



Cross & Passion College

Religious Education Programme



DOMINE NOVERIM TE
Lord let me know you

27th October 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have had an extremely busy first term with many opportunities for our students to develop their understanding of and participation in our Religious Education Programme.

Our Mission Statement states

'We, the community of Cross and Passion, acknowledge the central importance of caring relationships with each other, in the creation of a safe learning environment where all are encouraged to grow, with dignity, to their full potential. The energy and spirit of our school community are reflected in our values.'

Our commitment to developing caring relationships is reflected in the many activities we undertook and within our plans for next term.

We were delighted to join Fr Gary and the Kilcullen community to celebrate **Mass to Open the School Year**. Each year group was represented by a class. Our students presented the gifts and read beautifully. It was a wonderful celebration for both our school and the wider Kilcullen community. Sincere thanks to Fr Gary, the teachers and students involved.



Our **Ember Team** plays an important role within the life of our school. They attended their Ember team training for 2023/24 at a three day, two night residential training programme in the Ovoca Manor in Wicklow. Here they spent time working as a team, planning events/activities and improved their interpersonal skills such as active listening and cooperating together.

The roles were decided on by consensus;

Chairperson: Mikey Arthur

Secretary: James Meehan

Public Relation Officers: Katie O'Donnell & Amy Schmelter

Administrator: Lilly McQuarrie



The team are in a position of leadership, where they influence, encourage and guide other students in Cross and Passion College in faith.

The aim of the Ember Programme is to

- Create opportunities for students to experience faith in a way that makes sense to them.
- For the students to act as leaders, while also engaging in opportunities that have the potential to deepen their own faith.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed their training and are enjoying using their new skills, knowledge, ideas and sharing them with their peers.



The team ended their training with a commissioning ceremony, led by Fr John McNamara, representative of the archbishop. Our sincere thanks to Ms Whyte and Ms Bucke for their support in the role of liaison teachers.



Past pupil Fr Columba and his colleague Br John Bosco joined us to discuss their work as **Francisan Friars of Renewal**. They generously shared their story and we learned about their experience of God in their lives. Fr Columba is an accomplished musician and we enjoyed listening as he sang one of his original songs while playing the guitar. Fr Columba's YouTube channel *Called to More* discusses a range of faith topics.

The **Ember Team** held an introduction/icebreaker session with all First Year classes. The team worked with each class for an hour. They introduced their faith leadership role within the school, taught students the Ember prayer and played some icebreaker games.

The team are looking forward to working with all year groups, throughout the year to celebrate and mark important feasts, festivals and liturgical services.





We were delighted to introduce the **Chat and Connect Programme** to our Sixth Year students. Once per month each class takes time to ponder a variety of topics while enjoying refreshments. It has led to many lively discussions and is a lovely opportunity to develop relationships within class groups.

Our Fifth Year students are enjoying the Veritas **New Horizons Programme**. The first three modules deal with life as a journey, climate justice, and finding meaning through art. The focus is on exploration and discovery, leading to action. It has allowed students to meaningfully reflect on these important issues.



Huge Congratulations to Fifth Years Liv Hamilton and Jennifer Dowling who received their **John Paul II Awards** this week. They began this journey during Transition Year 2022-23.

The award ceremony took place during morning mass in the Sacred Heart and St Brigid Church, Kilcullen. Our current Ember team was present along with Ms Whyte and Ms Bucke. Father Gary Darby celebrated mass and Sister Concepta, from the Dublin Diocese, presented the awards.

The *John Paul II Award* is presented to students who are committed to their faith and their leadership roles within both the school and parish community. Well done to both students.

Our **Retreat Programme** has been very successful this term with both First and Second Year students participating in a full day experience.

Our **Second Year Retreat** was facilitated by the *Salesian Youth Team* from Maynooth, and was a day packed with "Faith and Fun". Having started with a Céilí, students were then introduced to the concept of retreat and led through a reflection on Confession and Reconciliation. The Sacrament of Penance was available throughout the day and was well

supported by students. The year group was then broken into four smaller groups, with four different workshops offered during the rest of the day. Groups rotated through these, which included prayer, meditation, teamwork and building relationships. The retreat concluded with a beautiful Mass in The Sacred Heart & St Brigid Church, Kilcullen - the summit of the whole day's experiences.

Parents were invited to give feedback on the retreat from their children, and the comments received were very positive. A great day for everyone involved, and a big thank you to the Salesian Youth Team: Fr Cyril, Sr Mary, Zaur, Aisling and Emma.

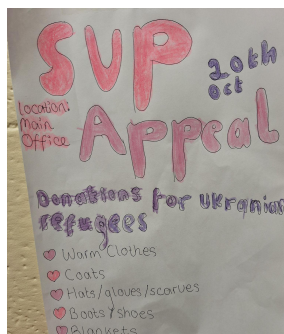
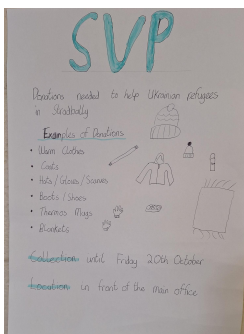


Our **First Year** students enjoyed their retreat which aimed to ensure students felt connected to their school community. The retreat supported our ongoing efforts to create a positive and caring school culture where all are encouraged to grow, with dignity, to their full potential.



Fr Cyril Odia (lecturer of *Youth Ministry* in Maynooth University) and his team from the Salesian community generously organised a

day of music, workshops and experiences inspiring community spirit and thanksgiving. Students engaged in workshops about the rosary/prayer, sport and faith, Salesian spirit and listened to a testimony from Sr Mary. The day ended with some Ceili dancing! Mass was celebrated by the year group, teachers and the Ember team. A student from each First Year class read a Prayer of the Faithful. A member of our Ember Team also read a prayer. Well done to all involved.



Our Transition Year **St Vincent de Paul Class** set up a collection point for donations to assist Ukrainian Refugees living in Stradbally. We were delighted to see a very strong response with significant volumes of warm clothes, coats, jackets, hats, scarves, gloves, blankets, shoes and boots collected.

Ms Flanagan is organising **The Shoebox Appeal** again this year when we think of those less fortunate than ourselves in the run up to Christmas. There are many children around the world who will not receive a gift this Christmas unless we take the time to think of them. Every year we help the Shoebox Appeal send thousands of gift-filled shoeboxes to children in Eastern Europe and Africa. If you and/ or your son/ daughter/ student would like to fill a shoebox over mid term break please see the suggested donation list below and send them into school upon our return on 6th November for collection.

For further information please go to

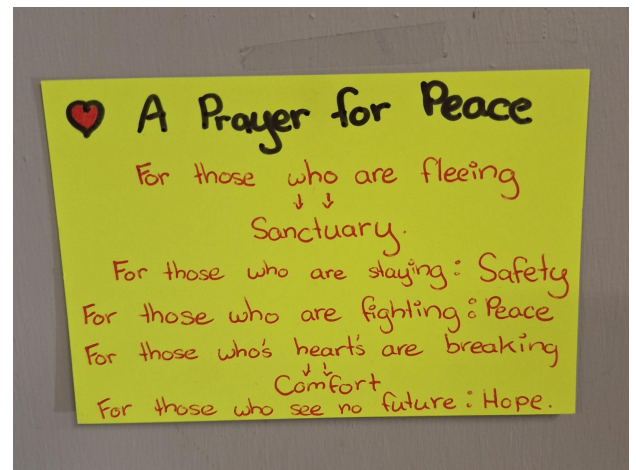
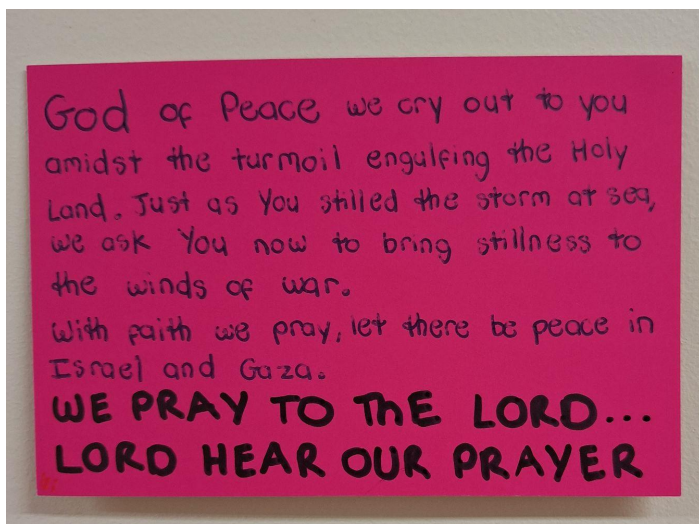
<https://www.teamhope.ie/christmas-shoebox-appeal/>



Get a shoebox, wrap it, put in the presents, add €4

- **WRITE:** some things to write with
- **WEAR:** some things to wear
- **WASH:** some things to wash with
- **WOW!** Some things to go 'wow' at !

We pray for all those affected by conflict and war. Students have created cards with prayers that have been placed around our school to remind us to think of and pray for others who are suffering.



We are very much looking forward to hosting our **Seniors Christmas Party** on 14th December 2023 from 11:30am to 1pm in our Assembly Hall. Please encourage Seniors in your family and community to attend.

Please RSVP on or before 1st December 2023 to

083 0900235 or religiouseducation@cpckilcullen.com



Wishing you and your family a restful and enjoyable Mid Term Break.

Kind Regards,

*Tristan Bailey, Hannah Bucke, Joanne Burke, Eimear Glynn, Glenda Groome,
Ava Healy, Sabrina Mills, Mairead O'Malley, Ingrid Wall, Louise Whyte*

Cross and Passion College Religious Education Team