



# Our Teacher

Advent 2011

## A few Thoughts

*“And the newness that was in every stale thing  
When we looked at it as children”*

*(From 'Advent' by Patrick Kavanagh)*

### In This Issue

- *Calendar of Feasts*
- *The Revised Roman Missal*
- *Advent Resources*
- *Catholic Schools Week*
- *Confirmation*
- *IEC poster Competition*

## Advent Feasts

- *Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November  
St Andrew*
- *Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
St Francis Xavier*
- *Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
St Nicholas*
- *Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
St Ambrose*
- *Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
Feast of the Immaculate Conception*
- *Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December  
St Lucy*
- *Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December  
St John of the Cross*

*Why not help children bearing the name of a particular saint to find out something about their life and share it with the rest of the class on the feast day!*



No one can remain impervious to the wonder and excitement through which children view the world around them. Those things which we as adults take for granted or have long since failed to appreciate fill the child's heart and mind with joy and amazement. How often do we encounter this reality as children prepare for First Confession and First Holy Communion, or as they imaginatively read stories from the Bible or about the lives of the saints. Their insights, as we all know would put the most prominent theologians to shame! Advent and Christmas are also special times at home, in school and parish when we can really see the story of our salvation being embraced by children in a way that touches our own hearts opening them more readily to the mystery we celebrate.

Advent is a time for all of us adults to look again at our relationship with God, with each other, with the world around us through the eyes of a child. In other words it is an occasion to rediscover a sense of wonder and joy in our living and believing. Rediscovering a sense of wonder and joy, seeing the newness of God's presence in every created thing and person and especially in his Son Jesus Christ, does not happen automatically. It can only be achieved through a renewed commitment to prayer, reflection on God's Word, reconciliation with God and each other and communion with God through the Eucharist and the Sacraments.

May all of us as Parents, Teachers, Priests, all responsible for the faith formation of children in our Catholic Schools embrace this time of Advent as an opportunity to appreciate the wonder of God's love poured out in the mystery of the incarnation.

*FR Kieran*

## The Revised Roman Missal



You will be aware changes have been made to the prayers of the Mass. From the first Sunday of Advent the Revised texts of the Roman Missal (the book which contains all the prayers of the Mass) will be in use in parishes throughout the English speaking world and indeed in our own diocese. All parishes have been issued with special cards to help congregations to become familiar with the new text. Bishop Freeman has asked all our priests to ensure that schools in the diocese have access to the congregational cards to help teachers and children to make the transition. As we enter the season of Advent all Schools & Priests will receive a copy of **Come Lord Jesus – A celebration of Mass for Advent** which contains the new prayers. This leaflet can be used in planning a school Mass for Advent and as a means to introduce the new texts.

## Advent Resources for Teachers

On-going reflection and prayer is essential for all of us as we play our part in handing on the gift of faith as parents, teachers, priests and pastoral workers in our parishes. To help us reflect on the Word of God for Advent, Ossory Adult Faith Development Group has produced a Scripture Reflection booklet and accompanying audio CD which we are happy to send to our Primary School Teachers. The resource is ideal for individual or group use.



## Advent Resources for the Classroom

Last year the resources for Advent distributed to our schools proved very popular. Once again we provide these resources which provide ideas for the celebration of Advent, resources on Saints and other liturgical feasts. The resource book contains material covering Advent and other faith celebrations during this time leading up to Christmas. Further copies are



available on request. Further resources are also available on the education website of the archdiocese of Dublin <http://www.education.dublindiocese.ie> and from the society of missionary children [www.imi.ie](http://www.imi.ie)



Catholic Schools Week 2012  
Seachtain na Scoileanna Caitliceacha 2012

### Theme: 'Catholic Schools: Christ's living body active in our world'

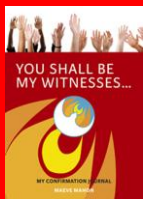
Catholic Schools Week 2012 begins on Sunday, 29 January, the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Over the past three years, parishes throughout the country have responded with great generosity and creativity to the invitation to take time during this week to celebrate the contribution made by Catholic Schools to their communities. This can be done in a variety of ways: during the Sunday Liturgy, by joining in the activities in the parish schools and by creating opportunities for the parish community to connect with the school community. It is hoped to plan a diocesan celebration to mark the beginning of Catholic Schools Week and further details will be circulated in the near future. More information on Catholic Schools Week can be found on the diocesan website [www.ossory.ie/education](http://www.ossory.ie/education) and on the Irish Bishops website <http://www.catholicbishops.ie/education>. If you would like to become involved in planning and organising our diocesan event please contact us at using the details below.



## Diocesan Eucharistic Congress Poster Competition for Schools

### Confirmation 2012

Confirmation dates for 2012 have been announced and are currently available on the Diocesan Website.



The Parish based Confirmation Programme *You Shall Be My Witnesses* is available from Veritas Veritas  
T: (01) 878 8177  
F: 874 4913  
sales@veritas.ie  
www.veritas.ie

The Eucharistic Congress Bell is a key symbol of the 50th International Eucharistic Congress. From its origins in the Dominican Convent of Portstewart, Co. Derry the Bell was more recently used to ring in the Jubilee Year 2000 in Glendalough, Co. Wicklow. The Bell will reflect the invitation to faith, to prayer, to reconciliation and to mission which has always been important in our Christian tradition and is no less so today. The pilgrimage of the Bell throughout the Dioceses of Ireland, and beyond, will be a vehicle to:

- Invite people to deepen their communion with Christ and with one another
- Promote the pastoral aims of the Congress
- Invite all Christians to join in giving a common witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in an increasingly secular society
- Animate the people of your Diocese to become involved with the Eucharistic Congress both locally and nationally
- Invite people to come to the Congress from June 10th to 17th 2012

To mark the visit of the bell to the diocese of Ossory in January the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress Committee is organising a Poster competition for Primary Schools. Children are asked to design a poster on the theme of the Eucharistic Congress Bell push. Posters can be of any size with a maximum of three per school. The winning poster will be displayed in St Mary's Cathedral when the Bell arrives there on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January. Entries should be posted to:

Primary Art Competition  
Abbey Community College  
Abbey Road  
Ferrybank, Co Waterford  
Closing Date for receipt of posters Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Diocesan Advisors for Religious Education in Primary Schools

Mobile / Text 086 8272828

Website: / <http://www.ossory.ie/education/primary-schools> Email [primaryadvisors@ossory.ie](mailto:primaryadvisors@ossory.ie)