

St. Nicholas News

Francis Street Parish, Dublin 8. ---- 01-5157512 ---- 01-5611390



Pentecost Sunday – 28 MAY 2023

61% OF ADULTS PREFER MULTI-DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION



More than three in five (61pc) adults show a preference for multi-denominational education, according to a new survey. Only 9pc - less than one in 10 - would prefer a religious body to provide education, the same research shows. The strong support for multi-denominational education is highlighted

in a survey among a representative sample of 1,011 adults in the Republic.

The survey, by the Opinion market research agency, was conducted for Education and Training Board Ireland (ETBI), the umbrella body for the State-run, community national schools (CNS).

The findings were launched at a conference of CNS principals and deputy principals, where ETB general secretary Paddy Lavelle said the findings also showed a strong appetite for the CNS school model.

He said there was a need for the matter to be urgently prioritised by government if it is to achieve its target of 400 multi-denominational primary schools by the year 2030. ETBI director of schools Dr Séamus Conboy said their research clearly showed the attractiveness of the CNS model offering to both a general sample of adults and to those specifically with children of primary school going age.

A feature of community national schools is that they offer a multi-belief and values curriculum, instead of a faith formation curriculum in one religion.

Currently, 28 of more than 3,100 primary school are community national schools. Two more are due to open in September, following a transfer of patronage from the Catholic Church.

Other patron bodies that offer a multi-denominational ethos in their schools are Educate Together and the the Irish language An Foras Patrúnachta.

The CNS model was launched 2008 and, while some are entirely new schools, others have been established following a transfer from a patron with a religious ethos, in the interest broaden diversity.

However, Department of Education-led moves over several years to transfer primary schools with a religious ethos to a multi-denominational patron have been slow and cumbersome.

While the ETBI survey shows a strong appetite for multi-denominational education, some communities have shown a resistance when it has been suggested that one of a number of Catholic schools in the area should transfer.

*Courtesy Katherine Donnelly
Irish Independent*

Remembered in Prayer

Saturday 6pm Mass
John Rattigan
(Month's Mind)
Pat, Clare and Brian Cushen
Michael Dolan (2nd A)

Sunday 11.30am Mass
Baby Catherine O'Neill
Joe O'Brien
Fr. Gerry Byrne (3rd A)
Elizabeth Gurthrie (BR)



Advice from a Tree by Ilan Shamir

Dear Friend, Stand Tall and
Proud Sink your roots deeply
into the Earth
Reflect the light of a greater
source
Think long term
Go out on a limb
Remember your place among
all living beings
Embrace with joy the
changing seasons
For each yields its own
abundance
The Energy and Birth of
Spring
The Growth and
Contentment of Summer
The Wisdom to let go of
leaves in the Fall
The Rest and Quiet Renewal
of Winter
Feel the wind and the sun
And delight in their presence
Look up at the moon that
shines down upon you
And the mystery of the stars
at night.
Seek nourishment from the
good things in life
Simple pleasures
Earth, fresh air, light
Be content with your natural
beauty
Drink plenty of water
Let your limbs sway and
dance in the breezes
Be flexible
Remember your roots
Enjoy the view!

Pentecost Sunday

Penitential Rite

The Lord comes to enlighten and empower us. As we begin, let us call to mind God's generosity.

You give us light and life. Lord have mercy

You send your Spirit to free us. Christ have mercy

You make all things new. Lord have mercy

May our great and gracious Lord, who has sent us his Spirit, forgive us our sin and bring us to life everlasting. Amen

Acts 2:1-11

When Pentecost day came round, they had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech. Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome- Jews and proselytes alike- Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

1 Corinthians 12:3-7. 12-13

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless they are under the influence of the Holy Spirit. There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia!

John 20:19-23

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the

disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Prayer of the Faithful

God our Father and Mother, you gave us your Son Jesus, through the loving power of the Holy Spirit. May we be one, as you are, with your Son and the Holy Spirit. Lord hear us

For our parish, that God's Spirit will guide and inspire each of us to contribute according to our gifts. Lord hear us

We pray for a new spirit of adventure in the leadership of the Irish Church; one that is creative, imaginative and inclusive, one that looks for opportunity rather than languishes in crisis. Lord hear us

For those suffering because of hunger and violence: and those forced to flee from their homes that we may be their voice and offer them practical support. Lord hear us.

For all who have died, especially those who have died recently and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time. Help us Lord to be a comfort and support to their families and friends. Lord hear us.

For all who need our prayer and support, we pray in silence.....Lord hear us

Reflection

The Spirit of God is a transforming Spirit. Disturbing us from what is familiar and comfortable; enticing us beyond the borders of sameness and the dreariness of mindless repetition. The first disciples were shaken by his very presence and then armed with new weapons more powerful than any that had ever been seen before: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Humility, Self-control. These were truly weapons of mass destruction; destroying our selfishness, our hardness of heart, our desire for power, our impatience with the weak and the poor, our inability to appreciate creation. The Spirit burns up everything that dehumanises people, everything that disfigures the beauty of the soul, everything that treats creation with disregard. And when the flames have died down there is the gentle whisper of a creative breeze; breathing into us the joy of a new and profoundly wonderful vision of ourselves and our world. This is the vision not of the dream- world, but of the real world, as our Creative and Loving God always intended it to be. And finally.....there is the realization that the God who makes everything possible, lives not in some distant land, but within my own heart.