

KNOCKLYO NEWS

MARCH 2005

ST. COLMCILLE'S PARISH

"I have given you an example" (John 13:15)



LIVING IN IRELAND AS A FOREIGNER

Hi,

I am a 'blow in' from Norway. At least that is how my colleague likes to describe me. And he usually adds "we tried, but we could never get rid of her" after that.

And bringing me to Ireland after having married me, my husband told my family that he was only bringing back what was rightfully his – after the Viking invasion.

I came to live in Ireland 30+ years ago. To me, settling in Ireland was an exciting adventure. The Irish have a special way of making us foreigners feel welcome, and I soon made new friends and felt at home here.

There are lots of similarities between our two countries. Both have roughly the same size population. We are both countries on the periphery of Europe. Historically we also share similar fates, as Norway was both under Dutch and later Swedish rule, and we only gained our independence exactly 100 years ago this year.

However, there are major differences also. Whilst Ireland has a relatively young population, Norway has many more senior citizens. Both health care and the social welfare system in Norway appear to be better and more developed than what it is here.

And then of course – there is the weather. Norway has four very definite seasons. The winters are colder, but the summers are actually warmer, which may come as a surprise given its geographical location. However, the westerly winds and the Gulf Stream hit Norway more directly than it does Ireland. Even though the winter days in Norway are pretty short, they somehow seem brighter to me with the white snow all around you. And, of course, you have many winter activities such as skiing, skating and tobogganing to name a few.

The land of the Midnight Sun with its long warm summer days brings lots of outdoor activities, such as hiking, glacier walking, swimming in the sea, which very often heats up to a pleasant 22-23 degrees at the height of the season. The sea is mostly crystal clear and



because of the many fjords, there are not any high breakers. However, golf and football are seasonal activities as opposed to Ireland where we enjoy them all year round.

As a people, I would without a doubt describe the Irish as having very friendly and lively personalities. I also find that the Irish have a very easy-going attitude, almost to the point where "rules and regulations" are almost only "guidelines", whilst in Norway we do not break any rules, even when common sense tells us to.

Norwegians would generally be quite punctual as opposed to the Irish who are not. This I did find quite difficult to get used to initially – whether having been invited to a party or hosting one myself. I was always either the first to arrive or wondering if my invited guests were ever going to turn up. I did, however, get used to this, and nowadays I am sure that I can beat the Irish at this game.

My first visit to Ireland was back in 1968, and Ireland has seen enormous change since then. My first impression was that everybody wore clothes in brown and bottle green colours. Nowadays a walk down Grafton Street would reveal a multitude of the latest fashions. Shopping in Dublin is a pleasurable experience, and the capital is a vibrant and energetic city with lots to do and lots to see – still after so many years of living in it.

People will often comment when hearing how long I have lived here that "I must be more Irish than the Irish themselves". I do not think so. I will always be a Norwegian – in my heart, in the way I think, react or indeed interact. This is my identity, and I cannot change it.

But if you were to ask me would I like to move back to Norway one day, my reply would be that Ireland is now my home. I miss my family in Norway for sure, but this is where I live, and this is where I would like to be. Because I do feel at home here, and I have a great sense of belonging here in Knocklyon amongst all you Irish people.

– Eva Campbell

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Saint Patrick

Few saints left so strong and permanent impression on a people as St. Patrick. He was born in Britain, probably in Wales, around 385 A.D.

In his two writings we catch a glimpse of a rich and powerful personality. *The Confession*, which he wrote towards the end of his life, is a celebration of God's love in his life and a defence of his work. The opening words of it are: "I am Patrick, a sinner, most unlearned, the least of all the faithful, and utterly despised by many". From it we know that he was a very prayerful person, loving, forgiving and humble. His relationship with God came before anything else. He handed down to the Irish people a faith in Christ which was intimate and personal. The *Letter to Coroticus* is a letter reprimanding him for murdering and enslaving some of his converts. The *Breastplate of St. Patrick*, though not written by him, reflects his spirit.

He first came to Ireland when he was captured by Irish raiders and spent six years as a slave looking after herds on the slopes of the Slemish Mountain in Northern Ireland. His years there drew him closer to God. After he escaped he had a mysterious dream in which he heard the voice of the Irish calling him back: "We ask you, youth, to come and walk once more among us." He would forgive, love and return. Afterwards he became a bishop and returned to Ireland in 432 A.D. where he remained until he died about the year 461 A.D.

Tradition has it that he lit the paschal fire at Easter on Slane Hill in view of the Hill of Tara where the High King of Ireland lived. He became one of his early converts. He made many missionary journeys throughout Ireland. His name is associated with Croagh Patrick, and St. Patrick's Purgatory on Lough Derg. These have been places of pilgrimage right up to the present day.

There are many monuments to his memory at home and throughout the world. These include the

names of people, monasteries, church and schools.

The Breastplate of St. Patrick is a great hymn of hope and confidence. May the prayer of St. Patrick be our prayer too:

Christ be within me.
Christ be beside me.
Christ be before me.
Christ be behind me.
Christ be on my right hand.
Christ be on my left hand.
Christ be within me wherever I go.
Christ be my friend forever and ever.

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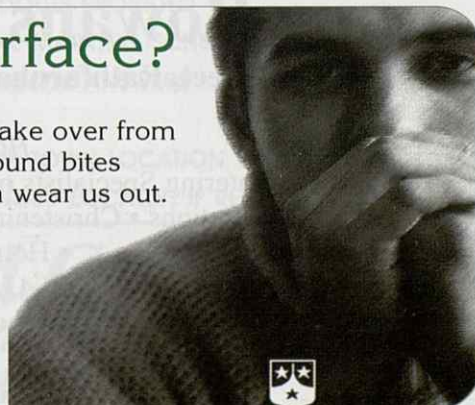
Irish Independent
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Acorn Print Ltd

Tired of living life on the surface?

Our culture is lived very much on the surface. Public relations take over from personal relations and spin edges out substance. Images and sound bites prevail and the constant search for the new and sensational can wear us out.

Perhaps God is calling you to something deeper. You will never know for certain until you explore the possibility.

If you would like support in discerning your personal calling, contact Philip at 086 311 28 37 or Email: pbrennan@carmelites.ie
 Web-site: www.carmelites.ie



ST. PATRICK'S DAY



LÁ 'LE PÁDHRAIG

LIÚIREACH PHÁDHRAIG

Críost liom, Críost romham,
Críost im' dhiaidh, Críost os mo chionnsa
Agus Críost fúm.

Críost ina chónaí in mo chroíse,
Críost fós dheas díom,
Críost ó thuaidh.

Críost i gcluasa gach aon duine
de na daoine chloisfeas mé.

Adhraím, creidim agus glaoím
Ar an Trionóid Tríur na n-Aon,

Ó'n Tiarna tig slánú,

Ó'n Tiarna tig slánu;

Go raibh do shlánú a Thiarna
'nár measc go saol na saol,
Amen.



KNOCKLYON HISTORY SOCIETY

Talk, Wednesday, 9th February,
A Coastal Walk from Killiney to Bray
Speaker: Liam Clare

This was a delightful talk that makes one eager for long bright days to go follow this route.

One will see the myriad kinds of stone deposited along the beach brought from many parts of the country by glacial activity, the remains of a sunken forest almost 5,000 years old and of the built environment of martello towers and batteries, old Shanganagh Castle and Kiltuck Church.

Along this coast the railway ran very close to the shore but coastal erosion estimated at a half metre per annum soon necessitated development of the railway further inland. Along the walk one comes across signs of former track routes, remains of bridges, paths and walls associated with the line.

This is an area with interest for geologists, nature lovers, walkers, archaeologists and anglers.

Go to Corbawn Lane, Shankill and walk this beach way of high cliffs of glacial till. Best to watch for the time of the receding tide and to wear good shoes. It is a 4-5 mile walk to Bray. Have refreshments there and return to Shankill on the Dart.



Committee members of the Knocklyon Badminton Club (see article on Page 17).

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HOLY WEEK – Liturgies & Services

MONDAY, 21st March

8.00 p.m.

Celebration of Hope and Healing

Prayer, Reflection and Intercession for all who are suffering, whether through illness, bereavement, depression, addiction or affliction of any kind.

Service includes Sacrament of Anointing.

GOOD FRIDAY, 25TH March

10.00 a.m.

Morning Prayer

11.00 a.m.

Children's Stations

12.00 noon

Stations of the Cross

3.00 p.m.

Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion

7.30 p.m.

Musical Presentation of the Passion

HOLY THURSDAY, 24th March

10.00 a.m.

Morning Prayer

3.30 p.m.

Mass with Children

7.30 p.m.

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

HOLY SATURDAY, 26th March

10.00 a.m.

Morning Prayer

10.30-11.30 a.m.

Confessions

4.00-5.00 p.m.

Confessions

9.00 p.m.

The Easter Vigil & Celebration of the Lord's Resurrection

Easter Revision Courses



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DON'T FORGET!

Daffodil Day Friday, 11th March



Two ex members of the Knocklyon News Team, Fiona Lynch and Monica Nolan share a joke on a previous Daffodil Day.

LATEST NEWS FROM LISA

Congratulations and best of luck to Lisa Kelly who is off to the States on a promotional tour for her 'Celtic Woman' CD.

The very talented Lisa has three more CDs coming out in the next two years.



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OPENING HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday – 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Thursday and Friday – 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Saturday – 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME

K.A.R.A. NEWS

K.A.R.A. meetings continue as usual at 10.30 a.m. every Tuesday with bowls on Thursday from 1-3.15 p.m.

On Tuesday the 8th February a large group of members visited the Georgian House Museum on Fitzwilliam Street. This house has been restored by the E.S.B. and shows how the original owners would have lived when the house was first built in the late eighteenth century. We had a most interesting and informative tour which we all enjoyed.

Two of our members attended P.A.L.s workshops lately and hope to run some physical activities for members at meetings in the near future.

Councillor Alex White is to come to our meeting on the 1st March to speak to us about the work of council members in South Dublin County Council.

Most of our members hope to join our next holiday in Waterford in April. We will spend three nights in The Tower Hotel and look forward to seeing some of the sights of the South East.

We are always happy to welcome new members. We can be contacted through any of our officers: Chairperson, Maureen Flood, 494 6798; Vice-chairperson, Patricia Roche, 494 6825; Secretary, Noel Mordaunt, 269 5188; Treasurer, Peggy Kinsella, 494 7863.

I.C.A.

The Knocklyon ICA meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. We have some interesting topics coming up, including a talk and slide show from our own Terry Kenny on her amazing trip to Tanzania in Africa. We also hope to make a trip to the Civic Theatre to see the play 'Dublin By Lamplight'.

We are now in our 21st year and we are planning a **Big Celebration** soon. Don't forget **NEW MEMBERS** are always welcome. Come in and join us for an entertaining evening and a nice cup of tea.

Contact No.: 01-493 6471.

SHALL WE DANCE ?? !!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN HOW TO DANCE
BEFORE THE SUMMER?

Learn to Waltz, Jive and Salsa
Courses for beginners and
improvers

Adults for the Easter to June terms
are now booking!

Yvonne Deaton, FIDTA, runs all courses personally in
Knocklyon and Ballyroan and you don't need a
partner to come along!

Ring now for details but don't delay – Winter courses
were very popular and got booked out quickly!

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GOING ABROAD?

If you are planning a trip abroad, contact our Travel
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KNOCKLYON FORÓIGE YOUTH CLUB

Knocklyon Foróige Youth Club meets every Friday night in the Knocklyon Community Centre from 8 p.m.-9.30 p.m. We are just over 1 year up and running. The object of the club is to provide a meeting place for teenagers aged 12-17 years, but they must be in Secondary School. We have 7 leaders with at least 5 present every Friday. As the club stands they have football, basketball, badminton, air hockey, tabletennis, pool and a tuck shop. They also have had hip-hop dancing classes and a course with a beautician/sports therapist Nicola Meier. They've also been bowling, went ice-skating at Christmas and have had a couple of discos, as well as been invited to other youth clubs for quiz nights, etc.

The youth club members also helped with the return of the Dublin Gospel Choir to Knocklyon on Friday 11th March. At present we have 50 members. We would love to be able to facilitate more but in order to do so we need volunteers as leaders. (One leader is needed for every ten teenagers and must be over 18.) If interested please call any Friday evening from 8-9.30 p.m.

Finally, we hope our members and leaders continue to enjoy our programme of events and outings in 2005. On behalf of all our leaders, Brenda Cahill.

KNOCKLYON CONCERT BAND GOES INTERNATIONAL!

The Knocklyon Concert Band will be making its first trip abroad at the end of April this year. We have been invited to compete in the International Music Festival at Neerpelt in Belgium on April 30th and May 1st. A great deal of work has gone in to the planning for this trip and we would like to thank all of those involved.

We have fund-raised to subsidise the trip but as always the main burden has fallen on the parents of the band members. We would like to thank them especially for their support on this trip and all the parents throughout the year.

SECOND GENERATION KNOCKLYON

As a result of our invitation for suggestions to profile some of our young people a number of names have been submitted. In our next issue we hope to publish an interview with one of the young nominees.

GOSPEL MANIA

By the time you read this, the multi-talented Dublin Gospel Choir will have made their second appearance in St. Colmcille's in just over three months – not bad, considering they are so much in demand all over the country. We hope to share some of the amazing atmosphere of their 'Night Of Soul' in the April/May edition. With help from members of the Dublin Gospel Choir, our own fledgling Youth Gospel Choir continues to do its groundwork in preparation for its official debut, please God, in the near future. With over thirty members at present (average age 15-16), the thinking at this stage is that the Choir would sing at the Sunday 7.00 p.m. Mass once a month initially. On other Sundays we might have a different style of music again, and we wish to respect the fact that many people would appreciate a normal, "quiet" Mass at that time on at least one Sunday in the month too.

TAIZÉ MASS

The Sunday 7.00 p.m. Mass generally seems to attract an impressive number of teenagers. Recently, as an experiment, we celebrated a Sunday 7.00 p.m. Mass in the style of Taizé. As it was so well received, particularly by the young adults present, we are planning to celebrate another one during the Easter Season.

When is it on? 7.00 p.m., Sunday April 17th

So make sure to mark this date in your diary! If you are a good singer or musician, especially if harmonisation is your strong point or you can play the flute, oboe or violin (irrespective of age) we could do with your services and would be delighted if you were to make your talented self known to our humble core group. As always, for more details contact Philip on 086-311 2837; E-mail: pbrennan@carmelites.ie.

To find out more about Taizé, its origins and vision, check out www.taize.fr.

And be sure to keep up to date with all the latest happenings regarding other youth initiatives on our parish website: www.knocklyonparish.com.

A TASTE OF TAIZÉ

An Ecumenical Taizé Music Workshop
Chrysalis Holistic Centre

Holy Thursday, 24th March, 10.30 a.m.-5.30 p.m.

Led by **Toni Walsh**, opera singer, music teacher, who trained in Taizé, France, and sang on the 'Laudate' tape.

Co-hosts: **Philip Brennan**, O.Carm., Parish Chaplain, Knocklyon;

Declan Smith, Rector of Donard Church of Ireland;

Eamonn McCarthy, CC, Priest in Charge, Donard.

Fee by donation – proceeds to Donoughmore Church Restoration Fund.

Send your booking to Claire Pilling, Chrysalis, Donard, Co. Wicklow.

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REQUEST TO READERS

Chernobyl Children's Project

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Church Gate Collection – Saturday

2nd April and Sunday 3rd April 2005

Please help us to raise €50,000 to pay for our Outreach Group's (Ballinteer Outreach Group) commitment to this year's 'Operation Hope XXV' Convoy to Belarus, which is as follows:

- Purchase of 2 ambulances to be donated to needy hospitals and orphanages in Belarus.
- Purchase of a 45 foot container of nappies (adult and child).
- Sponsorship of a specialist nurse's salary for 5 years, to work in Vesnova Mental Asylum, which cares for young children and young adults affected by the aftermath of the world's worst nuclear disaster in Chernobyl in 1996.

This year's Humanitarian Aid Convoy consists of 16 x 45ft. trucks laden with medical supplies, clothes, non-perishable food items, and toys, and 14 ambulances. Once again, one of our ambulances will be driven across 10 countries of Europe by my brother, Paddy and myself. We depart from Rosslare Port on Sunday, April 10th, 2005. Our journey will take us one week to reach Belarus, and a further week delivering the aid to the various hospitals, orphanages and day care centres throughout Belarus and Western Russia.

I am a resident of Coolamber Park, and I would be very grateful for your kind support and generosity during our Church Gate Collection at St. Colmcille's Church on the above dates. We look forward to seeing you then, when our ambulance will be on display.

– Michael Kenny, Committee Member,
Ballinteer Outreach Group. Tel: 494 7965.

OUR COVER PHOTO

The photo, taken by Ron Soliman, shows Fr. Jim Lee, pastor of St. Michael Catholic Church, Washington, kissing the foot of one of his parishioners after washing it with water during the celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. The Liturgy of the Mass recalls the Passover, the Last Supper of Jesus with his apostles, which includes the washing of the feet. (Reprinted with permission of 'The Olympian' newspaper, Washington, U.S.)



Dates for your Diary CIVIC THEATRE

14th-19th March

'Eden' by Eugene O'Brien
Starring Catherine Byrne and Ciaran O'Reilly (winner of The Irish Times Award for Best New Play 2001)

24th, 25th, 26th March

Karma Productions present
The Dublin Gospel Choir
(Another opportunity to attend this wonderful presentation.)

31st March-9th April

Storytellers Theatre Company presents
'The Dream Of A Summer Day'
(Celebrating the life and work of Irish writer Lafcadio Hearn.)

4th-9th April

Bealtaine Theatre Group present
'Stages'
(Sean Travers, a celebrated actor, reflects on a life of ambition, love, friendship, achievement, regret and his beloved Howth Head.)

GET WELL WISHES

As we go to print one of our Newsletter team members, Sylvia Doyle, is recovering from surgery in hospital. We all send Sylvia our good wishes and look forward to having her back on board. We need you Sylvia for our production mornings and proof-reading. So get well soon!

COLAISTE NAOMH EOIN

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GAELTACHT SUMMER COURSES 2005

For Students 8-18 years

Venue: Ballinteer Community School

(a) 13th-24th June '05; (b) 27th June-8th July '05; (c) 11th-22nd July '05; (d) 25th July-6th Aug. '05.

Venue: Sancta Maria College

(e) 7th-18th June '05; (f) 4th-15th July '05; (g) 18th-29th July '05.

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Bridge, Bridge, Anyone for Bridge?



We have recently run a series of bridge classes for beginners and improvers in the Iona Centre. Some of the group would be interested in forming a Club to continue playing on Monday mornings (10 a.m.-1 p.m.) on a regular basis. If there is enough interest, it may be possible to run a novice group and a more advanced group at the same time. April 4th would be a possible date for commencement provided there are sufficient numbers.

If you would be interested in playing regularly on Monday mornings please contact the Iona Centre (Tel. 494 3712) before March 21st.

Anyone for Tennis?



A group of children from the Mick Smyth Tennis Camp enjoying themselves.

MICK SMYTH TENNIS CAMP

Terenure College – July/August 2005

For whom: Boys and Girls, 6-18 Years

Standards: Separate groups for total beginners.

Intermediate and advanced players. Children are also grouped re their ages, friends, etc.

Weekly during July/August

Commencing Monday July 4th-August 19th, 2005

Monday to Friday inc. 2.30 p.m.-4.30 p.m.

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E-mail: mesmyth@gmail.com

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7.15-8.15 p.m. and 8.30-9.30 p.m.

Fee: €60.00

APPLICATION FORM

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Telephone:.....

Course No..... I enclose Fee €..... cash/cheque.

Cheques should be made payable to The Iona Centre.

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for a cuppa!



ATTENTION PARENTS!

Fun Exercise for 3-6 years:

Tues., Ballyroan Community Centre at 3 p.m.

Wed., Butterfield Health & Fitness at 3 p.m.

Join in anytime, 10 weeks, €55

EASTER CAMP:

29th March-1st April, 10.30 a.m.-1 p.m., €65

BOOK NOW!

Call Jane Keogh – 087-220 3522

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Happy Easter to all our readers. The lead up to Easter week has been activity filled, as usual, in the Junior School.

Some classes have been busy decorating huge Easter eggs which can be viewed at Nutgrove Shopping Centre during the holidays. Our six second classes received the Sacrament of Penance at lovely ceremonies in the church on the first three evenings of the month. A special thank-you to their parents, teachers and to all of the priests who made the occasion so special for our young pupils.

IRISH TIMES MUSIC IN THE CLASSROOM

Three hundred and sixty pupils from first and second classes thoroughly enjoyed their trip to this year's concert at The Helix in DCU. The event plays an integral part in our delivery of the revised music curriculum.

All of our teachers have received two training days in Music this year. Ms. Meeley has assumed responsibility for music and will be busy with her colleagues in the music planning group preparing for our school planning day on Friday 29th April.

TSUNAMI APPEAL

Our infant and first classes raised €2,550 towards the Buy-a-Boat project for the victims of the Tsunami. The staff then provided a top-up before we presented the Irish Sri-Lanka Trust Fund with a cheque for €3,000 in late February. This year's First Communicants also wish to donate some money towards the rebuilding of lives in the Indian Ocean countries. They will choose this charity and one Irish charity in May.

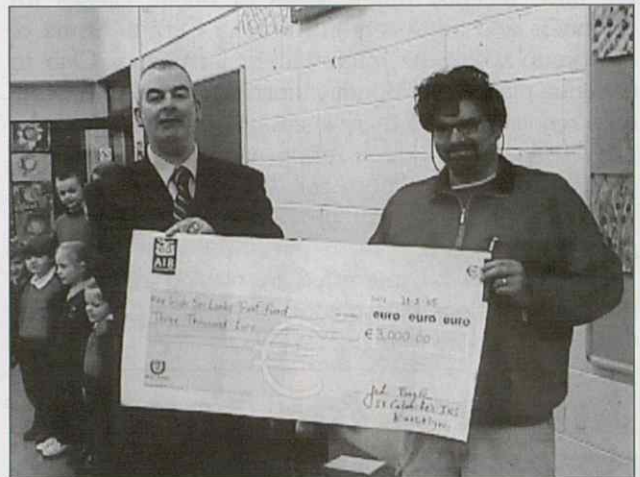
COMPUTER NETWORK

Ms. Ruddy has been busy organising the networking of all thirty-five classrooms. Teachers will soon be in a position to share files, which will be of great benefit for school planning (not to mention the environmental impact of the lowering of our paper mountain!) Each teacher will also be in a position to access the internet in class. This can be a very effective teaching and learning tool, even in a Junior primary classroom. In the next few years pupils can

look forward to typing poetry on a class laptop and seeing their verses projected to the whiteboard within seconds!! Maybe copybooks will also become a relic of a bygone age!

ENROLMENT

All of the places in September's six Junior Infant classes have been filled. New families moving to Knocklyon should complete application forms at the school office as there may be cancellations.



Mr. Boyle handing over the cheque for €3,000 to Paul Tylak of the Irish Sri-Lanka Trust Fund.



Children from Infant and First Classes presenting Paul Tylak with a cheque for €3,000 for the "Buy A Boat" project.

Sylvia Behan School of Ballet



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Tríocho bliain ag fás

"Knocklyon, is that the biggest school in Ireland?"
"How do you cope with the numbers there?" "It must be chaotic."
"Sure, you could never get to know all the staff, let alone all the pupils in a place like that!"

These are frequent reactions from fellow-teachers at conferences when I tell them where I work.

There are problems, of course, in managing such large numbers. Moving that many small children safely from A to B is often a logistical nightmare. Our staffroom is too small, and we have problems with storage for resource materials. However, the dynamic which exists between teachers, pupils and ancillary staff, means that Knocklyon is a surprisingly intimate place in which to work.

The large numbers mean that teachers are almost forced to come together to plan curriculum delivery and timetabling. The inclusion of children with special needs, traveller children, and international children, has encouraged us to review not only the curriculum content, but also the way we teach, and the ethos that exists in the school.

I joined the staff of Knocklyon Primary School when it was established in September 1976, when the parish was two years old. It was a major cultural shock for me coming from teaching in a large urban school on the north side of the city, to what then was effectively a small semi-rural school. One of my earliest memories of driving to school along Scholarstown Road is of seeing Liam Cosgrave (then Taoiseach) exercising his horse in the morning mist, fully kitted out in riding hat.

Numbers were very low at that stage. There were eighty-six children on the rolls when I joined in 1976. The nature of the house construction meant that new families were arriving in dribs and drabs, and class numbers were increasingly weekly. Trying to plan, or establish a routine, was exhausting.

When we returned to school in January 1977, it was announced that the new school building would be officially opened by Archbishop Dermot Ryan and Taoiseach Mr. Liam Cosgrave in the following June. This event was a catalyst for a strong bonding between the school and the wider parish community. Everybody worked furiously to get the school ready for this major event. All the snag-list jobs were tackled, parent volunteers cleaned the buildings from top to bottom, even the many unused classrooms. In the best Irish tradition a celebration party followed the formal opening ceremonies, where new friends were made, and lasting connections established within the parish. Knocklyon School was no longer simply a workplace, but part of a growing community of families with histories, problems, achievements, and hopes. The wider community became very supportive of the school, and this helped to overcome many teething problems.

Over the years the school community has changed and expanded. Staff members have retired, or moved on, but their places have been taken by equally committed and dynamic

teachers.

Last year's visit by President Mary McAleese to the school brought me back to those early years. Staff and parents worked very hard to get the school looking its best. Unlike the early days however, there was now a strong tradition to build on when we came to discuss with the children what it was like to live in Knocklyon and to be part of this community. The children's pride in their school and environment was very evident in the beautiful artwork they produced. Teachers found themselves energised by this special occasion. Stories were told, memories shared with newer teachers, and a new bonding occurred.

Earlier this year, class teachers met parents to outline some changes that the new curriculum has brought about. In preparation, the teachers surveyed the children about their fears relating to school life, and how parents and teachers could help them to overcome these. The results were very interesting, and included:

- Not being liked – nobody to play with in the yard;
- Not doing well in the spelling test;
- Not being collected from school – parents/guardians not being able to find them.

When parents were surveyed, they wanted their children:

- To have friends and be liked;
- To fulfil their potential at school;
- To keep their innocence, and be happy and safe at school.

Children today appear far more confident and outgoing than the classes of 1976/77, but it is interesting to note the fears and aspirations of both pupils and parents in 2004 remain the same as those expressed to us in early meetings in the temporary parish church in 1977/78 when they discussed what they wanted from their new school.

I find it hard to believe that 28 years have passed since I joined the school. However it becomes reality when I meet a parent putting on a brave face as they lead a tearful infant for their first day at 'big' school, and I realise that I remember that same parent as the tearful infant in 1978! Recently, while I was doing supervision duty in the Junior Infant yard, a small boy tugged at my coat and said, "You know me, I'm Anne's boy." And indeed I remembered his mother, and his uncles and aunts, who had attended the school. I was impressed that this child identified with the school because of his extended family's experience here. One of the highlights of the school year is the First Holy Communion Mass. It is lovely to stand at the back of the church and watch families coming together for this special event. I particularly like to see the grandparents, their faces beaming with pride for their children and grandchildren.

It is also gratifying for teachers to see the number of their past pupils who have chosen to train for the teaching profession, and who return as students to their old school for teaching practice.

In the 28 years since I came to Knocklyon, the landscape may have changed, the staff grown and changed, yet certain things have stayed the same – the enthusiasm and wonder of the children, the commitment and energy of the staff, and the support of parents and clergy. These factors, rather than the large numbers, are what make Knocklyon School unique.

– Ita Corduff

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Gaelscoil Chnoc Liamhna



Táimid tagtha ag an tuairim nach bhfuil a leithéid de rud ann is am chiúin sa scoilbhliain. Ní túisce imeacht amháin a bheith thart nuair a chaithimid díriú isteach ar an gcéad rud eile.

Cruinnithe Tuisti

Parent teacher meetings were held during the week beginning the 7th of February, Thursday the 10th being particularly busy. No school can function without the commitment and support of the parents agus is cinnte nach n-eireodh linn Gaelscoil a choimeád ar an mbóthar gan ár dtuismitheoirí. Children need to see that their parents are involved in their formal education - being that they are the primary educators. These meetings are timed to take place half-way through the academic year so that progress may be assessed and goals set for the remainder of the year. Most satisfactorily, teachers reported an excellent turnout. As is the nature of these events, some meetings ran overtime agus ba mhaith linn ár mbuíochoas a chur in iúl dóibh siúd a d'fhan go foighneach.

Rang a Dó

Tá an rang seo ag obair go dian ag réiteach don ócáid mhór a bheidh acu i mbliana - an Chéad Chomaoineach. Tháinig an tAthair Pilib chun cainte le tuismitheoirí an ranga ag tús Mí Feabhra. The focus of the meeting was on how to best prepare the children for the two sacraments they will receive this year. Arís, táimid an-bhuíoch don Athair Pilib as an gacbhair ar fad a thugann sé dúinn insan obair seo.

Agus, ag dul i gcló dúinn, Rang a Dó are preparing for their First Confession, which takes place at the end of February. Those of us who could identify with Frank O'Connor's short story would scarcely recognise the event! Beidh cór na scoile ann ag canadh agus cuirfidh an rang féin drama i láthair a léireoidh grá Dé dúinn. Guimid gach rath orthu.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Tá seachtain na Gaeilge ag druidim linn i Mí Márta agus táimid ag ullmhú chuige cheana féin. Rang a Ceathair, in conjunction with Ballyroan Library, have been working hard on a project which they hope to have completed for Seachtain na Gaeilge. The pupils have chosen a selection of leabhair as Gaeilge and reviewed them for the benefit of all users of the library. Their deliberations will be on display in the library i rith Seachtain na Gaeilge and will also be available on the library's website.

Ar ndóigh, beidh imeachtaí ar siúl sa scoil again don tseachtain go léir - ceili, claiseceadal, comórtas ealaíne agus go leor rudaí eile. Is seachtain spraoi a bhíonn i gceist agus bainimid go léir, idir mhúinteoirí agus daltaí, an-taitneamh as.

Turas

Is cinnte go bhfuil Rang a Ceathair an-ghnóthach an téarma seo. Chuaigh siad féin agus Rang a Trí ar thuras scoile le déanaí. Múinteoirí Sorcha agus Eoin took their classes to visit the National Museum in Kildare Street and the National

History Museum in Merrion Square. All involved were at pains to point out that the day demanded a lot of effort - filling in worksheets and studying particular exhibits. Rang a Trí were especially interested in the Egyptian Room as they have studied Ancient Egypt during the year. Ach táim cinnte go raibh an-spórt acu chomh maith!

Iomáint

Tá Brian Ó Riagáin ar ais ag obair leis na hardranganna faoi láthair. Caitheann na daltaí a gcuid maidineacha ag cleachtadh scileanna iomána faoina stiúr. Arís, táimid go mór faoi chomaoin ag Cumann Bhaile Buadáin Naomh Éanna mar gheall ar an obair a dhéanann said sa scoil.

UNICEF

Bhí Múinteoir Áine ana-shásta leis an lá a d'eagraigh sí ar mhaithe le UNICEF le déanaí. Pupils were allowed to come to school wearing 'civvies' upon payment of €1 which was then donated to UNICEF's Tsunami Fund. The response was extremely generous, with many paying far more than the suggested donation. Mile buíochas libh go léir!

Cuairteoirí

Bhí cuairteoir ana-speisialta againn ag an scoil le déanaí. Thug Múinteoir Nuala a leanbhín isteach ar cuairt chugainn. Abbie is ainm di agus thugadar cuairt ar Ranganna a Cúig agus a Sé chomh maith leis an seomra foirne.

Curaclam Athbheithnithe

Inservice training is focussing on two areas this year. The staff has already attended a Music Day and is scheduled to receive training in early March on Sport. The school already devotes considerable time to GAA games, basketball and dance as well as teaching the neurologically-based Primary Movements programme. Tá an fhoireann ag súil le tairbhe a bhaint as an lá traenála seo.

Eolas

As we mentioned in the last issue, preparations are well advanced for next year's intake of pupils. Má's suim leat eolas a fháil ón scoil do bhlianta eile, glaigh ar an bPríomhoide Treasa ar 493 9262 idir a naoi agus a dó a' chlog.



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Holy Week in the Parish

Holy Week is the greatest week in the Church calendar. The whole year is directed towards Holy Week, especially the three days known as the Sacred Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday which culminates in the Easter Vigil, "the night of nights", when the Christian Community gathers to celebrate the glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night is the high point of the Triduum. This Vigil has come into its own in recent times with what is called the Adult Rite of Christian Initiation which comprises the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. The six weeks of Lent are a time of preparation for this Rite of Initiation. With the growing number of immigrants to our country, adult initiation is on the increase here. Such people become a blood transfusion to any parish, bringing the riches of their own culture to the local Christian community. On a visit to Korea some years ago, I was amazed to learn that the number of catechumens in the average urban parish amounts to one or two hundred every year.

Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil are not separate events. They are all part of a single unit, what we call the "Paschal Mystery" – the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus until he comes in glory. The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper signifies the opening of the Triduum when we recall what Jesus did on Holy Thursday night, gathering his disciples for the Paschal Meal and for the Institution of the Eucharist. The Mass of the Lord's Supper can be a celebration of great beauty, as the gathered people recall and live out what Jesus did the night before he died. What follows is a reflection on one part of the Holy Thursday celebration, the washing of the feet:

I can still recall reading a long while back a retreat conference of the late Vincent McNabb O.P., in which he drew the attention of his hearers to a little old lady he had encountered in the slums of London. She was carrying a large bucket, a cloth and a lump of soap. Her mission was washing the feet of the old in the

slums. "Folk like to have their feet washed, poor things," she said. It was her privilege. A lowly act and at the same time one of devoted service.

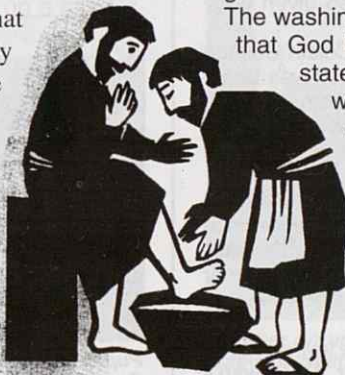
This is how John portrays the washing of the disciples' feet by Jesus, a lowly act and one of devoted service. It was actually forbidden by Jewish law to compel a slave to wash anyone's feet. But wives performed it for their husbands and disciples for their masters. As told by John it is much more than a moralistic or exemplary story. The introduction is too incredibly solemn for that, alluding as it does to Christ's relationship with his Father and his awareness of his destiny. The story along with its introduction opens up the second part of John's gospel which is the Book of Glory, and includes the touching farewell discourse.

The story is a symbolic one containing many layers of meaning. It is John's way of describing the institution of the Eucharist. While the Synoptics and Paul (second reading) describe it in ritual terms John touches on the core of eucharist by relating it to life. He presents it as the living out of what we do at the altar by living a life of devoted service.

It is also John's way of introducing the Passion. It points to an act of the utmost love to the Christ whose hour had come to pass over from this world to the Father by the way of the crucifixion and death. Except that John prefers to describe the Passion itself in terms of glory, being lifted up on the Cross, being lifted up to the Father. There is always a deeper meaning to the story in John. The laying aside of his garments suggests the laying down of his life that he may take it up again (3:10 – 17). The 'girded himself with a towel' suggests the sign of a slave. The water image suggests baptism. We have here a strange way of shifting from the night before he died to years later, to the bath that makes us clean entirely, the bath of regeneration that brings perfect purification.

The washing of the feet points to the ultimate revelation that God loves us. Who would dare to make such a statement unless we had his word for it, unless we could point to the revealing of it in an episode such as the washing of the feet? Today we point to persons like Jean Vanier and our own Adi Roche. To those who lay down their life in order to find it again, like Our Lord. We have to lay down our lives too but it may be a bit more complicated than putting our heads on a block.

– Eltin Griffin, O.Carm.



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Nuacht ón Scoil Shinsearach

VISIT OF MR. TOM KITT T.D.

St. Colmcille's S.N.S. was delighted to welcome Government Chief Whip, Mr. Tom Kitt T.D. to our school recently. Mr. Kitt's visit was in connection with the redevelopment plans for our school buildings and we were very pleased with the amount of time he spent with us and the worthwhile discussions that took place.

As a result of Minister Kitt's visit a number of Senior Officials from the Department of Education and Science's Building and Planning Unit have since visited the school and our building project proposal is currently being assessed. We are hopeful that this project will be sanctioned within the near future.

ST. COLMCILLE'S S.N.S. RETAINS THE BRAT GLAS/GREEN FLAG

Two years ago St. Colmcille's S.N.S. became one of the first schools in South Dublin to be awarded the prestigious International Green Flag. Each school must re-apply for the flag and this year we had to apply for a renewal of the Green Flag award. This application involved a new programme of activities being submitted and it also involved an assessment visit to our school by representatives of An Taisce (see piece below).

We were delighted to receive word on 10th February that our application for a renewal of the Green Flag has been successful. In their letter to us the Evaluation Committee stated: "An Taisce's Green Schools Evaluation Committee, which makes the decision to award the Green Flag, continues to be extremely impressed by our programme and had no hesitation in making the decision."

All in the school community are delighted with this recent award and we will redouble our efforts to make our school an environmentally friendly place. Well done to Ms. O'Gara and her committee of pupil members on their excellent achievement.

OUR GREEN FLAG RENEWAL ASSESSMENT

On Friday 28th January, Ms. Annmarie Fitzpatrick and her assistant Ms. Ann Pierce came to our school for our Green Flag assessment. The classes at the front of the school decorated their windows with posters about recycling and energy. When the two ladies arrived they were greeted by six of our Coiste Uaithne members. They were also given baby holly trees.

Next they were shown to the hall. The whole Coiste Uaithne and some other classes were also there. The hall was bright with pupils' projects and artwork. Some classes from sixth and third had prepared plays and songs so that the lady from South Dublin County Council would be encouraged to let us keep the Green Flag.

In the hall Niamh O'Gara made a welcoming speech about the school. Ms. O'Gara's class also did a brilliant performance of their play, 'The Don't Care Bears'. Ms. McKeown's class presented 'The Bare Necessities Energy Roadshow'. Conor O'Brien rapped and Mr. Brennan's class performed 'Mother Earth Is Ill'.

When the plays ended Ms. Fitzpatrick said a few words to the Coiste Uaithne before having a look at Mr. McGowan's



Left to right: Karen Sexton, Jack Higgins and Ryan O'Donoghue during their visit to Tallaght Hospital.

display of worm tea, stamps, seeds and ink cartridges. After that Mr. McGowan showed her the vermi composter and the green cone.

The whole school made a superb effort and we are delighted that we were rewarded for it!

– by Grace O'Brien, Coiste Uaithne Representative, 5th Class, Room 11

OUR VISIT TO TALLAGHT HOSPITAL

On Wednesday 26th January, St. Colmcille's Green Committee went to Tallaght Hospital to encourage patients, staff and visitors to recycle. The trip was organised by Mr. Frank Neylon, a parent of a Coiste Uaithne representative, Paul.

There we sold reusable cups and plates. We encouraged people to use them instead of the polystyrene cups that are thrown away almost immediately after you buy your tea or coffee. We sold lunch boxes, which were for hot food or cold food too. We also told people where to put their rubbish after they were finished eating. There was a bin for household things, cartons and cans or bottles.

We really enjoyed the drinks, buns and crisps given to us at the hospital! By the end of our visit almost everyone we saw had either a lunch box or a cup and most of them had both!

– by Aisling O'Reilly, Coiste Uaithne Representative, 4th Class, Room 18



Pupils from Ms. O'Gara's class performing their show 'The Don't Care Bears' as part of the Green Flag Renewal Programme.

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Senior School News

THE GREEN HAMSTER!

We, Room 5, won Stympy the dwarf hamster. It's not a rat or a mouse as most of the teachers think! We came into possession of this tiny creature as a result of last term's win in the Greenest Class competition. We won the competition with 40,080 points.

We recycled stamps, mobile phones, cans, ringos, batteries and brought in notes for going to the bottle bank, in an attempt to reach our weekly target - 3,444 points. The prize for our efforts was €50 to be spent on the class. After we had a discussion and a class vote, it was decided to purchase a dwarf hamster. We also purchased a habitat, food and other necessities for its survival and comfort. Our Coiste Uaithne representatives Sarah Green and Sara Farrelly undertook this job. Stympy, our new class member, is a hit with the other classes as they increase their recycling efforts in order to win a new class pet.

He's not dead yet!!!

- by Sarah Fitzharris and Audrey Elliott,
6th Class, Room 5



Brian McCarthy attends to Stympy the dwarf hamster purchased by Green Class winners - Mr. Brennan's 6th Class.

HOUSES IN OUR SCHOOL: TITHE SCOILE

Our school St. Colmcille's S.N.S. has taken on the project of splitting the school up into six different Houses (Tithe). The six Houses are Garten, Tír Chonaill, Moville, Doire, Kells and Iona. Each house consists of a class from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th. The houses come together on a regular basis in the school hall.

If you have not already noticed all the houses have some connection to St. Colmcille and that is why our school chose them.

Garten: St. Colmcille's birthplace in Donegal.

Tír Chonaill: The territory ruled over by St. Colmcille's family. Also the Irish for Donegal.

Moville: The monastery where St. Colmcille studied to be a priest.

Doire: The first monastery founded by St. Colmcille. The Irish for Derry is Doire Cholmcille.

Kells: St. Colmcille's most famous Irish monastery in Co. Meath.

Iona: St. Colmcille's chief monastery off the coast of Scotland.

Each house has an assembly (Tionól) every month. Two pupils (a boy and a girl) from each 6th class are the house captains. We are the house captains for Moville House. The house captain meet with the teachers to improve all aspects of their house. In the next few weeks we will be organising a special time where the 6th class children will be assisting the 3rd class children with their studies, therefore building a rapport between the 6th and the 3rd class children. We know that ourselves and the remainder of the children in the houses thoroughly enjoy their time together.

- by Leah Steadman and Stephen Jordan,
6th Class, Room 4, House Captains, Moville House



Six of the 6th Class House Captains, back left-right: Kevin Cardiff, Coleen O'Neill. Front, left-right: Kim O'Donoghue, Aine Madden, Stephen Allen, Niall Ryan.



Another group of 6th Class House Captains, back left-right: Maeve O'Neill, Malachy Burke, Stephen Jordan. Front, left-right: Cian Kenny, Audrey Elliott, Leah Steadman.

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Senior School News

KNOCKLYON RADIO

The voices of Mr. Dundon's 4th class pupils were heard around the nation the week after Christmas when their special version of Brian McFadden's 'Real To Me' was played on the Ian Dempsey Breakfast Show.

Today F.M. received a huge response from schools around the country to their primary school music project. Children nationwide recorded their CD's with their favourite songs from the top singers today but it was voices of our own class that managed to catch the judges attention. As well as Brian McFadden's number 1 hit, we recorded Paddy Casey's 'Saints And Sinners' and Coldplay's 'Scientist' for the contest.

We were chosen along with 7 other finalists for the last stage of the competition. Our class rendition of 'Real To Me' was played on Wednesday 12th January and was voted on by text poll on that Friday. Unfortunately we did not win the competition but it was great to hear ourselves on the radio. Thanks to everyone who voted for us!

– by *Karen Kilroy, Darragh Roche and Kevin O'Mara,*
4th Class, Room 17

FAITH FRIENDS

As part of the Confirmation programme, the sixth classes of the primary school and the transition year students of St. Colmcille's Community School have come together to form the Faith Friends Programme. Once a week, for a five week period transition year students and sixth class pupils come together and talk about all the ways to look at the sacrament of Confirmation.

Our Faith Friends don't just teach us about Confirmation. They're our friends and we fill out worksheets together to help us to get to know each other better. Each transition year student personally volunteered to give up their time and come down to our school because they have an interest in Confirmation and how we prepare for it. They tell us about their experiences of Confirmation and taking the pledge. This is really helping us to prepare for our Confirmation, as they help us to realise why we make our Confirmation. At our Baptism, our parents made the decision for us, but in Confirmation we make the decision ourselves to become adult Christians.

– by *Susan Palmer and Aoife Ryan,*
6th Class, Room 3

CORFHÉILE AND COIRM

Many of our classes and our school choir are preparing for the annual Corfhéile and Coirm festivals of music and drama. Our school choir will be performing at the Corfhéile in the National Basketball Arena in early March. Pupils from five classes – Ms O'Connor's, Ms McAllister's, Ms O'Regan's, Ms Kelly's and Mr. Dundon's will also be performing in the Corfhéile.

Ms Woods' class and Mr. Brennan's class will also be performing at the Coirm festival in the Helix Theatre in early March.

IS SPRING IN SIGHT?

*The warm and sunny days, no doubt,
Are still a long way off.
There may be snow, high winds may blow,
I splutter, sneeze and cough.
But days are stretching, some birds sing –
I'll manage to survive 'till Spring!*

St. Colmcille's Parents Association

The Parents Association for the Junior and Senior Schools organised its annual Holy Communion outfit sale on Saturday 5th February. Excellent secondhand outfits were purchased at reasonable prices, resulting in many satisfied customers.

At the time of writing a Colour Day is scheduled for Friday 4th March when the children can forego their uniforms for their own 'civvies' clothes instead. This is one day that most children bounce out of bed, delighted to go to school!

Unfortunately, our 70's Night, which was planned for Friday 11th March in Ballyboden St. Enda's GAA Club has been deferred. We will let you know the new date as soon as we can. So hang on to those bell-bottoms for a while longer!

For anyone who has a child with special needs you may be interested to know that a few parents meet on the first Wednesday of each month. It's an opportunity to have a chat and exchange ideas. The venue is the Iona Centre and takes place from 9-10.30 a.m. If you would like further information you can contact 085-729 8202 or 086-807 3388.

Finally, the Parents Association would like to remind parents that if you have an 'independent' child walking to and from school on their own, please encourage them to walk with a few pals as there is safety in numbers.

– *Helen Doyle*

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KNOCKLYON JUNIOR BADMINTON CLUB

Badminton must be one of the oldest sports games in the world. It is thought to have developed in Ancient Greece around 2000 years ago. From there it spread east to China, Japan, India and Siam and not to be outdone Badminton has also spread to Knocklyon. Each weekend from September to April approx. in the Knocklyon Community Centre you will find a thriving and exciting badminton club being run for the youth of the parish officially known as The Knocklyon Junior Badminton Club (see logo).

The Club opened its doors in September 2003 and currently caters for 60 members ranging in age from 9-17. Seven of our members have been selected for the Leinster Squads as well as representing us on External League Teams. Unfortunately, although we have a waiting list that could re-fill the club many times over, 60 is the maximum we can facilitate under the current structure of the club.

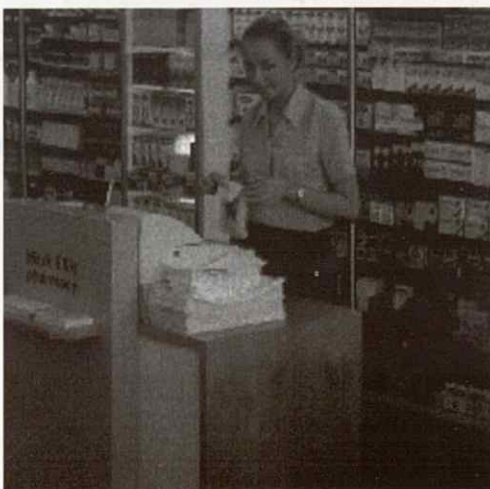
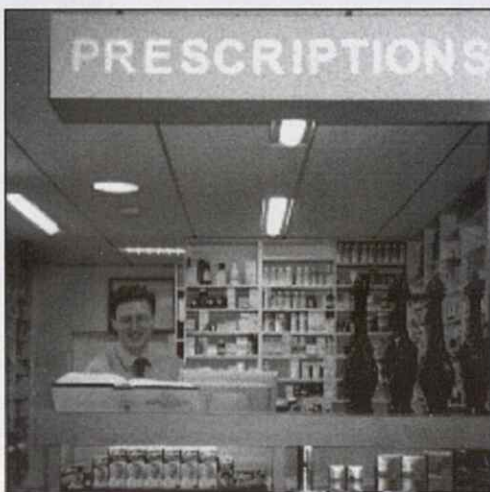
As the badminton season draws to a close the overall performance of our players who represented us both in the external juvenile leagues 2004/05 and

various tournaments has been exemplary. Three of our teams have reached the Dublin Finals of the Juvenile Leagues which will take place on Saturday 12th March in Baldoyle and many of our players have featured highly in the various tournaments they have participated in. Also a number of our club players represented St. Colmcille's Senior School on Saturday and Sunday 26th and 27th February in Baldoyle in the Primary and Junior Schools Competition.

We wish all our players the very best of luck in these events, no doubt they will represent our club and their school maintaining their usual high standards of good ethics and fair play.

Our success to date could not have been achieved without the hard work and dedication of our Committee Members (see photo on Page 4) and the continuous support of parents with regard to Team Management (we had eight teams representing us this year) and club supervision, without which the club could not continue to grow from strength to strength so I would personally like to take this opportunity to thank all concerned for their help and look forward to their continued support in the future.

*– Breda Fitzharris, Chairperson,
Knocklyon Junior Badminton Club*



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ST. COLMCILLE'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Tsunami Appeal

For the past few weeks the fund-raising committee in our school have been working hard organising events to raise money for the victims of South East Asia Tsunami. Some of the events include a sponsored walk, a sponsored silence, soccer and sponsored singing. The students in our school have been fantastic and have raised a total of €17,000. Approximately 400 students took part in the different events that took place on Tuesday the 1st of February. These events were on for two hours that afternoon in a variety of different areas ranging from the school to Ballyboden GAA Club. Well done to everyone that was involved in the sponsored events and a special thanks to everyone who so generously supported this worthy cause and to those who put a lot of hard work into organising it.

An Introduction to the New Guidance Department

St. Colmcille's Community School is proud to announce that the first group of sixth years have just completed their C.A.O. applications.

Each sixth year individually filled out their

application on line with the support of Ms Kenny after researching their options carefully. Speakers from C.A.O. Colleges like University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, Maynooth University, Dublin Institute of Technology, Tallaght IT and Blanchardstown IT came to give lectures to both fifth and sixth years. We also had admissions officers from Private Colleges and Post Leaving Certificate Colleges such as Ballyfermot Senior College and Cruimlin College too. This provided students with an overview of the course options available to them.

Higher Options is held every September and all sixth years get the chance to collect brochures and talk to University students and admission officers. All fourth and fifth years are attending U.C.D. open day. All sixth years attend T.C.D. open day in December. Other open days are not compulsory and students get a calendar of events. Many of these events take place on the weekends so it is the perfect opportunity to collect extra information, talk to lecturers and get an insight into College facilities without missing classes!



Transition year students participating in a sponsored silence and readathon to raise money for the Tsunami Appeal.



A group of 2nd Year students before their sponsored walk to raise money for the Tsunami Appeal.

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ST. COLMCILLE'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Transition years are doing two blocks of work experience this year. Employers have provided the school with outstanding feedback on their work, punctuality and interest. I feel that this experience has really benefited each individual as a whole. Lectures, open day visits, classes and work experience provide the solid foundations needed for students entering their senior cycle.

I realise that career decisions are often difficult and sometimes students need support in other areas of their school life too. My role is to provide educational, career and personal support. If any parents would like to visit or contact Ms Kenny, my doors is always open and I will do my best to help.
– **Dinah Kenny**

Transition Year

TY Students from the school went to Delphi Adventure Centre in Co. Mayo from the 7th-10th of February. Students participated in the following activities: surfing, rock climbing, high ropes, low ropes and archery. They also enjoyed the scenery from the top of Croagh Patrick. This trip is the highlight of the year for many TY students.

County Enterprise Board Awards

The South County Dublin Enterprise Board Awards took place on February 27th. Students from 1st, 2nd and Transition Year competed in this competition. Schools from all over South County Dublin displayed their enterprises and members from the County Enterprise Board adjudicated the awards. A variety of different businesses displayed services and products that the students have made. Students had to set up and run their own business and wrote up a business plan to enter this competition. It was a very successful event for encouraging entrepreneurial activities in the school. Best of luck to all those who were involved.

Extra Curricular

Debating: Both the Irish and English departments have been working hard with selected students in preparation for different competitions. Most recently the Irish debating group performed extremely well in their first ever outing.

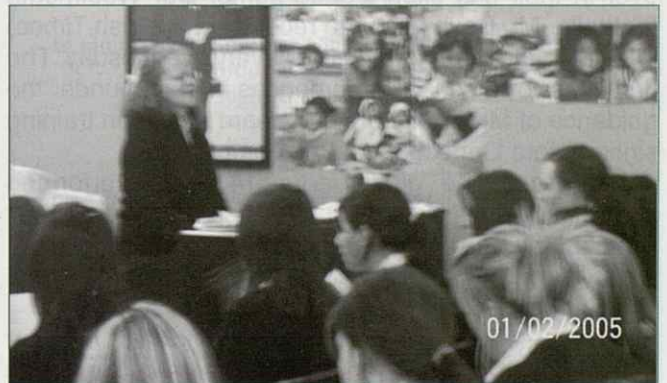
Athletics: The girls' athletics team performed remarkably in their most recent outing. Under the guidance of Mr Egan they achieved first place in a Leinster competition bringing home more silverware to Knocklyon.



A group of 5th Year girls and boys who participated, alongside Ms Kelly, in a singalong to raise money for the Tsunami Appeal.



A group students from all years who participated in the football tournament to raise money for the Tsunami Appeal.



A group 5th Year students who participated in the sponsored silence to raise money for the Tsunami Appeal.

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ST. COLMCILLE'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Soccer: The Boy's Under 13 soccer team reached the quarter final of their league last week but were unfortunately beaten. Brian Coughlan, Alex Fletcher, Andrew Barry and Keith Gillis all produced excellent displays.

Basketball: The first year girls have had two great wins in their league. The team, coached by Miss Beirne, beat St. Tiernan's C.S. at home and Mount Argos away.

Hurling: The Under 14 hurling team are preparing for the coming season. It will be our first time competing in the highest division in Dublin. After winning Division Two titles twice we are now promoted to Division One to compete at the highest level. The team recorded a great victory over St. David's of Greystones last week. Ciaran Brennan, Oisín Cannon, Stephen O'Connor and Michael Keenan all performed extremely well. Five of the team have also been selected for Dublin schools trials.

Indoor Hurling: There was great excitement and atmosphere in our school gym over the past three weeks. Lunchtime leagues took place with nearly 70 first and second year students participating in the competition. Clare ended up winning the championship and Waterford won the shield. Ciaran Brennan, Oisín Cannon, Darragh Geoghan, Neil McAlister, Kane O'Doherty and Eoin Horgan all excelled.

Table Tennis: The leagues are ongoing with both Miss Walsh and Mr. Murphy working hard in training all teams. Most notably a great victory was gained over St. Tiernan's C.S. where we won five games to one.

Gaelic Football: The girl's team have received a walk-over in their first fixed league game. Our Westmeath footballer Mr. Davit (pictured recently in the Irish Times) is training the team after school every Wednesday. The first year boy's season commences in March under the guidance of Mr. Coolahan. This team has been training since before Christmas for this competition.

Badminton: The girl's under 14 team performed extremely well last week in their home fixture against Sancta Maria under the guidance of Miss Callaghan.

Official Opening

Minister Séamus Brennan T.D. will officially open our school on Monday March 7th. Members of the public are welcome to visit the school from 2.30 p.m.-4.30 p.m. and from 7.00 p.m.-9.00 p.m. All are welcome.

Comórtas Díospóireachta Gael Linn

Comhghairdeas d'fhoireann Díospóireachta Sóisear na Gaeilge, Amanda Keegan, Caitriona Pennycook agus Daniel Mathews ón dara bliain, a ghlac páirt ar son na scoile sa dara babhta de Chomórtas Díospóireachta Gael Linn i gColáiste Choill Chluana Gabhann ar an 18ú lá d'Eanáir. Bhí siad ag argóint i gcoinne an rúin "*Ní thuigeann tuismitheoirí an lae inniú fadhbanna na hóige*". Ba iad na fóirne freasúra ná Coláiste Choill Chluana Gabhann agus Iarbhunscoil Mhaigh Nuad.

Tar éis cur i láthair den chéad scoth agus breith chuimsitheach óna moltóirí, níor eirigh leo leanúint ar aghaidh don chéad babhta eile.

Caithfear a rá gur thús iontach dearfach ab ea é seo ón bhfoireann fíor óg agus molaimid a n-iarract.

Múinteoirí i bhfeighil: **Miss Bermingham** agus **Miss Kehoe**.

Junior Irish Debating

Congratulations and well done to the Junior Irish Debating team, Amanda Keegan, Caitriona Pennycook and Daniel Mathews from 2nd year who represented the school in the 2nd round of the Gael Linn debates on January 18th in Clongowes Wood College. They were arguing against the motion "*Ní thuigeann tuismitheoirí an lae inniú fadhbanna na hóige*". Opposing them were Clongowes Wood College and Maynooth Secondary School.

Unfortunately, after an excellent performance and lengthy deliberation from the adjudicators, they were unsuccessful in progressing to the next round.

However, it was an excellent start from such a young team and we commend them on their efforts.

Irish Debating Co-ordinators: **Miss Bermingham** and **Miss Kehoe**.

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TRÓCAIRE LENTEN CLOTH ON THE FRONT OF THE ALTAR

A Reflection on the Eucharist, Justice and Solidarity

In his letter for this Year of the Eucharist entitled 'Mane nobiscum Domine'/'Stay with us Lord', Pope John Paul II challenges diocesan and parish communities to respond to the many forms of poverty in our world. Celebrating the Eucharist in such a world must surely awaken our responsibility towards all people. The recent outpouring of aid to those who suffer as a result of the tsunami was a notable expression of solidarity. The Trócaire Lenten Cloth (front of the altar) and photographs (displayed near the tabernacle) have been sent to all parishes by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin to help us bring to mind those who are in need this Lent during the Year of the Eucharist.

The central picture shows the breaking of bread – a term used to describe the Eucharist of the early Christians. This is a reminder too of the Emmaus meal Jesus shared with his disciples when 'their eyes were opened' (Lk 24:32). This image leads us beyond that moment of insight to a wider recognition of Jesus in the poor of the world and our duty to share the bread of life with them. Commitment to daily Eucharist during Lent should lead us beyond an expression of 'communion in the Church's life . . . to a project of solidarity for all of humanity' (Stay with us Lord, 27).

The child on the street represents those affected by homelessness, poverty and hunger. In a world which has enough bread for all and in a society that tolerates hunger amidst plenty, and poverty amidst wealth, it is sobering to note that 75% of those who



Our Trócaire Lenten Cloth – a reflection on the Eucharist, justice and solidarity.

die of starvation are children under 5 years of age.

The protesting women of the world are drawing attention in their own way to their demands for a better life for their children and access to basic to the basic things that we all need to be fully human and alive.

The images on the right hand side of the cloth point to the central Trócaire Lenten Theme – Stand By Me. In our forty days in the 'desert' of Lent we are asked to 'stand by' communities around the world symbolised by the people of Ethiopia who need our help to fill their plates with what will satisfy their human needs. This link with the traditional fast of the season has been the trademark of the Trócaire Campaign for over thirty years now.

The dove and the cross entwined symbolise the hope of peace while the cross points to both suffering and victory for Christian people. In this combination of hope and aspiration is reflected the Lenten journey from death to sin and selfishness to the new life of Easter.

The artists from Latin America who designed the cloth bring the images together when they write: '*hoy arroz, sangre e vida, Christo quita hambre y sed*'/'Today rice, blood and life, Christ takes away hunger and thirst.'

PUB QUIZ

In aid of Scout Summer Camp to Austria and Ventures expedition to Ben Nevis/Scotland

Where: Faughs GAA Club, Wellington Lane

When: Tuesday, 22nd March

Time: 8.30 p.m. sharp

How much: €28 team of 4

Come and support the Knocklyon Scouts in raising money for summer camp to Zellhof international Scout Camp site in Austria and the Venturers recent trip to the summit of Ben Nevis (4,406 ft.), Scotland.

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We are also looking for any spot prizes for the night. Any donations before or on the night will be much appreciated.

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Do It 4 U

Knocklyon Golf Society

The following committee was elected at our AGM for 2005:

President: John Grier

Captain: Julien Winters

Hon. Secretary: Kevin McDonald

Hon. Treasurer: Fred Lane

Handicap Secretary: Jimmy Fitzsimons

P.R.O.: Gary Davitt

Committee: Gerry Diggins, Michael Flanagan, Brendan Vaughan.

We have arranged the following venues for 2005:

Saturday, 16.04.05, Esker Hills, 12.30-2.30 p.m.

Saturday, 07.05.05, Kileen Golf Club, 12.20-2.30 p.m.

Sunday, 19.06.05, Milicent Golf Club, 12.30-2.30 p.m.

Friday, 26.08.05, Grange Golf Club, 2.00-4.00 p.m.

Saturday, 24.09.05, South County Golf Club, 12.00-2.00 p.m.

Saturday, 22.10.05, Grange Castle, 10.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.

The weekend away will be at Glasson Golf Club in Athlone on the 16th and 17th of July 2005.

The life blood of any society is its members and as such new people are always welcome. If interested please contact Gary Davitt at 493 5636.

As the above venues can only be secured by deposit, early payment by existing members of the annual sub (€35.00) would be appreciated. Please contact Fred Lane at 493 2661.

The committee would like to wish all members a very enjoyable golfing season.

– Gary Davitt, P.R.O.

IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT ON THE DAY!

If yesterday things seemed all wrong,
And you were much distressed;
If nothing seemed to work out right,
Although you tried your best;
Do not lose heart, but bravely march
Along the hard, rough way,
For yesterday's dark road may lead –
To sunny skies today.

BROS. PEARSE A.C.



The Cross Country season is now complete and we are looking forward to the track season.

Well done to Jack Dooney, who came 3rd in the U13 Cross Country League and to Shauna Cannon who was 4th in the U15 League.

The following teams also won team medals in the Leagues: U11 Girls – Clíodhna O'Sullivan, Sínead Crowley, Kerry Griffin, Gina Cannon; U11 Boys – Ben McEntee, Sean Byrne, Donal Ryan, Chris Brahin; U13 Boys – Jack Dooney, Garreth Walsh, Lorcan Sheridan, Adam King.

Congratulations to all our athletes who took part in the Cross Country Championships and the Leagues over the cold winter months.

Training continues Tuesdays 7-8 p.m., Thursdays 6.30-7.30 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m.-12 noon.

For further information contact Aine at 493 1764.

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COFFEE MORNING

A coffee morning will be held in 16 Woodfield on Monday 14th March. All funds raised will go to the Laura-Lynne Foundation, the Children's Hospice charity. The coffee morning will run from 10.00 a.m. till midday.

PUB QUIZ

112th Knocklyon Scouts Pub Quiz, Tuesday, 22nd March, 2005, Faughs G.A.A. Club, €28 table of 4. Further info and tickets contact: 494 6405.

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February 2005: €127, P. & E. Flood, 13 Orlagh Park; €63.50, G. O'Malley, 22 Green Acre Court; €31.75, W. Mongey, 69 Glenvara Park.

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 Matthew Leon O'Shea, Dargle Wood
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 Amir Devereaux Pullopol Libago, Beverly Lawns



NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS/CONTRIBUTORS

Items for inclusion in the next issue should be handed into the Presbytery by Sunday 17th April 2005. The Newsletter will be circulated from 6th May 2005. As advertising space has become so popular we are accepting adverts on a first come, first served basis only, with payment, so make sure to book your space in good time. Enquiries re advertising to June at 494 1204 (10.00 a.m.-12.00 noon) Monday to Friday. Fax 494 2343.

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