

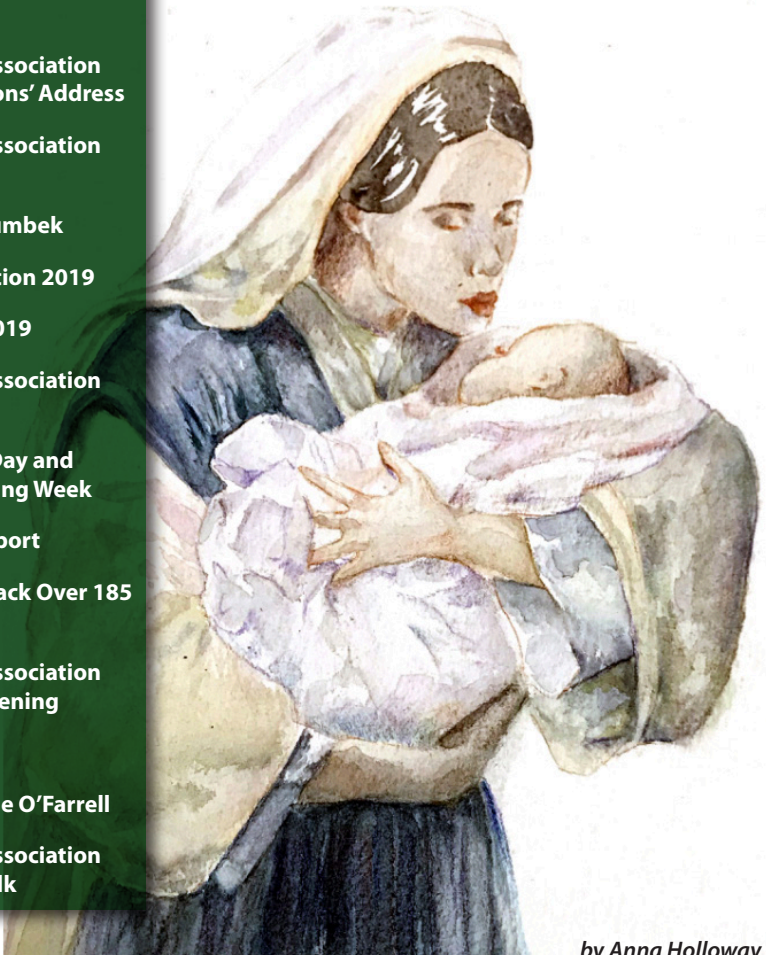


# GREENSCENE

Newsletter of the Loreto Parents' Association

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by Anna Holloway 3T



## Parents' Association Chairpersons' Address

**Mary Clarke (Mum of Aoibh Brady 6B and Cara Brady 4T)  
Chairperson, Parents' Association.**

Welcome to the Winter edition of Greenscene. It is hard to believe the first term is over and Christmas is nearly upon us. We are all looking forward to a break, time with family and friends, and planning for a new year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting the events organised by your Parents' Association throughout the first term. A coffee morning for the parents of new first year students was held in late August. This provided an excellent opportunity for the parents to meet and chat while waiting to collect their daughters after their first morning. In September we welcomed the sixth years, graduates of 2019, their parents and invitees, to a drinks reception in the school before they danced the night away at their Debs' Ball in the Shelbourne Hotel. The atmosphere was wonderful and it is both strange and exciting when I consider, I will attend this event next September as a parent. How time flies!

In late September, we had our AGM followed by an insightful talk from Niall Moyna. Niall is a Professor in the School of Health and Performance and a member of the Centre for Preventive Medicine in Dublin City University. Previously he held senior positions at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre and at Hartford Hospital, Connecticut. His ability to engage the audience using both science and personal anecdotes made for a talk worth hearing. His take home message was to get exercising!

In October we were delighted to welcome several new members to the Parents' Association executive:  
Leon Mc Carthy Black, Gary Broderick, Eva Karagianni, Roger Conan, Paula Curran, Darina Reid, Ciara Cosgrave, Anna Lalor, Julie Dunbar Creedon and Marie Mc Geever.

The Careers' Night was held on 26th November. Despite the farmers' protest everyone managed to make it to the event, many walking distances to get to the school on time. Their commitment did not go unnoticed. Pilots, doctors, detective gardaí, solicitors, a speech therapist and many other professionals spent the evening sharing their experiences of 'a day in the life'. It was fitting that many of those who gave of their time were parents of current students and the Parents' Association is very appreciative of the time given for this annual event.

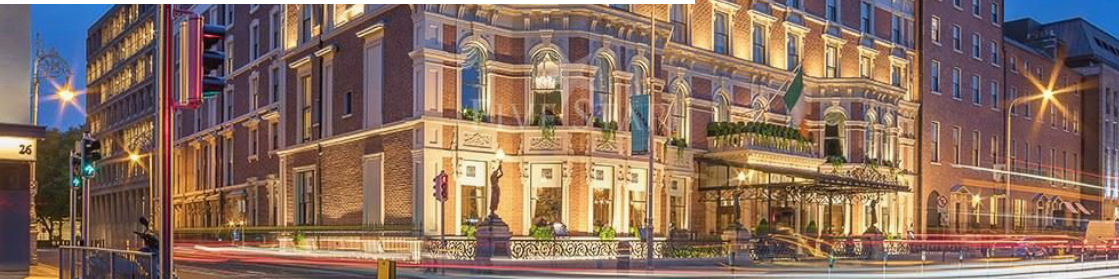
Some of the year groups have already had their social nights, with the remainder to follow in the early part of next term. Your class representative will be in touch with you soon with details of the night for your year group. We plan to hold our third parents' lunch in the Shelbourne Hotel on 27th March 2020. Please add the date to your new 2020 diaries in big bold letters!

Thank you again for your support for the 2019-2020 Parents' Association events and I wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas period full of good health and happy memories.

# Parents' Association Lunch

**Date: Friday 27th March 2020**

**Venue: The Shelbourne Hotel**



This year the Parents' Association Lunch will take place on **Friday March 27th 2020** in the Shelbourne Hotel. The proceeds of this event will go some way to help fund the great work being carried out in Loreto, Rumbek. Tickets for the lunch will be available through Eventbrite. Details will soon follow, through the schools' FlexiBuzz.

## Work in Rumbek

by Sr Orla Treacy

Here at Loreto, Rumbek we help each student to reach his or her full academic, personal, spiritual and social potential. We have grown rapidly in the past few years to serve more than 1,200 students in Maker Kuei. We are coming close to our tenth anniversary. It's been a great journey of newness and of learning.



*Sr. Orla Treacy*

Our first class of secondary school graduates have now graduated from university and our first class of primary school students will graduate this year.

Our health care programmes are growing and the health education and support is proving to be life-saving for many of our young babies.

Our mission is one of collaboration and teamwork, and we can't do it alone. While we have faced many challenges, we continue to grow and to fulfil our commitments to our community, with your support. Thanks to all who help and support us.

Please continue to pray for peace in South Sudan and for the young people with whom we serve. For more news and information about the programmes, please visit the website [www.loretoRumbek.ie](http://www.loretoRumbek.ie)

# Art Exhibition 2019

by Kate Moloney

**The annual Art exhibition at Loreto College was held on the evening of 8th October. It was very enjoyable for everyone involved. Many of the fourth year students helped to set up the exhibition along with some fifth and sixth year students, together with Ms. Fynes and Ms. O'Reilly.**

We put in a lot of work over a few days to make sure every Art student had a wonderful piece to display and be proud of. We set up boards, tables and columns in the canteen, and spread out the artwork to display it, at its best. There was a mix of gorgeous sketchbooks, paintings, etchings, clay and even quilts from last years' fourth years.

Junk Kouture dresses were setup outside the assembly hall, alongside pictures from the photoshoot and the competition, as well as a short video summing up all the great work done for Junk Kouture last year.

Lots of great artwork was on display from last years' Junior Cert and Leaving Cert projects. Junior Cert pieces were displayed on the boards, and some Leaving Cert sketchbooks were placed on tables around the canteen for visitors to look through and enjoy. Also on display were some printed photographs of Dublin, taken by some of the fifth years.

We had work on show from the first portrait artist competition held in the school and some portfolio work from the fifth and sixth years which was of course very impressive! On the night of the exhibition, some fourth years welcomed guests and made sure everything ran smoothly. The exhibition was very well attended

and the evening was a great success. I love the Art exhibition because it gives the whole school community a chance to see all the great work created by the students, and to see how much talent we have in our school. It's also a great opportunity to get inspiration for your own work.





## Lourdes 2019

Lying in the foothills of the Pyrenees, the small town of Lourdes is famed for the apparitions of Our Lady to Bernadette Soubirous. Each year, two pilgrimage programmes including masses, ceremonies and processions take place in September through two organisations, the Dublin Dioceses (under 18s) and the Oblate pilgrimages (over 18s). This year five students including Brenda Farren, Maria Doyle, Mimi Cuddy, Mollie Lalor and Molly Byrne accompanied Mr. Fitzgerald on the Dublin Diocese pilgrimage. The following week through the Oblate pilgrimage another group of sixth years including Nora Wyer, Aoife Boylan, Rachel Lynch and Shauna Reynolds accompanied Ms Curtis.

Throughout the week-long pilgrimages both groups represented their school and themselves ably. The days were long and action packed and time seemed to fly by. The 'blue shirts' (those on their first pilgrimage) performed tasks such as ward duty and stewardship whilst the 'white shirts' took on extra responsibilities as they had been there before and knew the ropes.

The experience was unforgettable. From the moment the students arrived in the airport there was a sense of togetherness and calmness. The focus was firmly on the pilgrims to ensure their experience was the best it could be. In Dublin Airport the students were assigned their pilgrims and together they became travel companions. Introductions were made and by the time they touched down in Lourdes, new friendships were emerging.

Each evening, after all the duties were completed, the students met for 'praire', where songs were sung and different school groups took it in turns to make reflections. On both pilgrimages the accompanying teachers made sure to introduce the new volunteers to the past pupils of the Green who continue to volunteer long after their first trips to Lourdes. It was a lovely surprise when one of the pilgrims took the time to write to Ms. Dempsey commending the students on their kindness and sharing a host of photographs she had taken. Thank you to the school and the accompanying teachers for their support to the students and the wonderful experience they enjoyed.



# Parents' Association Talks



1



**Thank you to Dr Claire Hayes, clinical psychologist, for hosting a talk for parents in the assembly hall on Tuesday 15th October 2019.**

It was a very interesting evening as Claire shared the work she does with Aware as its' Clinical Director. Claire works with a dedicated team of volunteers and staff to support people with depression and their families. Her PhD research, 'A psycho-educational approach to helping adolescents cope', has formed the basis of the 'Beat the Blues' programme for senior cycle students.

Since 2012, over 80,000 students have been introduced to proactive approaches to understanding, preventing or managing depression. Awarer's services [www.aware.ie](http://www.aware.ie) are externally evaluated, are proactive and are based on cognitive behavioural principles.

Claire had lots of great advice on the night. If you missed the talk you might find Claire's latest book, 'Finding hope in the age of anxiety' an interesting read.

**Following our AGM on Monday 23rd September, Professor Niall Moyna, DCU School of Health and Human Performance, gave a talk about Health, Sport and Healthy Lifestyles with a focus on teenage girls.**

His message was that exercise and activity throughout life are critical for our wellbeing and any exercise is better than none.

Professor Moyna emphasised that active children do better throughout their lives, both professionally and personally. They enjoy good mental health and have resilience in the face of peer pressure.

We need to keep our children engaged in physical activity and the recommendation is that five to eighteen year olds should get at least sixty minutes physical activity every day. He presented leading athletes that are terrific role models for girls, like Katie Taylor and Annalise Murphy.

Today we are living longer but we must focus on living better. Obesity is starting earlier and its effects carry through to adulthood. There are so many options open to children. It is important that parents help their children to make good choices in terms of health and exercise. The message is simple: **get exercising**.

2





## Rainbow Day and Anti-Bullying Week

by Ms Amy Spring, Wellbeing Co-ordinator

Anti-Bullying week at the Green (18th - 22nd November 2019) was a huge success involving all the students and staff. The students were welcomed into school on Monday with the 'Staff Rainbow Mural' on the display wall. The week continued with an uplifting talk for all third years from Monica Rowe. First years enjoyed games at lunch and an anti-bullying workshop run by our pastoral team.



The second years participated in a 'Sticks and Stones' drama workshop and a 'Tea and Chats' hosted by the Wellbeing Committee. The week culminated in a Rainbow jumper day on Friday, with each year group wearing a colour of the rainbow. Teachers participated too. The goal was to highlight the prevalence of bullying against the LGBT+ community in society, and to illustrate that we as a school stand up and stand with all members of our community. A big thank you to the Student Wellbeing Committee, Staff and Pastoral Team for their help and support.

# Sports' Report

Ms. Hoffman (Sports Coordinator)

## The sports year got off to a great start at the Green, with plenty of sporting events taking place and brilliant results and accomplishments.

We currently have 13 teams competing in the Leinster Hockey League with wins across the board in all divisions. We have had some particularly great results from our Senior 2 team who have yet to lose a game, and our Junior B and Minor A teams who have only lost one league game thus far.



Our basketball teams have had continued success throughout the Leinster, Loreto and South Dublin League. Our Senior A team qualified for the quarter finals of the Leinster league, but lost to an extremely talented St.

Genevieve's side. Our Cadette A team has been playing extremely well in their Loreto League, having won most of their matches and we hope to see them play in the Loreto Finals in the new year.

Our Gaelic and Camogie teams have had brilliant seasons, with both our senior teams making it through to the Leinster quarter finals. Our Senior Gaelic team went undefeated in their league matches where they had big wins against Our Lady of Mercy College Beaumont, St Joseph's of Cluny and St Pauls Secondary School, Greenhills. Well done to both teams. We wish them luck in their upcoming quarter finals.



Our first and second year cross country team competed in their first event in the Phoenix Park at the Dublin Schools Championships, with our second years winning the entire event that saw 30 plus schools involved! We also competed in the annual Brother's Schools Cross Country Race where we saw impressive results from our senior runners all the way through to our first years.



In the pool, we have seen brilliant results from our first, second and third year swimmers. Eight of them competed in the Leinster Schools Swimming Championships in the National Aquatic Centre in October where we had some terrific results. We had six Top Ten individual performances, 2nd and 3rd place finishes for our Intermediate Relay team, and 4th and 6th place finishes for our Junior Relay team.

In the Loreto Swimming Gala in December we saw great results with many individual medalists, our U16 Relay team finishing 2nd overall, and our fourth year supporters bringing home the Inter Loreto Spirit Award trophy.



Our Equestrian Team continues to compete extremely well in the Inter Loreto Show Jumping events. They finished 1st overall as a team in the November event which was a brilliant result for the team.



In other sports, we hosted the Loreto Sailing Regatta at the Irish National Sailing School in Dun Laoghaire in October. Loreto the Green won the event (for the third time in a row), and first year Emily Conan finished 1st in the individual event.



We have also continued to build on bringing Lacrosse into the Green. Sessions are held every Thursday after school supported by a member of Lacrosse Ireland. Our first years played in their first friendly in November in Rathdown, and really enjoyed the experience of a newly learned sport!



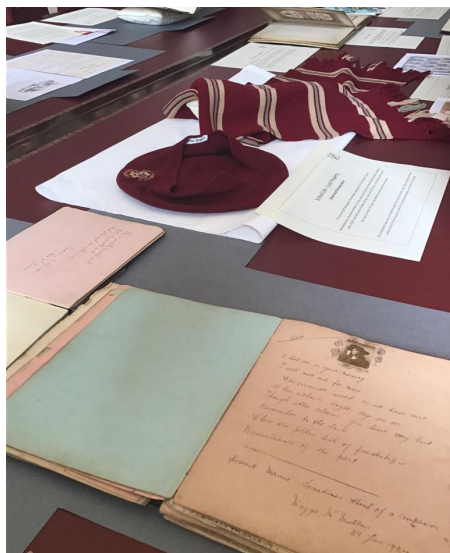
# Looking Back Over 185 Years

by Aoileann Ní Mhurchú, 6th year

**Throughout 2019, Loreto on the Green marked 185 years of the school in many ways. The History Committee played their part, bringing to life the history of the school to the current school community.**

Committee members visited the school archives many times and with the help of Sr. Kathleen Fitzgerald I.B.V.M., Jane Maloney and Áine McHugh the committee put together a comprehensive exhibition of school artefacts which were displayed in the school during history week. The students were able to see a wide variety of memorabilia, from a locket containing a lock of hair of Mother Teresa Ball, to a register containing a list of the schools' first, third level graduates. In order to share as much of the information gathered as possible, a selection of old photographs were displayed and extracts from past pupils diaries were read out, as morning reflections.

Whilst everyone was able to have a glimpse into past school life, special memories were made for those who met and heard stories from Sr. Kathleen Fitzgerald. Thank you to Ms Maverly, Jane Maloney, Áine McHugh, Sr. Kathleen, Ms. Dempsey and Mr. Fitzgerald, for their encouragement and support. The History Committee continues to grow in numbers and is open to all year groups from first to sixth year.





## Parents' Association Careers Evening

by Cliona Maughan, PA Committee

**The Parents' Association organised the annual careers evening on Tuesday 26th November. There was a very broad representation across all types of careers this year, notwithstanding a tractor grid-locked St Stephen's Green!**

Speakers in the areas of medicine, science, engineering, law and veterinary medicine were very well represented and much sought after by the students. There was great interest in careers within An Garda Síochána, aviation and primary school teaching. However, probably the most popular area was psychology, which attracted long queues!

There was a wonderful atmosphere in both the assembly hall and the canteen. Following the format of previous years, a group of students spoke to a professional for about 10 minutes before moving onto the next career. The theme of the evening was 'pathways'. Each speaker outlined the route to their particular career, third level courses, masters' courses, traineeships and, more importantly what it is really like to work in their area of expertise.

The feedback from the students this year was exceptionally positive. Having representatives from the media (Evelyn O'Rourke), fashion (Sonya Lennon), TV production (Sally Love) as well as representatives from Facebook and other IT companies, drew significant interest from the students and led to a lot of interaction and engagement.

A number of speakers have sent on additional information, which has been passed to the school Careers Office. Several speakers have offered to provide the students with tours of their places of employment and to speak with them further should they have more queries. We would like to thank all the participants who made this a very successful careers evening and a special thanks to everyone involved.

### Peer Mentoring Initiative

Loreto 5th and 6th years

Looking for advice on a course or career?

Would you like to talk to a recent graduate of Loreto who is currently studying a college course or pursuing the career you are considering?

Contact us: [Loretothegreenmentoring@gmail.com](mailto:Loretothegreenmentoring@gmail.com) and let us know how we can assist you.

December 2019

## Art Zone



*By Laura Holloway 2T*



*By Grace Mortell 6T*

# Past Pupil Rev. Dr. Anne- Marie O'Farrell

**Harpist, Composer, Priest**

by Anna Lator, PA Committee



As a past pupil Anne-Marie remembers that Loreto offered her a wealth of opportunities through music. Anne-Marie valued her time in its' three orchestras playing the harp and piano, and being part of the Gregorian chant choir. At a young age Anne-Marie began to compose pieces and was most encouraged in this by Sr. Marion Cox and Ms. Frankie Rooney. One of her choral pieces, Regina Coeli, was performed a number of times by the school choir during her time there. She is also grateful to others like Sr. Rionach Donlon and the late Rita McCarthy whose leadership and vision were a strong influence. Together with the other staff, they nurtured and encouraged the students to find their way in the world, continually mindful that we should work towards social justice.

For all the activity, there was always time to sit and reflect in the chapel. At the beginning of each day, Sr. Columbière shared inspirational reflections against the backdrop of the record player. In her sixth year, Anne-Marie's German exchange student Ulrike from Cologne joined her in school for three months. As the only foreign exchange student in the Green at the time, the students and school community made Ulrike feel at ease and very welcome. The ladies remain firm friends and Ulrikes' visits to Ireland often include a new photo being taken outside the schools' front door.

Anne-Marie's love of music and the German language continued to grow as she studied both subjects in UC'D. It was then her career as a composer and performer began. Having attained her BA BMus, her faith drew her back to the Loreto sisters, joining the Loreto order. She spent regular weekends in Loreto Abbey in Rathfarnham and although a rich and fulfilling experience, after a year she made the decision to take an alternative path. Anne-Marie went on to meet her wonderful

husband Ray Comiskey. Together they have two beautiful daughters Carmel and Steph; sadly Ray passed away in 2019.

The years that followed were busy with family life, compositions, performances, and teaching. Anne-Marie started to attend Christ Church cathedral to hear the choirs she enjoyed so much and found a renewed sense of vocation. With the love and support of Ray she trained for ordination in the Church of Ireland. Today Anne-Marie enjoys her busy life working as non-stipendiary priest in the grouped parishes of Sandford in Ranelagh and St Philips' Milltown. She continues to work in music, composing and performing, and lectures in composition at the TU Dublin Conservatoire, having completed a PhD in composition at Queen's University Belfast some years ago. She enjoys connecting the artistic and the sacred, sometimes writing works for concert settings, but which also explore ideas about our understanding of God.

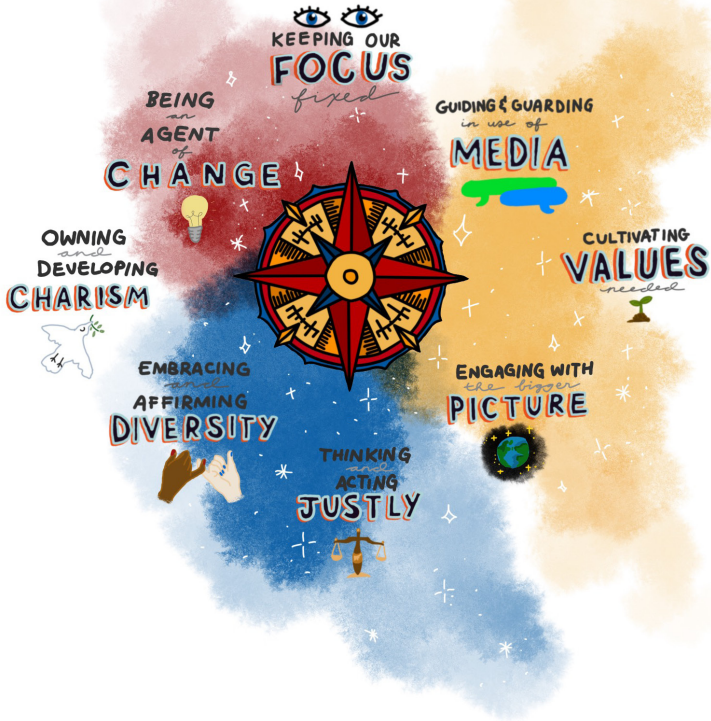
Her memories of her years on the Green are strong and the ethos encouraged there remains close to her heart.

We look forward to hearing the fruits of Anne-Marie's work as she collaborates with Sr. Kathleen Fitzpatrick in mentoring Loreto music teachers in their composition of a new Loreto anthem.





# ROOTED RESPONSIVE RELEVANT



By Enda Lyons 5th year

## Save the Date

The Parents' Association annual school walk is scheduled for Sunday 1st March on Dollymount Strand. All creatures great and small are welcome and encouraged to come and join us, including aunts, uncles, grannies, grandads, friends, neighbours, and of course your dogs. Please come along and enjoy the chat and the exercise.

A reminder will be sent through the schools' FlexiBuzz closer to the date, with details of time and meet area.