



Le Chéile Update

Le Chéile Summer Edition 2016

Volume 8 Issue 7

Summer 2016

In this edition:

- ◆ Le Chéile Pay It Forward Day 2016
- ◆ Dates for Diary
- ◆ School News

Words to the Wise

'O God, grant that we may become worthy to be numbered with your chosen ones, rejoicing in the lot that is your love. Help us to grow in the spirit of your great love'

St Matthias



P.S..... We are still receiving post from some schools at our old address. Please inform your school community of our new address as from the end of May we will not be able to access our old address.



As we move towards summer and the end of the school year we thank all members of our school communities for their hard work, dedication and care throughout the year.

We wish all our students every success in the upcoming exams!



A Day When Grace Was in the Air

On the 20th of April, the Transition Year students attending the Patrician Presentation Secondary School, Fethard set out on an unforgettable excursion to the beautiful Glenstal Abbey near Murroe, Co. Limerick. Our small school from south Tipperary was blown away by both the historical and spiritual surroundings of the premises. The impressive grounds radiated wealth and status but also a sense of spiritual purity as we moved through the tour. We then had the opportunity to visit the Icon Chapel. It was amazing to see all the detailed icons and there was a wonderfully peaceful feeling in the chapel. The students carried emotion as we entered into the chamber-like room filled with blessed art and icons, a truly amazing sight. We



also had the pleasure of experiencing Mass in the Abbey Church. It was delightful to hear the Gregorian chanting. If you are searching for a place to reflect on what it really means to be a person of faith or re-establish faith, there is nowhere better than Glenstal Abbey.

By Emma Cronin and Catherine Sutherland.

Board of Management Trustee Appointments

We are conscious that there are people who would like to participate in the great work of our school Boards of Management but they never get the opportunity to make the connection at the appropriate time. Do you know someone who would be willing to share their skills, experience, time and enthusiasm on a school Board of Management? A neighbour, friend or colleague of any age with perhaps legal, business or construction Industry experience? If so, we would genuinely welcome your suggestions for appointees as we have a large number of boards that change, throughout the country, every year.

Previous issues of the Le Chéile Newsletter and other related publications are available on the publications page of the Le Chéile website.



Here Comes Summer

The Sufi story of the ferryman who was taking a learned theologian across the water provided a cautionary tale for us all about cerebral theological reflection. The theologian was explaining the importance of using the attributes of God and of studying the divine philosophy for the salvation of the soul. The ferryman, a simple man, admitted that these great things were way beyond him. Then he suddenly said to the theologian 'Can you swim?' The theologian admitted he couldn't 'Which is a pity', said the ferryman 'because the boat is sinking'.

Yet we can safely say that God has created each of us for some service. Each of us have our own mission. We are a unique link in God's chain of love. God's voice is often only being faintly heard in our world today as the cries of an immense number of world's impoverished and marginalised peoples assails our ears. What we really needs is for the creative transformative potential of Christian love to invade our lives, in all its dimensions, 'sacred and profane'. May the force of God's love be with you this summer.

Prayer for Exams

O wise God, I pray that my mind might be rested, my body energised, and my spirit inspired for the exam I must write.

Grant me peace and assurance so that I might do the best I am able, regardless of what that might be. May I be honest and insightful, and able to give a true record of what I have learned. In the end, help me write this exam with you, O Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Thanks to the many wonderful teachers and students who made our Pay It Forward Day on 15th April such a significant, meaningful and enriching event this year. It is a practical way of giving expression to the Gospel values which are at the heart of the Le Chéile Charter. The day was marked in a number of creative ways in our schools. FCJ Bunclody had a band made up of students from 3rd to 6th year playing at lunchtime beside the tuck shop which lifted everyone's mood! Ard Scoil Raheny had a day full of Random Acts of Kindness. Jesus and Mary College, Goatstown made hearts with 'positive comments' on each one and put them on every students' locker. A highlights for the staff in Jesus and Mary, Salerno was when they received an anonymous note from their Leaving Certificate students. The note was a Thank you to all the staff for all that they do and it was read out to a very happy staffroom during lunch! Our Lady's Templeogue First Years spent an hour in Rathfarnham Shopping Centre helping with bag packing and distributing balloons to small children and giving some coins for the trolleys. Maryfield students received a Handprint (an actual handprint of someone else in the school) – with a lovely thought, affirmation or quote printed on one side of the hand with a number on the reverse side which was entered in a draw. Ramsgrange Community School saw senior students giving out free hugs at lunch and break times and every student and staff got a lollipop. St. Aloysius College, Carrigtwohill had a week of activities including a bake sale for Trocáire and a food collection for St Vincent de Paul. St. Joseph of Cluny Killiney had a short comic drama where the girls acted out some random acts of kindness and displayed the Pay It Forward idea. St. Dominic's College, Cabra had a slideshow running on a TV screen at the student entrance with motivational quotes about kindness for everyone. St. Wolstan's Community School had a photo booth in the Hall and staff and students were invited to come down and show off their smiles and help create a wall of smiles. St. Michael's Holy Faith, Finglas linked Le Chéile's Pay It Forward Day with Cystic Fibrosis "65 Roses Day", and carried out random acts of kindness as well as raising funds for a wonderful charity. Thank you to everyone who sent in their school stories and wonderful photographs and we hope you visit our website to appreciate the work and enthusiasm of all the organisers and participants.

Learning More About Our Faith

Over the last four years the Le Chéile, Jesuit, Spiritan and Loreto School Trusts have been collaborating with one another by running courses on School Leadership. This year, in collaboration with the Loyola Institute in Trinity College, we offered a series of lectures/workshops that were aimed at providing an introduction to Theology for our teachers and members of our Boards of Management. The lectures probed what really lies at the heart of our belief; what are the core insights that not only inform and guide us in our everyday dealings but might also enliven the way we look at life and the world around us. We will again run this free course next year. For further details contact John at: john@lecheiletrust.ie

Deputy Principal Seminar—save the date....

There is one Deputy Principal event planned for the next school year, a joint trust seminar on 10th & 11th November 2016. The venue is to be confirmed.

Middle Leaders

We are pleased to offer the Middle Leadership course again next year with the Loreto, Spiritan and Jesuit Trusts in Dublin and Waterford. Details will be emailed to schools shortly!



Visit our Website to
read our stories and
see more pictures



Loads of free hugs, gifts,
messages, post-it notes
greetings, acts of kindness,
sweets and smiles on Le
Chéile Pay It Forward Day!



Coming Together

On Tuesday 26th of January St. Louis High School, Rathmines and St. Mary's Holy Faith Secondary School, Glasnevin joined together to celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2016. St. Mary's students travelled to Rathmines accompanied by their R.E. teachers, Claire Murtagh and Ciaran Coll.

As the theme for this year's Catholic School's Week was 'Mercy', we were mindful that all of the activities organised reflected this theme. The morning began with a talk from Team Hope. Rachel and Carol guided us through the work that the charity carries out and how, behind it all, is the strong belief that showing mercy to others is a way of putting faith into action. The students watched a video showing the joy brought to the children when they open the shoe boxes sent out before Christmas. This talk was included to also reflect the commitment of both schools to Development Education and to encourage our students to look outwards and take responsibility as global citizens. Sr. Finola Cunnane SSL also attended as co-ordinator of the St Louis Network. Once the talk concluded, students and teachers from both schools enjoyed refreshments and discussed the topics raised by Team Hope. This was a wonderful opportunity for all involved to connect with and get to know other members of the Le Chéile community. The day's events concluded with a prayer service which was prepared by both schools in the weeks leading up to the event. St. Louis and St. Mary's students carried symbols, read prayers and sang hymns all centred on the importance of mercy. St. Louis High School's orchestra accompanied the students during the service. Students also recounted the story of how the Sisters of St. Louis and the Holy Faith Order were established. Sharing in this liturgy was a unique opportunity for two Le Chéile schools to come together in prayer, get to know one another and learn about the founding story of each school.

The day was a very enjoyable experience and something that we all hope will be repeated on an annual basis. We are looking forward to St. Mary's hosting next year. We thank the members of the RE and Music departments in both schools for facilitating this wonderful Le Chéile schools' collaboration. We hope it is the first of many such events between Le Chéile schools.

By Jean Moran, Miriam Kehoe, Avril Doyle, Claire Murtagh and Ciaran Coll.



Reminder of Important Dates

31st May Final Date for e-mailing 2016-2017 Budget
14th June Principals and Chairpersons' Seminar in Shearson
 Athlone
30th June Final date for submitting 2015/16 End of Year Report
8th Sept. New Teachers Induction Dublin North
13th Sept. New Teachers Induction Galway
22nd Sept. New Teachers Induction Dublin South & West

21st Sept. Anam Cara Day Avila Retreat Centre, D4
22nd Sept. New Teachers Induction Dublin South & West, Talbot Hotel Stillorgan
29th Sept. Síol/Le Chéile meeting with Congregational Leadership Teams

Cluster Meetings for Principals and Chairpersons

27th Sept. - Dublin South/West, 4th Oct.- The West
 6th Oct.- Dublin North, 11th Oct. - The South