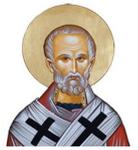


St. Nicholas News

Francis Street Parish, Dublin 8. ---- 01-4530387 ---- 01-5611390



Fifth Sunday of Lent 07 April 2019

DIVESTMENT OF SCHOOLS?



EDUCATE TOGETHER HAS described claims that Christmas and other religious holidays will no longer be celebrated in schools once they are transferred from the Catholic Church as “incorrect and misleading.” It was reported today that eight Catholic primary schools in north Dublin could have their patronage transferred - or divested - to multi-denominational schools. There is opposition to the plan in at least two of the schools in the Portmarnock-Malahide-Kinsealy

area of Dublin, the Irish Independent has reported. It is understood that staff in two schools - Scoil an Duinnínigh and St Marnock's NS - are opposed to the changes and have made their opposition clear to parents through letters and at meeting with parents, according to today's report. It has been claimed by at least one of the two schools that Christmas fairs, carol services and nativity plays would no longer be held after a school is transferred and that St. Patrick's Day, St. Brigid's Day and Easter would no longer be celebrated in schools either, the Independent has reported. It has also been claimed by gaelscoil Scoil an Duinnínigh that Irish greetings like dia duit - 'God be with you' - would no longer be allowed. The divestment process forms part of the Department of Education's efforts to provide greater diversity in schools and reduce the dominance of the Catholic Church in education. Transfers would be to the multi-denominational Community National School model, the all-Irish An Foras Pátrúnachta or the multi-denominational Educate Together. In a statement today, Educate Together described the characterisation of multi-denominational and equality-based schools as “incorrect and misleading”. “At the core of Educate Together's equality-based ethos is that pupils in our schools are exposed to different beliefs and perspectives in a respectful way that encourages critical thinking.” Each year, Educate Together offers pupils Festivals of Lights, seasonal get-togethers and winter fairs, the statement said, which incorporate elements of Christmas, Hanukkah and the Winter Solstice. “Religious aspects of these festivities are approached from a learning perspective, rather than from a promotional perspective,” Educate Together has said. “At the heart of these celebrations is the principle that all members of the school community are welcome and equally respected.” Christmas is marked in Educate Together schools nationwide, the group has said, “just as our schools endeavour mark Diwali, Eid, Vaisakhi and other religious festivals throughout the school term.” Educate Together was formed in Dublin in 1978. There are currently 84 primary and 13 second-level schools around Ireland with a total of 28,000 students. Educate Together has said that it has no interest in “taking over” schools and “imposing an ethos against the will of any local school communities.” “The growth in the Educate Together school network continues to be driven by demand and we support the rights of families to access the education they want for their children.” According to the Irish Independent, St Marnock's NS and Scoil an Duinnínigh have both held meetings with parents about the divestment process. Parents at all eight schools are due to vote on the divestment process and the Catholic Church will then submit feedback to the department. The government plans to offer 400 multi-denominational schools by 2030. A department spokesperson has said that there is “clear guidance” on the teaching of religion in primary schools. “Many multi-denominational schools celebrate various important religious and non-religious events that take place throughout the year such as Christmas, Diwali, Eid, Vaisakhi, Holi, Darwin Day and other festivals.” It can be seen, therefore, that significant festivals or events which may be associated with a particular religion can play a part in the life of a multi-denominational school.”

Courtesy The Journal.ie

SUNSHINE FUND

Next Sunday the Annual Sunshine Fund Collection will take place. This allows the St. Vincent de Paul to take children on holidays who otherwise would never get away.

NOTICES

Money Matters

Sunday 31 March 2019

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: p185

2nd Collection: p195

Share: p25

Family Offering: p330



Remembered at Mass

Sat 6pm: Rogers (1st Ann), Rose & Stephen Grogan, Christy Peppard (23rd Ann), Gerard Peppard (5th Ann), Michael Smith

Sun 11.30am: Mary & Gerard Martin, Billy Murphy, Mary & James Murphy

Mon 10an: Teresa Supple



Citizen Artist

.....a series of art works, performances, artefacts and publication. April 10th - 15th 2019, Kilmainham Courthouse. Common Ground is pleased to present a new publication and series of curated art works, performances and artefacts by Fiona Reilly, Seoidin O'Sullivan, Laragh Pittman, Pat Curran and Mark Holburn as part of CITIZEN ARTIST 2016 -2018. Access is free to visit CITIZEN ARTIST in Kilmainham Courthouse from April 10th - 15th via the Eventbrite ticket link.



Faith Schools in a Secular Society

A Public Lecture by Professor Richard Pring, Emeritus Prof at the Department of Education and Emeritus Fellow of Green Templeton College, Oxford University. He has a long career of publications in the Philosophy of

Education, with a particular emphasis on common schools, and more recently on the place of faith schools in contemporary society. Monday, April 8, 2019 at 7 pm- 9 pm. Hosted by DCU Chaplaincy and DCU Education Faculty in DCU Institute of Education, Mater Dei Centre for Catholic Education E223 DCU St. Patricks Campus Drumcondra D09 DY00. Free event



NEW CANNON IN CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

The Revd Andrew McCroskery was installed as 12th Canon in the Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on Sunday March 31. The cathedral's Precentor, Canon Roy Byrne, presided at the installation which took place in the context of Choral Evensong sung by the cathedral choir.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick: No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Psalm 125

What marvels the Lord worked for us. Indeed we were glad.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. R/

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. R/

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. R/

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. R/

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!
Now, now - it is the Lord who speaks -
come back to me with all your heart,
for I am all tenderness and compassion.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

A reading from the Gospel of John

The Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

**This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

May the Holy Wisdom, kind to humanity, steadfast, sure and free, the breath of the power of God; may she who makes all things new, in every age, entre our souls and make us friends of God.

From Women Included

Church opens: 9.30am - 12noon, Mon, Tues, Weds, Friday, Sat(5pm-7pm), Thurs: 9.30am - 11am, Sun: 10am - 12.15pm