Tom, and Tom's girlfriend, Louise.

"They were all brilliant. I couldn't have got through it without them" says Danny.

A Difficult Journey

Danny's mother, Eileen, looking back, can now reflect on a very traumatic time. The emotion is still raw. "From Danny's diagnosis in September 2020 to the date of his surgery 23 August 2021 was the

most difficult time of our lives" says Eileen "We had the paradox of another wise healthy young man, who was at death's door. It was a hard time. But people were amazing – our family, Danny and Tom's friends, the wider community. We had so many people praying for us. We really appreciated all the support".

Courage, Character and Humour

Eileen feels that it was Danny's personality – his great character, courage and sense of humour that brought him through. Coping with this experience would have been difficult at any time, but to do so during a time of Covid was so much harder. "Covid complicated an already difficult situation. The need for isolation, the routine of dialysis, visits to C.U.H. and to Dublin – this became Danny's life. It was not knowing when or how it would end that made it really stressful".

A Brother's Love

Danny's brother Tom was his kidney donor. "Once I was deemed suitable, there was no question but that I wanted to donate" says Tom "That's what brothers are for!" When Tom went to his physician, Ms. Little for his post op check-up, he said to her "You're a magician!". Ms. Little's reply was "No, Tom. You're the magic one. You are the hero. You have given the gift of life". How true! For Danny, Eileen and Pat, Tom and Louise, 23 August will always be a red-letter day in their lives.

Excellent Medical Care

"We are so grateful that the surgeries were so successful. Danny and Tom received excellent medical care at all stages of this journey. We have so many people to whom we are truly grateful" says Eileen. As well as family and amazing friends, Eileen mentions supportive



employers, then the wonderful Mr. Liam Plant and the nurses in the Renal Ward in C.U.H., especially Phil, Rachel, Mary and May. In Beaumont Hospital, Dublin, the Transplant Co-ordinator and the Staff in St. Damien's Renal Ward were brilliant. Tom's surgeon, Ms. Dilly Little and Danny's surgeon, Mr. Ian Robertson, were outstanding.

Looking to the Future

"My life was on hold for over a year" says Danny "but now I am looking to the future with new hope. My doctors are telling me to go and live a normal life. I intend to live life to the full. It's probably the best way I can repay all those who supported me" says Danny "I hope my journey will encourage other people waiting for transplants. There will be dark days, but you can always get through with the help of family and friends".

We thank God for this good news story. Congratulations to a wonderful family and to two young men of courage!

Thanks to the Peilow Family for sharing their story. We wish Danny and Tom health, happiness and every blessing in the years ahead. The Peilows are very much part of the Presentation Family. Tom and Danny are past pupils of P.B.C. Cork. Eileen is the Secretary at the Presentation Brothers Province Office. Mardyke House.



(ABOVE) Pat, Eileen, Danny, Louise and Tom.
(BELOW) Eileen with sons, Danny and Tom.

Letter to a New Leader

Brother Dominic Sassi CFC



Life has changed so much since I first took on a leadership role, not least in the educational world. However, some things remain the same. Leadership is about people and your ability to inspire them, encourage them and motivate them. I have spent forty years in one leadership role or another, in education and in my religious Congregation. I will share with you some learnings from that experience and respectfully offer some advice for new and incoming leaders.

The Call to Leadership

I consider a leader, not simply to be doing a job, but to be living out a vocation. I say that, not because I am a Religious Brother, but because any leader worthy of the name is called to focus on serving the common good and so contributes both to the material as well as the spiritual well-being of society and of those she serves.

First, the task of leadership today needs a thoroughly professional approach. Training, in-service and ongoing formation are critical. As leaders tasked with detailed planning, we must help those with whom we serve to understand and buy into why we do what we do. Regular, on-going and clear communication from the leader is critical.

It is also important to try and remain faithful to the principles of good leadership, namely integrity, selflessness, openness, accountability and inclusion of all those you serve. Some of the practices that I have found helpful include:

- **Observing and noticing the activities all around the school**
- **Listening and learning from students, teachers, staff and parents**
- **Interacting and collaborating with members of the staff.**
- **When I was a school principal, I liked to get out of my office and move around the school. This helped me to get to know all the students. These practices apply to other forms of leadership as well. Don't stay stuck at your desk living a virtual life. Get to know your people and spend time with them.**
- **I believe the good leader must be a relational leader, a peoples' person. She should aim for a healthy professional relationship based on cooperation and collaboration, mutual respect, and sensitivity towards others, and open communication.**

Servant Leadership – the Christian Way

What exactly is servant leadership? We see servant leadership in the life and work of Jesus who said: "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve." The night before he died, Jesus gave an amazing example of servant leadership when he washed his disciples' feet and urged them, "I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you; now you should wash each other's feet." His very life was lived for others.

Edmund Rice as Leader

We see the same in the life of Blessed Edmund Rice. Like Jesus, he also gave everything he had for the welfare of others. The story of the rich young man in Matthew's gospel is turned upside down in the life of Edmund Rice because what the rich young man found impossible to do, Edmund did in a precise and literal way. He did sell what he had, gave it to the poor and then followed Christ in the manner that appeared to him to be most spiritually productive and materially practical. He sold his thriving business and devoted the proceeds to the most deprived of God's children. And having exchanged his comfortable home for a bleak room in a stable loft, he devoted himself as well. Edmund Rice was passionate for mission. He gathered a community around him to pursue that mission. How does this mission challenge us today?

LEADERSHIP

Do not be afraid!

I say to any prospective leader – do not be afraid! Your resources are more than you could have ever imagined. You belong to a world-wide network which, by working together, will allow you to achieve amazing results. Seek the advice of colleagues and other leaders. Surround yourself with a number of highly talented people who will both support you and give you critical feedback.

One of the things I enjoyed when I was engaged in Congregational leadership was to visit Brothers' communities and schools in different parts of the world and see the marvellous work, they and the Edmund Rice Network were doing in the name of Jesus and Edmund. And you share that same spirit. Constantly seek to learn from the good practice of those who are doing the mission well.

'Your life is the greatest enterprise in the world' Pope Francis

Pope Francis spoke these words at the beginning of 2018: "You can have flaws, and be anxious, and even be angry, but do not forget that your life is the greatest enterprise in the world. Only you can stop it from going bust. Many appreciate you, admire you and love you.

Remember that to be happy is not to have a sky without a storm, a road without accidents, work without fatigue, relationships without disappointments. To be happy is to find strength in forgiveness, hope in battles, security in the face of fear, love in discord. It is not only to enjoy the smile, but also to reflect on the sadness. It is not only to celebrate the successes, but to learn lessons from the failures. . . . Use your losses to train patience. Use your mistakes to sculpture serenity. Use pain to plaster pleasure. Use obstacles to open windows of intelligence. Never give up Never give up on people who love you. Never give up on happiness, for life is an incredible show."

Your challenge is to inspire others through your leadership. It is a great privilege to be called to lead. Enjoy the journey. I wish you well!



Brother Dominic Sassi is an English Christian Brother. He was a school principal in England and served in international leadership in his Congregation for many years.

The Catholic School Today

A Challenging Vision

*"I came that they may have life
and have it to the full" (Jn,10:110)*

- *A Catholic School strives firstly to be a good school. A good school is a place where teaching and learning take place in an atmosphere where students and staff are respected and cherished.*
- *Every system of education is based on a vision of life, a set of values and an understanding of the human person.*
- *A Catholic school engages in the work of education, animated by a Catholic Christian vision of life.*
- *Catholics believe in a God of Love who entered human history in the person of Jesus Christ and lives in every human person through the power of the Holy Spirit.*
- *This has profound implications for the type of education offered by the Catholic community to young people.*
- *The person and message of Jesus Christ are at the heart of teaching and learning in a Catholic school.*
- *School leadership, staff and students endeavour to make good human values and the values of the gospel a lived reality in the life of the school community.*
- *The Catholic School sees the human person as possessing eternal value and significance. Students are prepared to be good people, good citizens in society and with a view to their eternal destiny with God. The Catholic School seeks to develop the full potential of the human person.*
- *The Catholic School seeks to educate for faith and justice, so that its students can contribute to the transformation of the world, animated by Catholic social teaching and the gospel vision of justice and peace.*
- *This expresses itself in an education which seeks to give special respect and care to the most vulnerable in society and also stresses our responsibility towards the Earth, our common home.*
- *The Catholic School in its vision transcends national boundaries and develops in students a sense of being part of a global Catholic community. It fosters respect and appreciation for people of diverse faiths, cultures and beliefs, both in the school community itself and in the wider society.*
- *The Catholic School seeks to be a community where human flourishing is facilitated, in line with the words of Jesus: 'I came that they may have life and have it to the full' (Jn.10:10).*

An Extraordinary Leader

Anthony Kenneally Retires as Principal of Scoil Iosaef Naofa, Cobh.



A grateful school says thanks

Teacher, Seán Ó Loinsigh pays tribute on behalf of the School Community.

It is a great honour, on behalf of the school community of Scoil Iosaef Naofa, Cobh, to pay tribute to our esteemed and much loved colleague and leader, Tony, on the occasion of his recent retirement.

Presentation Tradition

As a young man, Anthony was steeped in the ethos of the Presentation Brothers tradition. His family has contributed massively to education in the Presentation Community. Having graduated from U.C.C. and St. Patrick's College of Education, Anthony joined the staff of Scoil Iosaef Naofa in 1982. His brother, Br. Martin was already teaching there.

'The Brothers'

Our school, back then, was very much known as 'The Brothers'. The Principal was Br. Stephen, a man hugely respected, especially for his love of sport and mentoring of young people. He was succeeded by the highly esteemed, Br. Benildus, who was the last Brother Principal. Our school then entered a new era in 1992, as Michael Farrell and then Anthony Kenneally led our school for the following 29 years. Scoil Iosaef continued to be referred to as 'The Brothers'. Certainly, both Mike and Tony ensured that we remained a school in the Presentation and Edmund Rice tradition.

Presentation Ethos

Many occasions were marked in those years to maintain the connection, especially through the celebration of Presentation Day, and engaging the students in projects on the life of Edmund Rice. We proudly competed in hurling in the Edmund Rice blitz, and in gaelic football in the Cork/Kerry Colm Cooper Cup in Killarney. On a personal note, I have a great memory of the year Tony devoted the day to travel with me to Presentation Monastery School, Killarney, for that competition. I think got a strong impression of the sense of collegiality among our Presentation school colleagues.

Maintaining the Link

At this point, I reflect on the departure of Anthony Kenneally from Scoil Iosaef. With him departs an enormous connection with the Presentation Order. All of us here wish to maintain the link, but the onus is on us to work at it. I am pleased that our present logo and signage includes a reference to 'A Catholic School in the Presentation Tradition'.

A Skilled Educator

Anthony taught in our school as a skilled educator for almost 4 decades, mostly in the senior classes. In his last years as a classroom teacher, he moved to teach in a junior class. This was a bold move on his part, though it proved a great, wise and beneficial thing to do, in preparation for his time as school leader.

Extraordinary Leader

In Anthony's decade as principal, he displayed extraordinary leadership. He led the establishment of 'An Droichead', our additional needs unit. He displayed outstanding guidance to his colleagues in many difficult situations. He provided support to staff in times of crisis, above and



Kate and Anthony Kenneally

beyond what might be expected of a principal. He was an exemplary leader.

Anthony also provided advice for colleagues consistently on matters of teaching, planning, evaluating and communicating with parents/guardians. His advice was invariably spot on. He was wise and skilful in the recruitment of staff.

Handing on the Baton

Tony retires just after Marty Fleming, Willie McSweeney, Maureen O'Connell and a short while after a number of other staff members. It marks a major time of change on our staff. The onus is now on us, the current staff, to ensure that our school continues to be 'A Catholic school in the Presentation Tradition'.

Celebration

At the end of June, in line with Covid guidelines, we held an outdoor celebration to mark Tony's retirement. It was a very enjoyable occasion, though wholly inadequate as a means of marking such a long and distinguished career. We have yet to give him the type of 'send-off' he so richly deserves.

On behalf of our school community, I wish Tony health and happiness in retirement. I thank him for his friendship and hope that he remains in ongoing contact with us.

Go n-éirí leat sa toadhcaí, Tony. Go bhfágfaidh Dia do shláinte agat chun taitneamh a bhaint as na blianta amach romhat le do chéile, Kate.

Seán Ó Loingsigh.

Anthony is succeeded as Principal by Mr. Andrew Bowen. We welcome Andrew to the Presentation Family. We wish him and all the Staff every blessing and success as they continue to build on the great tradition of Scoil Iosaef Naofa.



Anthony is presented with the jersey of his beloved Leeds United, by Scoil Iosaef teacher and Cork Footballer, Orla Finn.



Happy Staff!

NEWS FROM SCHOOLS

WONDERFUL DAY FOR CCR

“For A Leader”

by John O’Donohue



BRÁIDE NA COIRBIRE
COLÁISTE CHRÍOST RÍ



L to R: Br. Martin Keneally, former Principals Mick Carey and Seán Culhane, An Taoiseach Micheál Martin, T.D., Pádraig Mac An Rí, Principal.

Taoisach visits his Alma Mater Coláiste Chríost Rí.



Beannacht

Blessing for a Leader

(This text was read by Mr. Pádraig Mac An Rí, Principal of Coláiste Chríost Rí, as he welcomed Taoiseach and iarscoláire, Micheál Martin, to the Coláiste).

Loving God, we ask you to be with us as we pray this blessing today on our Taoiseach and iarscoláire, Micheál Martin. Written by the Irish author, poet, and philosopher John O’Donohue in his book ‘Bless the Space Between Us’, the blessing speaks to the true essence of a leader. It emphasises that leadership is both a choice and practice – a way of living – not merely a position or title.

May you have the grace and wisdom
To act kindly, learning
To distinguish between what is
personal and what is not.
May you be hospitable to criticism.
May you never put yourself at the centre of things.
May you act not from arrogance but out of service.
May you work on yourself,
building up and refining the ways of your mind.
May those who work for you know
you see and respect them.
May you learn to cultivate the art of presence
in order to engage with those who meet you.
When someone fails or disappoints you,
may the graciousness with which you engage
be their stairway to renewal and refinement.
May you treasure the gifts of the mind
through reading and creative thinking
so that you continue as a servant of the frontier
where the new will draw its enrichment from the old,
And may you never become a functionary.
May you know the wisdom of deep listening,
the healing of wholesome words,
the encouragement of the appreciative gaze,
the decorum of held dignity,
The springtime edge of the bleak question.
May you have a mind that loves frontiers
so that you can evoke the bright fields
that lie beyond the view of the regular eye.
May you have good friends
to mirror your blind spots.
May leadership be for you
a true adventure of growth.
And we make this prayer, for you Taoiseach,
through Christ Our Lord. Amen.
Beannacht Dé ort!

NEWS FROM SCHOOLS



Colaiste Muire, Cobh:
Raising funds for Charities: Marymount Hospice and Simon



Colaiste Muire, Cobh:
In November, we remember!



PRESLINK 4th year committee members help organise 1st year sponsored walk

□ **Teacher Luke Mc Carthy writes from Bunscoil Chríost Rí, Turners Cross, Cork:**

A Tradition of Giving

Our Annual Christmas Charity Raffle

In Bunscoil Chríost Rí, the tradition of giving to those in need has continued strongly since the 1980s. Since then, the students and staff of our school organise a Monster School Raffle along with a Toy and Bake sale to fundraise for charities who do wonderful work for those in need. The charities that we have fundraised for during the last 40 years include: St. Vincent De Paul, Trocaire, Chernobyl Children's fund to name but just a few.

Christmas Fundraising since the 1980s



By the children at Bunscoil Chríost Rí



PRESLINK Walk for Africa

PBC First Years on Presentation Day Walk for Schools in Africa.

NEWS FROM SCHOOLS

LOVING OUR EARTH

From Planting to Harvest in Bunscoil Chríost Rí

This year we planted potatoes. Each row were in charge of a grow bag. Firstly we rolled down the bag and carefully poured in the soil. Then we dug a hole 5 inches from the bottom and placed the seed potatoes in, covered them up and watered them. Once a week we take it in turns to check on them, cover over any green shoots, add some more soil and water them. We planted 3 different varieties and the best crop was from a variety call Charlotte We all had great fun and were thrilled when we saw the harvest.

□ By Aoife

Thanks to teacher Una O'Halloran for forwarding.



Art in a Time of Covid

Students in Bunscoil Chríost Rí reflect on the lives of Nano Nagle and Edmund Rice. Thanks to Willie Fitzgerald, Deputy Principal, for forwarding this image to us.

NEWS FROM SCHOOLS

School Tour in a pandemic.

Meithal Team help organise tour for 1st years in Coláiste Muire, Cobh.

FOTA WILDLIFE PARK

Meitheal at Coláiste Muire, Cobh.

□ Teacher and Meitheal Facilitator Deborah Culhane writes:

A school tour in a pandemic is no mean feat yet that is precisely what the Meitheal Team at Coláiste Muire, Cobh achieved earlier this year. The Child of Prague was put out in the school book shop and he did not let the First Years down! It was a glorious day out. There were two team building activities followed by a guided tour of the Fota Wildlife Park.

The tour was subsidised by the school with a bus provided for each First Year class and a fee reduction. Covid 19 guidelines were adhered to with the compulsory wearing of masks indoors, social distancing on the bus (a 12 minute journey) and at the Wildlife Park.

The excitement was palpable and the Meitheal Team did enormous work ensuring that the day went smoothly with the collection of fees, parental permission slips and keeping the groups together on the day.

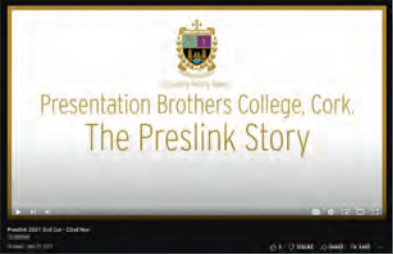
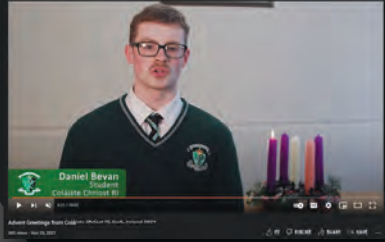
Love was in the air with two of the rhinos at Fota, the students were transfixed with their distant cousins the gibbons and each group went behind the scenes and met the giraffes up close and personal.

Well done to the Meitheal Team on organising a fun educational and inspiring day out!





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zouuaVGnsYo&t=3s>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=143JpbdDc7M>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zouuaVGnsYo>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_nhx8f-sl
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=143JpbdDc7M>



Some of the school film messages you can catch on YouTube



P.B.S.T. School Film Messages Spread Across the World.

Congratulations to Cork schools, Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh, Coláiste Chríost Rí and Presentation Brothers College, Mardyke on producing some really inspirational film messages in recent times. Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh sent greetings for Presentation Day (21 November), while Colaiste Chríost Rí produced an Advent Message. PBC focussed their message on the story of PRESLINK – a mission awareness group active in the school for over fifteen years now. PRESLINK has done great work in linking with and fundraising for Presentation Schools in Africa.

All three messages were received enthusiastically and evoked a huge response in terms of emails, texts and letters. Messages of appreciation were received from all over the world. The links were shared not only in the Presentation Brothers Network but among the Christian Brothers, the Edmund Rice Network and the Presentation Sisters / Nano Nagle Network.

The messages helped build connectivity between the schools and also showcased the unique features of each school community. We look forward to new film messages in 2022 from more P.B.S.T. schools and other schools in the Presentation tradition!

See below some letters of congratulations on our film messages from Br. Edmund Garvey CFC and Br. John Ledwidge CFC.

Special thanks to Bishop Fintan Gavin, Bishop of Cork & Ross, who contributed encouraging words to the Presentation Day, Advent and PRESLINK messages. We appreciate Bishop Fintan's support!

Br. Edmund Garvey sent this to the Christian Brother / Edmund Rice Network internationally.
Thank you Br. Edmund for helping to spread our messages and for your kind word of support.

Dear Brothers and Friends,

Greetings from Marino!

Please see below a message which I have received from Brother Martin Kenneally of the Presentation Brothers. First of all, I extend to our Presentation Brothers, Presentation Sisters, and all in the Presentation Family, blessings and much happiness for Presentation Day 2021.

I urge you to follow the link which Martin has sent to us and which was prepared by the staff and students at Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh (Holy Spirit College), Cork.

It confirms me in the view that the golden age of schools in the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice belongs very much to the twenty-first century.

It is truly inspiring, indeed heart-warming, to listen to staff, students, former students, and indeed a Presentation Brother of the new era sharing their vision, sense of mission, and rich humanity.

I congratulate all at Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh with heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

May this Presentation Day 2021 bring all who follow Blessed Edmund Rice more deeply and passionately into the Mystery of God, so specially manifested in Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

Blessings and Kind Regards,
Edmund

Br. Edmund Garvey is Province Leader of the European Province of the Christian Brothers. He was Congregation Leader of the Brothers from 1996 to 2002. He has extensive experience of leadership in Religious Life and a wide knowledge of contemporary developments in Church and in education.

Letter from Br. John Ledwidge CFC



Br. John Ledwidge

Dear Martin,

I have just watched the Presentation Day Greeting from Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh. It is heart-warming!

The Coláiste is clearly the essence of what one would hope an Edmund Rice School would be. From the inspiring speech by the Principal, down through the statements by Deputy Principals, the teacher from the Religion Department., other teachers, and the boys, one could sense a school totally committed to Christian education and the particular values that an Edmund Rice education has come to embody.

The whole was splendid. The School and its values today, are a great tribute to the Brothers and Teachers over the years, who have made it the outstanding School that it is. And it clearly promises to carry these human and Christian values into the future, for the benefit of new generations of Cork young people.

It really is an inspiring School! I am grateful for seeing this.

*With many thanks,
John Ledwidge.*

Br. John Ledwidge CFC studied at Queen’s University, Belfast, Mount Oliver Catechetical Institute and Loyola University, New Orleans. He taught in several Christian Brother schools in the North, as well as lecturing in English and Religious Education in the Teacher Training College in Marino, where a young Martin Kenneally was one of his students! “John was a great teacher and gave me a life- long enthusiasm for the challenge of Religious Education” says Br. Martin. During his time in Omagh, John was awarded the ‘Man of the Year Award’ for outstanding service to the people of the town through Protestant and Catholic encounter and a range of social and pastoral programmes. Now in very active retirement in Dublin, he remains passionate about the mission of Edmund Rice education today.

MARGARET MURPHY - HONORARY DOCTORATE AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK



Proud Family!



In the groves of academe

The Love of a Mother for Her Son – Making Health Care Safer for All

Honorary Doctor of Medicine Degree Conferred on Margaret Murphy

Br. Bede Minehane writes:

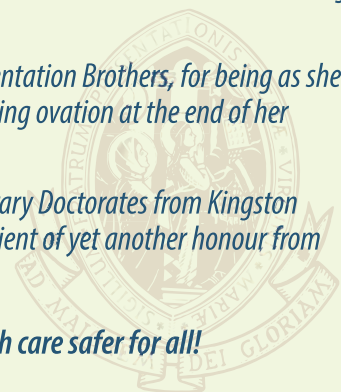
There was pomp and ceremony and a buzz of excitement in the Devere Hall, UCC, for the conferring of the nursing graduates of 2021, on November 5th. There was an added sense of occasion with the extraordinary citation by President John O'Halloran, during the conferring of an honorary Doctor of Medicine on Margaret Murphy, former Secretary at Presentation Brothers Generalate, Mount St. Joseph.

UCC's head of Student Health, Dr. Michael Byrne delivered an exceptionally warm encomium for Margaret, calling her an 'extraordinary ordinary woman, who was driven by the greatest motivation of all – the love of a mother for her son.' Margaret turned a personal bereavement - the tragic and avoidable death of her son Kevin, into a worldwide crusade with the WHO, and succeeded in changing that way medics are trained in medical schools around the world – making healthcare safer for all.

During the course of her inspiring response Margaret paid warm tribute to the Presentation Brothers, for being as she said 'surrogate brothers' to her over many years. Margaret got a spontaneous standing ovation at the end of her acceptance speech. A well-deserved honour!

This is the third such honour conferred on Margaret. She had already received honorary Doctorates from Kingston University in Ontario and Queen's University, Belfast, Next year, she will be the recipient of yet another honour from The Royal College of Surgeons.

Congratulations Margaret, on all you have done and achieved in making health care safer for all!



Br. Denis Minehane

Sixty years of Service to Education:

Birr Honours Diamond Jubilee of Br. Denis

Fittingly, at a Mission Sunday Mass on 24 October, the people of Birr honoured the Diamond Jubilee of Br. Denis in their midst. The Mass, celebrated by Fr. Tom Hogan P.P., involved people of all ages and backgrounds, from Birr and surrounding areas. It was a wonderful celebration of Br. Denis' life and mission in Birr and his huge contribution to Irish education

At the end of the Mass, Br. Denis was presented with the St. Brendan medal and scroll, by Chairperson of the Parish pastoral Council, Brian Kennedy.

A Fortunate Day

"It was a truly fortunate day for Birr, when the Provincial of the Presentation Brothers decided to send a very young Br. Denis to the town in 1961" said Mr. Kennedy "He went on to become Principal of the former Presentation College, and later of the new Community School".

Mr. Kennedy recalled that St. Brendan's Community School had gone from strength to strength on the solid foundations laid by Br. Denis and his staff in the early days.

Generosity and Service

"The Christian spirit of generosity and service, which Br. Denis lived, permeated the ethos of the school". To this day, Br. Denis is still a member of the Board of Management. The Chairman said that Br. Denis had played a truly remarkable role in education and in the life of the community in Birr. In over four decades, five and a half thousand students have graduated from St. Brendan's Community School. They have contributed local, nationally and internationally in every known profession. All this could not have been achieved without the dedication and wise leadership of Br. Denis.

Now thank we all our God

In concluding, Mr. Kennedy invited Br. Denis to come forward to receive his medal and scroll. The presentation was greeted with prolonged applause from the congregation. The Mass ended with he singing of "Now thank we all our God". It was a fitting and memorable tribute by the people of Birr to a great Presentation Brother and a great educator.

Comhghairdeas Br. Denis! Ad multos annos!



Br. Denis with past pupil and friend Declan Hanniffy

Sixty
Years
Serving
the
People
of Birr

60
YEARS

Inspired by Blessed Edmund Rice

A Young Presentation Brother from Haiti writes:

My name is Widmaier Diogene, I was born on October 5, 1996, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

I am a novice in the Congregation of the Presentation Brothers, currently based in Ghana.

On Wednesday, 6 October, 2021 we celebrated the twenty fifth anniversary of the beatification of Edmund Rice. I am twenty-five years old! As mentioned, I was born on October 5, 1996. A day later, Edmund was beatified in Rome! It seems like my life and my vocation began with the beatification of Edmund.

God has chosen us since before we were born. God holds our future and the gifts that we have come from God.

For me, Blessed Edmund Rice is a model of faith and generosity in the following of Jesus and the service of young people.

I was really excited to celebrate my twenty fifth birthday alongside the twenty fifth anniversary of the beatification of Edmund!

I ask you to pray for me so that I may remain faithful as a young person who seeks God in this Congregation of the Presentation Brothers. Please pray also for all the young Brothers in formation in Ghana, Nigeria, Ireland and the West Indies. And pray for new vocations. This life is a wonderful life and a great challenge. The world today needs the authentic witness of real brothers and sisters. Come and See!

Br. Widmaier Diogene

Novice



For information on the vocation of the Presentation Brothers, please contact:

Br. Barry Noel

barrynoel@PresentationBrothers.org

087 7519794.

www.PresentationBrothers.org

or

Contact your local Presentation Community.

(**For information:** Beatification is a major step on the road to the Church formally declaring that a person is a saint. The person beatified is known as 'blessed'. Hence 'Blessed Edmund Rice').



Our Brother from Haiti

Our People

Best wishes Eileen

Best wishes to **Eileen Griffin** on her retirement as Secretary at Presentation Brothers Generalate, Mount St. Joseph. Eileen gave enormous service to the work of the Brothers and the Presentation Family over many years. She was well known to many Brothers and visitors to Mount St. Joseph.

Eileen was always welcoming, super-efficient and so helpful. We wish her many happy years ahead and a very active and fulfilled retirement!

Welcome on board Siobhan

We welcome **Siobhán McGrath-Buckley**, who has replaced Eileen as Secretary at the Generalate.

We hope Siobhan that you will be very happy in your new role, and we look forward to working with you!

Congratulations to Br. David Ang-Suura (Ghana),

who successfully completed the programme in child safeguarding at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome.
(photo top right)

Congratulations to our new finally professed Brothers

Br. Thive Sebastiyam Pillai (Ireland); **Br. McSimon Azenda** (Nigeria) and **Br. Daniel Obiagbafuna** (Nigeria).

And to our Brothers who recently made first profession in Ghana:

Br. Emmanuel Edoh; **Br. Saater Adamu Geoffrey** and **Br. Joshua Tochukwu**.
(photo below right)

Congratulations to our Jubilarians:

Br. Walter Hurley (Diamond); **Br. DePaul Hennessy** (Diamond);
Br. Patrick Fitzgibbon (Golden); **Br. Valerius Sandow** (Silver) and
Br. Barry Noel (Silver). Ad multos annos!

Congratulations on your 75th Anniversary Grenada and St. Lucia

Congratulations to the Presentation Brothers and Associates on the islands of Grenada and St. Lucia (West Indies). They are celebrating the seventy fifth anniversary of the Brothers' arrival on these islands. Special congratulations to Mr. Dominic Jeremiah (Principal) and the school community of Presentation Brothers College, St. Georges, Grenada, as they celebrate this important milestone.

"... always welcoming, super-efficient and so helpful..."

Moving on

"... wishing you many happy years ahead..."

Joining us

"... we look forward to working with you..."



Br. David Ang-Suura

Congratulations

Grenada
75th
ANNIVERSARY

Diocese of Cork and Ross: Ordination to Diaconate



At the Ordination to Diaconate of Rev. Ronan Sheehan by Bishop Fintan Gavin at the Cathedral of Ss Mary and Anne, Cork, on Saturday September 25th.

Ronan is from the parish of Murragh and Templemartin, which includes Newcestown in West Cork and is preparing to be a priest of the Diocese of Cork and Ross. Ronan's parents Denise and Bud (to his right) were in the congregation at the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Anne along with his sisters Ciara, Orlaith and Aoibhe, brother-in-law Trevor and niece Gia. His sister Leona in Portsmouth joined via live-stream.

Photo by : PETER PIETRZAK

ORDINATION

Signs of the Times @

MARDYKE HOUSE

We have been gradually re-opening the Edmund Rice Centre at Mardyke House for L.E.A.F. programmes and events.

See our new signs!
You are always
welcome here!



West Cork Pilgrim Walks



Join us in the Spring for some more retreat walks on Cork's Wild Atlantic Way!

People need wild places. Whether or not we think we do, we do. We need to be able to taste grace and know again that we desire it. We need to experience a landscape that is timeless, whose agenda moves at the pace of speciation and glaciers. To be surrounded by a singing, mating, howling commotion of other species, all of which love their lives as much as we do ours, and none of which could possibly care less about us in our place. It reminds us that our plans are small and somewhat absurd.

It reminds us why, in those cases in which our plans might influence many future generations, we ought to choose carefully. Looking out on a clean plank of planet earth, we can get shaken right down to the bone by the bronze-eyed possibility of lives that are not our own.

Barbara Kingsolver,
Small Wonder.

leaf project
leadership education and formation project
Leading with Faith in the Future

WILD ATLANTIC WAY
SLÍ AN ATLANTAIGH FHIÁIN

Young Adult Retreat Walk

Thousands of Irish people have walked all or part of the famous Camino de Santiago Pilgrim Route in Spain. A walking practice is good for body, mind and spirit. Here in Cork, we have many beautiful walks on west Cork's Wild Atlantic Way. Join us for a mindful Sunday walk with some spiritual reflection along the way!

When? Sunday, 12 September 2021

Where? Start/Finish – the car park at the western end of Long Strand, about 9.5 km southwest of Clonakilty. Grid Ref: W323346.

Start Time: 11 a.m.

Distance: 8 km (walking time – 2.5 – 3 hours).
Br. Martin Kenneally, Presentation Brothers, will lead the walk and offer some reflections along the way.

General Guidelines

- Dress according to the weather. There is a German saying to the effect that there is no such thing as bad weather, only the wrong clothes!
- Have good walking shoes
- Bring a bottle of water and some snacks
- The event is entirely outdoors. Participation is at your own risk. It is your personal responsibility to observe all relevant health and safety and Covid 19 guidelines.
- The walk is for young adults, i.e., people over 18. At what age you stop being a young adult is flexible!

All welcome – spread the word!

R.S.V.P.
For more information
OR to register for this walk:

email
leafprojectpb@gmail.com

text / phone
087 226 0531

website
leafprojectpb.com

The feast of the Presentation
NOVEMBER 10, 2021

'What a Feast!' Seminar

On a recent winter's morning, a group of teachers and religion coordinators gathered with Br. Simon, Br. Martin and Mick Sexton of the PBST to discuss Presentation Day at the 'What a Feast!' seminar at the Edmund Rice Centre in Mardyke House. After we were welcomed by Br. Simon and Mick Sexton, Br. Martin spoke to us about the meaning behind the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lady that takes place on 21st November. As schools in the PBST, Presentation Day is widely celebrated in our school communities. Each school representative then spoke about how Presentation Day is celebrated in their own school. It was a wonderful opportunity for schools to share ideas and thoughts on how to celebrate this special day within our school community.

Leanne Thompson,
 St. Joseph's N.S., Mardyke, Cork.



10
 NOVEMBER

The feast of the Presentation of Mary

'WHAT A FEAST!' SEMINAR



and information project

*Leading with Faith
 in the Future*



To register for the
'WHAT A FEAST!' SEMINAR,
 email, or text Br. Martin:
 email
 leafprojectpb@gmail.com
 text / phone
 087 226 0531
 website
 leafprojectpb.com

The feast of the Presentation of Mary (21 November) has traditionally been celebrated in all Presentation Communities, Schools and Associate Groups. It is at the heart of our identity as a Presentation Family.

But what is this feast all about? And how can we celebrate it meaningfully today, especially with young people?

You are invited to, the Edmund Rice Centre, Mardyke House, Cork, for a short seminar to learn more about this feast

Date: **Wednesday, 10 November 2021**
 Time: **11.30am – 1.00pm** (Tea/Coffee available from 11.00am).

Representatives from school communities and associate groups will be given some resource materials and prayer services at the Seminar, which can be used with school and other groups in the week leading up to the feast on 21 November. Come for personal enrichment and share what you receive with others!

Representatives from PBST schools, please register through Mr. Michael sexton, C.E.O., PBST – michaelsexton@pbst.ie

The Seminar will be led by Br. Martin Kenneally.

The Seminar will be conducted in line with all Covid 19 protocols.
 Places are limited, so please book your place A.S.A.P.

Poetry from St. Joseph's

Edmund Rice

Teacher 5th Class
 Leanne Thompson

by Dylan Browne 5th Class

He was born in Kilkenny
 He had more than a penny
 He showed kindness to the poor
 They didn't have to ask for more
 He moved to Waterford
 Where he promised to live like a lord
 He saw young boys running around the streets
 So he set up a school where they could meet
 He married his love Mary Elliot, who passed away
 He missed her so much everyday
 On August 29th Edmund Rice passed away
 And he is always remembered up to this day

My School in the Mardyke

Teacher 6th Class
 Rút Kelleher

by Oisín Tobin 6th Class

There is a school down in the Mardyke
 That I would frequent almost every day
 I learned to read and write inside there
 It's part of me I have to say

Edmund Rice was its founder
 He set up schools when times were bad
 The people of Cork are ever grateful
 We have St Joseph's and now we're glad

Edmund Rice

Teacher 6th Class
 Rút Kelleher

by Eoin MacEneaney 6th Class

Edmund Rice is very nice but
 his education came with difficulty,
 For you see in the 18th century,
 Catholic education was in descendency
 Essentially, during the time of the
 Penal Laws there were some flaws,
 But let me quickly pause . . .

During this time Edmund learned from teachers
 who moved from town to town
 Until he finally travelled down to Waterford
 There he worked hard and learned a trade,
 Lived with his uncle and was finally getting paid

After an accident, devastation reigned, his wife died
 He was left in pain
 He turned his attention to the poor who would gain
 From a solid education so he inspired many
 and set teachers free
 To educate young kids, like you and me
 And that my friends is Rice's legacy.

We thank our young poets in St. Joseph's Mardyke, and their teachers, for sending us these lovely poems on Blessed Edmund Rice. Congratulations to the students and keep writing poetry!



Cork woman **Prof. Linda Doyle** tells us about her new role as Provost of Trinity College Dublin.

In August 2021, Cork woman Prof. Linda Doyle became the first woman Provost (President) of Trinity College Dublin. She is a past pupil of Togher Girls' National School and St Angela's College and is a graduate of University College Cork.

What is your philosophy of leadership?

I always say leadership is about service rather than power and for me everything flows from that. For me it is also hugely about empowering people to be the very best they can be. I also believe in taking a consultative and collaborative approach to decision-making. The best decisions, in my opinion, are informed by diverse views. That is why leadership is also about building a diverse team around you.

Leadership is also about responsibility and accepting that the buck stops with you. You have to be able to deal with the good and the bad.

Any tips you would give to young leaders?

Don't be afraid to put your hand up and volunteer to lead something. Usually there are more opportunities to lead than there are people who are willing to give it a go.

Everyone has insecurities and feels like an imposter from time-to-time. It goes with the territory. If you feel like this just talk to someone else in a leadership position and you will see how common it is - knowing others feel like this too does help!

There are so many things to learn about leadership so do not be afraid to dive in. There are different styles and approaches and techniques. There is no one right way to do things.

What is the idea of a university for today?

For me it is simply this: a university is there to make a positive difference in the world. I do believe in the transformative powers of education.

I also believe that an independent university that fosters critical thinking is part of the democratic fabric of a nation.

What are your hopes for the future of Trinity?

In my election campaign earlier this year I spoke about the values I want to see lived every day by our staff and students. I want to make Trinity a climate-first university with sustainability and biodiversity at the heart of our operations.

I also want Trinity to be an exceptional place to learn and a creative place to work. And I want to embed a deep-rooted fairness where equality, diversity and inclusion are ingrained in how we behave.

What are the biggest challenges you face?

The COVID-19 pandemic is the most serious challenge at the moment. Trying to strike a balance between protecting our students & staff, and offering an in-person college experience is not easy.

On top of that, there are other challenges such as the low funding given to universities in Ireland. We really need well-funded, dynamic universities. The pandemic has shown how vital it is for our society to have excellent researchers and experts on a whole range of topics. That is one of the great things that Trinity - and the other universities - offer Irish society today. With more funding we could provide more resources for our teaching too and give students an even better experience.

Best wishes to Prof. Linda Doyle as she leads Trinity into the future!



Br. Francis Agoah

FRANCIS



Br. Kevin Mascarenhas

KEVIN

MEET THE BROTHERS

MEET THE BROTHERS : BR. FRANCIS AGOAH Congregation Leader, Presentation Brothers

Tell us a little bit about your background

I was born in Bolgatanga, the regional capital of Upper East Region in the north-eastern part of Ghana. I was not born Catholic but due to the inspiration I got from my village Catechist who used to come to teach religion in our school, I started going to church at an early age. Apart from my father who remained a traditional believer until his death in 2002, the rest of my family converted to Catholicism.

In 1975, I gained admission into Notre Dame Secondary School where I met the Presentation Brothers for the first time. It was here the seed of my vocation was sown. The Brothers were totally dedicated to the growth of the young students under their care. They went beyond the call of duty to help and support the less academically and materially endowed students. In 1983, I joined the Presentation Brothers.

How do you see the mission of the Presentation Brothers today?

The mission of the Presentation Brothers continues to be relevant and necessary in today's world as we strive to adapt our ministries to meet needs and signs of the times. For example, in Ireland, we have found a new way of reaching out to young adults and other groups through the L.E.A.F Project. It is a wonderful example of how we are called to witness in new ways. Our recent initiatives of inviting young men from Haiti and Sri Lanka to join our Congregation is beginning to bear fruit. We have four men who have begun their studies with us in Grenada in the West Indies and three young Brothers from Sri Lanka.

What are your hopes for the future of Ghana?

Ghana is a country with a rich historical significance, being the first 'black' African country to gain independence from Britain in 1957. Even though the country started well after independence under our first President, Kwame Nkrumah, it has, over the years suffered many political and economic upheavals. This has affected its growth and development. However, things have improved over the past twenty years after genuine democracy took hold.

My hopes for the future of young people in my beloved Ghana are the following: that more job opportunities will be available to the many young men and women who emerge from our education system without hope of getting a decent job; that there would be less corruption in our body politic; that young people will be encouraged and empowered to make a positive contribution towards the future growth and prosperity of Ghana.

MEET THE BROTHERS

MEET THE BROTHERS : BR. KEVIN MASCARENHAS

From Karachi to Waterford

Br. Kevin's Mission Among Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Growing up in Pakistan, Br. Kevin Mascarenhas never dreamt he would spend fourteen years in Waterford working among asylum seekers and refugees.

"God has a sense of humour" says Br. Kevin, "I hardly knew where Waterford was, when I joined the Presentation Brothers in Canada, but that's where I ended up! A small group of us founded the Integration and Support Unit in Mount Sion, Waterford, and worked with over 5000 asylum seekers and refugees. I am also one of the founding members of the Place of Sanctuary Ireland Movement and the Cork City of Sanctuary Initiative. It's work I am passionate about".

Places of Sanctuary Ireland is a network of groups in cities, towns and local communities whose primary aim is to create a culture of welcome and safety for refugees, asylum-seekers and other immigrants, many of whom are seeking sanctuary from war and persecution. It creates opportunities for Irish people to meet these newcomers to our country, to hear their stories and to help them find a new home here among us.

Cork - A City of Sanctuary

Cork City of Sanctuary Movement is a member of the Places of Sanctuary Ireland and is in the process of securing recognition of Cork City as a Place of Sanctuary, inclusion and openness to migrants and people of migrant origin.

City of Sanctuary is also involved in Schools of Sanctuary, Universities of Sanctuary and Churches of Sanctuary.

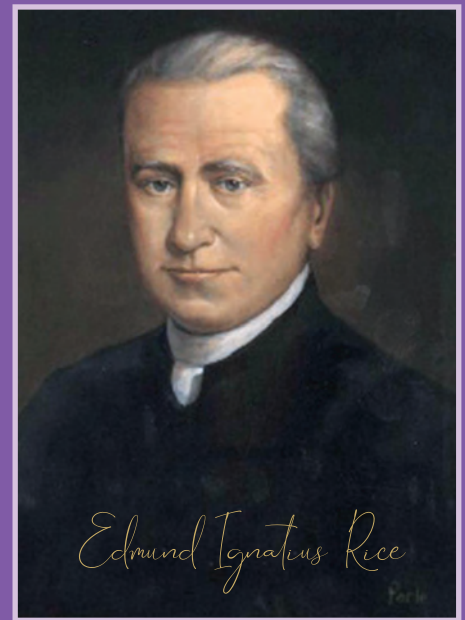
What is a School of Sanctuary?

A School of Sanctuary is a school that works on providing a sense of safety for those whose lives may be in danger in their own country, who have troubles at home or are just looking for a space where they can feel safe. The whole school is committed to making it a safe and welcoming place for anyone seeking sanctuary.

Churches of Sanctuary

The concepts of Sanctuary and Hospitality are prominent in many different faiths and are central to Christianity.

When a faith community receives the Place of Sanctuary designation, it is an affirmation that the community is one in which hospitality and sanctuary are



woven into their life and explicitly stated, so that those looking for a welcome will know that they will find one there.

Africa and Europe Faith and Justice Network

Br. Kevin is also part of the Africa and Europe Faith and Justice network; an international network of religious congregations and missionaries working to challenge and change structural injustice and inequality that impacts on the most vulnerable.

"I believe this work is close to the heart of Edmund Rice" says Br. Kevin, "I receive great support from the Brothers and the Presentation Family. I think, together, we can make a difference. Hospitality is so much part of Irish culture and the 'new' Irish can enrich our society in so many ways".

Best wishes Br. Kevin as he continues to develop this important mission.

Br. Kevin Mascarenhas is a member of the Congregation Leadership Team of The Presentation Brothers. He is based at Mount St. Joseph, Cork.

L.E.A.F. Project Christmas Card 2021

Reflection

Good is the Flesh

Good is the flesh that the Word has become,
good is the birthing, the milk in the breast,
good is the feeding, caressing and rest,
good is the body for knowing the world,
Good is the flesh that the Word has become.

Good is the body for knowing the world,
sensing the sunlight, the tug of the ground,
feeling, perceiving, within and around,
good is the body, from cradle to grave,
Good is the flesh that the Word has become.

Good is the body, from cradle to grave,
growing and ageing, arousing, impaired,
happy in clothing, or lovingly bared,
good is the pleasure of God in our flesh,
Good is the flesh that the Word has become.

Good is the pleasure of God in our flesh,
longing in all, as in Jesus, to dwell,
glad of embracing, and tasting, and smell,
good is the body, for good and for God,
Good is the flesh that the Word has become.

Brian Wren, *Poet and Hymn-writer*



Christmas Blessings



And the Word became flesh, and lived among us' (John 1:14).



Sr. Imelda Wickham

DOES TRUE JUSTICE CALL FOR PUNISHMENT OR FOR HEALING?

Presentation Sister and Prison Chaplain publishes book - 'Unheard Voices'

For the Christian, to look on the other as God intended is to acknowledge their inherent humanity, with all its strengths as well as its vulnerabilities. Once we accept this holistic perspective, we are bound to apply it, including in our response to and treatment of the perpetrators of crime.

In a new book, *Unheard Voices: Reflections of a Prison Chaplain*, author, Presentation Sister Imelda Wickham throws down the gauntlet and challenges us to listen to the voices of the incarcerated. She gives us a brief human insight into life behind bars in our penal institutions. She also gives voice to those so often unheard through her reflections on the stories of prisoners about the reality of life within a prison cell.

Sr. Imelda also draws our attention to the injustice abounding in our society where incarceration is deployed rather than hospitalisation for those suffering from addiction and mental health problems. She questions the use of prisons to deal with addictions, mental health issues and homelessness.

She challenges us to both literally and metaphorically 'pull down the walls' in the design of our societal punishment system: calling for a restorative justice system, with support and rehabilitation built into the penalty, Wickham argues that true justice lies in healing for all involved in criminal behaviour, including victim, perpetrator and society.

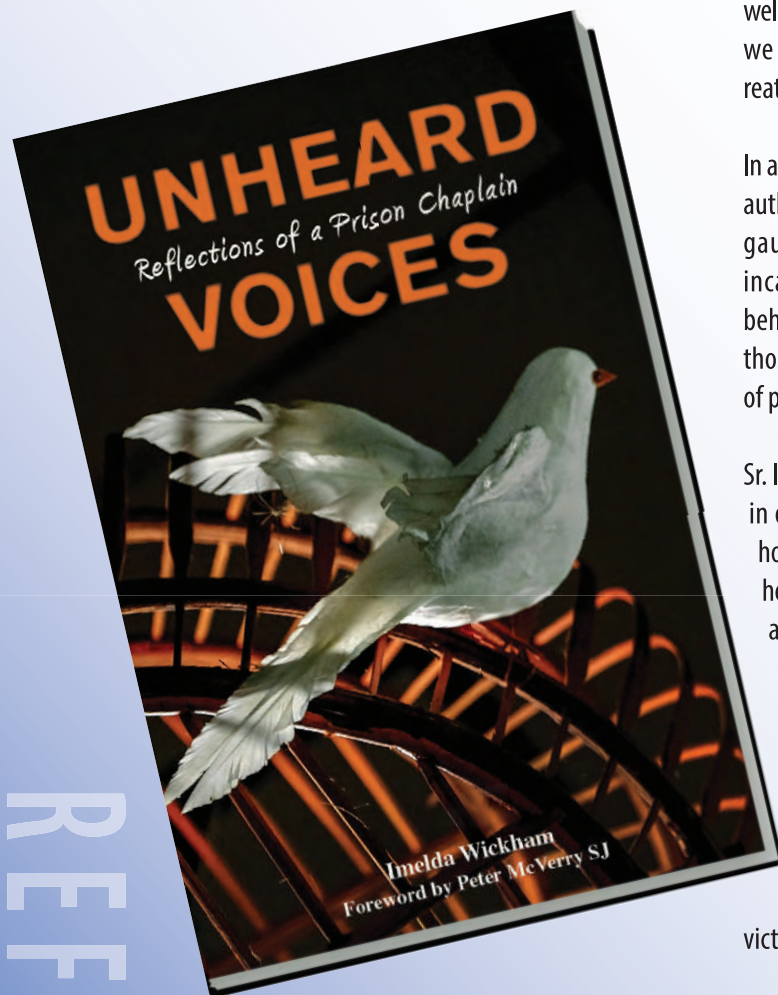
Imelda Wickham PBVM was a Prison Chaplain for twenty years and held the role of National Coordinator of Prison Chaplains for three years. She is a founding member of T.R.A.I.L (Transitional Residential Accommodation for Independent Living) – a project designed to help homeless people leaving prison. She is currently involved in establishing a support service for the families of people in prison called New Directions – Supporting Families of People in Prison.

Unheard Voices:

Reflections of a Prison Chaplain by Imelda Wickham

PBVM, with a foreword by Peter McVerry SJ is published in Ireland and the UK by Messenger Publications.

Priced at €12.95 / £11.95.



REFLECTION

Making a Difference - Young Europeans

Brian Donnelly

Coláiste an Spioraid 5th year Student, Brian Donnelly, explains why he got involved in the European Youth Parliament.

The European Youth Parliament is a non-partisan, voluntary youth organisation which empowers young adults to question the world around them and come up with innovative solutions to European and Global problems, whilst emphasising cooperation and respect.

Open to 4th - 6th Year students in Ireland, I was one of many Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh students who attended the Munster Regional Session as a Delegate last year. I was then fortunate enough to attend the National Session and am now a member of EYP Ireland. It has allowed me to meet new people, and develop new skills - such as public speaking, research and interpersonal skills.

I am currently an Organiser for two Irish Regional Sessions and plan to officiate abroad in the near future. The European Youth Parliament is a fantastic way to promote active citizenship and to gain a greater understanding into the world we live in. I believe that it is extremely beneficial enjoyable and would encourage others to get involved!



Brian Donnelly

The Dead Shall March

Tim Callanan

Coláiste Spioraid Naoimh 5th year student has 'Lockdown' novel published by Michael Terence Publishing

I have always loved reading, ever since I was little, and fantasy stories make the best books. 'Lord of the Rings' by J.R.R. Tolkien was a favourite of mine, still is, and is the one of first stories I ever remember hearing. My dad read it to my brother and I when we were little, and I have been in love with stories ever since.

Last year, when everything closed due to the pandemic, I found myself with an abundance of time on my hands. The thought of writing a novel had never really occurred to me, at least not as anything more than an idle fantasy. Yet suddenly I had both the time and the ideas to pull it off. I spent weeks typing away, slowly working my way through the story, and weeks more poring back over every word and tidying it up. Finally, after more hours than I would care to admit, it was done!

'The Dead Shall March' is the story of two brothers, Alexander and Bruce, as they struggle to protect their homeland. They must face challenges, both inside and outside their minds, if they want to save everyone they know, and it will not be an easy journey for either of them. It was published by Michael Terence Publishing in September 2020, and is available to buy on Amazon.



Tim Callanan



PRESENTATION DAY

Gratitude Cards for Presentation Day

Coláiste Muire Cobh Students write to Brothers in Maiville!

TY students wrote greeting cards to the members of the Presentation Brothers living in Maiville, Cork. They were delivered to the Brothers, and past Principal Br. Bede distributed the cards in the Maiville Community.

Well done to staff and students in Coláiste Muire, for organising this lovely act of solidarity between generations within our Presentation Family!

Thanks to Ms. Jennifer Buckley, Coláiste Muire, for photos and updates.



MAIVILLE RETREAT

'Like Good Wine – Better with Age'

Golden Jubilee Retreat

Maiville Community - October 10th to 14th, 2021.

Br. Bede Minehane writes from Maiville:

Like so many other events our annual Community Retreat had fallen victim to Covid-19 restrictions over the past two years. At our community meeting in June we decided to invite Br. Martin to conduct our retreat in mid-October. He accepted the invitation readily and almost immediately began the preparations.

When it came to pass it was clear that Martin had prepared every aspect of the Retreat experience in detail. This was much appreciated!

When it became known that our retreat dates coincided with the Diocesan Clergy retreat the services of Fr. John Fitzgerald MSC were engaged and between himself and Martin an uplifting and prayerful Eucharistic experience started each day of the Retreat.

Both Martin and John ensured that hearing impairment would not prevent any Brother from participating fully as every word spoken could be heard so clearly that a staff member said she could also feel involved from her office half way down the corridor!

Br. Martin acknowledged at the outset the extraordinary breath of experience among the Maiville Community members. There was a very positive response to all aspects of the retreat and especially the use of story and humour and also the very apt use of video clips and flip chart headings to engage the visual attention.

The handouts folder provides a very useful means of revisiting and processing the material into the future. It is hoped that this 'chewing the cud' process may be done in smaller groups as there was such a rich menu of thoughtful and inspiring material presented. Other aspects of the retreat that will enable ongoing processing are the 'gratitude diaries' and the 'gratitude stone'.

This was a well prepared, reflective and prayerful retreat experience and was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by every member of the Community.

Míle buíochas Martin!

A Text from A Young Person in Response to a Request for Prayers for the Maiville Retreat

(Before the Retreat, Br. Martin sent out a message asking for prayers. Here is the response received from one young person).

As I reflect on your text, the prayers of these Brothers are so needed. I'm discovering among young professionals in their 20s that there's another pandemic going on: a pandemic of anxiety, low self-worth, pointlessness of life... I find it terrifying.

It's surely the result of the loss of all we cherished: especially family and faith. From the outside these people look like they have it all: they dress well, they look well, they're earning a lot of money. But they are scarred deeply by modern life...and they cannot look to the Cross for help and direction because this age has forgotten the Cross and its meaning.

Let the Brothers pray for these victims of the post-Christian age.

A Covid Christmas:

'Necessary Precautions'

Contemporary Christmas Theme Evokes Creativity in Art Students

Michael Sexton, C.E.O. of the Presentation Brothers Schools Trust writes:

A new PBST/LEAF Christmas Art Competition for senior students has just taken place in the run-up to Christmas and attracted a large number of entries from all PBST second-level schools.

Challenging Brief

The 'brief' was to produce a piece of Christmas-themed artwork that would incorporate a message of social justice, linking the Nativity message with our contemporary world.

An exhibition of the work submitted was held in the Edmund Rice Centre, Mardyke House, Cork on Saturday 4th December and an on-line prize-giving ceremony was organised the following evening.

Entries were assessed by Carmel Murphy, Chairperson of PBST, by well-known artist, Helen Condon, and by Brothers Bede Minehane and Raymond Dwyer.

Extraordinary Creativity

It was agreed by all the judges that the standard of work presented was extremely high and that extraordinary levels of creativity were in evidence in the wide variety of issues explored and in the various media used.

Prize Winners

First prize was awarded to Danny O'Halloran of Presentation Brothers College, Cork. Danny's work presented the nativity scene in the time of Covid and was entitled 'Necessary Precautions'. Danny is a student of Ms Nora Walsh and is clearly a very promising artist.

One of the runners-up prizes also went to PBC with Christy Hosford's work tying with that of Kitty Devere of Coláiste Muire, Cobh. Kitty is a student of Ms Genevieve Kiely.

P.B.S.T. Christmas Card

Danny's very thought-provoking piece will feature on this year's PBST Christmas card and on a print which will be presented to the school for display. PBST and LEAF are very grateful to Nora and Genevieve and also to Harriet Ring (CSN), Siobhán de Búrca (CCRí) and Clifton Rooney (Pres, Bray) for their work in promoting the competition. We very much hope that this event will become a fixture in the lead-up to Christmas in future years.

Congratulations to all the wonderful young artists who took part in this project. We look forward to seeing more of your thought-provoking works in the future!

PBST ART COMPETITION



1st Prize, 'Necessary Precautions', Danny O'Halloran



Joint 2nd Prize, 'Violent Night', Christy Hosford



Joint 2nd Prize, Kitty Devere

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – 21 November

Homily - Denis McBride C.Ss.R.



PRESENTATION DAY

Dear Friends: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary is not recounted in any of the four Gospels, but it is in The Protoevangelium of James, also known as the Infancy Gospel of James. This is an apocryphal Gospel written towards the end of the second century. In the first section of the text, we are introduced to Joachim and Anna, the parents of Mary. As yet they have no child. One day an angel stands before Anna and calls her by name. The angel tells her that the Lord has heard her prayer and that soon she will conceive and that the whole world will know about her child.

Anna promises to give the child as a gift to the Lord, whether it is male or female. Her child will minister to the Lord all the days of its life. What faith cannot answer, a sympathetic imagination is ready to supply, which has made this writing very popular for painting and icons, particularly in the Orthodox traditions.

You can see the story in the imaginative painting by Vittore Carpaccio. Born in Venice Carpaccio sets the story in the luscious background of a Venetian piazza. You see Mary, leaving her parents and relatives behind her, as she kneels on one of the steps that rise to the Temple entrance. She faces away from her family towards her new home. At the bottom of the steps, you can see Joachim and Anna with the other members of the family watch as Mary leaves them behind to enter the Temple. She kneels before the high priest who has come to welcome her. All her family have to let her go. In the bottom right-hand corner, a small boy holds his pet doe, a symbol of innocence, but is distracted and misses this great moment.

The feast followed the dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary, built in 543 by the Byzantines. The Eastern Church took the feast to its heart, but it does appear in the West in the 11th century. In the 16th century it became a feast of the universal Church, celebrated on 21st November. Even though the feast has no basis in history, it stresses an important truth about Mary: that from the beginning of her life, she was wholly dedicated to God.

Of course, later on, Mary will become a greater temple than any constructed by hands. Let us now look at the great painting by Caravaggio, The Madonna of the Pilgrims.



PILGRIMS

Have a good look. It is beautiful, isn't it? In this painting we see Mary presenting Jesus to the little people, these two pilgrims, staff in hand, who have journeyed long and far in the hope of meeting the child Jesus.

They are not celebrities, magi or kings from the east, just ordinary folk. And their destination is not a temple, not a palace, not a shrine. Their destination is a person, the person of Jesus.

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – 21 November

Homily - Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

Although like Mary Jesus was presented in the Temple, more importantly it is Mary who presents Jesus to those who seek him out. Mary is not clutching the child possessively to herself, saying through her body language: "He is mine, only mine."

No, she presents Jesus to those who seek him. She holds the child for others to see, for others to reach, for others to touch. Jesus is her own but not her own. He belongs to all who hunger for his presence.

Mary's vocation is not only to hold Jesus but also to let him go; let him become the person he must become; let him love the people he chooses to love and the friends he elects to call; let him choose the roads he must walk; let him follow the mysterious inner voice that speaks to him alone. All mothers must learn the painful act of letting go. Mothers must not only nurture the presence of the child within them; they must nurture the leaving of the child in time and let go.

Today we celebrate the Presentation of Mary; this feast challenges all of us to present Mary and Jesus not in a Temple building but in the hearts and minds of all of who live in a wounded world. We not only hold Mary and Jesus in our hearts, but because we love them, we share them. The people we love we should never keep possessively to ourselves.

Those we love should be presented to a wider world. That is today's lovely feast.



leadership education
and formation project

OUR MISSION

To educate, form and mentor leaders, especially young people, who will serve out of a faith-based and Christian vision.

- **Facilitate leadership** education and mentoring for individuals and groups within our Presentation Family and beyond.
- **Provide faith** formation opportunities, with a particular thrust towards developing lay leaders in Church and society.
- **Support and co-ordinate** the leadership education of young Presentation Brothers, especially in West Africa.



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*In a world which cries out
for solidarity and service...*



VOCATIONS TO RELIGIOUS LIFE: IS GOD CALLING YOU?

If you are interested in knowing more about becoming a Presentation Brother, Please contact:
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Email: barrynoel@PresentationBrothers.org

The Presentation Brothers are an international Catholic Congregation of Lay Religious. Our mission is Christian Formation especially of young people and in particular of those who suffer poverty and disadvantage.

*Pilgrim Brothers with the
Compassionate Christ
in an evolving world.*

STAY CONNECTED TO L.E.A.F.

If you wish to be added to our mailing list please send your contact details to:

leafprojectpb@gmail.com

Thank you for reading this newsletter. You are welcome to share it with friends, colleagues and others who may be interested in the work of the L.E.A.F. Project.

** Comments, feedback and contributions to
future newsletters are welcome.*



'Leading with Faith in the Future'