



# news from ceist...

28 March 2013

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



**Presentation Secondary School, Waterford Opening Ceremony**

Presentation Secondary School, Cannon Street, Waterford officially opened their new school building on Friday, 22nd March.

As Mary Ryan, Principal, stated 'this is indeed a special day in the life of our school. A day that was long awaited and much anticipated has finally arrived, and so we celebrate.

It is important for us as a school community to mark this day and to take time out to reflect on our position right now, at this point in the school's journey.

The official opening of this new building for a Catholic girls' school in the 21st century is a rare event.

The completion of this project enables us to maintain and continue a tradition of excellence in education that dates back to 1798.

That was the year in which Presentation sisters established the first Catholic school in the city centre at Jenkin's Lane.

The campaign to build our new school began 14 years ago, in January 1999.

The then Principal, Sr Fidelis Purcell had a vision for the provision of a secondary school building that would house the entire school population under one roof."

[MORE](#)

### CEIST News



#### Towards Leadership in CEIST Schools - Update

The following is an update on our highly successful initiative "Towards Leadership in CEIST Schools" programme.

A total of 12 seminars are being facilitated by CEIST with four training sessions in Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork, Coláiste na Toirbhirte, Ard Aolbhin, Bandon and in the Castletry Park Hotel, Limerick.

Due to the overwhelming interest and number of participants in the course in Cork (36 participants in total), we were delighted to offer a second course in Bandon (27 participants). This was then followed by a third course in Limerick with 30 people attending.

[MORE](#)




### Don't Forget



#### Young Mercy Leaders Pilgrimage 2013

Up to 150 secondary school students from Mercy schools and ministries around the world are expected to gather in Dublin from 16th - 19th July 2013 for the Dublin Pilgrimage of Young Mercy Leaders.

Registration for this pilgrimage is now open, and all participants must return their registration materials to Mercy International Association by Friday, March 29th (Good Friday).

Click [here](#) for further details and registration materials.

[MORE](#)

### Education Matters



#### Mary Immaculate College, Limerick and Marino Institute of Education, Dublin offer MA in Christian Leadership

Mary Immaculate College, Limerick and Marino Institute of Education, Dublin recently launched the MA in Christian Leadership Programme.

The MA in Christian Leadership devised by Mary Immaculate College, will now also be offered in the Marino Institute, commencing the academic year 2013-2014.

Trustees of both Colleges attended the signing, as did invited guests from the field of Education.

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#### Survey for World Wise Global Schools

Worldwise Global School (WWGS) is a new agency established by Irish Aid for all post primary schools who want to engage in Development Education issues as part of their school activity.

Irish Aid has launched its new support agency for Development Education within post-primary schools in Ireland.

Irish Aid's Worldwise Global Schools programme will provide a range of supports for development education initiatives at post-primary level under the extended Development Education Strategy 2007-2015.

[MORE](#)

### Faith-related Issues



#### Sisters of Mercy bid farewell to Tuam following 167 years of sterling service

The town of Tuam assembled in huge numbers recently to pay tribute to the Sisters of Mercy who are leaving the town after 167 distinguished years.

In the early years they cared for the poor and the starving and then went on to provide primary and secondary education to tens of thousands of girls who attended the Mercy Convent.

They were described as being "the heartbeat of the community over the years" as many of the sisters prepared to bid farewell to Tuam and move into accommodation in Taylor's Hill in Galway city.

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#### The Challenge of Change

Religious Sisters have transformed the lives of generations of Ballarat women through their tireless work in education and social justice, a new book has revealed.

The Challenge of Change book traces the contribution of the Sisters of Mercy and the Loreto Sisters in Ballarat, Victoria from 1950 to 1980.

The Sisters commitment to education from the 1870s provided access for generations of Catholics and non-Catholics to kindergarten, boarding schools, a commercial college, a teachers' college, parish schools and music education.

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### News from CEIST Schools



#### Presentation Secondary School, Warrenmount and Coláiste Bride Distance Learning Project

Presentation Secondary School, Warrenmount, Dublin recently had the honour of hosting the launch of the latest stage for 100Mb broadband rollout to Post Primary schools.

The Education Minister Ruairi Quinn and Communications Minister Pat Rabbitte visited the school to make the announcement and to witness ICT distance learning project with two CEIST Schools, Presentation Secondary School, Waterford and Coláiste Bríde, Clondalkin.

[MORE](#)



#### St. Joseph's Doon, Co. Limerick Perform Magnificently at National Light Entertainment Competition

Congratulations to St Joseph's Secondary School, Doon, Co. Limerick students who performed at the final of the Light Entertainment Competition in the Briary Gap Theatre, Múscroom, Co. Cork on March 1st.

This is the first year the school has entered this competition. The act featured a variety of musicians, dancers, singers and actresses.

The troop won 'Best Choreography', 'Best Director', 'Best Choral Song' and 'Best Overall Act'.

[MORE](#)



#### St Mary's Secondary School, Macroom Visit Poor Clare Convent in Cork

St Mary's Secondary School, Macroom, Co. Cork students recently visited the Poor Clare Convent, College Road, Cork.

The sisters issued an invitation and the school were delighted to accept. The sisters warmly greeted the visiting students and the whole class wrote individual letters and got individual replies!

The visit has made the girls more aware of another type of lifestyle and value system. What was most amazing was the sisters happiness.

They made it a fun meeting and that was lovely, yet they spoke of the centrality of Christ in their lives.

[MORE](#)



#### Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna Comenius Project

Over the years Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare has taken part in a number of Comenius projects which are part funded by the European Union.

At present they are involved in a Comenius project with a school in Hoom, Holland and one in Breno in Italy.

This is a two year project with TY student involved each year.

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#### News from Scoil Muire agus Pádraig Swinford, Co. Mayo

Interviews were held in Scoil Muire agus Pádraig on Friday February 22nd last in order to judge whether the school's Pioneer Council will win its 10th Gradam Award in a row.

Also for the second successive year All First Years at Scoil Muire agus Pádraig Swinford are taking part in a fitness challenge in association with Operation Transformation and Aviva Healthcare.

[MORE](#)



#### Special Olympics Torch Run

The Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics visited Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, Waterford on the 24th January 2013.

They brought the torch into the school gym where they were welcomed by about 200 of our students.

Two students of Mercy Waterford, Treasa O'Rorke and Megan Walsh, and the Principal, Ms Mary Meade, accepted the torch from the athletes and An Garda Síochána on behalf of our school.

[MORE](#)



#### Presentation Sexton Street, Sexton Street Limerick Fun 4 All Initiative

Students and staff at the Presentation Secondary School, Sexton Street, Limerick are thrilled with the fantastic achievement of four of our transition year students.

Alish Rowan, Chloé Ahern, Daria Biel and Roisin Hogan came up with an innovative and creative idea to encourage participation in physical activity.

[MORE](#)



#### Daragh Drury competes in All-Ireland Cross Country for Our Lady's Castleblayney

Daragh Drury became the first student in several decades to represent Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan at the All Ireland Schools Cross Country Championships, which were held in Antrim on Saturday, March 9th.

Daragh reached the finals in Jordanstown having won the Finals during midweek before qualifying at the Ulster Finals during midweek.

[MORE](#)

### Recommended Reading



#### Cyberbullying Having Significant Impact on Irish Youth

Cyberbullying is having a significant emotional impact on the young people of Ireland, according to the findings of a new report, which was released recently to mark Safer Internet Day 2013.

The study, **Cyberbullying among Irish 9-16 year olds**, was written by Dublin Institute of Technology researchers and shows that over half of Irish young people who said they were cyberbullied confirmed that the online harassment seriously upset them.

Click [here](#) to view report pdf.

[MORE](#)

### Reflecting CEIST Values



#### Transitioning into second-level: the Refugee Access Programme

While emigration is a current reality for many young people, immigration is also a permanent long-term reality.

In Ireland one in eight children in post-primary school are from a migrant background.

The CDVEC Separated Children Service offers a range of supports that aim to address the wide range and complexity of issues and challenges that young asylum seekers and refugees face.

[MORE](#)

### Reviews



#### A NEW LOOK AT COOLOCK HOUSE

In early January this year the recently completed visual-cum-audio installation at Coolock House was launched as a Heritage Resource Centre for Mercy Sisters, Associates, Friends and Researchers worldwide.

In an article on The Congregation's website and linked to this item, Canice Harralain rsm and CEIST Board Director traces the history of Coolock House in Catherine's story and in the life of the Colvill family, third owners of the house after Catherine (1855-1937).

Sr Canice describes the new installation and invites us all to "make plans to give yourself an hour at Coolock House even if you've been there before!".

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## Presentation Secondary School, Waterford Officially Open New School Building

Tuesday 26th March 2013

As Mary Ryan, Principal, Presentation Secondary School, Cannon Street, Waterford stated 'this is indeed a special day in the life of our school. A day that was long awaited and much anticipated has finally arrived, and so we celebrate.

It is important for us as a school community to mark this day and to take time out to reflect on our position right now, at this point in the school's journey, on March 22nd 2013.

The official opening of this new building for a Catholic girls 'school in the 21st century is a rare event. The completion of this project enables us to maintain and continue a tradition of excellence in education that dates back to 1798.

That was the year in which Presentation sisters established the first Catholic school in the city centre at Jenkin's Lane.

The campaign to build our new school began 14 years ago, in January 1999. The then Principal, Sr Fidelis Purcell had a vision for the provision of a secondary school building that would house the entire school population under one roof.

This would put an end to the daily soakings as students and teachers travelled between the Slievekeale and Cannon Street buildings.

As principal, Sr Fidelis, and her Deputy, John Brennan, travelled to Tullamore in the hope of convincing DES officials of the need for a new school in Waterford.

The process began, albeit slowly, but excitement was mounting. Department officials visited Waterford in October 2001 and the entire team acknowledged that the standard of accommodation in Presentation was below par, that the condition of the existing building on Cannon Street was too poor to consider refurbishment and extension. In essence, Coláiste Na Maighdine needed a brand new building.

Unfortunately, as Sr Fidelis retired in June 2002, the outlook for the new building at Coláiste Na Maighdine was not optimistic.

When Terry White was appointed as Principal in September of that year, he inherited a project that was bedevilled by holdups and delays. The sale of the convent buildings went ahead in 2006, and between them, the Presentation sisters and DES were obliged to provide alternative pre fab accommodation.

This was a huge financial outlay and a total waste of money – a symptom of the financial mis-management of the era, the consequences of which we're only too keenly aware of at the present time.

With his appointment as the first lay principal to Coláiste Na Maighdine, the progression of the building project was entrusted to Terry White. For a period of eight years, he worked tirelessly and often faced major hurdles in his quest to keep this project live. The obstacles put in his way were many and frustrating beyond belief.

Persistence and determination were required in spades. The school was supported by two formidable women in its struggle with bureaucracy. Presentation Provincial at the time, Sr Claude Meagher, and later, as the management of Presentation schools was handed over to a trust body, Anne Kelleher, CEO of CEIST.

These women fought many battles in the corridors of power on our behalf. I am very pleased that Anne can be with us for our celebration. Unfortunately, Sr Claude is unwell at present and is unable to join us.

By the time Terry White retired in August 2010, the roof was still leaking, but optimism had been restored and we could foresee a future for Presentation/CEIST education in Waterford.

Faith and perseverance were justly rewarded when, two years ago to this day, on March 22nd 2011, we turned the sod to lay the foundations for the beautiful edifice that stands alongside us.

Our efforts have been truly vindicated and justly rewarded as first year enrolment for the coming year has increased by 37%. Clearly, there is a demand for our product.

The plans prepared by our architects, CJ Falconer & Associates have converted to a building that is bright, spacious and welcoming, as well as functional and practical. The school design incorporates the latest Department requirements together with a wide range of Special Purpose Rooms. Internally, natural light has been brought in to the entrance and social areas.

The interior courtyards extend this light to the wide open circulation spaces. Externally, the natural stone at the main entrance echoes that of the original convent building. Following demolition of the badly sited old building and removal of prefabs, the exposure and development of the grounds gives our school a status as one of the finest new buildings in Waterford today.

It gives me great pleasure to see so many Presentation sisters with us today and to have the opportunity to say thank you for creating that legacy for us. We feel immensely proud and indeed privileged to continue the journey on your behalf. It is particularly satisfying to have three sisters in attendance who served as principals in the secondary school.

I extend an especially warm welcome to Sisters Fidelis, Margaret Mary and Immaculate. While we are now a CEIST school, we remain deeply rooted in the Presentation tradition.

I would like to thank Anne Kelleher, CEO of CEIST for making the transition to trust governance so seamlessly and so sensitively. Anne has taken a particular interest in our school and in the building programme. Her commendation of our efforts often gave us the impetus we needed to keep going.'

Ruth Gallen, Deputy Principal welcomed the guests to the ceremony -

It was attended by Waterford Mayor, Councillor Jim D'Arcy, priest from the parish of St. Paul's Fr. Pat Fitzgerald and Fr. Richard O'Halloran. Also in attendance were past teachers, past pupils, parents, and members of the design and building teams.

During the ceremony 7 candles of blessing were lit –

- Vision – Anne Kelleher, CEO of CEIST
- Leadership – Terry White, former principal
- Heritage -Sr. Fidelis Purcell, former principal
- Promise –Shannon Corr, student
- Knowledge & Wisdom – Helen Byrne teacher
- Nurture - Lorraine Duke, parent
- Community - Susan McGill, Special Olympics

Fr. Pat and Fr. Richard blessed the building whilst the choir, conducted by Music teacher, Mark Scanlon and accompanied by retired teacher Jenifer Long, sang 'Gaelic Blessing' (Rutter) and then Lupita De Bháil, retired teacher and Mark Scanlon sang 'Journey's End' (Lawton).

Mary Ryan gave a speech (see above) and Michael White Chairperson of the Board of Management thanked all for their help in preparing the ceremony, whilst acknowledging the work of Mary Ryan and Ruth Gallen.

In the Presentation we like to think of it as a living history and 3 Pres girls took us on a trip down memory lane - Sr, Margaret Mary, former principal and past pupil; Ann Brennan, member of staff but in a former life she was Ann Mahon, past pupil; and Nicola Cooney, 3rd year student.

It was a wonderful reminiscence and those listening laughed as they recalled times spent in the Pres, whether it was on Jenkin's Lane, Hennessy's Road, in the Convent, Stone Building, prefab or Cannon Street.

As Mary Ryan told the students 'the lantern is yours now and the light burns on at the Back of the Convent. The future lies before you – here's wishing you the brightest one possible.'

As the ribbon was being cut by past pupil and former teacher Sr. Assumpta O'Neill, the guests were kept 'entertained' by the Transition years with excerpts from their recent musical 'Thoroughly Modern Millie'.

Guests were then provided with refreshments in the new school, and many of the students were there to bring the guests on tours of the wonderful facility.

#### Slideshow of Photos

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## Towards Leadership in CEIST Schools - Update

Monday 25th March 2013

CEIST invited participation from staff of CEIST schools in a four week programme, funded by CEIST and aimed at developing particular leadership competencies, in order to support those responsible in their roles as educators within the voluntary secondary sector.

In addition to personal and professional development for the future, participants connected with others from within the CEIST school community and a certificate of participation was issued on conclusion.

A total of 12 seminars are being facilitated by CEIST with four training sessions in Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork, Coláiste na Toirbhirte, Ard Aoibhinn, Bandon and in the Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick.

The training sessions were scheduled over the months of February, March and April.

Due to the overwhelming interest and number of participants in the course in Cork (36 participants in total), we were delighted to offer a second course in Bandon (27 participants). This was then followed by a third course in Limerick with 30 people attending.

The main aim of the Initiative is to invite our teachers into an understanding of what is asked of us who work in a Faith based school, in addition to providing participants with understandings and insights of current issues pertaining to schools, in order that we can more fully support the leadership throughout the school.

All expressed great appreciation of the content and delivery which supported and affirmed the good practice that was evident in their own schools.

It is expected that in this modest way, applicants for leadership posts will be encouraged and feel confident to test their theories in practice and contribute to the innovative culture inherent in CEIST schools.

The Project also hopes to build on the sense of community of CEIST schools by bringing together CEIST schools of varying traditions, student population and social context to share their experience of lived CEIST Charter values.

This spring we have focused on Self Evaluation, Numeracy and Literacy, the new Competency interviewing procedure, means to enhancing morale and asserting positive values.

Below are a group of teachers from Christ King Girls' Secondary School, South Douglas Road Cork, who attended the "Towards Leadership in CEIST Schools" series of lectures four week programme, at Rochestown Park Hotel in February.



Front Row l-r, Mr. Michael Lane CEIST, Ms. Anne Kelleher CEO CEIST, Mr. Ned Prendergast and Ms. Mary O'Leary. Back Row l-r, Ms. Joanne Brosnan, Ms. Marguerite Jennings, Ms. Emma Looney, Mrs. Geraldine O'Donnell, Mrs. Una Long McDonagh, Mrs. Maureen Shanahan and Ms. Aisling Creedon.



Pictured above Tutors and Participants at Towards Middle Leadership Seminar in Cork held on the 27th Feb, 2012.

## Testimonials

For the attention of the C.E.I.S.T team who facilitated the leadership course at Rochestown park hotel, Cork recently.

I absolutely loved the course, and all of the speakers were excellent each in their own way. I was so delighted that the course made us look at ourselves and asked us to think about our role as leaders and teachers in a ceist school.

From four years of age I was immersed into what I can only describe as an idyllic 'Presentation' education setting in Turners Cross, which was to play such an important role in who I was to become.

It was perhaps not until I reached secondary school that I began to realise what a privilege it was to be a 'Presentation' girl. I was so proud to wear my Christ King uniform.

As a student I always appreciated the lengths that the Presentation sisters, staff and management went to for us.

They were not just our teachers, but they were also our mentors and friends. And they instilled in us a sense of what was 'right', a sense of what was 'good', and a sense of 'who we were'.

Without even realising it, we were absorbing and experiencing the presentation ethos in every single thing we did everyday.

Having experienced the best of Presentation traditions as a student and now as a teacher, it is very important to me that we work in our role as leaders in the classroom and within the whole school community to retain all of this as we move forward, and that we continue to remind ourselves of 'Who we really are'.

I want to thank everybody in ceist for making me think and reminisce about the wonderful aspects of being a teacher in a CEIST/Presentation school.

Thank you most sincerely for the hard work and effort you put in, it was a truly inspiring and welcome experience.

Una LongMcDonagh,  
Music Teacher,  
Christ King Secondary School,  
Turners Cross,  
Cork.

A Chára,

Having read through the Ceist Charter, It is very difficult to choose just one section that stands out more than any other as the entire booklet outlines very clearly the mission and vision of our school.

However, what I find most striking is the section on "What we treasure". It gives a very clear description of what our days in a Ceist school should be like.

I like very much the use of the word "treasure", because that is in fact what we do. We treasure our children and the spirits and values should and are lived out in our day to day life in school.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity of participating in this course, which I find very enlightening and informative.

Gráinne O'Mahony,

Coláiste Muire Realt na Mara,

Crosshaven,

Co. Cork.

I just wanted to drop a note to thank you all for the organising the presentations over the past four weeks.

They were so enlightening.

Please pass on my gratitude to all involved. Thanks again.

Marie O Regan,

Guidance Counsellor,

Mount Saint Michael,

Rosscarbery.



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## Young Mercy Leaders Pilgrimage 2013

Thursday 11th July 2013

On Tuesday, 16th July, Mercy students and teachers from across the globe will gather at Mercy International Centre for the commencement of the second Young Mercy Leaders pilgrimage.

Keynote presenters for the 2013 Pilgrimage include:

**Áine Barrins RSM** who will break open some of Catherine McAuley's story;

**Karen Schneider RSM, MD**, a paediatric physician with Johns Hopkins University and Health System, who will talk about global Mercy ministry and share stories of her ministry with people living in extreme poverty in various countries around the world;

**Mary Reynolds RSM**, Executive Director of Mercy International Association, who will engage the theme of Mercy leadership today.

These keynote presentations will be combined with workshops, discussions, rituals, socials, and the sharing of gifts and talents in an evening talent show.

Participants in the inaugural pilgrimage in 2011 came from Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, Great Britain and United States of America. Reports of that pilgrimage can be [accessed here](#).

During the pilgrimage there will be reporting each day on the programme activities on the [www.mercyworld.org](http://www.mercyworld.org) website, Facebook, Twitter and Flickr.

The links are as follows;

**Facebook: MIA Young Mercy Leaders**

**Flickr: youngmercyleaders**

**Twitter: @YMLMIA #YMLP**

Messages to [cathy.edge@iolmercy.org.uk](mailto:cathy.edge@iolmercy.org.uk), - Communications Co-ordinator, YML Pilgrimage.



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## Mary Immaculate College, Limerick and Marino Institute of Education, Dublin offer MA in Christian Leadership

Wednesday 20th March 2013

Mary Immaculate College, Limerick and Marino Institute of Education, Dublin launched today the MA in Christian Leadership Programme.

The MA in Christian Leadership devised by Mary Immaculate College, will now also be offered in the Marino Institute, commencing the academic year 2013-2014.

Trustees of both Colleges attended the signing, as did invited guests from the field of Education.



Pictured above LtoR are Professor Michael Hayes, President Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, Brother Michael Murray, Brother John Burke and Brother Denis.

Seated are Sr Thomasina Finn and Dr. Anne O' Gara, President of Marino Institute of Education, Dublin.



Pictured above guests attending the launch.



Pictured above a section of the audience at the launch of the Masters in Christian Leadership Programme.



Pictured above Professor Michael Hayes, President of Mary Immaculate College, Limerick and Dr. Anne O' Gara, President, Marino Institute of Education, officiating at the signing of a new Memo & Arts between both colleges of Education. Pictured standing are Mr Denis Robinson and Dr Eugene Duffy.

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## New Book Traces Contribution of Two Women's Religious Orders to Growth of a City

Wednesday 20th March 2013

Religious Sisters have transformed the lives of generations of Ballarat women through their tireless work in education and social justice, a new book has revealed.

The Challenge of Change book traces the contribution of the Sisters of Mercy and the Loreto Sisters in Ballarat, Victoria from 1950 to 1980.

The nuns' commitment to education from the 1870s provided access for generations of Catholics and non-Catholics to kindergarten, boarding schools, a commercial college, a teachers' college, parish schools and music education.

By 1980, they were arguably the most educated cohort of women in the city.

Their renewal of religious life, resulting from Vatican II, and emergence from the 1980s as professional women in new apostolic work, came from their deep spirituality and commitment to social justice.

The tireless work of nuns has provided Ballarat with educational infrastructure, a visible manifestation of their contribution to the whole community.

Their leadership is a story largely untold, but one that should be celebrated by anyone interested in the history of the city, and of women's contribution to education and social justice.

In her address, Historian and author Heather O'Connor expressed her "undying admiration for a cohort of women who have undergone more change than perhaps any other sociological group in society.

The extent and the nature of the changes since Vatican II have been unprecedented.

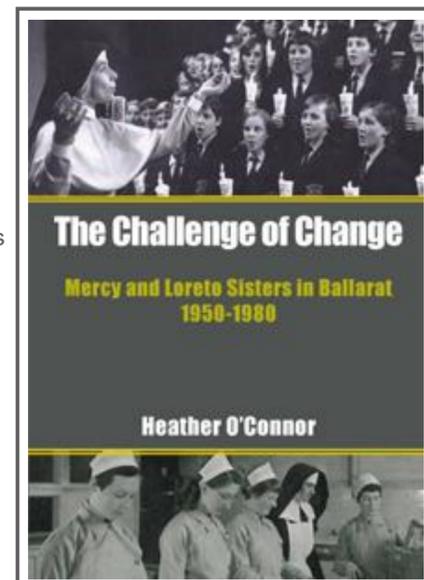
As the most educated cohort of women in the city (some would argue, in the world), they have come through with enormous grace and integrity, with a commitment to social justice that they continue to live out through their work with the most marginalized people in our society..."

The Challenge of Change was launched on 15th February by the Hon Steve Bracks AC, former Premier of Victoria and past pupil and staff member of Sacred Heart Mercy School Ballarat, with Veronica Lawson rsm Master of Ceremonies.

Messages to [Heather O'Connor](#).

## Further Information

Click [here](#) for further information along with foreword from the book.





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## Presentation Secondary School, Warrenmount and Coláiste Bríde Distance Learning Project

Thursday 7th March 2013

[Presentation Secondary School, Warrenmount, Dublin](#) had the honour of hosting the launch of the latest stage for 100Mb broadband rollout to Post Primary schools yesterday March 5th.

The Education Minister Ruairi Quinn and Communications Minister Pat Rabbitte visited the school to make the announcement and to witness ICT distance learning project with two CEIST Schools, Presentation Secondary School, Waterford and Coláiste Bríde, Clondalkin.

### Minister Pat Rabbitte Speech

Presentation Warrenmount shared a video link with Coláiste Bríde for teaching of Higher Level Maths. Click [here](#) to view Minister Rabbitte's speech, where he highly complemented both schools on the initiative.

The second stage of a national roll-out will result in 216 schools in Dublin, Meath and Kildare having the business class service, with the final 250 to be connected in 2014.

Education Minister Ruairi Quinn said despite Ireland's current economic difficulties, the investment in driving schools forward into the digital age was money well spent.

Mr Quinn said: "The internet is providing learners with the possibility of learning at any time and in any place. Accessing education through mixed media delivers a richer educational experience. Applying technology in the right way can make education not just more engaging - but more appealing - so the students and teachers get more from it."

He committed to the integration of ICT/digital technology in teaching and learning across the curriculum, including as part of the new junior certificate from September 2014.

Launching the latest stage at Presentation Secondary School in Warrenmount, Dublin, Communications Minister Pat Rabbitte said it was the beginning of a technical revolution that will fundamentally change the way future generations will access educational resources.

"By bringing 100Mbps uncontended connectivity directly to the premises many students will now have vastly enhanced access to new and innovate educational tools," he said.

"This is a completely different standard of connection to domestic broadband and will allow multiple applications to be accessed by students right across the school. This is an important investment in Ireland's competitiveness.

"From now on these schools will mirror the workplaces of tomorrow. These students will therefore be much better prepared for the digital economy when they seek work."

Another 202 schools in 14 counties in the west and midlands have been benefiting from the high speed service since last year.



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## Survey for World Wise Global Schools

Tuesday 2nd April 2013

Worldwise Global School (WWGS) is a new agency established by Irish Aid for all post primary schools who want to engage in Development Education issues as part of their school activity.

Irish Aid has launched its new support agency for Development Education within post-primary schools in Ireland.

Irish Aid's Worldwide Global Schools programme will provide a range of supports for development education initiatives at post-primary level under the extended Development Education Strategy 2007-2015.

This new programme, WorldWise Global Schools, will support and fund the school Linking and Immersion scheme, along with awards, school based activities, resource development, capacity building and teacher education.

It is envisaged that WorldWise Global Schools will contribute in the longer term to increased knowledge and understanding of global justice issues and increased engagement and action by students as active global citizens.

An extensive baseline research project during February and March, will inform a strategy for Post-Primary schools support.

This will be published in June 2013 and will inform our support for the integration of Development Education through curricular and extra-curricular opportunities.

As part of this research we would ask Principals or Deputy Principals to fill in this online survey, the findings from which the WWGS strategy with post-primary schools will be developed.

## Survey

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WorldWiseGlobalSchools\\_Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WorldWiseGlobalSchools_Survey)



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Congratulations to St Joseph's Secondary School, Doon, Co. Limerick students who performed at the final of the Light Entertainment Competition in the Briary Gap Theatre, Macroom, Co. Cork on March 1st.

This is the first year the school has entered this competition.

The act featured a variety of musicians, dancers, singers and actresses.

The troop won 'Best Choreography', 'Best Director', 'Best Choral Song' and 'Best Overall Act'.

Teachers, Mr. O'Donovan and Ms Collins, together with students, Antoinette O' Sullivan and Gemma O' Riordan deserve huge credit for putting the group together.

## Photos



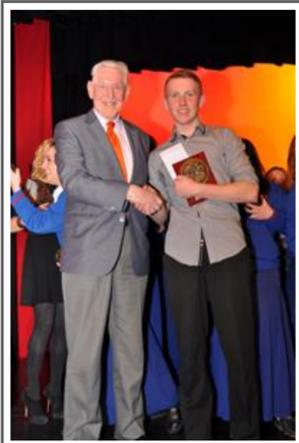
Pictured above are the group winners from St Joseph's Secondary School, Doon with trophies.



Picture above St Joseph's Doon Clap section performing in the competition.



Pictured above the trad group from St Joseph's Secondary School, Doon.



Pictured above Anthonng Foley, Transition Year student collecting the overall prize.



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## St Mary's Secondary School, Macroom Students Visit Poor Clare Convent in Cork

Monday 25th March 2013

St Mary's Secondary School, Macroom, Co. Cork students recently visited the Poor Clare Convent, College Road, Cork.

The sisters issued an invitation and the school were delighted to accept.

The sisters warmly greeted the visiting students and the whole class wrote individual letters and got individual replies!

The visit has made the girls more aware of another type of lifestyle and value system.

What was most amazing was the sisters happiness.

They made it a fun meeting and that was lovely, yet they spoke of the centrality of Christ in their lives.

### Student Account of Visit

On Thursday, 7th February 2012, the 1A1 class of St.Mary's Secondary School visited the Poor Clare's in College Road, Cork.

We had previously written to the nuns and were delighted when they replied individually to each student. We then went and visited the nuns in their Closed Order Convent.

The students gave the nuns presents, a box of Marks & Spencer's biscuits and a bunch of flowers, and the nuns in return provided the 18 girls with biscuits of their own and drinks.

They then went on to talk about their life in the convent and we would all agree that it was an experience not to be forgotten.

The nuns told us about their lifestyles, how they grow their own food in the garden, the time's they pray and go to mass, and how they chose to not eat meat, excluding fish, living a vegetarian lifestyle.

The nuns were also very interested to find out about the changes in Macroom Town, especially Sister Mary who grew up in the town itself.

They told us that they were very close to God and lived their life abiding his ways, trusting him completely.

It was a very exciting day and I'm sure no one will forget it anytime soon!!!

### Photos



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## Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna Comenius Project

Monday 11th March 2013

Over the years Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare has taken part in a number of Comenius projects which are part funded by the European Union.

At present they are involved in a Comenius project with a school in Hoorn, Holland and one in Breno in Italy.

This is a two year project with TY student involved each year.

This year involves a trip to Holland with students and Lisdoonvarna are hosting students from the other schools in May.

Our students stay in the homes of students from the school they are visiting and they will be hosted by families while they are visiting us in May.

In the present project all participating schools are focussing on a local area. They are looking at an area of special interest to nature, or an area which has a special landscape.

These areas might be special but they are not always very suitable to make a good living. The area that the Lisdoonvarna School is looking at is the Burren.

The students are investigating how areas poor in resources can be rich in many other aspects.

In the project the students will focus on a number of aspects:

**1. Human interest:** What kind of people live in the area? What are their local traditions and what kind of solutions did they find for the specific possibilities of the area.

**2. Biology:** How did nature adapt to the physical landscape and what are the differences in comparison with other areas in the neighbourhood.

**3. Economy:** How do people earn a living in a difficult environment?

**4. Sustainability:** How will the area be preserved for future generations?

The practical outcomes of this project are that the students will create an interactive website on each of the three areas at the end of the first year and an App at the end of the second year.

It is hoped that anyone visiting these areas can use these during a visit to the area to tell them anything they would like to know about the area. These Apps will be presented to the local tourist organisations at the end of the project.

15 students from Mary Immaculate Secondary School travelled to Hoorn in Holland in early February. The first day of the trip involved looking at tourist attractions in Hoorn and seeing how they could be made more interesting to people their age.

In the evening students from all these schools cooked dishes from their own country which were shared with all the other students involved.

The Lisdoonvarna students showed off their cooking skills by making Irish stew, bacon and cabbage and finished it off with apple crumble.

These dishes went down very well with the other students.

On the second day they toured Amsterdam and took a canal cruise and visited Amsterdams interactive Museum.

On the third day they attended classes in the school in Hoorn with their host students.

As well as this they gave presentations on the Burren. Some of the topics they covered were the population structure of the area as well as employment data from the 2011 census.

They also gave presentations on tourism in the area as well as traditional music.

They made this more interesting by playing some Irish music for the other students.

The final day involved visiting the polders.

Here they looked at farming on the polders and examined the soil profiles of a number of polders.

They also looked at the traditional method of pumping water from the polders by visiting a windmill and examining in detail its workings.



## Other Photos



Pictured above are participating students and teachers on the comenius project.



The Windmill the students visited.



Students pictured examining polder soils.



Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna students on the way home!



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## News from Scoil Muire agus Pádraig Swinford, Co. Mayo

Monday 11th March 2013

Scoil Muire agus Pádraig Swinford, Co. Mayo have very kindly shared the following news items with CEIST.

### Pioneer Gradam Award at Scoil Muire agus Pádraig Swinford

Interviews were held in Scoil Muire agus Pádraig on Friday February 22nd last in order to judge whether the school's Pioneer Council will win its 10th Gradam Award in a row.

Gradam is an annual award that over fifty Pioneer Centres and schools the length and breadth of the country strive to attain in categories such as the schools' performance annually in recruitment/membership, spiritual and liturgical participation, leisure activities, fundraising and involvement in local community and parish.

Scoil Muire agus Pádraig Swinford and St Peter's High School Newry Co. Down are currently the only schools to compete for this prestigious award.

Scoil Muire agus Pádraig students Shane Fallon, Amy Brett, Katie Sheridan and Katie McGann ( Ryan Convey missing from photo) pictured below with Pioneer Gradam Visitation Assessors Tommy Marren( Connacht and National Council), Robert Shannon (President) and Mary Brady( Secretary) on their recent visit to the school.



### Operation Transformation at Scoil Muire agus Pádraig Swinford

For the second successive year all First Years at Scoil Muire agus Pádraig Swinford are taking part in a fitness challenge in association with Operation Transformation and Aviva Healthcare.

This is a competition for second level schools all over Ireland which aims to increase students' fitness levels.

First Years have already completed stage one of the challenge- the bleep test- which tests existing fitness levels.

Then students are divided into groups depending on their levels of fitness and with the help of Transition Year students they are presently undergoing an exercise programme aimed at increasing their fitness.

After eight weeks students will re-take the bleep test to monitor their improvement and the school with the greatest level of overall improvement will receive prizes from Aviva Healthcare.





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## Special Olympics Torch Run

Tuesday 26th March 2013

The Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics visited Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, Waterford on the 24th January 2013.

They brought the torch into the school gym where they were welcomed by about 200 of our students.

Two students of Mercy Waterford, Treasa O'Rorke and Megan Walsh, and the Principal, Ms Mary Meade, accepted the torch from the athletes and An Garda Siochana on behalf our school.

Three of the athletes went on to compete with the Floorball team in the World Winter Games in South Korea.

The main purpose of the torch run is to raise awareness about the Special Olympics and of the abilities and achievements of the athletes at such events.

## Photos





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## Presentation Sexton Street, Sexton Street Limerick Fun 4 All Initiative

Monday 11th March 2013

Students and staff at the Presentation Secondary School, Sexton Street, Limerick are thrilled with the fantastic achievement of four of our transition year students.

Ailish Rowan, Chloe Ahern, Daria Biel pictured below and Roisin Hogan (unfortunately ill on the day) came up with an innovative and creative idea to encourage participation in physical activity.



They invented an exercise floor mat. The girls were inspired as they wanted to try to make PE class more fun and encourage more girls to participate.

The game consists of a three metre square mat. Four teams can play the game at any one time.

The objective is to get around the mat, completing all of the exercises as you go, and be the first team to reach the finish line in the centre.

The girls developed a prototype of the product and conducted market research to see if it would be a viable product idea.

They carried out research in various primary and secondary schools and received very positive feedback. They currently have a small number of orders but are looking at ways to reduce the production cost of the mat.

They have learned to work as a team and each student has contributed greatly to the success of the business. Led by Managing Director, Ailish Rowan, they have had an opportunity to see Business in Action.

The girls presented their business idea at the Limerick City Student Enterprise Awards in the Strand Hotel and were quizzed by the judging panel.

There was excellent competition on the day and the girls were amazed but thrilled to have won the senior category.

Their feet barely touched the ground when going up to collect their award. They are looking forward to the National stage of the competition where they get to compete in Croke.



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## Daragh Drury competes in All Ireland Cross Country for Our Lady's Castleblayney

Tuesday 19th March 2013

Daragh Drury became the first student in several decades to represent Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan at the All Ireland Schools Cross Country Championships, which were held in Antrim on Saturday March 9.

Daragh reached the finals in Jordanstown having won the Armagh/Monaghan division before qualifying at the Ulster Finals during midterm.

The standard at the All Ireland finals was extremely high with all athletes qualifying from their respective districts and then provinces.

Indeed, those who placed in the top 12 in each final were eligible for International selection. Daragh, however, was not daunted and he was among the leading pack of runners throughout the 3500 metres of muddy terrain.

He eventually finished 22nd overall on the day, out of a very strong field of almost 100 runners. This was a remarkable achievement considering Daragh has only been running competitively for twelve months and was competing against the best in the country.

Cross Country was introduced to Our Lady's Secondary School this year and has proved a resounding success.

The Junior team of Daragh Drury, Frank Connolly, Aaron Courtney, David Hanley, and Colin Merrick reached the Ulster Final.



Meanwhile, the Senior team (pictured above) of Ciaran Hennessy (capt), Callum Southall, Ronan Merrick, Daniel Brennan and Darragh McKenna also reached the Ulster Final winning the divisional championship.

Throughout the year the Cross Country received particular support from the parents of all students involved and also from Mr Paddy Mulroe and Mr Tony Graham who accompanied the students to the Ulster Finals during mid-term and this was greatly appreciated.



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## Cyberbullying Having Significant Impact on Irish Youth

Tuesday 19th March 2013

Cyberbullying is having a significant emotional impact on the young people of Ireland, according to the findings of a new report, which was released recently to mark Safer Internet Day 2013.

The study, [Cyberbullying among Irish 9-16 year olds](#), was written by Dublin Institute of Technology researchers and shows that over half of Irish young people who said they were cyberbullied confirmed that the online harassment seriously upset them.

According to the statistics, some 26 per cent of 9-16 year olds said that cyberbullying made them "very upset", while the same amount of young people said they were "fairly upset" by online bullying. A further 20 per cent said they were "upset" by what they had been subjected to online.

As well as this, 14 per cent of Irish children said they were "deeply affected" by online bullying for "a couple of months or more". This is a very high level of impact compared to the equivalent European finding of only two per cent. Some eight per cent of Irish 9-16 year olds said the toll that cyberbullying took on them lasted for a few weeks, 22 per cent said a few days and 56 per cent said they got over it straight away.

"This is the first time that the impact of cyberbullying on Irish youngsters has been measured and reveals the significant impact it can have on victims," said Brian O'Neill one of the report's authors.

The report also shows that some 28 per cent of those surveyed tried to fix the problem themselves, a quarter ignored the issue in the hope it would go away and just 15 per cent used internet reporting tools.

Simon Grehan, of Webwise, said: "The research indicates that young people feel far more comfortable talking to a trusted friend when they are being targeted online. That is why the Up To Us bystander campaign is encouraging people who witness online bullying to positively get involved to show their support for people who have to put up with nastiness and sustained bullying online."

There is also some cause for optimism as according to the report's findings cyberbullying in Ireland is below the European average. Some four per cent of young people here reported to researchers that they were bullied online compared to an average of six per cent across the Eurozone.

Other findings include:

- For children who reported that they had been bullied on the internet, just 29% of parents were aware of this. 68% of parents did not know that their child had been bullied online.
- Up to a quarter of 15-16 year olds (24%) also say they have bullied others. Nearly half of those who have bullied others online have also themselves been victims of cyberbullying.
- Online bullying is much less common among younger 9-12 olds and happens mostly to teenagers

Among the report's recommendations is that because so few young people turn to teachers in seeking support in cases of cyberbullying, additional school policies and classroom activities are required to assist teachers in developing appropriate strategies. Young people need to be encouraged to speak more openly about cyberbullying threats.

The study also recommends that attempts be made to improve communication between parents and children given the high gaps in awareness. Awareness-raising efforts should focus on encouraging dialogue between parents/carers and children about cyberbullying and how to deal with it.



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## Transitioning into second-level: the Refugee Access Programme

Thursday 21st March 2013

While emigration is a current reality for many young people, immigration is also a permanent long-term reality.

In Ireland one in eight children in post-primary school are from a migrant background.

For many, English may not be the language spoken in the home but rather it is a second or third language.

These young people need particular, tailored supports in order to access the curriculum.

Within the migrant population there are diverse groups, including Separated Children Seeking Asylum.

Separated Children Seeking Asylum or unaccompanied minors are "children under 18 who are outside of their country of origin and separated from parents...They may be seeking asylum because of fear of persecution or the lack of protection due to human rights violations, armed conflict and disturbances in their own country" (SCEP).

In Ireland, once a young person has been identified as a Separated Child, they are placed in the care of the HSE. The child frequently has no sibling, close relation or friends in Ireland and as a result is very isolated.

Separated Children come from many different countries and have varying experiences of education. Some come from very disrupted education backgrounds while others have little to no experience, or no recent experience, of schooling.

Many have had limited English language education and some have the added challenges of literacy difficulties in their first language.

Furthermore Separated Children can be quite alienated going through a process of adaptation and acculturation, and as a result of limited social support networks and of not having grown up in Ireland many have little or no understanding of the Irish education system.

The CDVEC Separated Children Service offers a range of supports that aim to address the wide range and complexity of issues and challenges that young asylum seekers and refugees face.

It seeks to address their need for practical as well as emotional support through an education and youth service. The Refugee Access Programme (RAP) is one of the supports within the service.

The RAP is an intensive transition programme which aims to equip newly-arrived Separated Children and other young people from refugee backgrounds with the skills and tools necessary to engage with the second-level curriculum.

A student referred to the service can start on the RAP at any time during the year. They participate in the programme for 12-16 weeks, in accordance with their care plan, before normally transitioning into a secondary school.

In addition to establishing or reinforcing the routine of schooling, particular skills which are necessary to engage with the second-level curriculum need to be developed.

Since the schooling of students varies, the extent to which these key skills have been developed also varies significantly.

As well as having to learn English in a relatively short period of time, students need specific support with learning to learn.

Language and literacy development are key components of the RAP. As a result of student diversity, the RAP has had to adopt a differentiated approach to teaching which is embedded in materials and methods used.

A recent resource produced by the RAP specifically addresses transition to second-level school. Stepping Stones: Starting Second-Level School in Ireland was developed in order to prepare newly-arrived Separated Children for school life in Ireland.

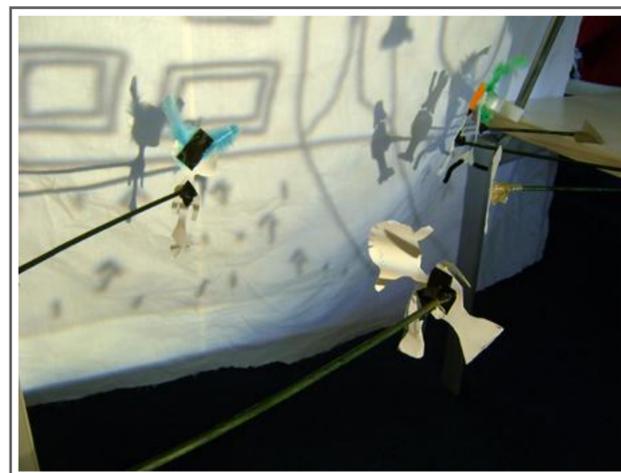
The film and accompanying teaching resource was inspired by the stories of young people who took part in the film project.

Active learning methodologies and differentiation are embedded in the resource, and tasks focus on developing both receptive and productive skills.

While the resource was originally devised to be used with refugee/migrant students, due to the similarity in issues affecting any young person transitioning into second-level school, many of the lessons are of relevance to a much broader youth and education audience.

Further information on the project can be found at [www.separatedchildrenservice.ie](http://www.separatedchildrenservice.ie) or by contacting the CDVEC Curriculum Development Unit directly.

The Refugee Access Programme is a project of the CDVEC Separated Children's Service which is co-financed by the European Commission under the European Refugee Fund and is supported by the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration in the Department of Justice and Equality and Pobal.



Student Shadow Puppetry Story



Pre-Mural Artwork



Student Character



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## A NEW LOOK AT COOLOCK HOUSE

Friday 22nd March 2013

In early January this year the recently completed visual-cum-audio installation at Coolock House was launched as a Heritage Resource Centre for Mercy Sisters, Associates, Friends and Researchers worldwide.

**Canice Hanrahan rsm** in an article taken from the Sisters of Mercy website traces the history of Coolock House in Catherine's story and in the life of the Colvill family, third owners of the house after Catherine (1855-1937) before describing the new installation and inviting us all to "make plans to give yourself an hour at Coolock House even if you've been there before!".



Coolock House c. 1906

We've all known an occasion when we wished everyone we cared about could be present to share in its enjoyment. The launch of the recently completed visual-cum-audio installation at Coolock House on 9th January this New Year was just such an occasion! In this year of Chapter for the congregation, when we pause on our journey, reflect and re-focus, the occasion had a special significance.

### A Sense of Presence and of History

There was a tangible sense of Catherine McAuley's presence in this space in which she lived what Anne Reid referred to as 'her hidden life' for twenty formative years from the age of about twenty three. There was a wonderful providence and a palpable excitement in having with us on that unusually bright and sunny January day members of three generations of the Colvill family, the third owners of Coolock House after Catherine. The Colvills occupied it from 1855 to 1937. Susan Colvill Magan and Ann Colvill are first cousins and both had visited their grandmother in the house. Ann and her mother had spent a whole year there when her father was posted overseas. Susan's granddaughter Clemency was present with her mother Jules and father Arthur Magan. Ann has a lovely story of a once-only dash out the front door and down the granite steps on her tricycle. One could say that the Colvills preserved the legacy that Catherine trusted enough in God's providence to sell almost as soon as she received it!



Pictured above Susan Magan née Colvill, son Arthur Magan, cousin Ann Power née Colvill and granddaughter Clemency Magan.

Providence was a theme that permeated the day. There was providence in the accident of fate that led the Dublin Sisters of Mercy to buy back this house in 1955 - one hundred years after the Colvills had bought it - not to live in it initially, but to start much needed schools in the area.

There was providence for sure in the totally unexpected arrival of photographs from the Colvill family archive, some dating back over 100 years, that Jules and Susan so kindly allowed us to incorporate into the beautiful new wall panels that form part of the installation. My personal favourite is that of the gate lodge which I feel was the cradle of Catherine's ministry.



The Gate Lodge at Coolock House c. 1870

**'The seeds of the future are here in this time ... how we continue to engage with the seeds is important so that in years to come the harvest will be different'**. These words from a reflection by our Central Leadership Team set me thinking again about Catherine – the 'seeds of the future' for her were surely sown in her time in Coolock. How often did she go up and down the same stairs that is still there, especially in her care of the ailing Mrs Catherine and later of William Callaghan during their final illnesses.

She went down the next set of stairs to the kitchens where she met with and ministered to those who sought her help and advice. Mary Sullivan tells us that she 'collected the poor children of the neighbourhood in the lodge, which was placed at her disposal'. She socialised in this house. Her own family were visitors here. In this house she struggled with faith and religious practice.

She went forth from here to seek instruction in that faith and to teach in Abbey St. Catherine's devotion to the Callaghans and, through their generosity, to the neighbouring poor, convinced William Callaghan to make her the beneficiary of his Will, knowing that she would, as he put it, 'do a great deal of good' with the money. The seeds of the future were sown here and they came to a harvest that was indeed different, in ways and in places that nobody could have foreseen. At Coolock the teaching continues in three thriving Mercy schools with not a Sister between them. Alas the gate lodge is gone!



**Coolock Principals:** Moira Bennet, Scoil Caitríona Cailíní; Patricia Dwyer, Mercy College; Margo Killooly, Scoil Caitríona Jnr.

### A Heritage Resource

There was providence also in the decision of the South Central Provincial Leadership Team to ask a committee to work on a Coolock House project with the brief: "To enhance Coolock House as a Heritage Resource Centre for Mercy Sisters, Associates, Friends and Researchers worldwide, in a way that maximises the use of modern technology and minimises the need for members of the resident community to be available to act as guides to visiting groups or individuals". Completing the task took longer than anticipated and is all the better for that and for the fact that the struggle to get it as 'right' as could be managed, the help of professionals was called on. Sr. Mary Sullivan, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas and well known author of books on Catherine McAuley, gave invaluable advice. She also set us right on points long held as fact amongst Mercies - that Mrs Callaghan was a devout, practising Quaker and that Catherine McAuley had come to Coolock in 1803: research now shows that Catherine Callaghan had been excluded from the Society of Friends by her marriage outside the Quaker fold and that Catherine McAuley could not have come to Coolock before 1809, the date of its acquisition by the Callaghans! Mary was most encouraging of the project.



William O'Callaghan

### The Professional Touch

EVENT Communications were the professionals, headed up by Celestine Phelen. Having already worked on the Handsworth and Bermondsey Mercy Heritage Centres they were old friends of Catherine's. Speaking at the launch in Coolock House Celestine said one facet of Catherine's character she felt particularly attracted to was her love for dancing! The committee was grateful to Mrs. Barbara Jeffrey and Marian McCarthy of Great Britain for introducing them to the EVENT office in Dublin and for their encouragement. EVENT has worked on almost two hundred projects worldwide, including the Titanic Experience in Belfast, The Riverside Museum in Glasgow and nearer home, the Book of Kells Exhibition at Trinity College and the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin. Although a comparatively tiny project, they brought to Coolock House the same enthusiasm, skill and dedication to detail – combined with graciousness and good humour.

### Seeing and Listening

So what will you notice on your next visit to Coolock House? The nine delicately coloured, beautifully executed Panels which in word and image welcome you to the house, introduce you anew to Catherine McAuley and to the Callaghans, take you back to the Dublin of Catherine's day and show you some photographs you have not seen before, such as that of the gate lodge. The Panels are strategically located in the front porch, the morning room, the inner hallway, the basement and upstairs in Catherine's bedroom. In the Chapel you will have an opportunity to quietly listen to the motet setting of Catherine's Suscipe from Sr. Teresa Martin's CD *Cothú agus Iomlánú*. You will be transported back to the eighteen twenties and later as you listen to the most engaging audio presentation which is in sections contiguous to the Panels - just press the button! This is not a plain narrative but more a radio play in which conversations of almost two hundred years ago are creatively brought to life. You will listen to Clare Augustine Moore describe Catherine McAuley; you will listen to Catherine's own words and to a conversation between Catherine and William Callaghan and between her and Mrs Callaghan; the script is true to the story as we know it; the actors are Irish professionals and are wonderfully cast. We are indebted to Stephen Davies of EVENT.

### Thanks to Coolock Community

We are indebted too to the Coolock Community for making space in their home for the use of modern technology to tell an old story and for their invitation and welcome to visitors. Now it will be possible for the visitor to be self-directed – but the sisters insist that a 'cup of tea' will continue to be an essential part of a visit. Do please make plans to give yourself an hour at Coolock House even if you've been there before! I leave the final word to Mercy friend and neighbour, Douglas Appleyard, who in his book *Green fields gone Forever*, has written about the Coolock area: he seemed to embody everyone's sense of rejoicing when he said at the end of the morning 'this is so exciting, and should be the inspiration for many other projects!'

Canice Hanrahan rsm

(article and photos courtesy of [Sisters of Mercy](#) website)