



ALL HALLOWS' CAMPUS, DCU. HOME OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CENTRE

Church of Ireland Centre, DCU

Introduction

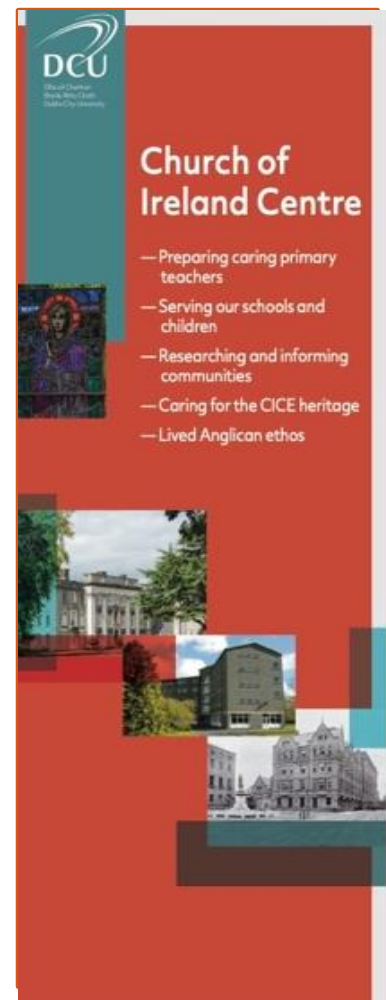
This newsletter comes to you from a busy second semester in the Church of Ireland Centre in DCU. Our year 4 students are nearing the end of their first block of final year placement. They are all in schools in Dublin and the greater Dublin area, and your welcome and support of them as they reach the end of their college programme is appreciated. Year 2 students will be on placement before Easter and are looking forward to their time teaching lessons and learning from experienced class teachers. Year 1 students are spending Mondays in their placement schools in all parts of the country. Many of these students are returning to their own primary schools and the commonly heard phrase is that 'the school is smaller than they remember from when they were 12'. They are gaining much insight into life in the classroom and are beginning to teach their first lessons.

Our Year 3 students are back in DCU apart from Charlotte Hall, John Galbraith and Rachel Kidd who are all away this semester attending university in Europe on the Erasmus programme. We hope to have a report from them in the next issue of the newsletter.

In this newsletter you will read articles from three schools, who are sharing some of their recent projects. Could your school feature in an upcoming newsletter? Could you share a story of what your teachers or pupils have been doing recently? If so, please contact the editor Jacqui Wilkinson with articles and pictures.

We update our website regularly and invite you to keep in touch by visiting <https://www.dcu.ie/church-of-ireland-centre/index.shtml>

We are also on social media and you can follow us on Twitter [@CIC_DCU](https://twitter.com/CIC_DCU)



Graduation November 2019

On 6 November 2019, following the DCU graduation ceremony in The Helix, the CIC graduation service and prize-giving event took place in the chapel on the DCU All Hallows campus. The event commenced with a short service of thanksgiving followed by the presentation of elective certificates and the Religious Education in Follow Me Certificate as well as a range of prizes and awards.

The CIC was delighted to welcome Deirdre O'Connor from the INTO who gave a speech and presented the Vere Foster medal for excellence in teaching, planning and performance to Jenny Galbraith, and Rita Nic Amhlaoiabh from the Department of Education and Skills, who presented the Carlisle and Blake award to Christine Cox for excellent marks in teaching practice and theory.



*Carlisle and Blake winner
Christine Cox*

Prof. Orla Kelly presented the awards for excellence in the final year dissertation to Jenny Galbraith, Clodagh Dougherty, Elsa Griffin, Christine Cox, Kelly Delaney, Sophie Campbell, Kate Strong, Sarah Mulhere, and Emily McMullen.



*Vere Foster Medal winner
Jenny Galbraith*

Prof. Lorraine Harbison presented the awards for excellence in Gaelige to Jenny Galbraith, Clodagh Dougherty, Christine Cox, and Alex Butler.



Rev. Prof. Anne Lodge presented the award for special contribution to the year group to Alex Condell and Chloe Rankin.

The following Church of Ireland Centre prizes were presented to students: Dr Ken Fennelly, Secretary to the General Synod Board of Education, presented three prizes for excellence in the Religious Education Certificate in Follow Me to Clodagh Dougherty, Chloe Rankin, and Hayley Smyth.



There was a reception afterwards in the All Hallows' dining hall to which all the graduates and their families were invited.

Launch of Praying Together

Pupils, teachers and people connected with Church of Ireland primary schools contributed to a new book of prayers which can be used in school assemblies. 'Praying Together: Prayers for Primary School

Assemblies' was launched on Thursday February 6 by the President of Dublin City University, Prof Brian MacCraith..

The book contains a wide variety of prayers penned by children and adults connected with Church of Ireland primary schools all over Ireland. The book is the result of a project which began in Spring 2019 when the editor Jacqui Wilkinson had an idea for a new resource and project in which the network of Church of Ireland schools could get involved. She contacted all Church of Ireland primary schools last year inviting teachers and pupils to write new prayers for use in school assemblies and received a great response. Initially it was planned to produce an online collection of the



prayers. Then, thanks to the generosity of DCU, it became possible to create a book containing many of the prayers

received from school. The prayers cover many of the events in the school and church year

The collection includes prayers which may only be used occasionally, for example when a teacher retires or there is a school inspection. Others may become regular features of assemblies marking the seasonal events of the school year such as sports day or 6th class graduations. There are also prayers when an urgent response is required, for example, in times of sickness or sadness, or if there is a national or local tragedy.



broad relevance and appeal the collection will have beyond its initial target audience of Church of Ireland primary schools. Archbishop Michael paid tribute to both the editor and DCU. 'This book of prayers comes directly from the Church of Ireland context with the children's voices from their schools. It is the first publication by Dublin City

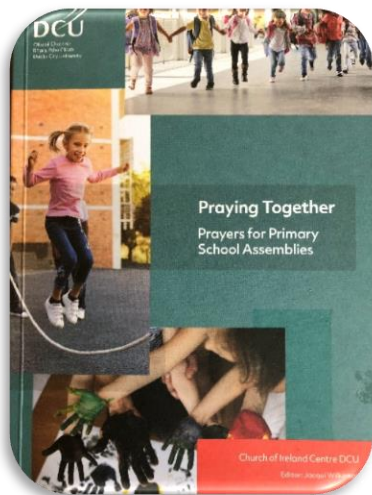


University of a volume from one of its denominational centres, in this case the Church of Ireland Centre', he said. In her speech Jacqui Wilkinson thanked all the schools that participated in the project and welcomed some teachers from schools to the launch.

The following day the book was presented to Templebreedy National School in Crosshaven, Cork at their daily assembly. Pupils from the school read their school prayers which feature in the book. All Church of Ireland primary schools

At the launch Prof Brian MacCraith and Prof Anne Looney,

Executive Dean of the DCU Institute of Education, spoke of the importance of listening to the student voice. They acknowledged the work done by Jacqui Wilkinson to include the voices of children in the collection and commended the



should now have received a copy. If not, or if you want a further copy, do contact jacqueline.wilkinson@dcu.ie

Small Schools Seminar



Four principals, one recently retired, very generously gave up their Saturday morning in late November to present at a Seminar for 4th year B.Eds in the Church of Ireland Centre on *Leading and Teaching in Small and Growing Schools*. Lesley Denniston principal of All Saints NS, Mullingar, Martha Woolmington principal of Howth Rd NS, Dublin 3, Janet Twigg recently retired principal of All Saints NS, Waterford and Sarah Richards principal of Whitechurch NS, Dublin held the students spellbound for a few hours with their stories of life in a small school.

Martha had everyone laughing at the tales of child and teacher survival in a school turned building site. Janet advised on how to keep kindness (and biscuits) to the fore in every relationship, even with the Department inspector. Sarah Richards explained with how her school has sought to keep the sense of family and community to the fore as Whitechurch expanded. Lesley explained the importance, and the fun, of being part of the school team.

Each of the presenters reminisced about their own time as students and confessed to being surprised, but delighted, to take on the role of Principal. The students really appreciated the Seminar and

focused on how much they learned from these principals' expertise and wisdom. Some also noted that it was the first time they had a real chance to consider the positive aspects of being a school principal.

The Centre was very grateful to Mr. Pauric Clerkin, CEO of the Irish Primary Principals' Network, who also gave up his Saturday morning to chair the seminar.

The Seminar was the final element of the module 'Teaching, Leading and Learning in Small Schools' taught and co-ordinated by Rev. Prof. Anne Lodge. As part of that module, students also had a full morning's workshop on the *Incredible Years programme* facilitated by the wonderful Michael Logan of Archways. This is the last time we will have the good fortune to benefit from Michael's wisdom because he is retiring. All in the Centre wish him well. He has been doing greatly appreciated workshops on positive behaviour management with our students since 2010.

Ethos in schools

Revd. Rob Clements, Ms Grainne Darlington (Kilternan) and Ms Sarah Richards (Whitechurch) discussed



school ethos and parish-school links with BEd 4 students as part of their Religious Education Certificate course in November. They answered lots of practical questions about school assembly, parish activities and admission policies as well as

discussing working with pupils of other faiths and none in school.

Student Teachers Visiting Small Schools

Students in BEd2, undertaking a specialism in multiclass teaching with Prof. Geraldine O'Connor, visited some primary schools with multi-grade classrooms in the Dublin area. The opportunity to observe in small schools was of great benefit to the student teachers, in particular enabling them to notice and reflect on common strategies and routines used by professional teachers, as well as having experience of authentic examples of effective methods of classroom organisation in such settings.

Many thanks to the principals and staff in the following schools for facilitating the visits from our student teachers and for the warm welcome and encouragement given to them: Drumcondra N.S., Glasnevin N.S., Howth Rd NS and Lindsay Rd N.S.

Student News



Congratulations from CIC to DCU Hockey for winning the Mixed Hockey Intersarsity 2020 in February. Alannah Rothwell and Andrew Arnopp, both BEd 1 students were on the winning team. Students connected with CIC have also recently represented DCU in tennis and rugby.

CPD in RE for Schools

Jacqui Wilkinson

Last term I was in two Church of Ireland schools delivering some **CPD in Religious Education** for staff.

This term a cluster of schools from the Tipperary region joined together for a CPD hour in a central location.

Do contact me if you would be interested in some CPD as a **cluster of schools or as an individual school** and I will try to accommodate you in one of the available slots. The topics currently offered are : (select 1 or 2 for a 1 hour session). Further topics available on request.

- Assemblies and Follow Me
- RE in the Infant classroom
- Enquiry based learning with senior classes
- Teaching world religions
- Website resources to support RE
- The Church of Ireland (an overview)
- Bible story telling methods

Religious Education Certificate (Follow Me) 2020

All Hallows' College

26 March, 2 April, 23 April and 30 April 2020

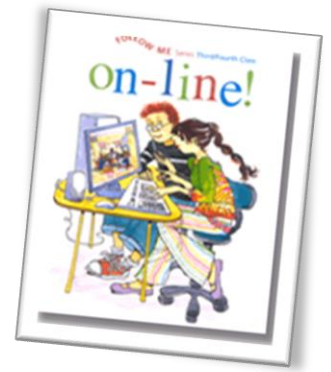
5-8pm

This Certificate is offered to existing teachers in Church of Ireland and other Protestant primary schools who did not undertake their initial teacher education qualifications in CICE or through DCoo4 linked to the Church of Ireland Centre, DCU; and who have classroom experience teaching the Follow Me RE programme. The General Synod Board of Education sponsors this course as part of their support for schools in the Church of Ireland, Methodist, Presbyterian and Society of Friends network. The course is led by Jacqui Wilkinson.

The course is comprised of a series of workshops and accompanying coursework leading to the awarding of the RE Certificate in Follow Me. As well as an exploration of the strands and content of Follow Me other special topics include 'Infants and Play', 'ICT and RE', 'Enquiry based learning in RE', 'Ethos and parish school links' and 'Handling the big questions with senior classes'.

Former participants have reflected: '*I really believe that I walked away with a greater amount of knowledge relating to how to facilitate Religious Education lessons in a fun and creative way.*'

'I have thoroughly enjoyed attending this course and would highly recommend it to anyone teaching in a Church of Ireland school. My



knowledge has increased two fold, I have built up a fantastic bank of resources and I without doubt know my teaching style of the subject has changed for the better.

If teachers are interested please complete the form sent to the school earlier this month or email Jacqui.

Last year a 3 day course (3X4hrs) was held in Letterkenny towards the end of June – I could run the course in a different geographical location if you can gather a cluster of 6 teachers interested in a course running from Monday-Wednesday 15-17 June. If there is interest do make contact with me and we can see if this would be possible. (Jacqueline.wilkinson@dcu.ie).

Participants will need to indicate the support of both their school principal and Chair of their Board of Management for their participation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON RE ISSUES PLEASE CONTACT JACQUI

Jacqueline.Wilkinson@dcu.ie

@JWilkinson31



- Creating parish school links
- Ultimate questions and discussion in senior classes

Research projects – sharing of experience



The 4th year B.Eds had three presentations from recent graduates on their dissertation findings and on the process of undertaking research. The Centre is grateful to Dr. Ken Fennelly for giving up his time to chair this seminar.

Jenny Galbraith introduced 4th years to the benefits of the school garden for children and teachers alike. She argued that engagement with the school garden benefited children both academically and socially as well as benefitting the wider school community.

Clodagh Dougherty explained how important the relationship between co-operating teachers and student teachers is, especially in helping student teachers to develop confidence and efficacy in their inclusive practice.

Elsa Griffin focused on the infant years and the importance of play. She explored how both teachers and pupils benefit from using the playground and other outdoor areas for children's play and learning.

The 4th years had many questions, mostly focused on the process of doing a final year project. They also had a few questions about job applications and interviews. This gave rise to a further special event that will take place during the school Easter break for the Church of Ireland Centre B.Eds on preparing job applications and undertaking interviews for teaching posts.

Prayer Stations



Revd. Abigail Sines came to conduct a workshop for BEd 4 students as part of their RE Cert module. She set up a number of prayer stations, talked about how she has used prayer activities with children and then gave the students space for their own reflection and to experience some quiet in the midst of their busy day.



PSA CICE Conference

The PSA CICE Conference takes place next weekend. We have a high number of attendees this year. The CPD events this year will take the form of a practical hands on art workshop with Lucy Hamilton Turley (Art Lecturer) and an IT workshop with Ciara Reilly (PDST) where participants will get to grips with coding, easy IT tools for the classroom and many other ways to embed digital technology into everyday teaching. There will also be a Gala dinner at the conference where a number of reunion groups from CICE will get to celebrate and catch up with each other.

If you would like to keep in touch with the Past Student Association of CICE, please add 'Paststudents cice' on Facebook or email psacice@gmail.com. All graduates of CIC, DCU are eligible for free membership for their first year after college.

The PSA is also looking at ways to rebrand the organisation to take account of all the different grouping who are eligible for membership- past students of CITC, CICE, CIC DCU, teachers working in Protestant managed schools, retired teachers who worked in Protestant managed schools. As the only association specifically for teachers working in or who trained for Protestant managed schools, we would like to hear your suggestions for how we might move forward to maintain our place as a linking point between our teachers, graduates and retirees. Let us know your thoughts or ideas via our email (psacice@gmail.com).

School News

Springdale NS

Springdale NS links with Raheny Community Nursing Unit

For the last number of years, senior students from Springdale NS have entertained the residents of the Raheny Community Nursing Unit with Christmas carols and songs every December. In the summer term of 2019, we were invited to sing again at their annual Alzheimer's Tea Day. Following this event we invited some of the residents to join us in the yard for our annual Ice Cream Day. It was over an ice cream cone that we started a wonderful relationship with our neighbours and a fantastic project of cooperation and inter-generational friendship.


Since the beginning of September 2019, we have organised weekly community link sessions. Six to eight students, accompanied by a teacher, visit the residents in the nursing unit. Our children are very fond of their next door neighbours. They spend an hour each week catching up with each other while taking part in many different activities. Some of these activities have so far included discussing their favourite books and movies over a cup of tea and juice, having a sing song and dance along, arts and crafts, board games and using a wonderful interactive table that the nursing unit kindly received funding for. Through these activities the members of the group share stories, learn about each other and build friendships.



The children have all thoroughly enjoyed each session and have all been disappointed when their turn has come to an end. So far students from 3rd to 6th have had the opportunity to be involved. This term we are looking forward to bringing some of our younger students in with us. We have already made plans for a sports day and teddy bears' picnic in early June when all children involved through the academic year will join the residents to celebrate the friendships and relationships that have been built.

We have had very positive feedback from all involved - children, parents, teachers, residents and staff. It has so far been a wholly enriching experience and a link that we are keen to continue to nurture over the coming months and hopefully years.

Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise have published these two sided prayer cards which would be very useful for assembly.

 CUMANN GAELACH NA hEAGLAISE <small>The Irish Guild of the Church Ardteampall Chríost, Baile Átha Cliath & Chríost Church Cathedral, Dublin 8</small>	
PRAYERS/ PAIDREACHA	
GREETING The Lord be with you and also with you. <i>or</i> Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all and also with you	AN BHEANNACHT Go raibh an Tiarna libh agus leat féin <i>nó</i> Grásta agus trócaire agus síocháin Ó Dhia ár nAthair Agus ó Iosa Chríost ár dTiarna, Go raibh libh go léir agus leat féin
KYRIE Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.	KYRIE A Thiarna, déan trócaire. A Chríost, déan trócaire. A Thiarna, déan trócaire.
THE LORD'S PRAYER Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.	PAIDIR AN TIARNA Ár nAthair, atá ar neamh, go naofar d'ainm, go dtaga do ríocht, go ndéantar do thóil ar talamh mar a dhéantar ar neamh. Ár n-arán laethúil tabhair dúinn inniu. Agus maith dúinn ár bhfácha, mar a mhaithimidne dar bhféichitna féin. Agus ná lig sinn i gcathú, ach saor sinn ón olc. Oir is leatsa an ríocht, agus an chumhacht, agus an ghloir, trí shaol na saol. Áiméan.
THE GRACE The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.	AN tALTÚ Go raibh grásta ar dTiarna Íosa Chríost, agus grá Dé, agus cumann an Spioraid Naoi linn go léir. Áiméan.
WEAVERS' RESPONSE	AG DEIREADH NA LEÁCHTA

School News

Abbeyleix South NS:

Two **major projects** recently took place in the school. The first was the erection of a **polytunnel** in 2015 and the second the creation of an **Outdoor Classroom** in 2017.



THE POLYTUNNEL:

Thanks to our ever hardworking, fundraising Parents' Association our dream of a polytunnel was realised in 2015. We could not believe the space inside! Our parent body was called upon to get the tunnel ready for classes to begin. This happened quickly and before we knew it we were planting vegetables, herbs and flowers, everything from leeks, beans, carrots, potatoes, strawberries, scallions, spinach, lettuce to flowers like sunflowers and marigolds. The vegetables are tended to during break times and classtimes, such was the enthusiasm for time in the polytunnel. Some of the produce grown is brought home to be enjoyed while more is used in our school server where our pupils enjoy cookery classes.

Our polytunnel is a place which helps our pupils to learn more about where their food comes from, about making food choices for a healthy diet and about eating and cooking seasonal foods that they grow.

We held a workshop in our polytunnel with author Fiona Dillon. Fiona planted more herbs and vegetables with our pupils, who also had the opportunity of filming some "Youtube Videos" based on vegetable gardening.



THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM: The town of Abbeyleix was chosen to represent Ireland in the Entente Florale Europe 2017 Competition in June. In our school we decided to transform an area of waste land into a beautiful amenity for all our community to enjoy.



Developing this area involved a community-wide effort with parents helping to clear the space and the local community and school families donating the materials. Where possible all the items used were recycled. We created three Bug Hotels, and planted lots of flowers and plants that would draw in bees and assist with the school's Pollinator Plan.

We left part of our outdoor classroom as a "meadow". Here we planted a variety of apple trees and buddleia which attract different butterfly species to our wildflower garden.

Our Outdoor Classroom is very much enjoyed by our pupils. We bring them outdoors for classes when possible and also use it when we have workshops. It provides endless opportunities for integrating

curricular areas and it provides a living context in which our pupils can study.

Laois County Council very kindly gave us an Environmental Education Workshop on Biodiversity as part

of our preparations for our Fifth Green Flag. We prepared and planted a butterfly bed. We undersowed with a mixture of wildflowers. We also sowed lupin, sedum(ice plant), giant poppy, purple top (verbena), buddleia and dahlia. Wild flower seeds were placed in little pots in our tunnel to avail of the heat and shelter and

later on they were transplanted into our wildflower garden. Our hard work paid off and on 22nd June 2018 we were proud to raise our fifth Green Flag for Biodiversity!

Our **Polytunnel** and **Outdoor Classroom** both provide an outdoor learning environment and a means to create a sense of space for all of our pupils. They put the natural world at our pupils' fingertips and offer a rich context for exploring Science, Nutrition, Maths, Art and much more.

Both spaces are maintained by our pupils who were actively involved in their creation. They were involved in the planning and building of the Outdoor Classroom which gives them a greater sense of ownership. They love the change from the regular classroom to the great outdoors and love to get their hands dirty!

School News

Billis NS, Co. Cavan

Experiences of the Shared Education Programme 2017-2020

The Peace IV Shared Education Programme is a cross-border initiative which is completely funded through the European Regional Development Fund of the EU. It is scheduled to run until March 2020. It was designed to enable schools from different religious and socioeconomic backgrounds, to work in partnership providing opportunities for pupils, teachers and community to engage in collaborative and meaningful learning experiences.

The Collaboration and Shared Education (CASE) project has resulted from a partnership with the Education Authority (EA) in Northern Ireland and Léargas in the Republic of Ireland since September 2017. It provides



Lego-We-Do and Chromebooks, which the schools will have going forward. The pupils were trained in choir singing with the support of a music facilitator.

Celebration Days are to be held for the various class groupings at the end of the programme together with a joint school trip to Explorium Dublin, Ireland's National Science & Sports Centre.

There are many positives from participation in the Shared Education Programme. It does however involve careful planning, co-operation and dedication on the part of the teachers involved in both schools. Shared Education officers provide advice and guidance to schools from the initial application stage right through to delivery. Planning Days, with paid substitute cover, is provided to release teachers to draw up plans, work out the logistics, reflect and write up reports at the end of the year. It is very much a team effort involving our school Principals, B.O.M. and our wonderful school secretaries who arrange bus transport (pupils travel to their partner school in blocks of 5 weeks), paying the bills and ensuring the necessary returns are made monthly.



direct, sustained curriculum-based contact between the partner schools.

Billis (C.O.I.) National School in Co. Cavan in partnership with Knocktemple (R.C.) National School have been involved in the CASE project for the past 3 years. During this time, we have been involved in collaborative projects including history, process drama, literacy and learning to play Ukulele. Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities which the programme has offered and have benefited from the social and educational experiences involved.

This year, pupils from 1st to 6th class in both schools have been involved in the programme with a focus on choir singing and STEM. Teachers in both schools were trained in the use of Beebots and Lego-We-Do which enabled them to instruct the pupils themselves. By not having to bring in experts in this area, it meant that extra funding was available to fund the purchase of sets of Beebots,

Betty Lundie Principal, Billis N.S.



Interested schools can gain further information by visiting the following website –
<https://www.sharededucation.org.uk>

Other News

Church of Ireland: Disestablishment and Beyond Conference, Royal Irish Academy, Dublin.

On 27th Feb 2020, Rev. Prof. Anne Lodge took part in Panel 3 of the Disestablishment Conference talking about the Church of Ireland's role in education in the Republic of Ireland since 1969. She described the changes to both primary and post-primary sectors in the last 50 years and outlined how Church of Ireland schools, along with other minority faith schools,



had long been places where those of other beliefs were included and made welcome. She explained how the schools' Anglican ethos helped the acceptance of diversity. The fact

that faith formation is left to families and parishes means that the schools are Christian places of learning but are not seen as places of indoctrination.



At their best, Church of Ireland schools are child-centred, democratic places where all voices are heard and where different opinions are valued. During the panel discussion at the end of the session, she argued that their flexibility is a real strength for Church of Ireland schools as Ireland becomes a more secular place.

The panel was chaired by broadcaster Aine Lawlor and also included Dr Martin Mansergh, Senator Ivana Bacik and Dr Andrew Pierce.

The next newsletter will come out in June. If you have any suggestions as to what we might feature or have any school news do let us know.

New book

DCU has funded the publication of a sumptuous heritage publication celebrating the four institutions that came together in October 2016 in the incorporation project. The book, entitled *DCU: A New Beginning*, tells stories of CICE, St. Patrick's College, Mater Dei and DCU itself in words and pictures. It will be launched in the early summer and we look forward to sharing the CICE chapter!

Assembly visit

Jacqui Wilkinson attended assembly in St Luke's NS Douglas on 25 February and thanked the pupils and teachers for contributing to the *Praying Together* book. Here are some of the pupils and teachers who wrote prayers for the book.



The consultation on the Draft Primary Curriculum Framework is now open. Find out more and have your say here ncca.ie/en/updates-and-... [#primarydevelopments](https://twitter.com/primarydevelopments)

The Draft Primary Curriculum Framework is now published.



  www.ncca.ie/primary
#primarydevelopments