



St. Colman's NS

Grandparents' Day Returns

Grandparents' Day, one of the most celebrated occasions in the St Colman's calendar, took place on 13th March after three years of absence.

Fr Phil conducted a touching ceremony in a packed St. Paul's Church for all students, staff, grandparents, parents and friends. Junior infant students came to the altar and sang 'Who do we love Granny, Grandad'. Fr Phil spoke to everyone about the hugely important role that grandparents play in the lives of their grandchildren. The theme for Grandparents' Day this year is 'Your World' and of course for all the children, their grandparents mean the world to them.



Pupils accompanied by a grandparent brought symbols of our faith, our time in school and the love we have for each other, to the altar. Bernadette Gibney and her grandson Hugo read the word of God.

Our school choir sang beautifully

throughout the service.

Mr Beehan thanked everyone who travelled from near and far to be with us on the day. He listed off all the wonderful attributes that our grandparents have - great cooks and bakers, best givers of hugs, story tellers, sweet givers,

homework helpers and walking companions to name but a few.

As part of the preparations for Grandparents' Day, members of the Students' Council went to all classes and asked the children where their grandparents lived. Many live in Mullingar, Westmeath or other counties in Ireland, but lots live in different countries. In total, the children in St. Colman's have grandparents in 30 different countries!

All classes in the school learned the song 'What a Wonderful World' and sang it with the choir at the end of the Grandparents' Day service. Senior Infants gathered on the altar and held up the flags of all 30 countries.



IMPORTANT DATES

- School recommences after Easter break on Monday 17th April
- School is closed on Friday 28th April and Monday 1st May for the Bank Holiday
- Full day closure on Friday 12th May due to training day for teachers
- First Holy Communion on Saturday 13th May in St. Paul's Church at 12 noon
- School closed on Friday 2nd and Monday 5th June for Bank Holiday
- School closes at 12 noon on 28th June for summer holidays



Easter 2023



Scór na bPáistí Winners!

Huge congratulations to singer Darragh McCabe and 10 Irish dancers all from 6th class who won first and second places in the Scór na bPáistí finals on Thursday night.

Darragh performed The Town I Loved So Well and won first place

in the finals, held in The Downs. The dancers who performed a cross reel that won them second place were: Aoife Irvine, Saibh Kiernan, Maya Palej, Amy Devaney, Faye McDonald, Kara McKeown, Karina Mezvinskaite, Eibhlin Casey, Robyn Byrne

and Rachel Walsh. St. Colman's teacher Ms. Rebecca Kelly trained the dancers and mentored Darragh, rehearsing with them twice a week since they started preparing in January. They came through three rounds to pick up their medals. Well done to all involved!

Free Schoolbooks Scheme

On the 22nd of March the Government released very welcome details of its new Free Schoolbook scheme for primary schools. This is a very welcome initiative and should help to relieve the burden on families as children return to school each September. There will still be a charge from the school for administration costs, arts & crafts and activities such as swimming etc. but there will be no cost associated with book rental or a need to purchase workbooks or copies etc. while this scheme is in place.

New Lunch Menu

With warmer weather hopefully on the horizon 'The Lunch Bag' has come up with a new menu for the final term of the year. This exciting new menu will be available from Monday 17th of April. Please ensure to check your

Lunch Bag app for these new options the week before we return to school after Easter.

Parents Association

School Tours

It was suggested at a Parents Association meeting that notification of school tours be given to parents as early as possible this year so that parents can plan for the associated costs and possibly spread this out over a period of time. We are pleased to announce that all school tours will be disclosed to classes prior to the Easter Holidays and the cost can be paid via the Aladdin app in one lump sum or by installments any time between then and June. Cash will also be accepted at the school office.

New Nets

You may have noticed that we recently erected new ball stop netting on the school pitch. From a health and safety point of view,

this will reduce the chances of children on the playground being struck by a ball coming from the pitch and will also help reduce the amount of balls being lost over the fence.

A huge thank you to our Parents Association for their assistance in providing funding for this new facility.

School Closure: Friday 12th of May

We were due to close at 12 noon on the above date for staff in-service training in the Primary Language Curriculum. We have since been notified of the requirement to close for a further half day for in-service training in the New Primary Curriculum Framework in the final term this year.

In order to minimise disruption for parents we have decided to couple these two closures into one full day closure on the 12th of May.



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5-a-Side Champions with Three out of Three Wins

Mullingar Athletic F.C., Gains-town, hosted a 5-a-side football tournament last week. Four teams from our sixth classes participated - 2 girls teams and 2 boys teams. They all played very well against some strong competition. We

were delighted when one of our boys teams were crowned champions after winning all three of their games.

They will now proceed to the North Leinster Final in May. Well done everyone!



Victory for Colman's Camogie Team

The St. Colman's camogie team were successful in their match on Wednesday, coming out victorious against St. Mary's CBS, Mullingar.

A fabulous performance was put in by all the girls and as always, the focus in St. Colman's was on every getting a chance to do their best, with mentors ensuring that every girl present was given match-time.

The mentors, Mrs. Walters and Margaret, are delighted with the progress of the team members who have just recently taken up the sport, and as always the more experienced players are also performing brilliantly and leading by example.

The St. Colman's team had previously had their first match of the year against Whitehall NS.

Lady Luck didn't shine on St. Colman's on that occasion, but the mentors were delighted with the effort put in by all players and are proud of them for doing their best on the day.

Next up is Holy Family School!





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Traditional Music Concert

To complement all the spoken Irish during Seachtain na Gaeilge, we thought it would be a great time to host a traditional music concert. We were delighted to welcome back seasoned musicians, Mr Philip Clarke and Ms Olive Kilbane, to the school.

They joined Ms Clarke, Ms Duffy, Ms Casey, Ms Kelly and some talented St Colman's students in entertaining us all with music and dance. Throughout the day, they held not

just 1 but 3 concerts for all classes. We had solo dancers and singers, group figure dancers and wonderful traditional tunes in abundance.

From reels to jigs to polkas, everyone was clapping their hands and tapping their toes to the music.

To close each concert, Darragh led the children in singing a song called Seachtain na Gaeilge, written by Ms Clarke.

Huge thanks to everyone involved in this musical session.



Trath na gCeist

As part of our Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations, a 'trath na gceist' was held in the school hall for our third and fourth class students. They all had wonderful fun and learned lots of new Irish words and phrases to boot! Coming in second place with 22 points was Team 9 - Goda, Sasha, Jessica and Stephen but pipping them at the final post was Team 6 - Reiltín, Cian, Faye and Patrick with 24 points. Well done to you all.



First Confession

Congratulations to the 47 boys and girls from Ms Kelly's and Mrs Ginnell's first classes, who made their First Confession in St Paul's Church this month. We're sure they're all pleased to have taken the first step on the road to making their First Holy Communion.



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Getting Scoildrámaíochta Show Back on the Road!

The children of Mrs. Gilligan's and Mr. Ennis' fifth classes took part in the Comórtas Scoil-drámaíochta this term.

The school has not been part of this particular comórtas for 15 years so we're very proud

and excited and delighted that our students took on the challenge.

They performed Toy Story 1.5 with a twist and a few modern toys and references were included such as Tik Tok, Match Attack Cards,

Minecraft and Spiderman.

The students involved took to the stage twice in the Arts Centre and got through to the Leinster Finals. They can all be extremely proud of themselves for taking part!

Rotary Young Writers Competition Success!

In January, Mullingar Rotary Club invited students from local primary schools to enter the 2023 Rotary Young Writers Competition. This year the theme was 'Peace'.

We were delighted to receive the news that we have two worthy winners here in St Colman's. Aoife Walters from Mrs Byrne's Fourth Class, received a highly commended award for her piece in the Junior Competition and Alfie Rock from Ms McLaughlin's Sixth Class came 3rd in the Senior Competition. Congratulations to you both!





Easter 2023



Congratulations to the 52 students from Mrs. Connaughton's and Ms. McLaughlin's sixth classes who were Confirmed in the Cathedral on 25th March. We hope you all had an enjoyable day with your families.