

CEIST is the trustee body for the voluntary secondary schools of the Daughters of Charity, the Presentation Sisters, the Sisters of the Christian Retreat, the Sisters of Mercy and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

### Feature

#### Trustee Support Day for Chairpersons of CEIST School Boards of Management

In appreciation of the work of our Chairpersons and our commitment to you, we are hosting a seminar for our School Boards of Management Chairpersons. It is an opportunity for Chairpersons to share ideas, discuss pertinent issues and ask questions.



Each year, we are faced with difficult challenges and yet these are surpassed by all the positives that occur in our schools.

Now is a very challenging and difficult time for all the leaders in our schools. There is great credit due to you for the support you give the Principal and staff in coping with such issues as diminished budgets and now the challenge of redeployment.

We realise that each of you has a very busy schedule and all of us would relish the opportunity of thanking you for your great work and sharing ideas with you.

We would appreciate it very much if you would attend this important meeting. Please phone the CEIST office at 01-6510350 or e-mail us at [pa@ceist.ie](mailto:pa@ceist.ie) to confirm your attendance.

It is important that those who give their time and expertise in the service of our school are celebrated.

Lunch will be served at 2.00 p.m. Please note that accommodation is available in the Sheraton Athlone Hotel on a first come first served basis at the following rates:

- €65 per person sharing including breakfast
- €69 Single including breakfast

Please make reservations directly with the Sheraton Athlone Hotel on (090) 645-1000.

We look forward to seeing you on May 19th next.

### CEIST News

#### Catholic Education and the New Evangelisation

The Department of Theology & Religious Studies at Mary Immaculate College Limerick is to host a major conference, the fourth in the McAuley Conference series.

The theme is Catholic Education and the New Evangelisation.

This one-day symposium, taking place on Thursday May 17th, will consider Pope Benedict's initiative for the renewal of faith in Europe, under the auspices of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelisation, and its implications for Catholic Education in Ireland.

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#### CEIST Holy Week Retreat

The third annual CEIST retreat took place at the Tearmann Spirituality Centre in Glendalough.

The retreat begun on the evening of Palm Sunday April 1st 2012.

Again we were blessed to have Fr. Michael Rogers and Sr. Breda Ahearne accompany us in an event that has been loved by everyone who took part over the past two years.

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#### News from CS-COP

The CEIST Schools Co-operative Purchasing Programme is in its second year of operation. The objective of this program is to promote and encourage collective purchasing across our schools in order to avail of economies of scale with the objective of reducing school operating costs and enabling savings for your school.

A number of ICT workshops has been held regionally for CEIST schools during the past couple of months. We also plan to commence a pilot project with six CEIST schools on the implementation of new technologies.

#### CS-COP E-Newsletter

Click [here](#) to download the latest e-newsletter from the CS-COP initiative.

### Education Matters

#### Challenge to Change 2011-2012

Now in its ninth year, Challenge to Change continues to grow and flourish. This year twenty-eight primary and post-primary schools are participating.

On Thursday, 10 May 2012, representatives from each of this year's project schools will gather in Kilkenny for the annual Challenge to Change Seminar.

The Seminar is an opportunity for the students to display their projects, talk about what they have learned and exchange ideas with other students.

[MORE](#)

#### Masters in Intercultural Education

This innovative course, using face-to-face and online learning, is open to applicants with primary and post-primary teaching experience.

It is particularly relevant to those interested in social justice, equality and diversity. The programme commences in October 2012.

Click [here](#) to download flyer for more information.

### Faith-related Issues

#### CEIST Annual Day of Spiritual renewal for teachers

The CEIST Faith Development Team organised Annual Day of Spiritual renewal for teachers on Wednesday 25th April.

The day was titled "A New Purpose and a New Hope".

It proved to be a very enjoyable day of story, song and reflection for all who attended.

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#### Meditation with Children: A Gift for Life

Meditation with Children: A Gift for Life is the title of a seminar being organized by Christian Meditation Ireland in association with Meditatio, the outreach of the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM).

This important occasion in the life of Christian Meditation Ireland will take place on Tuesday, 2nd October 2012.

At the seminar, Fr. Laurence Freeman, Director of WCCM, will explore how we can make this spiritual practice and universal life-skill available to more children and teachers, helping them to deal better with the challenges and pressures of life.

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#### From Ashes to Alleluia

We are very grateful to Sr. Louise O'Rourke Congregation of the Divine Mercy for the following Lenten Reflection, which Sr. Louise very kindly shared with us on the CEIST Website.

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### News from CEIST Schools

#### St Mary's Secondary School Macroom win AIB Build a Bank Challenge

Students Tracey Cronin, Chelsea Cunningham, Caroline Kehoe, Sharon McSweeney, Oma Hinchion and Lucy Kelleher from St Mary's Secondary School, Macroom, Co. Cork were winners of this year's AIB Build a Bank Challenge for their bank 'Ladybird Bank'.

They took home a prize of €10, 000 for their school as well as an iPad2 for each member of the team!

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#### Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy Win European Recycling Platform Junk Kouture Award

Three pupils from Coláiste Bríde Secondary School, Enniscorthy have won the European Recycling Platform Junk Kouture Grand Final 2012 with a design entitled Lady Data.

The event, which followed rounds of regional competitions, saw more than 1,300 second-level students compete for the title and €6,000 worth of prizes.

Lady Data was created by students Kelly Bolger, Michaela Doyle-Murphy and Sarah Greene.

[MORE](#)

#### New Website from Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise

Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise have worked very hard on developing an excellent new website for the school.

The new website an e-portal and moodle site for access to learning resources.

Scoil Chríost Rí can also be found on Facebook, Twitter, You Tube and Flickr via the home page of the website.

The website address is <http://www.scoilchríostriportlaoise.ie/>

#### 'Open Sunday' at Presentation Secondary School, Waterford

Presentation Secondary School, Waterford held an open day on Sunday 29th April, where they invited Friends, Neighbours and Past Pupils to view their new school.

The occasion provided an opportunity to view their new school and to see at first hand the state of the art facilities that the current and future Presentation Waterford students will enjoy.

It provided a great opportunity for past pupils to recall their times in the school and meet with former teachers and classmates.

### Technical Tips

#### 12 Tips for creating better PowerPoint presentations

The following is an article from Microsoft, which may be helpful in improving your PowerPoint presentations.

It provides some guidelines for getting the attention of your audience, clearly communicating your information and staying in control of your presentation!

[MORE](#)

#### Free Technical Support Ticketing System!

Zendesk is a very useful ticketing system for tracking support calls and emails, which may be of use to schools.

The good news is that it is free as well!

Having a system such as this can be useful for identifying on-going IT issues and actions taken to resolve.

[MORE](#)



#### ESKER REDEMPTORIST RETREAT HOUSE AND YOUTH VILLAGE

Esker Redemptorist Retreat House and Youth Village in Athenry, Co. Galway, offers School Retreats all through the school year, from early September to late May.

School groups come to Esker from places as far away as Donegal, Dublin, Sligo, Limerick, and counties in the South and West.

We cater for students in Senior and Junior cycle, and especially welcome TY students. We offer overnight, residential retreats in our Youth Village which can accommodate up to 70 young people in our two dormitories which hold 35 persons each. We also offer Day Retreats.

Our retreat team has several years of experience in giving retreats. You can find more about us and about what we try to do, on the [Esker website](#), or click [here](#) for email enquiry.

#### The Soul of Leadership

A two day workshop is being held on the 9th-10th July in All-Hallows College titled "The Soul of Leadership".

Click [here](#) to download booking form and for further details on the workshop.

#### Experience the Spirit of St. Kevin

Glendalough Hermitage Centre are holding a Festival of Prayer to celebrate the feast of St. Kevin on Saturday 2nd June 2012 (the eve of the feast day).

This will consist of a number of different prayer experiences from which people may choose.

View [brochure](#) for more details.



# News & Events

## Recent News

### Keywords

### Category

### Month

### Year

SEARCH

## Events

### CEIST Annual Conference

### E-News

### Monthly School Feature

## Catholic Education and the New Evangelisation - 17th May Conference

Friday 27th April 2012

The Department of Theology & Religious Studies at Mary Immaculate College Limerick is to host a major conference, the fourth in the McAuley Conference series. The theme is Catholic Education and the New Evangelisation.

This one-day symposium, taking place on Thursday May 17th, will consider Pope Benedict's initiative for the renewal of faith in Europe, under the auspices of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelisation, and its implications for Catholic Education in Ireland.

It is the Pope's hope that the new Pontifical Council will "promote a renewed evangelisation" in countries where the Church has long existed "but which are living a progressive secularisation of society and a sort 'eclipse of the sense of God'." Ireland now falls into this category, as even most recent events make clear. This timely conference will explore realistic ways in which this project can inform the second-level Catholic Education context in Ireland.

Speakers will include: leading Italian theologian, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, the first President of the newly constituted Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelisation; Dr Eugene Duffy, Conference Convenor and lecturer with the TRS Dept. at MIC; Dr Gareth Byrne, Head of Religious Education at Mater Dei Institute of Education and Principal Writer of Share the Good News: National Directory for Catechesis in Ireland; Sr Marie Céline Clegg IBNM, former Principal of Loreto College, Swords, and now a member the Board of Directors of Loreto Education Trust, with particular responsibility for Boards of Management and the provision of a support service for Loreto schools; acclaimed speaker and writer Dr Ron Nuzzi, Director of the Mary Ann Remick Leadership Program in the Alliance for the Catholic Education at the University of Notre Dame and Dr Kerry Greer, founding member of the Psychology Department at MIC.

While considering Catholic Education broadly, the conference will be of particular interest, among others, to second-level teachers, principals, members of boards of management, trustees and patrons.

Discussions and reflections will be facilitated throughout the day allowing participants the opportunity to engage with the speakers. Opportunities will also be provided to discuss and explore ways in which to support and develop the Catholic ethos within the second-level sector.

The conference is part-funded by the St Stephen's Green Trust (a funding agency for Catholic charities), The Tablet (a UK-based weekly Catholic newspaper) and The Pastoral Review (an international pastoral journal).

The conference is being hosted in association with the MA in Christian Leadership in Education, a two year programme offered by the TRS Department at MIC in association with CEIST (Catholic Education, an Irish Schools Trust), which comprises five Catholic Religious Congregations engaged in post primary education (Daughters of Charity, Presentation Sisters, Sisters of the Christian Retreat, Sisters of Mercy, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart).

The programme, which is also being subsidised by the St Stephen's Green Trust, which provides a sponsorship of €2000 over the two years, will lead to a professional qualification with a strong theology component for those working in the education sector such as school principals, members of boards of management, members of trusts established by the various denominational bodies in Ireland, etc.

Applications for this programme are currently being invited. Click [here](#) for full details.

Places, for what promises to be an interesting and thought-provoking conference, are limited and booking is essential.

For further information:

Contact: [Eileen.Daly@mic.ul.ie](mailto:Eileen.Daly@mic.ul.ie) or Tel: 061-204962

For full programme details & registration form visit the [website](#).

# News & Events

## Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Any

Year

Any

SEARCH

## Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

## CEIST Holy Week Retreat Glendalough Wicklow 1st – 3rd April 2012

Friday 13th April 2012

The third annual CEIST retreat took place at the Tearmann Spirituality Centre in Glendalough.

The retreat began on the evening of Palm Sunday April 1st 2012.

Again we were blessed to have Fr. Michael Rogers and Sr. Breda Ahearne accompany us in an event that has been loved by everyone who took part over the past two years.



Pictured above Fr. Michael Rogers leading the pilgrimage.

The retreat turned out to be a lovely mixture of reflection, walks in the valley, solitude, journaling, comradeship, a bit of music and the best of fun was had by all.

All participants were invited to reflect on their life and faith story in an environment rich in faith and story.

God knows how much each of us needs such a time-out in the times we are in. This retreat was an open invitation to all in the CEIST family, which included any member of staff, principals, chairpersons, board-members and retired teachers.

The retreat began at 6pm on Palm Sunday evening and ended at lunch time on Tuesday April 3rd.

Visit our [facebook page](#) to view more photos from the retreat.



# News & Events

## Recent News

Keywords

Category

--- Select ---

Month

Any

Year

Any

SEARCH

## Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

## CEIST Annual Day of Spiritual renewal for teachers

Thursday 26th April 2012

The Faith Development team in CEIST recently held their Annual Day of Spiritual renewal for teachers, which involved a day with Liam Lawton and it was titled 'A New Purpose and a New Hope'.

The event was held on the 25th April in the Shearwater-Carlton Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

*'Be filled with the Holy Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and inspired songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord' Ephesians 5:19*

The 45 participants had a most powerful day with Liam Lawton. The combination of song, story telling and prayer was a most potent spiritual concoction that lifted all those present.

Liam has a powerful ministry and his music is bringing many people to God. Performing 15 of his original works and contextualizing the songs with interesting and sometimes very moving stories we simply soaked in this rich spiritual experience – a feast for the mind, heart and soul.

The day began with coffee/tea and pastries and then we gathered for Morning Prayer. The Prayer drew from scripture and the poetry of Liam Lawton, Donal Neary SJ and Richard Fragomeni and celebrated the gift of music and the unique way music can bring us to experience the mystery of ourselves and the mystery of God.

We had a workshop in the afternoon that got the participants reflecting more deeply on the morning's experience.

One teacher gave a very honest insight into the challenges of teaching and the amount of self-giving that is required and that a day like this was exactly what she needed to keep her going for the rest of the year and, indeed, for the year ahead.

Another participant said she felt God was sitting next to her throughout the whole morning. In truth it was simply a perfect day.

CEIST is truly grateful to Liam Lawton for accepting the invitation to lead us in this day of reflection.

May the Lord continue to bless him in his music and pastoral ministry.

## Photos from the Liam Lawton Day



# News & Events

## Recent News

### Keywords

### Category

### Month

### Year

SEARCH

## Events

[CEIST Annual Conference](#)

[E-News](#)

[Monthly School Feature](#)

## Meditation with Children: A Gift for Life

Monday 30th April 2012



Meditation with Children: A Gift for Life is the title of a seminar being organized by Christian Meditation Ireland in association with Meditatio, the outreach of the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM). This important occasion in the life of Christian Meditation Ireland will take place on **Tuesday, 2nd October 2012**.

**The hope is that principals and teachers from schools and others** from youth projects will attend. The intention is to develop a pilot project following the seminar with schools who would like to explore the practice. Christian Meditation Ireland will offer full training to the staff of schools participating in the project, beginning with schools that wish to introduce the practice on a whole-school basis.

Research and experience show that children have a natural capacity for meditation. At the seminar, Fr. Laurence Freeman, Director of WCCM, will explore how we can make this spiritual practice and universal

life-skill available to more children and teachers, helping them to deal better with the challenges and pressures of life.

The seminar will offer practical advice to schools on how to introduce the practice and will present one case studies on DVD showing how schools in England and Northern Ireland have successfully introduced Christian Meditation to their schools, often on a whole-school basis.



The forum will take place at the **Emmaus Retreat & Conference Centre**, Ennis Lane, Lissenhall, **Swords, Co. Dublin** – just off Exit 4 on the M1, north of Dublin Airport. It will run from **9.00 am to 4 pm on Tuesday, 2nd October 2012**.

To encourage early registration, there is an **Early Bird price** for the Forum for those who book before 30th June. The cost is just **€50** (£43 NI) for one participant and **€40** (£35 NI) for additional participants from the same school or organisation **provided the booking is made before 30 June 2012**. The standard fee is **€65** (£55 NI) for one participant and **€55** (£46 NI) for additional participants from the same school or organization and will apply to all registrations posted after 30th June 2012.

To book, please complete the [Registration Form](#) and return with your payment to **Meditation with Children Forum, c/o Eilish Tennent, 10 Sydenham Road, Dundrum, Dublin 14**

## Additional Information

There is a strong panel of speakers for the forum. Fr. Laurence Freeman OSB, Director, WCCM, will describe the practice and tradition of Christian Meditation and situate it in the context of a pluralist world today and the spiritual life of the child. He will also talk about the faith of children and their inherent aptitude for meditation.

**Kim Nataraja** will talk about the fruits and benefits of this contemplative practice. Kim is International Coordinator for The School of Meditation and has worked extensively on developing the Meditation with Children project. A retired college lecturer, she is a writer and spiritual director and leads meditation retreats worldwide. She will explore how meditation, with its emphasis on silence and stillness, is an antidote to the busyness of modern living; an alternative way of being in the world that leads to a sense of personal wholeness, connectedness to others and to the Divine.

**Charles Posnett** will outline how many different schools in the UK have adopted the practice of Christian Meditation on a regular, whole-school basis. Charles is Coordinator for Christian Meditation with Children in the UK, a role he shares with his wife Patricia. They have facilitated the introduction of Christian Meditation to over 100 schools in the last 18 months. His talk will explore the lessons learnt as the practice was implemented across the schools, the positive impact on pupils and teachers and what they offered schools in terms of training and resources.

**Noel Keating** will talk about our plans for developing the practice in schools and other centres across Ireland. Noel is Coordinator for Christian Meditation with Children in Ireland and works with Phil McQuillan who liaises with schools in Northern Ireland. Noel will summarise our plans for a pilot project with schools and other centres and will outline the support that Christian Meditation Ireland will offer to schools - including whole-staff in-service at primary level and peer-support networks at all levels. Noel's professional career has spanned 40 years in education; he is a former Principal of Presentation College, Carlow and later worked as Education Officer for the Presentation Sisters supporting the Boards and senior management of over 40 schools at primary and second level.

For booking queries please contact **Eilish Tennent** on **01 2985370** or by e-mail to [eilishtennent@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eilishtennent@yahoo.co.uk). For all other enquiries – or to offer support with any aspect of the project – please contact **Noel Keating** on **+35387 2251183** or by e-mail at [nkeating@eircom.net](mailto:nkeating@eircom.net)



# News & Events

## Recent News

### Keywords

### Category

--- Select ---

### Month

Any

### Year

Any

SEARCH

## Events

### CEIST Annual Conference

### E-News

### Monthly School Feature



## “From Ashes to Alleluia”

Thursday 5th April 2012

We are very grateful to Sr. Louise O'Rourke Congregation of the Divine Mercy for this Lenten Reflection.

Dear God, we know that every journey begins with a first step. Be with us this evening as we take another step in our Lenten journey. We began this journey with the sign of ashes on our forehead, reminding us that this is no ordinary walk. We move one step forward in the promise of your light. We seek new meaning in the Easter that awaits us all. But first, we must walk with you to Jerusalem, to Calvary, to the Tomb and beyond.

Every religious experience begins with emptiness. We began the Lenten journey in the desert and we continue to walk, making the journey from Ashes to Alleluia. On Ash Wednesday we came forward to have ashes placed on our forehead and to hear the words “Remember you are dust and to dust you will return”.. The burnt palms, symbol of the joy and majesty which accompanied Jesus during his entrance into Jerusalem, become the dust and ashes placed on our forehead. Burned into our collective memory is the sight of the dust that chased people down the street as they fled in fear from the collapse of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Building in 2001. It was a dust that covered everything with a layer of doom. Dust which left us with a sober feeling of emptiness and futility. Dust which humbled us all, we were violated by it. The dust of Lent, the dust of the ashes in the sign of the cross is different. This dust leads to wholeness, and rather than run from it, we freely embrace it and are embraced by it.

I remember often raking out the fire at home and finding cinders among the dust and ashes which were still glowing, the fire could be re-lit from these burning cinders. We all know the story of Cinderella but maybe we never thought that it could give us a lesson in the theology of Lent. Cinderella is the young girl who literally sits in the ashes. As the fairytale continues, we see that before the glass slipper is placed on her foot, before the beautiful dress, the ball, the prince, the dance and marriage, there must first be a time of being humbled and sitting with herself. God can do the same with us, he can rake through the ashes of our life and find those burning cinders, that small spark which can be fanned into the Paschal fire which will herald Christ the Light, the Resurrected Lord, during the Easter Vigil. We will have our happy ever after ending, if we stay close to Him, we will receive the gift of his love and in return to be able to love Him and others with unconditional love.

When we fast or carry out Lenten penance we are encouraged, as the Gospel reminds us to “wash your face, put oil on your head so that your fasting may not be seen by others.” This is the paradox of Lent. Yet, we are called to be expressive in our joy of knowing and following Christ. For some people, Lenten penance might actually mean being joyful as opposed to being moody or giving up chocolate or other such things. Jesus does not want us to go looking for suffering; he wants us to accept the suffering that confronts us as we live our lives according to Gospel values. Too often during Lent we pick our own suffering and our own crosses. You don't have to raise your hands, but how many people have 'given up' chocolate, caffeine, alcohol, cigarettes, swearing for Lent? We tailor the crosses to fit our lives. There is a little story which illustrates this point perfectly: A man who went to America from Ireland would go to the Irish pub every Friday night. He would order three pints, one for himself, one for his brother in Ireland and one for his brother in England. The bartender thought this was a wonderful custom. Then one Friday night, the man came in and ordered just two pints. The bartender was curious but did not question it. Finally after three weeks of just two drinks, the bartender asked which brother had passed on to His heavenly reward. The man said, “No, they're both fine, sure it's myself that's off the drink for Lent”.

During the Lenten season, we are allowed a glimpse of what exactly the Resurrection will bring. The 4th Sunday in Lent is known as Laetare Sunday, that is, Rejoicing or Exulting Sunday. The purple vestments are changed for a rose coloured one, flowers return to our altars. For that day, we have the preview of Easter joy. Is it not strange though to be talking about joy during Lent, as we enter Passion Week, are we not meant to be going around with sad faces, punishing ourselves and doing penance, downcast and depressed?

The message of the Holy Father for the 27th World Youth Day which is celebrated on Palm Sunday every year has as its theme: “Joy is at the heart of Christian experience”. The theme comes from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians: “Rejoice in the Lord always” (Ph 4:4). In a world of sorrow and anxiety, joy is an important witness to the beauty and the reliability of Christian faith. As the hymn remind us “We are an Easter people, Alleluia is our song”.

The Pope writes and I paraphrase here: “Our hearts are made for joy. Though if we want to be filled with God, we have to first empty ourselves. Each day is filled with countless simple joys which are the Lord's gift; the joy of living, the joy of nature, joy of a job well done, of helping others, of sincere and pure love. Yet any day we also face any number of difficulties. Deep down we also worry about the future, we begin to wonder if the full and lasting joy for which we long for might be an illusion and an escape from reality. The quest for joy can follow various paths, and some of these turn out to be mistaken, if not dangerous.” Too often, we dilute the gravity of sin because we fear that we will put people out of their comfort zones. Sin is serious precisely because it is the complete contrary of the Incarnation. The Incarnation of Jesus is the bridge between Heaven and earth, our link to the Father. Every time, 'I' become the centre of my life, I weaken that bridge, it becomes unsteady. When I sin, I remain on one side, Jesus on the other- God's mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation reconstructs the bridge! From God's mercy, joy is born, true joy comes from the experience of knowing that we are infinitely and uniquely loved by God. The Pope reminds us: “God offers us an unconditional acceptance which enables us to say: I am loved, I have a place in the world and in history, I am personally loved by God. If God accepts me and loves me and I am sure of this, then I know clearly and with certainty that it is a good thing that I am alive.

To seek the Lord and find him in our lives also means accepting his word, which is joy for our hearts. The liturgy is a special place where the Church expresses the joy which she receives from the Lord and transmits it to the world. Every Sunday we celebrate the central mystery of salvation, which is the death and resurrection of Christ. Sunday is the day where we meet the Risen Christ, listen to his Word. We hear in Psalm 118, “This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad”. At the Easter vigil, the Church sings the Exultet, a hymn of joy for the victory of Jesus over sin and death. And our response: we live a life of love for him. As St. Therese of the Child Jesus, a young Carmelite, wrote, “Jesus, my joy is loving you”. Another Theresa, Mother Theresa of Calcutta similarly spoke about joy saying: “ Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls. God loves a cheerful giver. Whoever gives with joy gives more.”

If we are to experience joy, we must also be generous. We cannot be content to give the minimum. Experiencing real joys means recognising the temptations which lead us away from it. Often our present society pressures us to seek immediate goals, achievements and pleasures. At times the path of Christian life is not easy and being faithful to the Lord's love presents obstacles, occasionally we fall, we flirt with evil and panic only when it threatens to take over.. Sometimes in order to grow, we first need to fall apart. Yet God in his mercy never abandons us, he always offers us the possibility of returning to him. Sin has many names and even more faces, but in the end sin is always the same thing. It is our turning our back on God. This Sunday we mark Palm Sunday or more correctly Passion Sunday, we will hear two Gospels, one of the triumphant entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem, accompanied by the rejoicing crowds. Not long after that same crowd will hand Jesus over and crucify him, as we will read in the second Gospel, the Passion and Death of Jesus according to the Gospel of St. Mark. We tend to misunderstand the 'passion of Jesus', identifying it with the pain of the physical sufferings which he endured on the road to his death. Jesus' passion is more than this and can be understood as passio, that is, passivity, a certain submissive helplessness that Jesus had to undergo to fulfil the plan of the Father and bring eternal life for us. During Lent, we might have heard a lot about conversion. The Greek word for conversion, metanoia indicates a turn around, a change in direction. This Sunday, we too are called to turn around, to face towards Jerusalem and walk with Jesus. Are we prepared to face a completely new direction? The reality is, Jesus doesn't want admirers, He wants followers. After Palm Sunday, we continue in our Holy Week towards Holy Thursday where Jesus broke bread with his closest disciples and invites us to do 'this in memory of him'. The Eucharist is not a private act of devotion meant to square our debts with God, but a call to and a grace for service. It is meant to send us out into the world ready to give expression to Christ's hospitality, humility and love. He says to us: “Receive, give thanks, break and share”. Nourished by the bread of life, we as disciples, dare to walk the Way of Calvary with Him and live the Good Friday experience. There is a story told about St. Teresa of Avila. One day the devil appeared to her, disguised as Christ. However Teresa wasn't fooled for a second. She immediately dismissed him. But before he left, the devil asked her, “How did you know? How were you so sure that I wasn't Christ?” Her answer: “You didn't have any wounds. Christ has wounds”. The proof of Jesus' immense love for us was made visible on the Cross. The nails didn't hold him there, his love did. When Jesus rises from the dead, the first thing he did was to show his disciples his wounds, glorified now, but extremely humiliating to him before he died. The wounds of the scars of love, scars that each one of us carries if we allow ourselves to love and be loved.

It is said that one day Michelangelo, strolling in a courtyard of Florence, saw a block of rough stone covered with dust and mud. He stopped suddenly to look at it and said: “An angel is hidden in this mass of stone. I want to bring him out!” And he began to work with his scalpel to give shape to the angel he had glimpsed. So it is with us. We are still masses of rough stone, with so much dirt and useless pieces. God the Father looks at us and says: “Hidden in this piece of stone is the image of my Son, I want to bring it out”.

Leonardo da Vinci once said, sculpture is the art of removing. Is it not true for our life? For us however it is not about the attaining an abstract beauty of building a beautiful statue, but about bringing to light and rendering ever more resplendent the image of God that sin tends continually to cover. We are God's masterpiece, his work of art but he needs to chip away at us. Hidden in the ugliness of death and sin is the light of the Resurrection if we are willing to wait out Holy Saturday. Each of us must fight our own demons, struggle with our own sadness. The Resurrection gives to us the equally unbelievable possibility of the newness of life that forgiving and being forgiven brings. The Resurrection promises that things can always be new again. It's never too late to start over, no betrayal is final, no sin is unforgivable. God never gives up on us, even if we give up on ourselves. Resurrection is not just a question of three days, after death, rising from the dead, but it is about the daily rising from the many mini-graves within which we so often find ourselves. The Resurrection teaches us how to live, again and again and again!

I leave you with the words of the Holy Father, this is my invitation to you as we enter into the holiest of weeks. “Dear friends, learn to see how God is working in your lives and discover him hidden within the events of daily life. Believe that he is always faithful to the covenant which he made with you on the day of your Baptism. Know God will never abandon you. Turn your eyes to him often. He gave his life on the cross because he loves you. Contemplation of this great love brings a hope and joy to our hearts that nothing can destroy. Christians can never be sad, for they have met Christ, who gave his life for them.”



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### Category

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### Year

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## St Mary's Secondary School Macroom win AIB Build a Bank Challenge!

Monday 30th April 2012

Students Tracey Cronin, Chelsea Cunningham, Caroline Kehoe, Sharon McSweeney, Orna Hinchion and Lucy Kelleher from St Mary's Secondary School, Macroom, Co. Cork were winners of this year's AIB Build a Bank Challenge for their bank 'Ladybird Bank'.

They took home a prize of €10, 000 for their school as well as an iPad2 for each member of the team.

The annual competition, which is now in its 10th year, is a way for Transition and Fifth Year students to run their own school bank, with the support of AIB, and learn about managing their own business.

The students get involved in everything from sourcing new customers and opening AIB accounts to encouraging regular savings and exploring new ways to bank.

The team made up of Sharon McSweeney, Caroline Kehoe, Chelsea Cunningham, Tracey Cronin, Lucy Kelleher and Orna Hinchion along with their teacher Arlene O Donoghue and Student Officer Grace O'Sullivan travelled to the RDS in Dublin to compete in the final.

Over 200 schools took part in the whole competition but only 20 teams made it to the All Ireland Final.

Ladybird Bank were announced All Ireland winners for their exceptional customer services, teamwork and innovation.



Pictured above is Bressie presenting award to Students from St Mary's Macroom.



Pictured above the victorious St Mary's celebrate their All-Ireland win.



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## Recent News

### Keywords

### Category

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### Month

Any

### Year

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## Events

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[E-News](#)

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## Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy Win European Recycling Platform Junk Kouture Award

Tuesday 24th April 2012

Three pupils from Coláiste Bríde Secondary School, Enniscorthy have won the European Recycling Platform Junk Kouture Grand Final 2012 with a design entitled Lady Data.

The recycled fashion competition challenges secondary school students to create a couture fashion outfit from recycled and waste objects.

The materials students used included computer cables, batteries, orange peels, teabags, pencil parings and safety belts from cars.

The event, which followed rounds of regional competitions, saw more than 1,300 second-level students compete for the title and €6,000 worth of prizes.

Lady Data was created by students Kelly Bolger, Michaela Doyle-Murphy and Sarah Greene.

Pictured on right is student Kelly Bolger displaying the winning outfit.

Their Lady Gaga-esque outfit was inspired by the increasing importance of technology in our lives and included circuit boards, keyboards and copper cabling donated by local businesses and the Enniscorthy Recycling Centre.

The judging panel included designer Peter O'Brien, stylist Angela Scanlon, Northern Irish designer Zoe Boomer and head of corporate communications at ERP, Yvonne Holmes.

Mr O'Brien said Lady Data impressed the judges with its intelligent use of materials and impeccable finish.

"In a competition such as this, it's a combination of creativity, good design, finish and good technique you're looking for," he said. "But sometimes it's also a magical something that just works."

More than 2,000 students, their families and teachers gathering for the awards event at Dublin's Citywest Hotel.

Student Kelly Bolger also featured on the Late Late Show on Friday night 20th April. Kelly spoke to Ryan Tubridy about the enormous amount of work involved and displayed her outfit to the amazement of the audience.

Click [here](#) to view on the RTE Player (Coláiste Bríde interview starts at 43 min).

