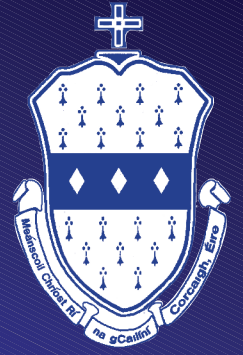


Christ King Girls' Secondary School



Special Commemorative Publication



Introduction

Christ King Secondary School opened its door as Sacred Heart Secondary School in Sunview House in September 1965. We are delighted as a school to celebrate 50 years of providing the highest quality education, in the Presentation Order tradition, to the girls in our local community.

Presentation education draws inspiration from and is guided by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the spirit and life of Nano Nagle and the teachings of the Catholic Church. Nano Nagle, foundress of the Presentation Congregation, began her mission of educating the poor in a little school on Cove Lane, Cork in 1775. In setting up schools in defiance of the established colonial order, she sided with those who were poor and challenged the institutional injustice that perpetuated marginalisation and poverty. She developed a curriculum suitable to her students. So the Presentation Sisters in buying land and opening a school in 1965 were continuing the work as set down by Nano Nagle in 1775.

We wish to acknowledge, as a school community, the huge sacrifices made by the Sisters in order to ensure that the school could provide all the supports needed for the students in their care.

The Presentation Sisters not only sacrificed their time but as many of them were teaching at the time, and some not even in the school but in other schools, they also sacrificed their salaries to help build and develop our great school here. For that our school community is eternally grateful. The Sisters have left a huge legacy behind as they worked very hard over the years to ensure that the school grew in the light of the ethos espoused by Venerable Nano Nagle and as a school community we also are committed to ensuring that our work reflects the mission and ethos of the Presentation Order.

The school was renamed in 1986 to Christ King Girls' Secondary School to establish a link with the parish. Christ King has a proud tradition based on the provision of a truly holistic education that provides each of our students with opportunities to excel not just academically but also socially, physically, culturally and spiritually. We offer here a wide curriculum so that every student may develop their strengths to their full potential whether that is on the playing fields, involved in debates and public speaking, in musicals, in the world of science, in enterprise, in technology, in the arts or in the world of academia.

Venerable Nano Nagle knew that the true pathway to freedom was through education and that it is education that can help a person to live a very satisfying and fulfilled life.

We are very proud of our students' achievements and are always delighted when they return to visit us.

Most importantly we also strive to ensure that our school continues to be a happy, nurturing and stimulating environment for our students where the importance of good, respectful relationships between all members of the school community is valued.



So the challenge for us as a school is to maintain and support a faith centred view of education, so the education we provide must pay regard to the formation of the whole person, so that all may attain their eternal destiny and at the same time promote the common good of society.

Mary Keane

Principal.

Union of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – South West Province



Email: swpres@eircom.net
Tel 00-353-21-4975190

*Presentation Provincial Office,
The Loft,
Bessborough Centre,
Blackrock,
Cork, Ireland.*

Congratulations!

It gives me great pleasure to extend warmest congratulations to Christ King Secondary School as it celebrates 50 golden years of excellence in education.

Christ King School has many reasons to celebrate and to be justly proud of its achievements over the years.

As a Presentation school, following in the footsteps of Nano Nagle who pioneered Catholic education, espousing and giving witness to Gospel values, it engenders in its students values for life.

As a welcoming, faith community, committed to excellence in education, Christ King has achieved remarkable success over the years.

It provides its students with the very best educational opportunities in state of the art buildings and facilities. No expense or effort is spared to keep well abreast of educational developments and to be at the forefront of same.

I congratulate the Board of Management, Principal and staff, past and present for their commitment to Catholic education and for promoting the values that contribute to excellence in education, ensuring that every student is given the opportunity to achieve her full potential.

Sheila Kelleher

Sr. Sheila Kelleher.

Provincial Leader.

Sr. Sheila Kelleher, Sarah Bryant, Nuala O'Loan, Fiona Kennedy, Katie Allen at Nano Nagle Gathering 2015.





Sowing The Seed - Sr. Berchmans

To Mother Ursula Delaney, we, in Christ King Secondary School, owe a big debt. From the moment (1964) Canon Walsh whispered in South Presentation Convent, Douglas Street, that there would be a House and Land for sale in the South Douglas Road, Mother Ursula's worries began. She was deputed to bring Secondary Education to the children of the Turner's Cross area (cheer up Carrigaline, Monkstown, Rochestown, Ballygarvan and Douglas, we welcomed you too!). And what a unique choice for this arduous task! As well as being an organizer, she was an Educationalist and had a deep love for everything Irish. Proud of our courage during the dark days of depression and persecution, she helped thousands of pupils to appreciate our Language and Literature. In fact she enthused so much about the brave men of 1916 that her pupils thought she must have been engaged to Pearse. She would have entered Religion around that time.

In her early days, she saw to it that South Presentation became an "A" school. She slaved to save our language and deplored



Sr. Berchmans Murphy, Mother Ursula Delaney.

the gnawing away at the standards of excellence, won by men like Douglas Hyde, Torna and Daniel Corkery. Her first Leaving Cert (1970) brought her immense joy, especially when it was announced that one of them (Maura Murphy) won the Pearse Scholarship (highest marks in Irish and Art).

While Mother Ursula was trying to unearth payments for Builders, her sister, Sr. Benedict (Ballyphehane), was praying for financial miracles and there were a few. I was with her in Dublin the day "the Department" said "yes" to the "Half-Moon project" and to celebrate, she did three things - a peep at Kilmainham, a prayer at the

1916 Heroes' graves, Arbour Hill, and a "quickie" down Moore Street to get the atmosphere of "streets broad and narrow". Indeed, Mother Ursula's sense of humour was always refreshing.

Christ King Girls' Secondary School ("Sacred Heart Secondary" as it was to Mother Ursula) is a fitting memorial to a good, good woman. I measc na Naomh go raibh a hanam breá gaelach.

The Budding Years

Sr. Eucharía Hogan - Principal (1965-1971)

In May 1965, Mother de Sales, Superioress of South Presentation Convent, asked me to be Principal of the new school on South Douglas Road. She assured me that Mother Ursula, as Manager, would give me the help of her 50 years experience in the classroom. I felt when acting in obedience, all would go well but what building heartbreaks followed. How delightful, though, to see our sixty pupils in their pale blue blazers, with tartan collars and cuffs, tartan skirts and white socks. They, as first pupils, felt so important - making History. Life was happy, Mother Paul, Mother Ursula and dear Teresa Treacy sharing the ups and downs with me. The school was like home and we enjoyed our sessions in the kitchen. We even had culinary surprises for visiting friends. From Dublin came very sympathetic Inspectors. Two stand out in my mind - Mr. Dick Foley and Mr. Donnacha O Laoire.

Fr. Coveney, our P.P., would come on wet days to give us a lift home and sometimes he would add in a little mystery tour! We were semi-enclosed at the time so these surprise runs were extra welcome. During my six years 1965-1971 we had great co-operation from our early teachers. Many are still leading our pupils to 'Heights of Wonder'. I recall how Maurice Walsh awakened a love for Debating in the early classes. We owe so much to Maurice. 'During our first days we had visits from V.I.P's. Uachtarán na hÉireann, Cearúil Ó Dalaigh, was so friendly with the pupils. I recall seeing him chatting gaily with them, as he sat on the ditch near the school. Charles Mitchell, friend of Sr. Berchmans, gave us a fascinating lecture on Public Speaking and thrilled our budding scholars with his autograph. Fr. Brosnan

O.S.A., taught with us during his H. Dip. year. He brought mental pictures of the glory that is Rome. Our pupils were very generous in their pennies for the children in Africa and I had the great joy of seeing a hospital in the Bush area of South Africa, which was built mostly by pennies from Ireland. It is a pleasure to remember those very early days when the school was growing, like a rose in bud, the years of blossom still to come. Thank you, dear Lord, for our happy memories.



Sr Eucharía



Leaving Cert Class 1970



Leaving Cert Class 1971

New Beginnings - Teresa Treacy.(R.I.P.)

Written On September 8th, 1982

This morning, on September 8th seventeen years ago, I walked for the first time in my life up along the South Douglas Road to take up my first teaching post in Sacred Heart Secondary School. I had been employed a month earlier by Sr. Berchmans Murphy, the then Principal of South Presentation Convent School, who believed that because my application letter bore a Limerick postmark, I might be a "promising teacher".

She had described the "new" school to me as a big academy. Since the only "big" building on the road lay on my left, I hastened to ring the door bell with trembling knees at the prospect of being admitted to the ultra modern building. The door was answered by

a lady who had never heard of "The Sacred Heart Academy", and then added she was the busy housekeeper for the priests in that big building. I was directed by her to try "the green gate on the opposite side of the road".

Behind the green door, which had the name "Sunview House" written on it, was collected a small group of nuns and one priest. A tall, bespectacled nun came forward to enquire if I was the "new" teacher, and I received from her a very warm welcome indeed. She introduced me to another bespectacled sister, who was clutching a life sized Sacred Heart statue under her arm.

The first sister was Mother Ursula Delaney, the manager of the new school, and the second was Sr. Eucharia Hogan, Principal



Leaving Cert Class 1972



Teresa Treacy-First Deputy Principal.

of Sacred Heart Secondary School from 1965 to 1971. A third sister was introduced as a member of the small staff. She was Mother Paul.

The school was blessed by Fr. Coveney, the then Parish Priest of Turner's Cross Church, and two classroom doors were thrown open to admit the first 60 pupils into the school. The telephone, situated on a ledge inside the hall door bore the number 23478 and was frequently answered by a

small little girl, who sat in the first desk inside the downstairs classroom. That little girl was called Mary Compagno, and when Mary failed, because of absence, to fulfil this duty, her task was faithfully carried out by her friend Stephanie Hurley.

- School opened/blessed:** September 8th, 1965
- Name:** Sacred Heart Secondary School.
- No. of pupils enrolled:** 60 girls
- Manager:** Mother Ursula Delaney.
- Principal:** Sr. Eucharia Hogan
- Staff:** Mother Paul, Teresa Treacy.

Students Sept. 1965 - June 1966

First Year A: 1. Valerie Ahern, 2. Eva Bullen, 3. Ann Cashman, 4. Mary Compagno, 5. Mary Rose Cronin, 6. Mary Ann Crowley, 7. Goretti Curtin, 8. Mary Dwyer, 9. Eileen Forde, 10. Margaret Geaney, 11. Kathleen Griffin, 12. Nuala Hamilton, 13. Norma Harrington, 14. Sile Healy, 15. Eileen Hennessy, 16. Mary Keeshan, 17. Patricia Kelleher, 18. Margaret Loughheed, 19. Mary

Lynch, 20. Joan McCarthy, 21. Mary McCarthy, 22. Marguerite McCarthy, 23. Margaret Mary Murphy, 24. Mary Rose Murphy, 25. Rosarie O'Connor, 26. Evelyn O'Hanlon, 27. Joan O'Riordan, 28. Eileen Stanley, 29. Deirdre Warren, 30. Mary White

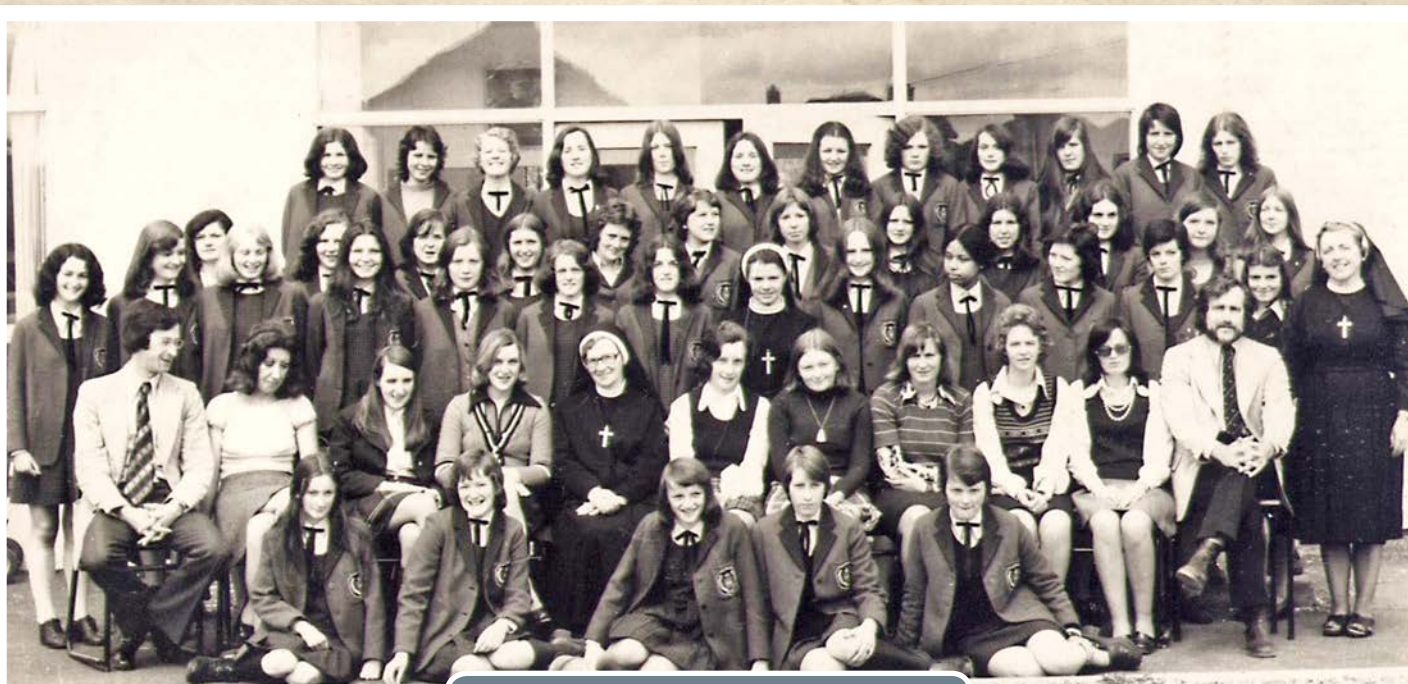
First Year B: 1. Catherine Allshire, 2. Ailis Casey, 3. Bernadette Casey, 4. Frances Casey, 5. Patricia Cotter, 6. Pauline Coughlan, 7. Rosarie Dineen, 8. Ellen Duggan, 9. Elaine Giltinan, 10. Josephine Hayes, 11. Therese Howick, 12. Margaret Hurley, 13. Kathleen Linehan, 14. Jennifer Long (RIP), 15. Miriam Milner, 16. Catherine Moloney, 17. Rosemary Mooney, 18. Maura Murphy, 19. Geraldine O'Callaghan, 20. Pauline O'Callaghan, 21. Patricia O'Connor, 22. Christine O'Donoghue (who nursed me in the Regional Hospital in 1979, and taught me to walk again after brain surgery.), 23. Pauline O'Donoghue, 24. Ann Marie O'Halloran, 25. Marie O'Riordan, 26. Patricia O'Sullivan, 27. Eileen Walsh, 28. Nora Walsh, 29. Norma Weldon, 30. Máire NI Cheallacháin



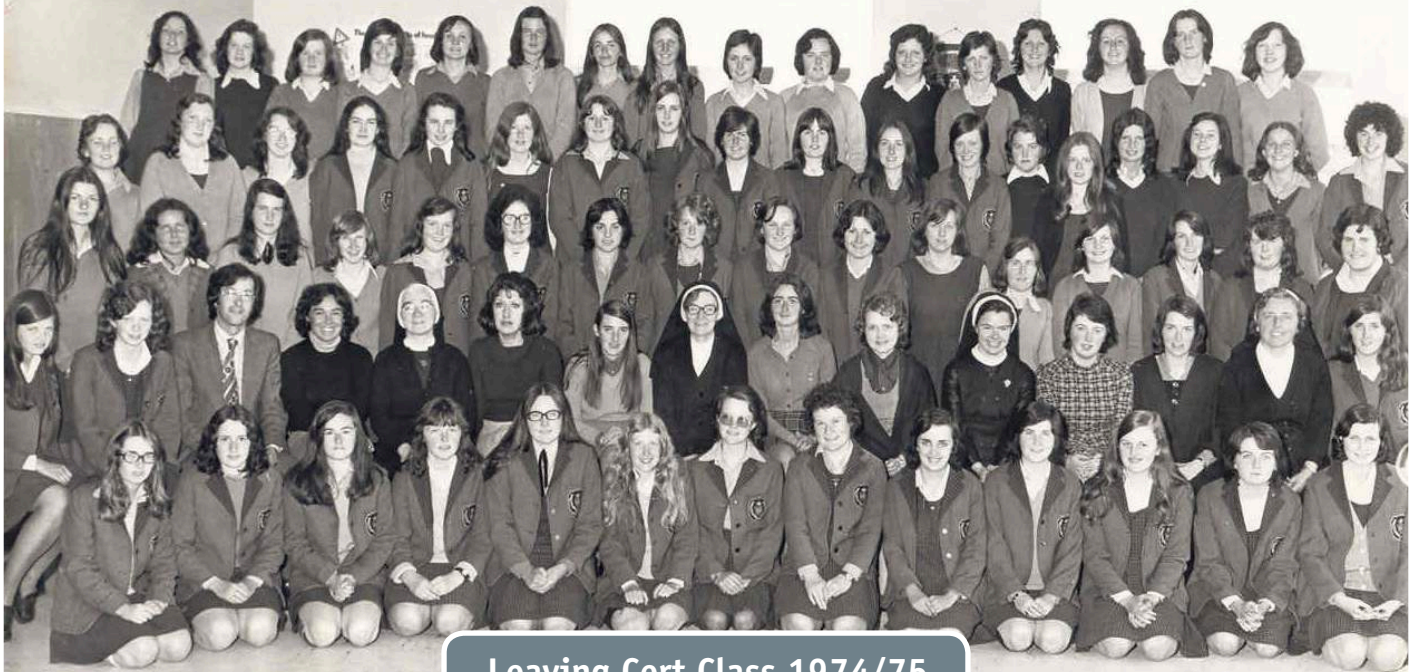
Sunview House



Leaving Cert Class 1973



Leaving Cert Class 1974



Leaving Cert Class 1974/75

Visiting Sister Berchmans. One December Day.

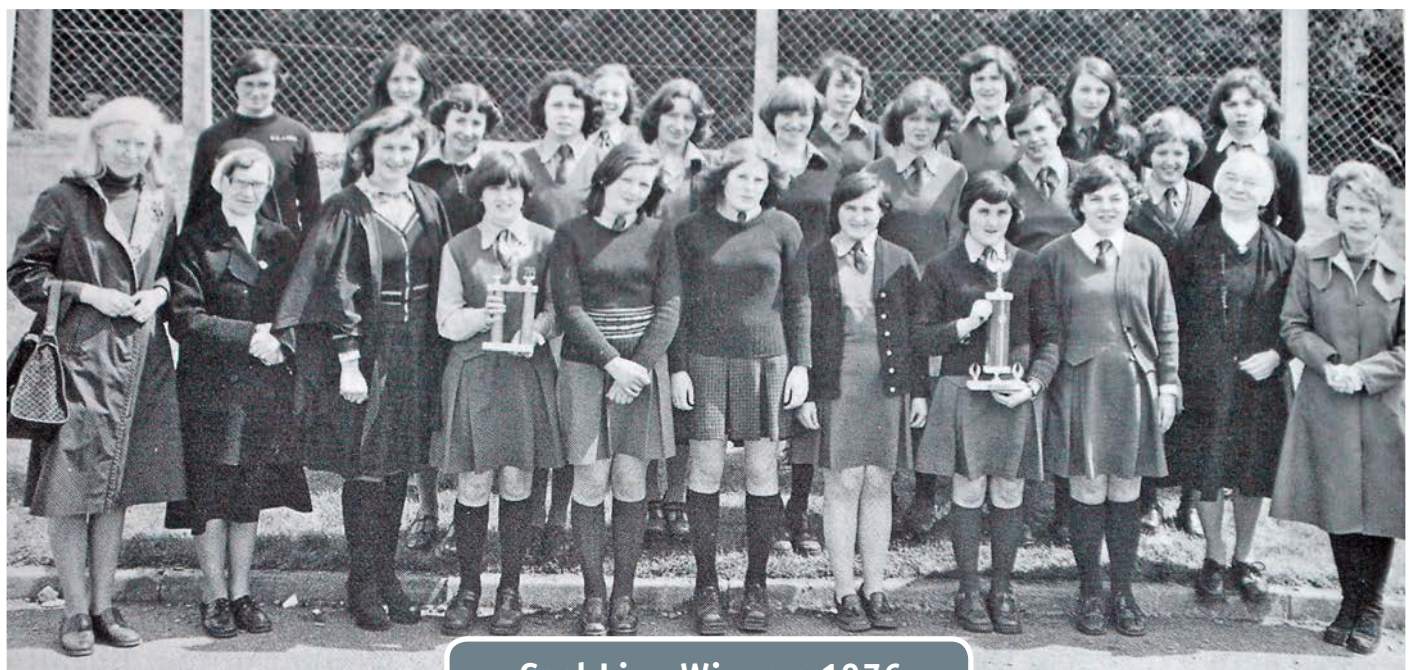
As a young man,
Many years ago,
I taught a poem called:
' Among School Children'.

In it,
W.B.Yeats visited a school.
In his capacity as :
'A sixty-year old smiling public man'.
And:
'Walked through a long schoolroom
questioning'.

Now,
I am that sixty- year old man
And the : " Kind nun, in the white hood"
And delightful, peeping curl
Is Sister Berchmans-
Ninety-seven years of wisdom,
Frail of body but sharp of mind
Only needing an odd remind
To extol the virtues
Of an ex-colleague or student;
Now grown to mature woman.

Smilingly,
She recalls the musical days
When erratic, hand-rung bells
Signalled the end of class-
Not the pre-set shrill of now,
Lacking dignity and the human-touch;
In truth,
The 'Presentation way'-
We treasured and miss
So much .

Gerard Coughlan.



Gael Linn Winners 1976

Years of Growth and Strength - Sr. M. Gertrude



Sr. Gertrude

As I look back on my eight years in Sacred Heart School I cherish many wonderful memories. There were times of great joy and fulfilment. There were times of sadness, too, not least among them the tragic death of our Vice-Principal, Miss Teresa Treacy, who had endeared herself to all who knew her during those early years in the "Academy", which she loved so much.

In 1977, the School was taking shape again after the devastating fire which engulfed it the previous year. It was my task to join the Staff and students in what might be considered a new beginning. The hardships and inconveniences that had been endured for almost a year were gone and all faced into the new School Year with zest and enthusiasm. I was impressed by the commitment of the Teachers, who were concerned with the full development of each pupil, while the pursuit of excellence was the central objective.

The addition of a new Staff Room, Offices and Assembly Hall in 1979 was another milestone, providing extra facilities made further demands. I would like to pay tribute to the Parents and Friends, who were untiring in their efforts to offer every possible support and assistance. Coffee mornings, Cake sales, Socials, Bazaars, Raffles and Discos were all on the agenda. Such activities carried a certain amount of anxiety but the evident

enjoyment and good humour of everyone involved made it all worthwhile.

My daily walks, to and from Christ King Convent, were a source of great interest and relaxation. I made many friends, both young and old! I saw small children facing their first day in School and I marvelled to see them advance through the full range of Primary School and become Secondary School pupils. Eight years is a long time in the life of a child!

To Mrs. Jean Geoghegan, Principal, Mrs. Mary Hurley, Vice-Principal, to Staff, pupils, parents and friends I say heartiest congratulations on this your Silver Jubilee Year and I pray God's Blessing and continued success on all your undertakings. - (written in 1991)



Susan Martin, Joan Buckley, Sr. Gertrude, Niamh O'Mullane
Neasa O'Brien-Oviz Team.



Staff 1978



Staff 1983

Rose Hennessy Remembers

I attended Christ the King Secondary school from 1978 to 1983 – or Sacred Heart Secondary as it was known way back then!

I can still remember what it felt like to start first year – the school seemed huge to me, having to move between class rooms for each class was new; the science lab with it's strange sinks in the desks & mysterious, unnamed smells, the 3D model of the body's internal organs; the view from the upper floor classrooms; the basketball court – such a new world!

I remember the PE uniforms we had to wear – red shorts & a white shirt with a red collar – not such a bad picture but it was the synthetic, nylon fabric that made the outfit horrendous to wear and to look at!

Some teachers stand out in my memory – there was Miss Moynihan who taught me maths and Irish and also organised a group cycle to Kinsale where we stayed in a hostel. There was Mr. Walsh who had worked overseas and introduced me to Amnesty International – the passion he had for fighting injustice and inequality in the world sparked something in me that later led me to the work that I do now. The school principal was Sr. Gertrude and I remember her as being strict but fair in how she dealt with us as students.

Good friends made come to mind when I remember Sacred Heart and some of them I still keep in contact with. I remember the

Céili's at Coláiste Chríost Rí and the 'ladies choice'! There was no Debs in our final year as we finished school in the middle of a recession but we held a party at the school hall and made the best of that.

When I finished school I started working in administration and office roles. Through the years I went back to college by night and earned diplomas in Montessori teaching, social studies, counselling and development studies. I guess I was never quite sure what I wanted to do 'when I grew up'! In 2005 I went to Kenya as a volunteer with an Irish charity – Friends of Londiani. I'm now working for that charity and we work with people in a rural part of Kenya to support them to create better futures for themselves. Our programmes focus on health, education, clean water and sanitation and economic empowerment.

I've learned through this work to appreciate how valued education is by so many people – that which I took for granted all those years ago in Sacred Heart I now see as a privilege that is denied to so many people, girls and women especially all over the world. Nelson Mandela said 'Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world'. I've come to learn first-hand the depth of that phrase and how very true a statement it is.

Rose Hennessy

The Coming of Age - Sr Catherine Goode. Principal (1985-1990)

It is 1991 and I remember that Christ King is twenty-five years old. This year is surely one for special celebrations and for letting one's imagination run wild in conjuring up how things were twenty-five years ago and have been down through the years since 1965. No doubt there are many people around who can vividly recall the earlier years and who will wax eloquently on

them during these months ahead. My memories of Christ King are of a short span but are very happy ones. I thank God and all in the School Community-Management, Staff, Parents, Pupils, for the wonderful spirit of fraternity, co-operation, respect, mutual understanding and a very tangible friendliness, which I experienced there. These, to me, are vital characteristics in any

educational establishment and ones that have to be worked at and appreciated as values. A tradition, imbuing the Presentation Spirit, has been built up through the past twenty-five years and Christ King is justifiably proud of this tradition. The school strives to keep its tradition warmly alive in the message it passes on to its young people. Pupils are seen as individuals with a variety of talents. The school provides an environment, which enables these skills to develop and in which students will grow and flourish so that they become competent young people, prepared to play their part in society and in a rapidly changing world. May this tradition grow in strength through the years ahead: "ar son Glóire De' agus ar son Óige na hÉireann".

Congratulations to all in Christ King on this, your Silver Jubilee Year. May it be a great year for you and do enjoy the festivities to the full.-(written in 1991)



Signing the contract: Board of Management Presentation Provincial Superior and Sisks Builders signing the contract for a major new extension:
Front Row L. to R. Sr. Jenny Clifford, Kevin Brosnan, Sr. Sheila Kelly, Sr. Catherine Goode. Back Row L. to R. Mary Hurley, Joe Dennehy, Sr. Elizabeth Behan, Mr. Pat Horgan, Bosco Goode, Kathleen Deely

Sr. Catherine Goode and the first Board of Management.



Staff 1985

50 Years Growing - Mary Hurley

In strolling down memory lane, I have so many happy recollections of my early years in Christ King Secondary School. Sunview House was a second home to all of us in 1967. We really felt that we belonged and there was no stranger in our midst - one united family. Every pupil was well known to us. So many incidents of kindness and thoughtfulness passed between staff and students in those times. A teacher who was ill could expect bouquets of flowers and chocolates to arrive at the front door with all the good wishes of the girls. Gifts were exchanged at Christmas. In fact, I still have a worn signet ring, initialled by the girls in the small fire escape room upstairs. Cups of tea and sweet biscuits were always to be had in the little kitchen which also served as the staff entrance.

In every crisis, Mother Ursula (R.I.P.) was on hand with a kindly word and wonderful gems of advice for all members of our little staff. Mother Paul (R.I.P.), the most gentle, lady-like person I

have known, was in constant contact with everybody. Sr. Eucharia (R.I.P.) was shrewd and kindly as principal and much beloved by all. Sr. Berchmans (R.I.P.), the literary genius of the House, provided a most suitable quotation for every occasion. Sr. Maura Ward was the young, vital member of the community, enthusiastic and vibrant in all undertakings. Teresa Treacy (R.I.P.) was the first lay member of staff, a marvellous disciplinarian and a gifted teacher. Then there was Sheelagh Murphy, the Latin teacher, a breath of fresh air to all proceedings. Maurice Walsh (R.I.P.) was the first male staff member, a remarkably, active young man and always good for humorous stories and a bit of fun. Elizabeth Wallace was the musical member of the party. To join the staff later were Margaret Moran, Kathleen Mulcahy, Sr. Helen Dobbyn, Mary Collins, Claire Levis, Maurice Walsh, Angela Bowman, Claire Murphy and Nora O'Herlihy - all staunch and loyal members of the first team of teachers.



Many incidents come to mind in drawing a picture of those early years. I shall always remember our little May processions, in which students and staff alike circled the large, new prefab for the entire length of the Rosary and several suitable hymns. The frequent variety concerts were marvellous, when students demonstrated their talents and reminded teachers, in a humorous way, of any shortcomings or idiosyncrasies. The whole school became involved in a sad event when a lovely pupil, Jennifer Long, had a serious heart operation. Everyone was united in prayer. Jennifer returned to us and completed her secondary education. Jennifer has since then departed this life which was a great loss to her family and friends.

Many names come to mind as faces from the first classes come rushing back: Deirdre Warren was the lead singer; Margaret Geaney, the debater; Pat O'Connor, the comedienne, who could brighten the dullest of days; Mary Murphy the outstanding student; Máire Ni Cheallacháin and Patricia Cotter - the dancers; Joy Kinnane never let anything get us down; Noelle Walsh, another bright

light. Frances O'Mahony, always the rock of sense; Eilis Geary the sensitive actress. In the words of a song performed by the first class:

"Those were the days, my friends, we thought they'd never end".

The school uniform at the time was most unusual and worn beautifully by the girls. A tartan blue pinafore was set off by a yellow check blouse, finished with a pretty, black bow tie. It was worn with pride by the girls who all knew the importance of laying firm foundations for a school which was to become some years later, one of the major city educational establishments for young ladies. The students of the first and subsequent Leaving Cert classes took this responsibility very seriously and the high motivation for study, which is still to be felt in the school today, had its origins in the dedication and perseverance of the young people, who adorned the rooms and corridors of Sunview House 50 years ago.

School Days are the best days of your life. *By Jo Travers*

Since I have spent over 40 years in CKSS, I feel I am now well qualified to confirm that our schooldays really are the very best! To affirm it further, I will ask you to ramble down memory lane with me as I stroll through times past.

My first memory of Sacred Heart Secondary School (now CKSS) was in the summer of 1974 when I entered the gates of the school with my mother to get fitted for my new school uniform. How exciting was that! My new secondary school! We were directed to the "Sewing Room" on the ground floor which now is home to two classrooms. It was a large room with two long mirrors on either side of the blackboard. At the other end of the room there were large storage presses and in the corner a platform with mirrors, surrounded by a curtain, which was used as a dressing room. Lots of students were there with their mothers all queuing for their turn to get fitted and purchase their uniforms. The next time I was to enter the school was in September, as a new first year. In those days there were no open nights, induction days or information evenings for parents and students. Pupils just arrived on the first day of school. We were all guided once again to the sewing room where we were greeted by Sr. Berchmans (Principal), Teresa Treacy (Vice-Principal) and five class teachers. The school seemed so big and I was in awe surveying three floors and even a basement with classrooms. I had come from a two classroom school in Douglas. It seemed overwhelming. For the first time I had both male and female teachers. They all wore black gowns.

The classes were called 1A1, 1A2, up to 1A5 and when my name was called, I was given the number of my class and guided by a teacher to my classroom. All first years were on the middle corridor as was the Principal's office and because my classroom was next door, I was frequently sent on errands and even answered the phone while minding the office. Was that an omen of things to come? Thirty-six years later I am still minding the office! Movement was very orderly then, as pupils walked silently, in line, on the right hand side of the corridor and down the back stairs. The front stairs was reserved for teachers and visitors.

At that time, the school, surrounded by green fields, comprised

of 25 classrooms, specialist rooms for Science, Home Economics, Art and Music and some prefabs. More classrooms, Assembly Hall, Gym and additional specialist rooms were built much later. The staff room was a small room located on the top corridor. "Sunview House" was also used for Retreats and Reflection groups.

I have so many happy memories of my life in the school, both as a student and as a staff member that are too numerous to include here. However, I have selected a few important occasions to share with you, which many of you will recall.

Over the past 50 years, there have been so many outstanding individuals among both staff and students that it would be impossible to name them all. However, the following will be remembered as particular icons in my time at school: Principals Sr. Eucharía, Sr Berchmans and Sr. Gertrude, Manager, Mother Ursula, Vice Principal Teresa Treacy as well as Sr de Lourdes, Sr. Marie, Sr. Mary Dineen and Sr. Rosa. And of course Dinny who was caretaker and driver of the little green mini bus, which transported the nuns daily to and from the convent.

There were many special events while I was at school. I remember vividly one such tradition which occurred annually on Mother Ursula's Feast day. Because every class had to perform in a 'gala' concert to celebrate the day, there was feverish preparation in the weeks leading up to this event. It was held in the Art Room, on the top floor, and was attended by all staff. When your class had performed, you were then allowed to sit and watch the remaining acts, which ranged from singing and dancing to drama and sketches. After the concert, each student was given a "trigger bar" and we were all dismissed for a half day.

Other annual events included Presentation Day on 21st November, when special talks and celebrations were organised to honour the memory of Nano Nagle. This was a very important annual event in every Presentation school. It brings to mind another celebration, the "May Procession", when all staff and pupils walked in procession around the school grounds, led by a few chosen students who carried a large statue of Our Lady, while others scattered rose petals, from baskets. They were joined

by First Holy Communicants from the Primary school dressed in beautiful white dresses and veils. Hymns, practised for weeks under the dedicated baton of Sr. Marie, could be heard, wafting through the air of the school complex.

I was very fortunate to have selected Home Economics as an option subject, as it is linked to several memorable events in my journey back over the years. One of the highlights of each year was the Cork Gas Cookery Competition when students would prepare and cook a dish of their choice, witnessed by Bridget McCarthy, who was the face of the company. There were cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd and certificates of merit for the other participants. Another highlight was the "Make and Model Competition" under the sponsorship of Cassidy Fabrics, a large fabric shop in the city. We were instructed to purchase a dressmaking pattern, and to cut out and sew the item of clothing we had chosen. We then competed in a school based competition where we modelled our outfits in front of the whole school. The winners went forward to the Cork City Final which was held in the Metropole Hotel.

I also have very happy memories of the annual Feis Maitiu which was held in Father Mathew Hall. Eileen Nolan of the Montforts prepared students for these prestigious competitions as she was timetabled for a weekly double elocution period with each first year class. Many students returned to school proudly displaying their gold medals!

CKSS students became involved in numerous other fields of competition as the years passed. They excelled in many sports, but notably in camogie and basketball. Teams, prepared to a very high standard, were victorious in contests such as public speaking, debating and quizzes, defeating many schools even to national level. Trophies were proudly displayed as the school became renowned for its excellence in both academic and extracurricular activities.

My stroll down memory lane has to include the annual "Sports Day" which was another highlight on the school calendar and usually took place in May. It was held on the Basketball Courts and in the large field, which is now a car park. Every student in the school took part and the events ranged from running to races such as egg and spoon, three legged, slow bicycle and wheelbarrow. These were followed by wellie throwing and tug of war competitions. Teachers also took part in many of the events and great fun was had by all. Happy memories!

Memory wanders back now to the many school trips both in Ireland and further afield to destinations such as Paris, Rome and London. I particularly remember my trip to London when in fifth year, excitedly boarding the Innisfallen in Cork and arriving 24 hours later in London' having slept on the ship floors en route. No luxury cabins then!

Shall we ever forget our Debs Ball? It was held during the Christmas holidays of our Leaving Cert year, usually in early January during the holidays. And every student wore a white dress!

'Those were the days, my friends, We thought they'd never end...'

My most abiding memory, albeit not a happy one, must be the devastating fire in the school. I was a third year student at the time and can vividly remember the Sunday morning in 1977 when news broke of the fire. When I arrived at the school gate people were standing outside the railings, watching in disbelief, as the firemen tried to extinguish the flames. Everyone was sad and numbed by this tragedy. All the specialist rooms were utterly destroyed. The smell of smoke lingered for months and misery loomed over everyday life in a freezing school while the wheels of education ground on, regardless of the building crews which worked incessantly. With huge fundraising efforts, everyone rallied around to help in whatever way they could to repair the



1979, Jo at the Debs Ball is seated in front with Sr. Elizabeth.



building. And a year later we celebrated the restoration of our beloved school.

Among the many other major events I remember I have to include: our parish priest Fr. John Buckley ordained Bishop of Cork and Ross; several large extensions built; the appointment of the first lay Principal; the amalgamation of the Presentation Sisters with CEIST .

Getting back to our stroll through the years, I remember so well exiting the gates for the final time when I completed my Leaving Cert in 1979, or so it seemed! Little did I think that a year later I would be walking through the gates once again taking up my current position on the school staff.

At first it seemed strange to work with the teachers who only a year previously were my tutors, and even socialise with them. However I soon felt at home and over the years made wonderful friends. Since then, I have seen many changes in CKSS not least of which was the change of name, from Sacred Heart to Christ King Secondary school. I have many beautiful memories of my working years in CKSS. I have shared many special occasions with my friends and colleagues, both happy and sad. We have had births, marriages and retirements but unfortunately we have also lost some dear friends. There have been great celebrations and many happy gatherings all of which leave their own indelible memories.

For me, personally, the last 40 years in Christ King have been a rollercoaster! I still count my best friends among my classmates at school. I even met my husband in the school! My sister and daughter also attended the school and both my sisters did their teaching practice there. I could go on!

I am so happy that I continue to be a staff member of such a wonderful school community. I was privileged to work with five principals: Sr Gertrude, Sr Catherine, Jean Geoghegan, Kathleen Feeney and Mary Keane. In my time, there have also been five Deputy Principals: Teresa Treacy, Mary Hurley, Mary O'Mahony, Frances Kerrigan and Cait Watkins.

May I take this opportunity to salute all past pupils and staff and encourage you to keep in touch! Thank you for your friendship over the last 50 years. Here's to the 75th anniversary!



Office Staff, Rose O' Sullivan, Lynsey O'Keeffe, Joanne Travers, Front, Anne Barry.

The Board of Management - Gus Delaney

Written in 1991.

The establishment of a Board of Management in 1986 signalled a radical new departure for Christ King and the Irish Catholic School. The Presentation Order had decided to withdraw from the direct control of schools but to maintain its role as Trustee of the school and thus ensure that the ethos and philosophy of the Presentation school was safeguarded and continued through its representation on Boards of Management, which would now include for the first time the "partners in education", parent and teacher representatives. In time this Board would lay the groundwork for the introduction of a Lay Principal by establishing structures and support systems which heretofore were provided by the local Community of Sisters. This initiative also heralded a new era of participation in education, where the home and school work together, to establish a community where the pupils' well-being - physical, moral, spiritual and aesthetic can be provided for.

The first Board, inaugurated in 1986, consisted of Sr. Jennie Clifford as Chairperson, Sr. Elizabeth Behan, Mr. Gus Delaney and Mr. Gerard Murphy, nominees of the trustees, Miss Kathleen Deely and Mr. Joe Dennehy as teacher nominees and Mrs Bosco Good and Mr. Jim Byrne as parent nominees. Sr. Catherine Goode, Principal was Secretary. On Sr. Jennie's departure for the States in 1988, Sr. Elizabeth acted as Chairperson until the dissolution of the Board

in 1989. In those few years much was accomplished, not simply an excellent transition to the new form of management, but also the incredible "Draw" which gathered forces from North, South, East and West to raise over £200,000, uniting pupils, teachers, parents and the "friends" of Christ King Girls' Secondary School in this massive undertaking. This Board initiated and completed the project of constructing the "New Building" - 12 fine new classrooms, spacious, airy and beautifully appointed.



First Board of Management 1988:- Front Row: l. to r: Sr. Catherine Goode, Bosco Good, Sr. Elizabeth Behan, Kathleen Deely, Sr. Mary O'Brien. Back row: l. to r.: Gerard Murphy, Jim Byrne, Joe Dennehy, Gus Delaney.

First Board of Management.

A new Board was appointed in 1989: Mr. Gus Delaney, Chairperson, Sr. Berchmans Murphy, Sr. Mary O'Brien, Mr. Gerard Murphy, nominees of the trustees, Mrs. Frances Doyle and Mrs Margaret O'Sullivan as teacher nominees and Mr. Ray Foley and Mrs. Margaret Murphy, parent nominees. One of the first tasks of this Board, due to the retirement of Sr. Catherine, was the appointment of a new Lay Principal, Mrs. Jean Geoghegan,

in August 1990. Mr. Jim Cotter was nominated to the Board when Mrs. Margaret O'Sullivan resigned. Having installed a comprehensive new computer facility in November 1990, this Board investigated other major projects - the refurbishment of the exterior of the main block and eventually the construction of a Physical Education hall. Take note all past pupils, parents and "friends"!

The Atlas of My Memories

Sr. Berchmans (R.I.P. February 2015)

Gerard Coughlan half-whispered in my carefree (up to then) ear that I should write something for the Silver Jubilee magazine. As the subject was vague I felt I had

"To talk of many things of shoes - and ships - and sealing wax of cabbages - and kings"

Well - little meanderings around the Atlas of my memories.

Kings? a throng of delightful 1966 twelve-year-olds with push and dash and flair, and our Palace was The Ivy Room (title inspired by the wallpaper) in Sunview House, near the road. Now through the silvery mists of twenty-five years the only thing I can remember teaching them is the poem, "Morte d'Arthur" (and the name was responsible for disastrous spelling). There we were, lost in "charmed magic casements, opening on the foam of perilous seas in fairylands forlorn" and as Professor Daniel Corkery would have wished, we learned the 272 lines by heart. This we did for many reasons and I can still hear Rose Noonan and Mary Murphy reciting the weighty lines, "For what are men better than sheep or goats That nourish a blind life within the brain, If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer Both for themselves and those who call them friend? For so the whole round earth is every way Bound by gold chains about the feet of God".

I felt that the poem held, as well as superb language, many ideas to help them through life's stormy seas. In the room over us were the venerable Second Years. Across my mind flash names like

Catherine Allshire, Máire Murphy, Jo Hayes, Margaret Lougheed (now Mrs O'Sullivan of the French and English Departments) Rosarie Dineen (whose daughter, Caoimhe Fahy, now adds lustre to IB), Sheila Healy, Mary Keeshan and Pat O'Connor. Needless to mention these Second Years, being the seniors of the school, thought they knew everything. They had Mother Ursula, Mother Paul, Sister Eucharua and Miss Treacy leading them on to shine at the first Intermediate Examination of the School in 1968. But our First Years, unabashed with confidence unquashable, had contempt for humdrum conformity. Just one memory I recall that they ventured down "the field" (this is the sacred area where now we find the entrance gate, the walks, the school and the playing pitch) and returned with fingers as clothes' pegs on their noses. Someone had let them in on a big secret - that once upon a time gentle pigs roamed about there some hours prior to becoming Murphy's rashers, sausages and black pudding.

The School population of Munster in the mid-sixties can vouch for some eloquent diatribes on the pros and cons of the juggernaut and if the roads of Ireland are a little safer for travel to-day we must thank our All-Ireland Debaters, Helen, Eilis and Rose. Such torrents of magnificent language, effortless and inexhaustible e.g. on the driver who signals left and goes right! When the rest of the class bashed or mangled their speeches their overworked little faces would drop, Helen's less than the other's. Could I hear her saying, as Churchill said to Violet Bonham Carter, "We are all worms. But I do believe that I am a glow-worm". (Hello Helen, I hope all your Zimbabwe pupils are g-ws!)



Staff 1991



May I call the Roll now and please answer audibly - Deirdre, Mary, Helen C., Annette, Fionnuala, Mary G., Eilis, Irene, Virginia, Helen, Mary A., Marian C., Siobhan (I hope to play a violin duet with you in Heaven), Mary, Agnes, Mairin, Siobhan, Geryl, Mary, Susan, Elma, Kathleen O'H., Kathleen, Rose, Marie (of the smiles and the long busrides), Maureen S., Noelle and Pat Collins.

I could say lovely things about each of the 1966 class but here through the last named above I salute each of you. Noelle, even as a 12-year old, your sympathetic presence was a warming experience. May all the joy you gave return now to help you and your young family. Maureen and Pat! our dear neighbours, your silence hid depths of knowledge. Pat, thanks for the smile at the Bus Stop, and Maureen, you are now enriching Spain I know. Hasta Manana! (Isn't that how the Spaniards spell, "go bhfeicfead arís thú") About our Italian classes one could safely say, "Qualitas non quantitas". Such precious moments snatched from meals, mini-meals and free-times! Names coming up before my eyes are Anne Fogarty. (ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann), Elizabeth Guerin (Helen got her Italian later from her Florentine brother-in-law, Dr. Luca), Josephine and Monica (such charmers!), happy Mary Connolly, Geraldine O'Connor and Eithne Keating (ar dheis Dé go raibh a h'anam ciúin dilis), Denise, Norma, Lia, Claire C., Jill, Lilian, Elizabeth, Clodagh, Claire M., Miriam and Joanne, wonderful Stella Fitzgerald, Valerie and Joanne (both exemplary), Deirdre, Teresa, Sonya, Virginia, Kathy, Emma, Rosemary. There were the 1983 "Leaving Certs" and the 1976 - I'll squash you all together (and the names not included here are written in Heaven) into one paragraph. Now, young rascals, I loved you all but I knew that some of you thought education an obstruction! and often attempted to sit in comfortable comas while I tried not to experience your dauntless resistance to certain areas of the course!! But most of the time you were so quick, so responsive, so amusing and so easy to amuse. Looking at my last class now I see that Valerie is there reminding me that her dear mother R.I.P (Treaasa, with the bubbly sense of humour) was in my first class in South Presentation, thirty years earlier. Anne Connolly was there, showing the same intelligence and gentleness as her mother (Pat) and Aunts Phil and Nancy. I can see Martine Delaney with sparkling eyes and entrancing smile. Near her vivacious Anne Dennehy, Claire Sheehan (Jo's sister) sensitive, kind, at ease with her study, Gillian Holland lost in a Maths book, the Barnes sisters, excellent workers, voracious readers, Emily Fitzgerald (only one M.A. yet!), Breda (of the gorgeous Italian, now in Milan), Eileen (congrats. on your M.A. Italian), Martina (spreading happiness in Australia), Fiona of the golden voice, Maeve (hello Michael!) Stephanie (hello Paul!), Musical Blaithín, Deirdre O'Neill (reliable), Phil Coughlan (welcome to the eldest daughter!), Colette M., Jacinta, Caroline, Eleanor, Mary T., the O'Donovans, Denise (I heard!), Carol, Colette, Bernadette, Susan and Maeve (your epistolatory breath of fresh air cooled my baking brow as I tried to master Urdu near the Malakand Pass in 1984. Incidentally, Churchill encamped on its summit in 1887 and there too his first book was born). Orla, Noelle (Opera House!), Anne G., Ursula, Elizabeth, Margaret, Ellen, Christine, Siobhan, Hilary, Martina M., Mary P., Mary E.O.K., the Foley Triplets (so talented, D.D.C.!), Barbara (carefree and refreshing), gentle Eimear and Finola. Near them, Margo (so sincere), Jacqueline (a sterling character like all the Mahon sisters), Fiona Keating (a model student, lovely sense of humour), Mary Keane (playful yet serious), Mary Margaret, Elizabeth A., Jacinta, Virginia K. (sweet!), Mary Glavin and brave Triona Durcan. Then the O'Sullivan's - Caitriona (mellifluous Irish), Claire (the Himalayas won!), Anne, and whom do I see

lost in Mac Aulay, Gibbons or Darwin? Joan H. of the raven hair (don't forget Half-Moon Lane as you and Cormac grace the quiet walks of Cambridge). In another corner of my Memory Atlas I see Teresa and Miriam Murphy. Here I must interrupt, to salute a staunch friend, Gerard Murphy. Only God knows how he has helped down the years. (Thanks, Gerard, for showing me how to do "the hill start". Did you know that two young Gardaí, in their free time, taught me "the 3-point turn"?). I see someone else smiling with her 28 companions. It is Karen Kenneally waving her B.Sc. parchment. In 1970 two pretty sisters arrived in First Year - Maura and Sheila Harrington (guess who they are now?). Ah, dear Miriam Lynch, what gifts you had! We'd love to meet you again. Do I hear someone saying, "close the Atlas"? It could be dear Jo, our overworked, highly efficient, approachable secretary and outstanding past pupil! She must type this before Gerard acts as censor. But I must include the following to prove how we teachers suffer in this life before we get the front seats in Paradise. To have an extra European language on the Curriculum I was sent to U.C.C. (1967 - '70) to get a B.A. in Italian. Two incidents from my numerous "hair-breadth 'scapes" will suffice here.

In 1969 Fortune and the Italian authorities forced me to go to Italy to perfect my Italian, so I began perfecting it all through the night of June 27th when I found myself in a French Railway carriage with five Italians who were returning from work in Le Havre. They fell for me at once as they thought I was a refugee from the troubles in Northern Ireland and almost wept for joy with hands on the heart at the thought of Bernadette Devlin, a second Joan of Arc, leading a crushed people to victory! They themselves knew what it was to be conquered by nearly every country in Europe except by la brava Irlanda.

When we exhausted the history, we exchanged tricks with a pack of cards. My Italian was really flying as they asked me to guess their ages etc. and around 2 a.m a bag was taken down and six hardboiled eggs appeared, then peppers, garlic cloves, and a loaf of bread. Having unshelled an egg for me they suggested I sample their bread, spiced up with the accessories. For the name and honour of my war-torn country I ate that egg...! We began to get silent after this meal and sogni d'oro (golden dreams) beckoned! We settled in, head on one side of the compartment and feet on the seat opposite. Alas, the swinging of the train, through the French night, awakened me but it was worth it! There I spied a pair of Italian feet keeping guard on both sides of my head! Arrivederci Luigi, Roberto, Mario, Jacopo & Giovanni and thank you for the bios. Next afternoon, in Rome I began more regular Italian lessons and August 1st found me in Florence. They say the best Italian accent is "Lingua Toscana in Bocca Romana" so I imbibed the Tuscan flavour do the Carrigtwohill Sisters in Florence.

Fortunately /Unfortunately the University course turned out to be the same as the Roman one and my Guardian Angel said, "Ask the Italian Government Folk in Rome to allow you spend their Lire getting the feel of Italy instead". They were delighted with the Guardian Angel's intelligent suggestion and that's what I did for the next month. The month came to an end and Cork would be calling me home in three or four days. But how could I face Mother Ursula, My Superioress, a Historian, without firsthand news of Aodh O'Neill's grave in Rome? A lightning visit to Rome and then while en route to Pisa and Empoli it dawned on me that I was omitting Elba! This was the route Hannibal took and I passed the spot where Claire Clairmont (Byron's mistress) saw her

former lover: their carriages met passing in opposite directions. Round here too should be the ghosts of Shelley, Trelawny, Leigh Hunt, Edward and Jane Williams. But Elba? Where to get a Ferry? Hunger was whispering that I got some pears from the Irish nuns in Via Sebastianello, Rome and what about them!? Deliciose.

I don't know who "rowed me o'er. the Ferry" but the Taximan on the Island, having been asked for a "Convento, Suore..." brought me to an exotic Hotel with waving palms, shimmering blue-green pools, landscaped gardens, bougainvillaeen terraces and opulent guests. A nun met me at the desk Yes, but there was no bed for the dusty traveller with the sadly-damaged attaché case! No reservation! I could have added a few other No's as I thought of my purse - the equivalent of £9! (All my worldly wealth was up in Florence).

A whisper from a decent man caused Sister to say, "yes, there is one room". I was escorted to my room, green and gold and unreal. My anxious mind was telling me that the London Ritz is £200 a night without a morsel of food and this could surely be £300. (The last Ferry was gone). Well one thing I decided on at once - not a crumb or a sip in this establishment and then I would explain about my Travellers' Cheques in Florence.

The gong went for Dinner but I kept admiring half-heartedly the Mediterranean seascape which must have consoled dear Napoleon. Troubles come in battalions and so did the mosquitoes. My face was now a mess and a knock at the door reminded Sister that dinner was being served. Oh yes I had dined (remember the pears??) but the attendant, on seeing my face, said he would send the information at once. The sight of this noble lady in full regalia, armed with a tray of lotions, tubes, bottles and cotton-wool startled me. I suppose "medical attention" would loom large on my bill?

... Dawn at last, and Masses in the Hotel began at 6 a.m. It was August 15th, the Feast of the Assumption and Pattern Day in Knocknagoshel and I told Our Lady about my plight. Breakfast. "Poor Sister must be very ill, she is just sipping a little hot water."

Then the moment of reckoning at the desk on the next floor! I looked respectfully at the Sister behind the desk who had no vacancy for me the previous evening and asked, in the bravest Italian, for my bill. I wasn't-hearing or seeing properly but I think Sister smiled, stood up, shook my hand and said, "Niente, niente, siamo tutte suore". The glorious translation of this is

"nothing, nothing - aren't we all Sisters". (The rest is silence". Thank you Shakespeare)

January 28th 1991. I close the Atlas of my memories as I sit here in the Italian Room (Basement) listening to News of "Scuds" and "Patriots" but

"If I could I'd give every child
A terrestrial globe... If possible, even A globe that
would light up
In the hope of opening those young eyes
As wide as they will go And of arousing interest in,
And love for, All peoples All races All tongues All religions!"



Dr. P. Cali of I.I.C.C., Italian Consul in Cork, presenting Sr. Berchmans Murphy with the Stella della Solidarieta awarded her by the Italian government for her role in fostering Irish-Italian relations. Left is Dr. M. Maranzano, Italian Cultural Attache.

Dear Sister Berchmans,

I have great pleasure in informing you that, following a proposal made by this Embassy, the President of the Italian Republic has recently conferred on you the decoration of "Cavaliere" (Knight) in the Order of the "Stella della Solidarieta italiana" (Star of Italian Solidarity). It is a decoration specially granted to Italian and foreign citizens who help our institutions abroad and show outstanding interest in Italy and Italian culture.

Sr. Elizabeth Behan Remembers Sr. Berchmans Murphy

Homily at the Requiem Mass for Sr Berchmans Murphy R.I.P. on the 20th February, 2015, at Christ King Church, Turners Cross, Cork.

"Think of the Love the Father has lavished on us by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are." These beautiful opening lines in today's second Reading of the Mass express a language of hope for all of us. The hope for our future is rooted in the here and now. It is now that God has lavished great love on us : his children. We are reminded that we need not wait for life beyond death to live as children of God and certainly Sr Berchmans Murphy whose Requiem Mass we are celebrating today, did not wait for life beyond death to live as a child of God.

Sr Berchmans, Bridget Murphy, was born on the 23rd of September, 1916, in Abbeyfeale, Co Limerick. Her arrival was heralded by sunshine, I believe, and all through life she managed to radiate some of that sunshine, light and hope. Her Mother, Helen and Father, Cornelius had nine children and Bridie was number five. She had six brothers Pat, Tim, Tommy, Nelius, Dan and Sean, and two sisters Peigi and Mary. Tim, Dan and Sean became priests. All Sr Berchmans' siblings have pre-deceased her. Her parents ran a business in the town. Sr Berchmans attended the local Mercy Convent Primary School and her talents and creativity began to emerge even at that early stage. In second class when asked the meaning of the word "shiver" she said she couldn't explain it but



that she would do it and she duly set about giving her display of 'shivering' ! She continued her education on to seventh, eighth and ninth class in what was known then as the Secondary Top of the school. To complete her secondary education she was sent as a boarder in 1933 to St Michael's, Loreto Convent, Navan. With guidance from her cousin, Sr Ita who was a Presentation Sister in Kerry, Bridie decided to enter in South Presentation Convent, Cork in 1935. She was professed in 1938, and the following year she was sent to UCC to begin her BA studies. English and Irish were her degree subjects and some of her lecturers' names like Daniel Corkery, Bob Walsh and Seamus O Caomhanach were familiar to all of us several years later as she recounted some interesting episodes during those heady College years! Berchmans began her teaching career in South Presentation Secondary School in 1943. With her ever active brain she had lots of side industries on the go as well as teaching, embroidery and painting being some of them.

Almost twenty years later, the Rev Mother of the day thought Sr Berchmans could do with another academic challenge and having consulted her, the wheels were set in motion for her to start an MA in English, in 1962. She chose the work of Henry James for her Research Thesis – no small challenge considering she was Principal of South Presentation Secondary School at the time. But Berchmans was undaunted and she had a whole infrastructure in place including some loyal friends and taxis taking her to and from UCC. Berchmans had Professor B. G. McCarthy guiding her during her MA studies and even though I never met this lady I feel I know her personally from Berchmans regaling us about her over the years!

Sr Berchmans was transferred to Christ King Convent, Turners Cross in 1966, the year after Christ King Secondary School opened in Sunview House in the South Douglas Road. Berchmans became part of the teaching staff there. In 1967 she was ready for another academic challenge, this time in the Italian Language and she completed her BA in Italian in 1970. We're all aware of the wonderful contribution she made in teaching and promoting the Italian language and culture. This did not go unnoticed by the Dante Society in Cork and soon afterwards the high honour of Stella Della Solidarieta was bestowed on her by the Italian Government. Teaching Italian opened up even still more unexplored areas of her life. As is always necessary when studying and teaching a foreign language visits to the mother country is a must. This was manna from Heaven for Sr Berchmans because she loved art, culture and everything about Italy. Her mode of transport during all these trips abroad was wide and varied ranging from over-night trains to articulated trucks taking her and her friend Sr Teresa through the continent. It is certainly testament to the negotiating skills of Liam Tarrant's driver of the day that he managed the intricacies of the customs while having two nuns on board the truck!

As principal of Christ King Secondary School in the 1970s her wonderful capacity for friendship and conversation was always evident. She even managed to break down the business-like composure of the Civil Servants and Inspectors in the Department of Education. Her trips to Marlborough Street in Dublin to negotiate funding for the school extension, nearly always proved successful and she would never board the train home without first rewarding her travelling companion and herself with a nice meal in the Capital. She had many friends in Dublin including Charles Mitchell, the News Reader and she even had the unique opportunity of visiting him in the News Room.

What attracted people to Sr Berchmans? I think when people encountered Berchmans they were somehow encountering her God. In today's Gospel we see that the purpose of Jesus' mission and revelation is that the Father's love for Christ the Son may dwell in the disciples. Berchmans had that love in abundance. In her life she also portrayed great forgiveness, compassion and hope. The will of God was very important for her. When she retired in Christ King Secondary School in 1983 Pakistan beckoned with a letter from the Provincial inviting her to teach English in their school. Berchmans unhesitatingly set off even though it was a difficult mission. Unfortunately, the conditions there took their toll on her health and she had to come home having spent just two years there. But even in that short time she made an impact and still received letters from friends there. On her return home in 1985, even though retired, she went back to Christ King Secondary School and taught Italian there right up to a few years ago. She was a great presence in the school during those years and every June during the State Examinations she would go around to all the Exam Centres in the school to pray with the students for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Berchmans embodied her spirituality and always expressed it in a practical way. In later years I had a sense of Sr Berchmans becoming more reflective and spending long sessions in the Convent Chapel gallery. Of course the Mass was always central in her life. She was a wonderful role model for all of us who had the privilege of living with her. She knew how to love herself and love others. And of course in that precious space in her loving heart was her great love for family and extended family, no matter what part of the world they were in. She rejoiced with and enjoyed every family celebration. In her conversations whether in the staff room in school or around the dining room table in the convent, the words Abbeyfeale, Tournafulla and Lime Tree, Limerick were never far from her lips. As well as her great gift of love, Berchmans knew how to forgive herself and forgive others. She had the ability to embrace life with a great sense of bigness, compassion and generosity. This manifested itself in a myriad of ways. She communicated easy empathy to young and old. She always had the welfare of pupils at heart and as gentle as Sr Berchmans was, she was nonetheless, no pushover when it came to advising them about study and good manners. She was very confidential, a trait she learned, no doubt, from a young age in the security of her own family. She would tell the story that as a youngster in the kitchen at home in Abbeyfeale when her mother would be discussing business with her father, that her mother would say to her: "Anything you hear in this kitchen, Bridie, is not to go outside that door." Berchmans certainly lived by that principle.

Sr Berchmans, you had a great trust in the power of God's spirit at work in you. You were deeply aware of the beautiful time of harvesting that old age made possible for you and you thanked God daily for it. As one of the Sisters said to me a few days ago, 'death for Berchmans was part of the process of living.'

To all of you, her nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, in-laws and cousins, you were blessed to have Sr Berchmans as your mentor, companion and friend. To all the rest of us, her Presentation family, carers and all the staff at Christ King Convent, her former teaching colleagues and students and her many friends, you were a gift from God to us, Berchmans and we are grateful for that gift.

From all of us we say:

May your gentle soul rest in peace forever.

The Debs Ball.

The Debutantes Ball has been a feature of life at Christ King or Sacred Heart Secondary School from day one. The glamour of dressing up, dancing and relaxing provided the ultimate celebration after a year's hard work, well done.

The first celebrations took place at the culmination of the school year. In the late seventies the Ball took place during the Christmas holidays and remained that way through the 80's. The 1980's saw a change of venue. The recession of those years saw the Ball take place in the school Assembly Hall, ably arranged by teacher Frances Doyle and friends.

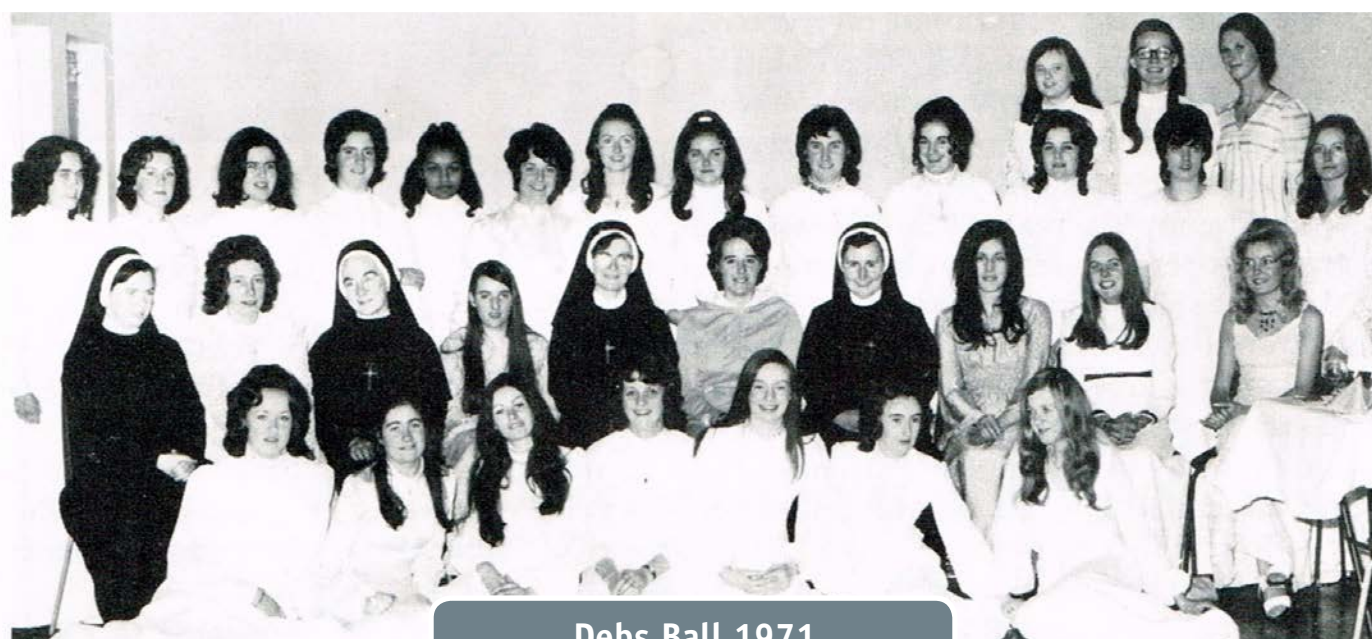


L. to R. Norma Weldon, Máire Ní Cheallaigh, Patricia Cotter, Rosarie Dinooon. In House. Debs Ball 1970

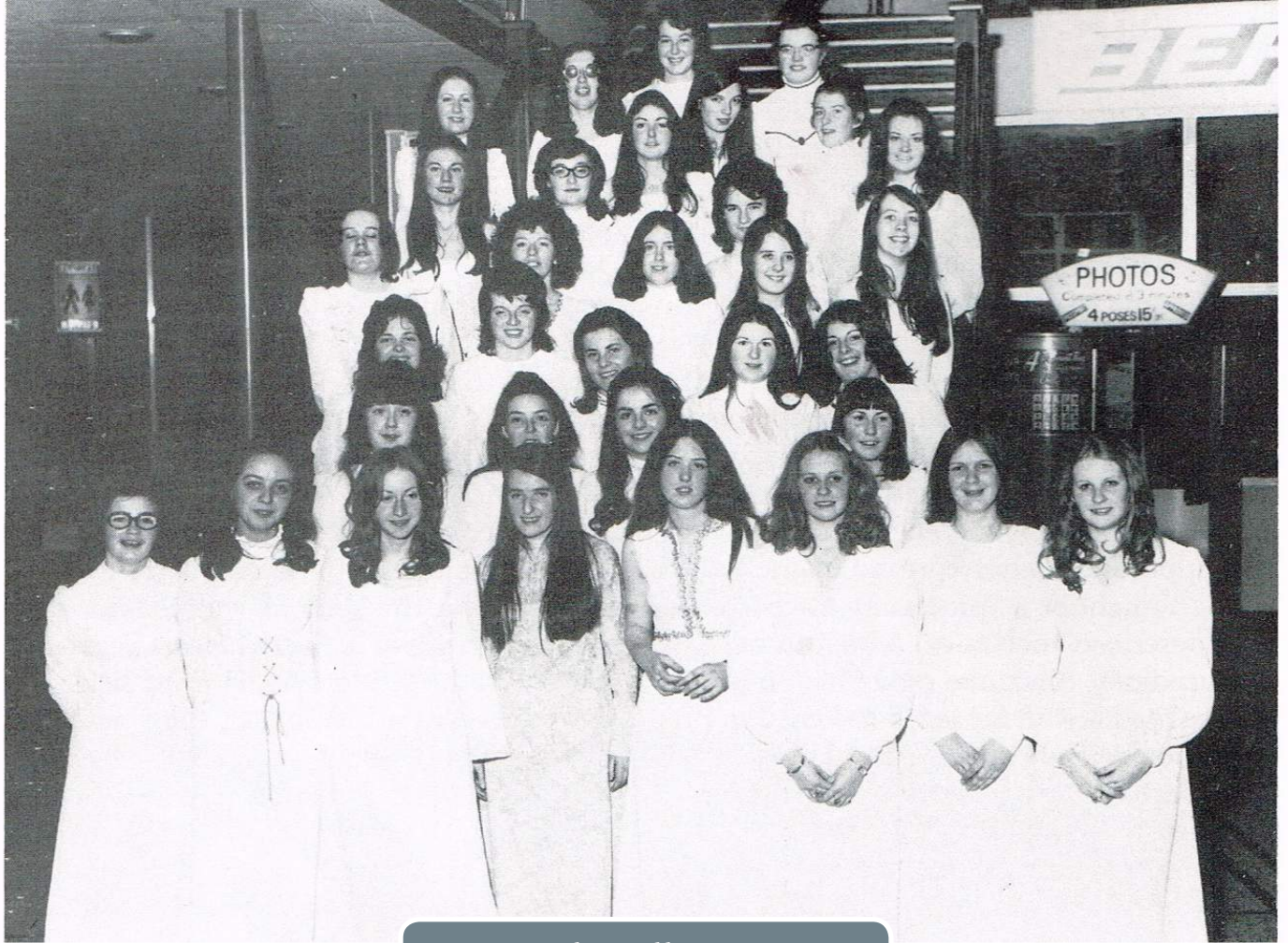
Later, as the economy recovered the students themselves took on the organisation and the Ball moved back to a hotel venue. The Rochestown Park Hotel, Silversprings Hotel and the Raddisson Hotel have proved popular venues in recent years. Teachers love to attend or go to see the girls in their glamorous dresses. They are always a delight to behold. We have gathered here the various photos through the years, as many as we have. In recent years the group has been large and it has proved difficult to take group photos.



First Debs Ball 1970



Debs Ball 1971



Debs Ball 1972



Debs Ball 1976



Debs Ball 1979



Debs Ball 1979



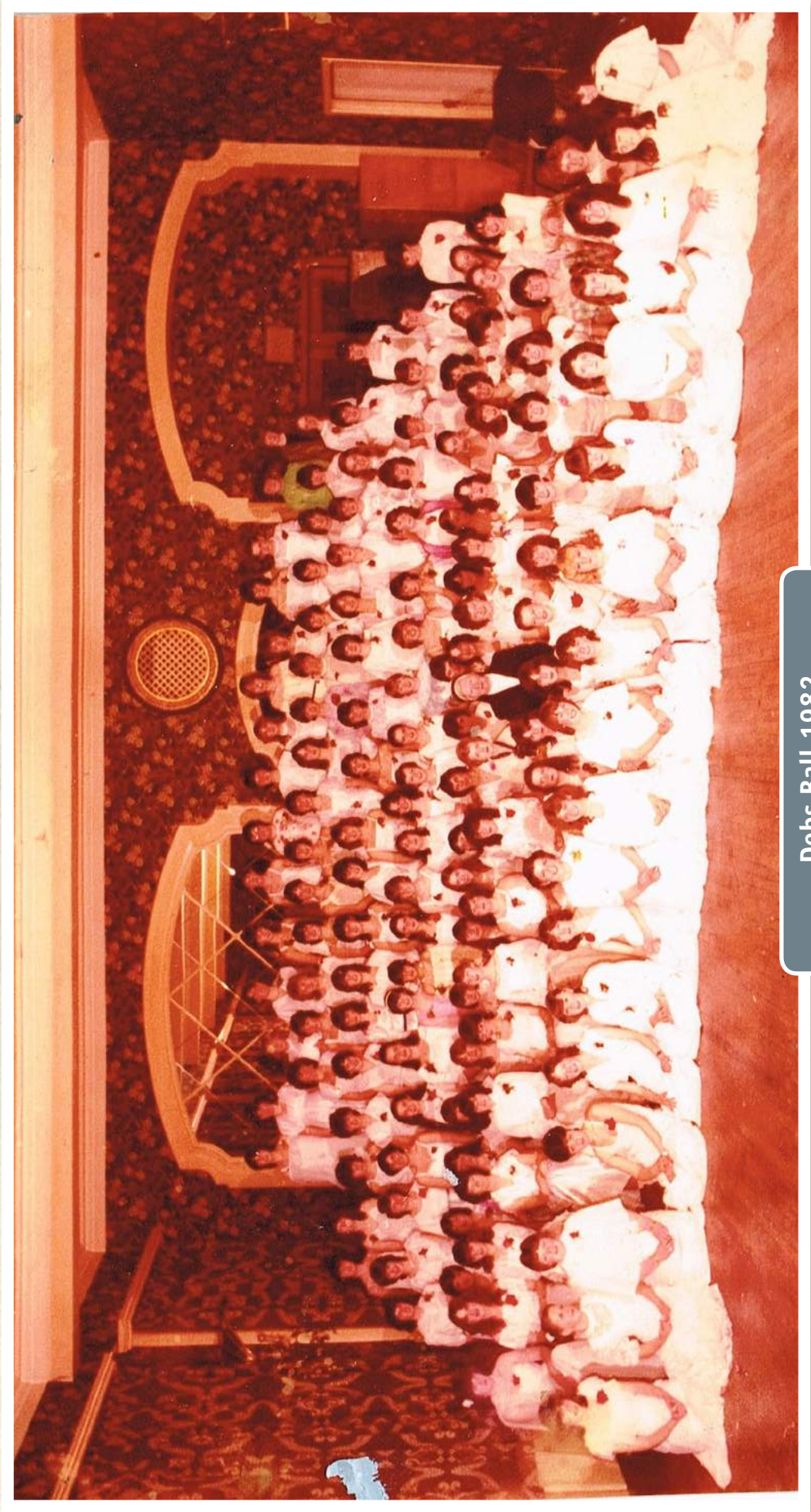
Debs Ball 1980



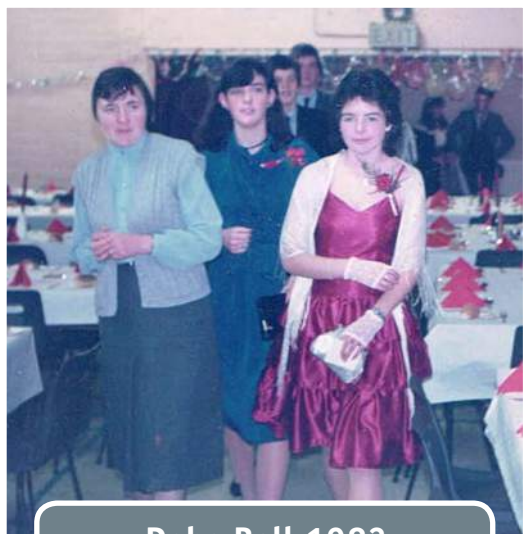
Debs Ball 1981



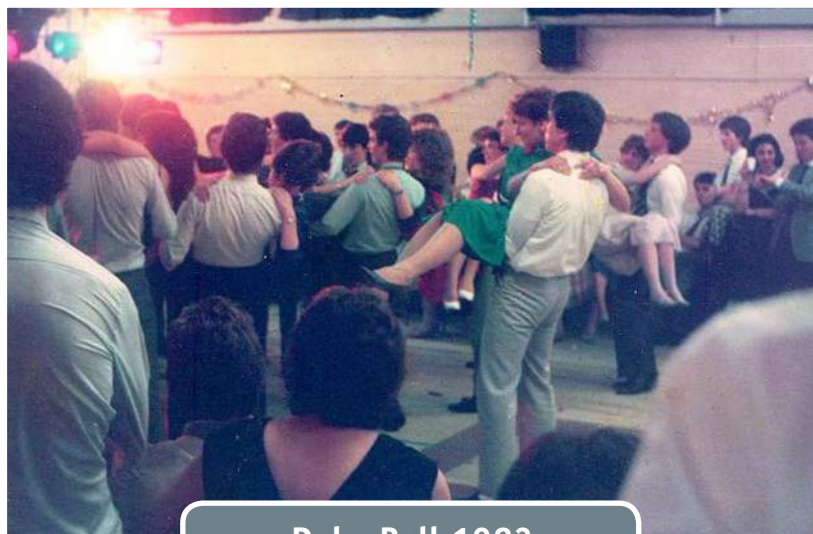
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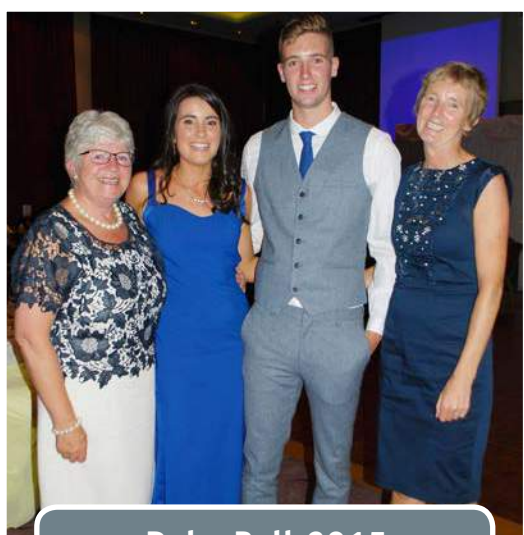
Debs Ball 1982



Debs Ball 1983



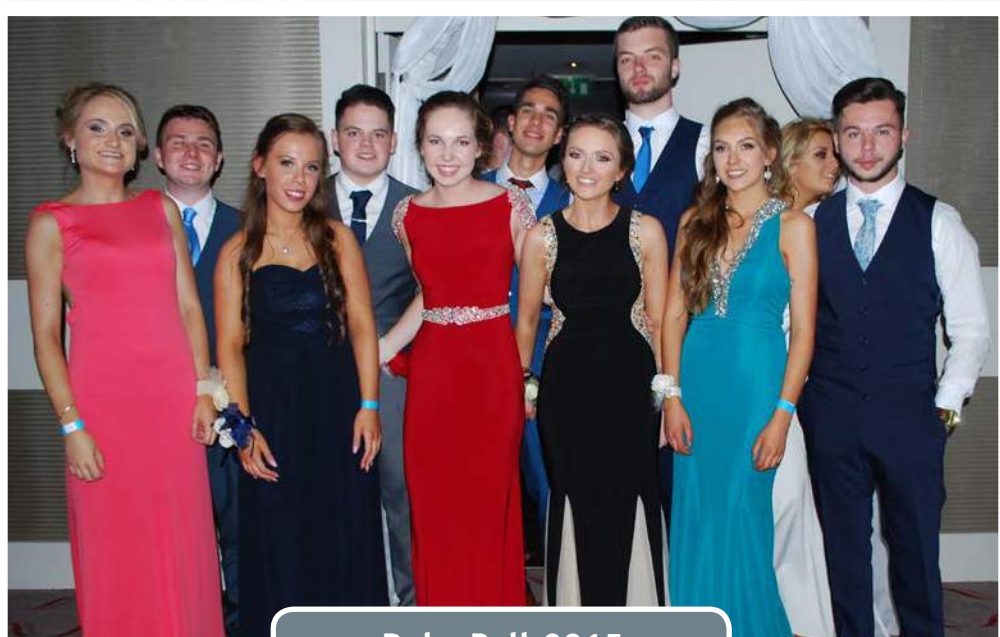
Debs Ball 1983



Debs Ball 2015



Debs Ball 2015



Debs Ball 2015



Christ King School Campus 2005-2015

Memories of 10 Years in the Music Room Sister Marie Collins



Sr Marie.

It was preposterous! Utterly repugnant! Unthinkable! To teach music all day, every day! Musicianship, choral work, listening to tapes and records! No regular subjects! Not for me!

It was 1973 and the era of 'change' 'letting go', 'new beginning' was being gradually ushered in. Reluctantly, I left my Inter Certs and fifth years, in South Pres., to come to 'Sacred Heart', now Christ King Secondary School, to replace

the music teacher who was transferring to another school. Suffice it to say, I came, I saw and was finally conquered! I came to enjoy every moment spent in the Music Department. But to begin at the beginning! In those early halcyon days, everybody in the Junior Cycle in "Sacred Heart", First years, Second years, Inter Certs took music as a subject. After that, only those who were really interested and wanted music as a subject continued as far as Leaving Cert. Many, eventually, pursued a B.Mus. degree in U.C.C. Each year, we prepared Senior and Junior Choirs for Department Exams, achieving wonderful results despite a poor stab on occasions, at 2-part and 3-part sight-reading tests. Each year, we graced the City Hall stage at least two or three times. The Cór-Fhéile, the International Choral Festival and the Lord Mayor's Christmas Carol Concert were hardy annuals and saw droves of us filing on to the stage, making a pretty picture and even a better sound.

Each year the Musicianship Exam came round preceding the June written Exams. It was no surprise to find we needed four or five centres' for the numbers 'sitting', one-hundred and sixty or more! Providing tape recorders, and supervisors, sufficiently proficient to operate them, was a constant worry. The music room, art room, and some class rooms on the top floor were commandeered for the 'Stupendous' Exam, most of which was on tape. Anxiously I paced the corridor, straining for emerging sounds. Yes! they should recognise that excerpt. They'll surely know that's a Reel. Definitely, the exam was a "cinch". Alas! when questioned later, my 'braves' often said "I recognised it alright, sister, but couldn't put a name on it". But, surprise! surprise! , six months later when the official results came, many had done well! surprisingly well!. Seven years passed and a change came which was to affect pretty seriously, 'mine music'. Choice entered in! Music versus Commerce. "Mom said Commerce would be better for me. It would get me a job". My heart sank as I watched several of my grand voices go. 'Balancing Accounts' wasn't the scene for some and so began the trickle back begging re-admission to the more restful Musicianship, which didn't entail much homework. Here I must re-iterate what psychologists maintain. 'Music sharpens one's wits and listening ability and Music, as a subject, benefits all the other subjects- It is a rest from the continuous 'grind' of the regular subjects.

The fire which destroyed one whole wing of our school 1976 left it, about standing. Luckily it was on the opposite side of Art room which was completely gutted, together with the Science and Home Economics rooms underneath. For a year we operated in a truly disaster area, blackened walls, the prevailing stench of smoke, the mutilated music sheets and text-books. The ceaseless hammering, next door as the re-building began, made listening



Sr. Marie at Cór Fhéile na Scol circa 1973.



to tapes, records and 'sweet-singing' in the choir an almost impossibility. The wintry winds swept under the door from the windowless rooms being hacked down for re-building. But we shivered and froze and coped, patiently awaiting the day when our Music Room would be fully restored. Bright paint and a lovely green carpet made it once more 'a thing of beauty and a joy forever'. I loved it, hoovering it almost after every class, dreading the advent of Summer Exams, when it would be taken over as a 'centre' and messed about by uncaring students. My precious carpet! September came. Once more, it was bright shining, ready for an influx of new students from Primary schools, all marvelling at this beautiful room completely devoted to Music. Yes! it was a room with a view. From my stance at the top of the class, I saw the seasons come and go - the fresh green of Spring, merging into Summer and Autumn tints, and Winter with a beauty all of it's own. The students had a glimpse as they mounted the steps for choral work - a rainbow spanning the sky, the rich hues of the shrubbery, a tree in all it's glory, the tranquil countryside. Recently, I visited the 'Room'. The tranquil scene was no more. Careering cars and trucks along the new Freeway, had taken over. "O that some minstrel's harp were near to utter notes of sadness' over "an image that hath perished" I'm sure Wordsworth wouldn't mind my mis-quoting from "Yarrow Re-visited"!

Catherine Janeczek, B. Mus., a teacher of French and Gaelic, was my immediate successor, in the Music Room. For a few years she carried the flag with great flair and success, before deciding to engage in varied musical pursuits. Past student, music graduate, Una Long is the current teacher in the Music Department, doing a great job with choirs and orchestra, ably assisted at concert time by another graduate - Valerie O' Flynn-Doyle, teacher of French and English. Jo, our 'Secretary extraordinaire', has vivid memories of her 'Life and Times' singing as she soared, and soaring ever singing, whilst Carina, Cáit, Pauline and Patricia, all past-pupil graduates, on our teaching staff, if provoked, could put 'Tales of the Unexpected' in the shade. Carina, besides her regular subjects, continues to engage her students in the intricacies of dancing. 'The Foley Triplets Diane and Celine, all successful teachers now, deserve honourable mention. They, with Áine Ní Shé, teacher and violinist, were the back bone of the choir during their time in the Music Room. Sisters Mary and Carol O'Connor, great instrumentalists and music graduates, continue to 'make music' in their individual schools. The O'Reilly twins, Fiona and Deirdre immediately come to mind as I go down memory lane. Both girls left an indelible mark on our school. Fiona is currently becoming a singer of the future: a soprano of great note. These students, both graduates have sung with the U.C.C. choir at home and abroad under it's Director, Dr. Geoffrey Spratt. Music Graduate, Paula Ryan who is another of our past pupils is a very successful music and choral teacher in Scoil Muire. So the names keep crowding in. They stretch in never ending line 'like Wordsworths 'Daffodils". How could I forget my great reliable Responsorial Psalmist - a music graduate, a great singer and actress, Elaine Carlisle, a Drama and Elocution teacher. Anne Murphy and Caitriona O'Sullivan - a former 'Head Girl' of 'Sacred Heart', both Primary teachers in our Bun Scoil, continue to carry the torch lit perhaps, in Christ King Secondary, in the not so distant past. So, where do we end? "Over the Rainbow", with Jacinta Buckley, now a Science graduate and Shirley McCarthy, actress, singer and dancer. We salute you both and continue to note your significant contribution to the classical and aesthetic. Having been personally responsible for the introduction of

'Suzuki' to the Primary School, at the suggestion of my School of Music violin teacher, Renee McCarthy, some four and five year olds were chosen for the venture. Our past students Máire Ni Cheallacháin and Patricia Kelleher, have long been 'star teachers' of this method of teaching violin and cello. In a few years those young Suzukis arrived in 'Sacred Heart' intending to take their 'Strings' for the practical section of Musicianship. Up until this, piano was the recognised instrument for this exam. Subsequently, the Department had to devise a new Programme to accommodate the great influx of students now known to us all as 'The Suzukis'.

My apologies apologies to the forgotten 'Nightengales', many of whom have joined Church, School of Music and I.C.A. choirs. Yes, I meet them in the bus, I meet them on the street and it's heartening to hear "I was in your Music Class in Sacred Heart". Alas!, I know the faces, their names will be with the Cherubim and Seraphim. Meantime, let's hope they occasionally cast a thought back on their 'doh-mi-soh' days in the Music room at Christ King.

No Deirdre! I am not forgetting you. You were the unpaid entertainer at Music class during your three year term. However, you did us proud, recently, when you took second place in the tightly contested "Search for a Star" competition on the TV series 'Live at Three'.

Do I miss my Music? Of course I do, but I like my new assignment (self-chosen), a self-appointed Religion teacher! It reminds me of a day when the Music Inspector came to the school. When I asked him what he would like to see or hear, he paused for a moment and said: "I think I'll do some Religion with them"! I left him to it and took myself off. I expect it was a rest for him after a surfeit of Music. Even the Cigire Ceoil needs a break. Have I any regrets? Not really, but I would have loved a Concert hall, complete with stage, curtains and good lighting. Perhaps, in the near future, we will hear the good news that it's about to take shape and then a dream will have been fulfilled!

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir agus faoi choimirce Muire sibh, uile.

The services we
Render others
Is really the rent
We pay for our
Room on the earth.

Wilfred Grenfell



Sr. Marie with Pope John Paul II.



School Orchestra

Music at Christ King 1987 to 2016 *by Una LongMcDonagh*

The mid to late eighties were difficult times for Education in Ireland. The down turn in the economy saw teacher numbers decline and many schools lost specialist subject teachers as a result. Sr. Marie retired followed shortly after by Catherine Frost leaving the school with no permanent music teacher. When I arrived back to the school in September 1987, I had only one thing in mind, to return the music department to it's former glory.

I worked very hard to promote the subject and I knew if I could introduce music in senior cycle, the future of the music department would be safe. In 1990 with the support of the Board of management, music became one of the optional subjects for leaving certificate, and the rest as they say is history. A group of first years who entered the school in 1987 formed the first ever leaving cert music class, Aisling Creedon Adair was one of those students.

In 1990 I directed the first musical at Christ King, a production of Rogers & Hammerstein's South Pacific. My colleague Valerie O Flynn Doyle was Choreographer, Kathleen Murphy art teacher worked on sets and props, and I was joined in the orchestra pit by Sean Forde on drums and by my father Dan Long on Keyboard. Little did we know back then how this new venture would impact on the music department and how it would develop over the next twenty five years. It's success of course has really been determined by the talented music students that arrive at our school with many drawn by the strong tradition of music the school enjoys. However, our school is unique in the whole area of

music theatre. Every production is entirely school based. We have the required expertise in drama, choreography, costume making, set design, musical directing and professional accompanists all from within our staffroom. Fondly known as the show team, this group form the backbone of all things Music Theatre at Christ King. In November 2015 we had our 50th Anniversary show, 'Me and My Girl' at the Firkin Crane theatre, this was our 25th consecutive production.

In the mid nineties Jerome Leonard became the new Music Inspector with the Department of Education. He brought what can only be described as revolutionary change to the music syllabi particularly at leaving certificate level. In 1997 a new course was introduced. Music was now more accessible to all, and finally it was possible for students to achieve those much coveted A's and B's that were non-existent pre 1999. The option of doing 50% of the exam in performance has been hugely significant in the numbers of students studying music to leaving cert. at Christ King.

Music technology was another new programme introduced at Christ King in recent years. When the new music room was built in 2004, it included a self contained technology booth, the envy of all other Cork schools at the time. Now technology is an established part of senior music at the school.

School choirs are class based, and we also have a school orchestra. Both choir and orchestra play an important role in our school community, performing on special occasions for



Me and My Girl 2015



School Show 2014

visiting dignitaries, recitals, prize giving and liturgical celebrations. In December 2015 a choir of 250 music students from 2nd and transition year music classes, joined by a 45 piece school orchestra participated in the 50th anniversary mass at the Church of Christ the King Turners Cross. It was a memorable occasion for all, but I think the music for that mass will be talked about for many years to come.

Today, many of our past pupils are well known music teachers and performers both at home and abroad. Fiona O'Leary music teacher at Colaiste an Spioraid Naoimh. Jo Anne Quirke music teacher at Deerpark. Carol O Connor, lecturer at CIT Cork school of music. Soprano Fiona O Reilly performer and Lecturer at CIT Cork School of Music. Louisa Dennehy, Flautist and Lecturer at the Royal Academy of Music London. Fiona Kelly, Flautist and renowned orchestral soloist, to name but a few.

I suppose my proudest moment as music teacher at Christ King, was when my pupil Aisling Creedon followed my footsteps to U.C.C. to study music, she was the first. It was an even prouder moment when she returned to Christ King in 1997 as teacher of Religion, Music and Geography. Mission accomplished, Christ King once again had two music teachers. I am now in my 29th year at the school and Aisling is in her 19th year. As we prepare for 2016 state exams, the school is bursting with the sounds of music students practicing for their practicals over the next two weeks. Then the music department is back in action with performances for our past pupils evening on 6th May, followed by the transition year mass, the junior cert mass, the transition year graduation ceremony, prizegiving, recitals, and finishing with



Calamity Jane 2014.

the leaving cert graduation mass at the end of May. On this the 50th anniversary of the school I want to acknowledge and thank my music teacher Sr. Marie Collins who encouraged me to study music. Sincere thanks to my past pupil and partner in the Music Department Aisling Creedon Adair, and thanks also to the show team Valerie, Michelle, Pauline, Kathleen and Michelle, without whom school shows would simply not be possible.

Séan O Caoimh, former principal at Scoil Chríost Rí, Turners Cross once said to me "You music teachers are a different breed altogether." We are certainly different in that our job extends far beyond just classroom teaching. But what can I say, I have loved every second of it all.



School Show 2015



Leaving Cert Class 1986



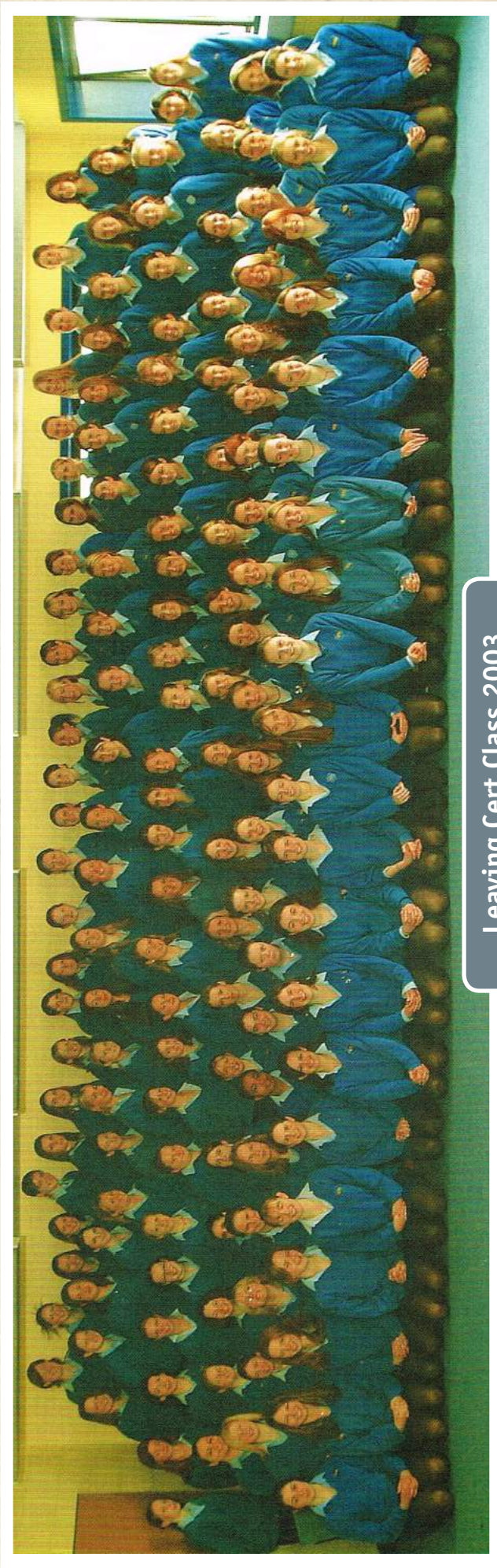
Leaving Cert Class 1997



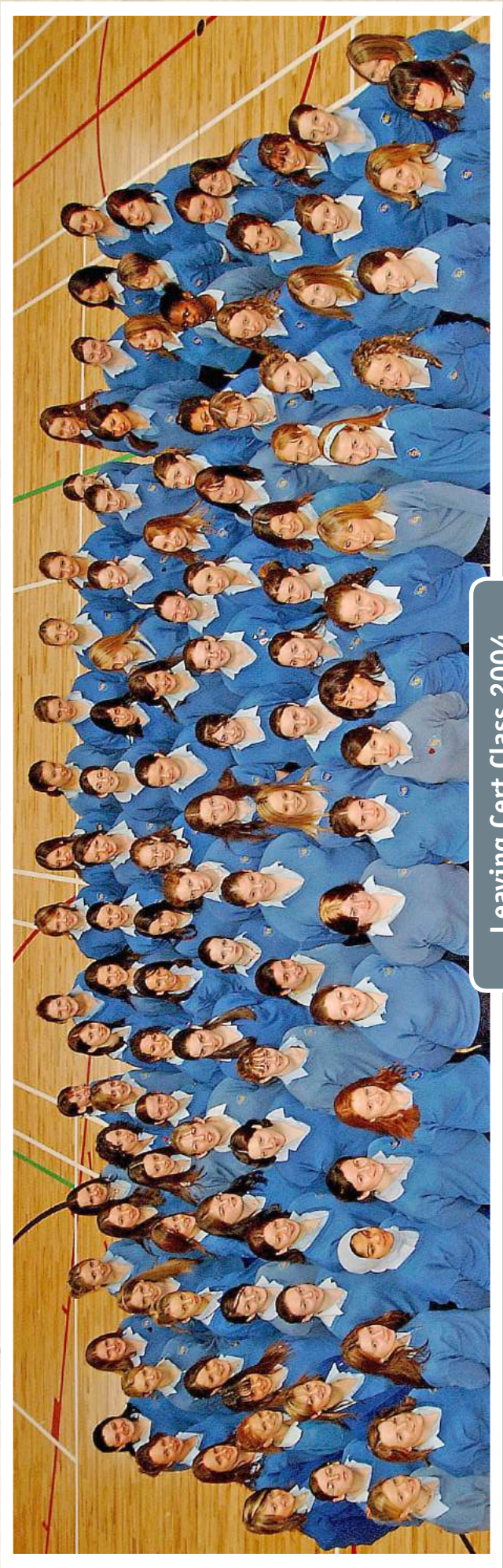
Leaving Cert Class 1999

Leaving Cert Class 2002





Leaving Cert Class 2003



Leaving Cert Class 2004



Leaving Cert Class 2005



Leaving Cert Class 2006



Leaving Cert Class 2007



Leaving Cert Class 2008



Leaving Cert Class 2009



Leaving Cert Class 2010



Leaving Cert Class 2011



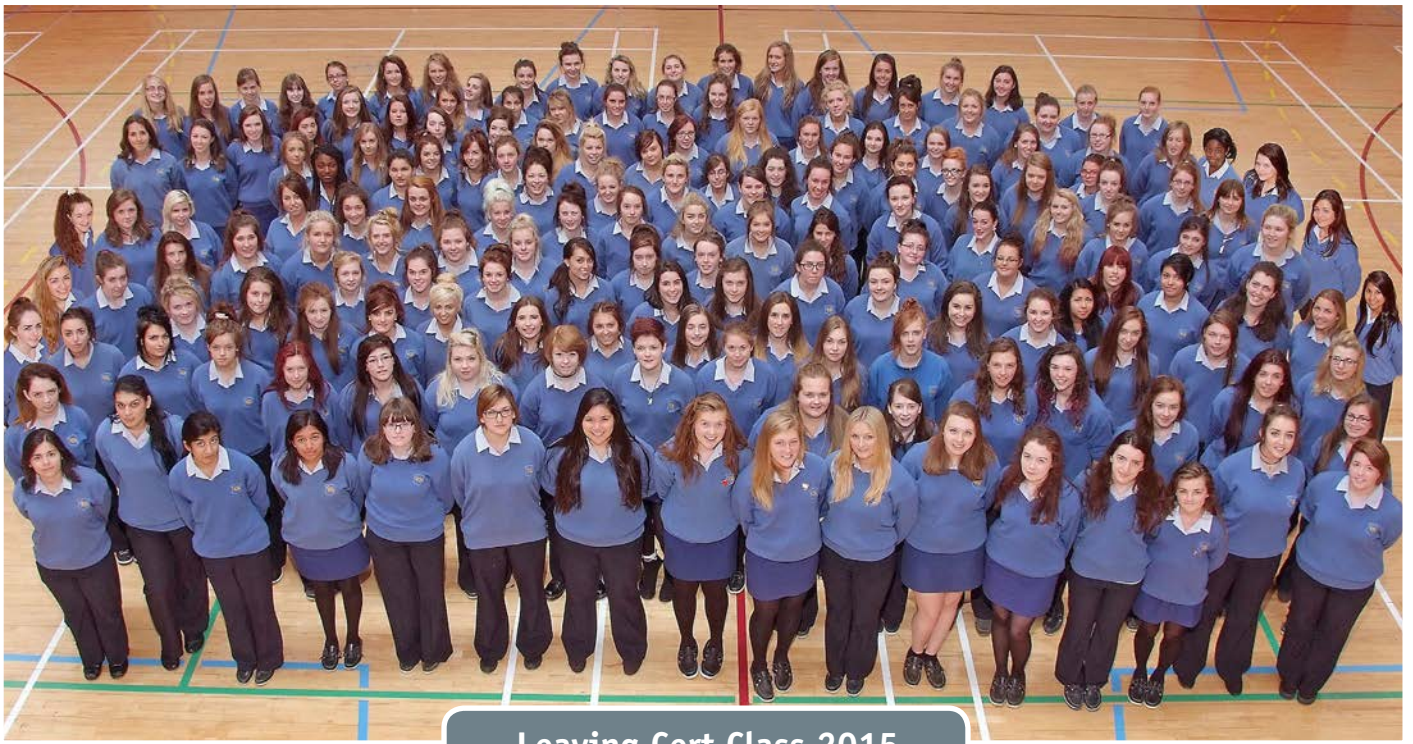
Leaving Cert Class 2012



Leaving Cert Class 2013



Leaving Cert Class 2014



Leaving Cert Class 2015



Leaving Cert Class 2016



Inter Cert Class 1983

The Head Girls



Rozlynn Harris -Kate Leneghan.

This year, the 50th Anniversary of Christ King the Head Girl is Rozlynn Harris, whose aunts also attended this school and Kate Leneghan is the Deputy Head Girl. We are not quite sure when the honour was first bestowed on students, but this is the roll of Honour that we are aware

of. If anybody can fill the gaps we would appreciate it.

YEAR	HEAD GIRL	DEPUTY HEAD GIRL
1971/1972		
1972/1973		
1973/1974		
1974/1975		
1975/1976	Carmel O'Riordan	
1976/1977		
1977/1978		
1978/1979	Maire Hennessy	
1979/1980	Mary Linehan	
1980/1981	Barbara McGrath	
1981/1982	June Hamill	
1982/1983	Catriona O'Sullivan	
1983/1984	Alison Davy	
1984/1985	Valerie Cotter	
1985/1986	Maria Flanagan	Yvonne Delaney
1986/1987	Patricia Flanagan	Aisling Kenny
1987/1988	Sylvia Roche	Mary Murphy

1988/1989	Deirdre McCarthy	Anne Murphy
1989/1990	Niamh Lyons	Grace O'Connor
1990/1991	Lisa Barry	Nicola Sheehan
1991/1992	Fidelma O'Leary	Niamh Murphy
1992/1993	Jennifer Walsh	Niamh Corby
1993/1994	Jennifer O'Sullivan	Caitriona McCarthy
1994/1995	Jennifer Lomasney	Joann Horgan
1995/1996	Katie Duggan	Denise McGrath
1996/1997	Deirdre Prout	Katrina Hyde
1997/1998	Debbie Horgan	Carolyn Harrington
1998/1999	Eva Brennan	Claire Daly
1999/2000	Michelle Griffin	Mairead Lyons
2000/2001	Amanda McCarthy	Claire Reynolds
2001/2002	Joanne Kelleher	Deirdre Daly
2002/2003	Maeve O'Donnell	Cathy Walsh
		Mary -Pat Murphy
2003/2004	Jane O'Keeffe	Ita O'Sullivan
2004/2005	Jill Murphy	Laura Murphy
2005/2006	Claire Crowley	Emer O'Callaghan
2006/2007	Sorcha Ni Riain	Anna Lehane
2007/2008	Saerlaith O'Keeffe	Katie Collins
2008/2009	Julette Jones	Holly Murphy
2009/2010	Olivia O'Callaghan	Joanne Ryan
2010/2011	Deirdre Lynch RIP	Rachel Boeg
2011/2012	Ciara O'Regan	Niamh Ferguson
2012/2013	Clodagh Duggan	Alison Peate
2013/2014	Aisling McDonald	Emer Harrington
2014/2015	Ciara McCarthy	Katie Nagle
2015/2016	Rozlynn Harris	Kate Leneghan

Memories of a Sculptor - Annette Hennessy.

Schooldays, the happiest days of my life? For me and my classmates, the transition from primary to secondary school was far more traumatic than most adults realized. Coping with many different teachers, new classmates and strange new subjects proved very daunting. All through primary school we had been raising money for "the building fund", and here we were, finally, students of Sacred Heart Secondary School. It was a very new building in those days, and we had to change into soft shoes or slippers on entering via the basement. I imagine the nuns regretted that this rule had been relaxed a few years later, when clogs became the essential fashion footwear and we sounded like a herd of ponies clattering up and down the corridors!

Probably because of reading Bunty and Judy comics, we looked forward a lot to playing hockey and had arrived in first year, equipped with the necessary hockey sticks. These never got much use as the hockey pitch (or is it field?) was sabotaged by seagulls and floods caused by the Tramore Valley Sanitary Landfill. In any case, I wore glasses and games were never my forte, although I did have a brief interest in playing soccer at lunchtime, no doubt because it was frowned upon. I wonder if anybody else

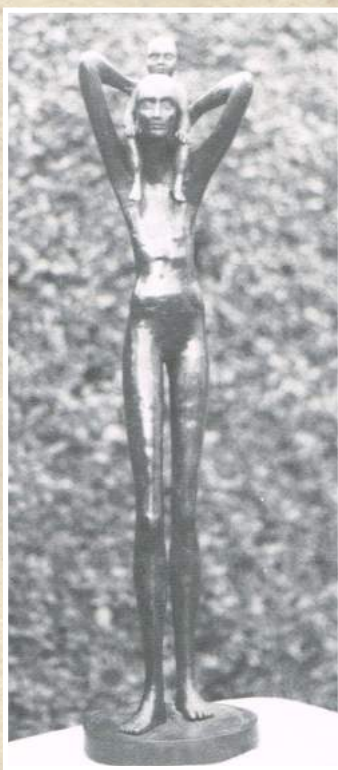
remembers her first Latin class? I found the recitation, or was it declension, of mensa, mensa, mensam etc. the strangest thing I had ever come up against until then. Does anyone remember Sr. Berchmans and her "Italianos", as she called her Italian students. In addition to French and Italian, we could have taken Spanish - not a bad range of choices in such a small school.

In time, I reached the Senior Cycle. Girls did not opt for Science subjects and honours Maths, but, in response to the demand for them, the school endeavoured to provide these subjects for us in fifth year. Careerwise, we tended towards traditional female employment; nurses, teachers, bank jobs and the Civil Service. Those were the days before the recession, before unemployment, before the points system, before the rise of feminism. Examination time approached too soon. Afterwards, although we were all terrified and half convinced we had failed, we did quite well in these exams and far more of us could have gone on to University or third-level education than actually did.

It is strange what you remember about school. For instance, I cannot recite a single line of all the poems we had to memorize.

I remember the uniform, though, it was the bane of our lives! In those days it was made from thick tweed. With its wide pleats around hips, already well-padded with puppy-fat, it was probably the most unflattering outfit anyone could possibly have inflicted on self-conscious adolescents. We also had black, velvet "dicky-bows", which owed their rigidity to their cunning construction involving the use of a lollypop stick. Sometimes we wore love beads under our shirts and opened the top buttons when the coast was clear. We also wore black tights or socks instead of the regulation beige or sunhaze.

I remember too Sister Marie: Music classes, choirs, concerts, operettas. She taught us catch phrases to help us to recognize musical passages in our aural exams: It's Bizet!, It's Bizet!, It's Bizet! She once discovered a fantastic singer in one of the junior classes and brought her to the Music room to sing Ave Maria for us. At the time, I never would have admitted a liking for. Opera or classical music but it was a great introduction to music for life. Like children today, the rule most often broken was that against smoking. I used to act as lookout. We thought we were very daring, during our last few days, when we



Annette Hennessy's Sculpture at Douglas Court.

kidnapped two teachers and ransomed them for twenty Rothmans. This was tame compared to the exploits of students in other schools, one of which involved bringing a live horse into the reception area!

One of the highlights of fifth year was the debating competition. Due to the coaching of

Miss Keane (O'Donnell) and Miss Moran, in particular, our school had a great reputation, of which we were very proud.

It is fifteen years since I did my Leaving Certificate. After 6 years in Art College, I got a part-time job teaching. However, because of the embargo on public service recruitment, the hours got fewer and fewer and I finally left the profession 3 years ago to concentrate on sculpture full-time. Being on the other side of the desk for a while, made me realize what we put our teachers through. No matter how enlightened and benevolent, students will always regard teachers as, "us against them". Furthermore, no student will ever agree that his schooldays are the happiest days of his life. That comes later, with hindsight and distant memories.

The Darkest Hour

I have a particular reason for remembering Friday 15th October 1976. We were a few weeks back into a new school year. Tempers were frayed, because the timetable was working very badly. There were many clashes and imbalance of times. Sr. Berchmans, then Principal, took the decision on that Friday to draw up a new timetable. The staff all filed into the room, which is now the Religion Room, and all portable blackboards in the classrooms were brought inside. There followed the most unusual and most practical timetable I have ever known. It was compiled as each teacher, beginning with the personnel of Science and Home Economics Departments, entered their names in the empty boxes under their appropriate classes. Shortly afterwards, all the teachers were working on the blackboards at the same time. Lo and behold, one hour later - a new timetable took shape! This extraordinary chalked timetable was left to stand for the weekend. Somewhat amazed at the foregoing exercise, all members of staff made their way home for the weekend, looking forward to testing the 'invention' on Monday morning. Little did they know the desolation that was to follow, that fateful weekend, and the months of misery that lay ahead for all of us. At 7.17 a.m. on a grey October Sunday morning, the mighty blaze was sighted. Our beautiful, modern school was on fire. What a tragedy! The outbreak, caused by an intruder, had begun, imperceptibly, at 5.30 a.m. and was well established in the southern wing by the time the first unit of the fire brigade arrived. For a further three long hours it burned, valuable equipment, machines and teaching aides being consumed by the tongues of flame which leaped out of control for a long time. Two units, under the direction of Station Officer, Stephen O'Sullivan, struggled and fought the merciless flames. They succeeded, finally, in containing the fire to the specialist areas and the southern portion of the



October 1976.

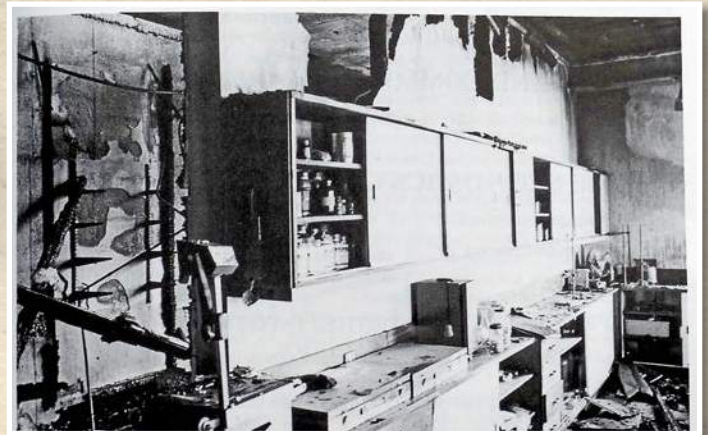
building. These fine rooms, 2 Home Economics Rooms, 2 Science Laboratories, Art Room, Music Room, Geography Room, Sewing Room, Library - all fully equipped to the highest of standards, were utterly destroyed, burnt beyond recognition. Horrified, the nuns stood, stunned into disbelief. Bitter tears were shed, when the first shock subsided, pondering on the fragility of all human effort, which can be undone in the flicker of a flame. Sr. Helen Dobbyn wept, as she mourned her beautiful kitchen which she had spent long years furnishing with her own hands. Could it



The nuns survey the damage.

ever again be the same? The flames, at last, abated and only then did the full extent of the damage become apparent. The urgency of the rising flames had concealed the utter desolation. Now it appeared, in all its grimness. With every sense on edge, we took in the hopelessness of the scene. We could hear the wind rustling in the pieces of hanging ceilings that remained, as particles still dropped to the ground. We could feel in our bones the cold dampness that had penetrated every room. We could see everywhere the blackened walls, far beyond the most badly damaged portion. Revealed before us too, was the horrific water damage which the school had undergone, every ceiling stained and partly collapsed from the wet deposit. Above all, I remember, the terrible stench of smoke and burning with which the entire building was permeated. There was no escape from this heavy smell. It lingered on our clothes, books and personal belongings, even when we left the surrounding area. Absolute misery was

everywhere in the weeks that followed. As a young staff, we withstood that hard winter, often searching in vain for a warm corner. A staff of 26 was marshalled to its new quarters, the little equipment room on the top floor. I can recall that, unless you had a free class, you would not venture as far as the window, as getting out again presented a major problem. The former staff room had become a classroom, as did every small room and habitable corner in the building, so that, at all costs, classes might continue to operate. For months, the heating system could not be repaired. Staff and students sat and shivered enrobed in coats, hats and gloves to keep out the bitter cold and dampness. Meanwhile building work commenced, to the roaring of J.C.B.s, the whirring of drills and the banging of hammers. One of our first thoughts, I must admit, on that dreadful Monday, was that blessed, chalked timetable, compiled the previous Friday. What a relief to see it standing unscathed, in the Religion Room, the furthest point from the centre of the fire. In that dismal week, it did go into operation and was most successful for the year that followed. Happily, some months later, the school had been repaired so completely, that we wondered had it all been a bad dream – or was it a nightmare?



The damaged Science Lab.

My Years In Art - Kathleen Murphy.

Art has always been part of the school curriculum. I began teaching Art in the Sacred Heart School in 1970, and since then we have had many changes in the Art Department.

Members of staff have come and gone. I remember with fondness Norma Fitzmaurice-Canty who spent several years teaching here and is now living in Jacksonville, Florida. We had many enjoyable experiences together. Eileen McCarthy (Kennedy) was with us for two years, and is now teaching in Tralee, while Sister Clare also worked with us for some time.

Michelle Hornibrook joined the Art department in 1986, and since then has done marvellous work in promoting the subject in the school. Hopefully she will continue to do so for many years to come.

Our Art room was completely destroyed by fire in 1976, when all of that section of the building was completely gutted. However, it is just an unpleasant memory now, because very soon afterwards, our airy, spacious specialist room was restored once again.



Art Exhibition 1987.

Every year, we hold an Art Exhibition, to which all of the Art students submit at least one work.

We invite some well-known guest from the Art world to open the exhibition and to address our students. It is a great incentive for the girls, and we endeavour to maintain a consistently high standard.



Art exhibition Cork Examiner- Mary Corkery. Sr. Elizabeth, Marian Healy, Norma Canty, Kathleen Murphy, Sr. Gertrude, Ms. O' Neill.

Many of our past pupils have excelled in the world of Art. Among the names that come to mind are Clare Patton, Annette Hennessy, Lisa Gilligan, Maeve Kelly, Jane O'Neill, Fiona O'Mahony, Antoinette Geary, Evelyn Mullen, Erin O'Reilly, Mary Quinn, Iris Quinn, Roisin O'Brien, Esther O'Callaghan and Edel Sullivan. There are many others too numerous to mention. We wish them every success, and are very proud of them.

The new Junior Certificate has made the Art course more varied and imaginative, and we hope to include new crafts and techniques in the future including:-jewellery making, batik, calligraphy and fabric printing. Already the students are working towards this new examination, and we are certain that they will be very successful.



Art Exhibition 1987:- Maud Cotter, well known stained glass artist, officially opens the Art Exhibition. L to R.. Michele Hornibrook, Maud Cotter, Kathleen Murphy, Sr. Catherine.

Once Upon A Time - Anne Fogarty



*Professor Anne Fogarty
Leaving Cert 1975.*

records, long since unplayed, gather dust in the attic, and the books now yellow in the elephant's graveyard of faded taste. Nothing, seemingly, dates as fast as adolescent preoccupations and interests. Even the school I once went to has long since changed its name.

Looking back is never easy. Memories always distort the past and make things seem either worse or better than they were. And, then, of course, there are bits of oneself one would rather forget. It's uncomfortable remembering being a gawky adolescent growing up in middle-class suburbia. Did I really listen to the music of Slade and -worse still - David Cassidy, or think that historical romances by Anya Seton were worth wasting a precious half-day on? The

But some things do remain: the desire never to wear a uniform or indeed anything else in quite that shade of blue again, the memory of that kind of intense camaraderie which is possible only in a girls' school, and the enthusiasm fostered by teachers whose dedication has unwittingly shaped my career choices ever since. The controversy about single sex schools still rages. Some hold segregated education to be narrow and restrictive, but others point out that girls thrive far better, both emotionally and intellectually, in the nurturing environment of an all-female institution. When I look back, I'm glad that I learnt the virtues of hard work and ambition in the school I once attended. We were taught that there was nothing wrong with being a woman and wanting to succeed. I can remember painstaking teachers who held extra honours Mathematics and Italian classes on Saturday morning and taught Latin and German on dark winter evenings when the regular school day was long over. English was my favourite subject, so it seems no accident that I now teach English literature full-time in a university department. My passion for literature was awakened by imaginative English teachers who were brave enough to stray far beyond the confines of the monotonous examination syllabus. A deep-seated hatred of basketball had the advantage that I could spend furtive hours reading Henry James and Charles Dickens in the school library

hoping that no-one would notice my absence on the playing-court where I always acquitted myself so badly. So, I remember my schooldays in the early seventies at Sacred Heart Secondary School with gratitude and affection. It was a time of innocence and security, a time of anxiety and sleepless nights as exams loomed with worrying regularity on the horizon, a time in which it was easy to learn and expand before all the responsibilities and turmoil of adult life began. No-one with all honesty could claim

that she would like to be a school-girl again. But, sometimes, just for a moment, I wish I could become a time-traveller and find myself sitting once again in the front row of Miss Treacy's Latin class absorbed by the intricacies of Virgil and classical history and secure in the knowledge that soon the bell would ring to herald the end of another untroubled day.

Anne C. Fogarty, Leaving Cert Student 1975 - Professor of James Joyce Studies UCD.

The School Tour



Paris 1972.

The first school tour that we can remember was to Paris by boat via England in 1972. In 1973 a further group visited the Lake District and Gretna Green. Various other tours followed. In recent years Anita Maher and Kathleen Geaney have traversed Europe and even went to China in Celtic Tiger days. Cycling trips to Kinsale were undertaken by Maureen Shanahan as well as her Gaisce trips to Kenmare in more recent years. History trips to Ferrycarrig and Craggaunowen are regulars. Every year the first year students and others travel to Dublin to the BT Young Scientist Exhibition. The music department visit London every other year to attend the latest West End musicals. The PE Department and Aislinn Spillane organise a Ski Trip which has seen them visit Germany, Boston and of late they are regulars to Lavarone in Italy. The German and French Exchange trips are long standing arrangements with our partner schools. We have been visiting Redon now for 22 years which is a long time to know any French school. For the last three years students and teachers have fundraised and journeyed to Kolkata. All would say that it has proved an enlightening, worthwhile and very enjoyable experience. Pilgrimages to Knock and retreats to Gougane Barra are other favourites. Transition year trips to Kilfinane are always a highlight. A rowing excursion to O'Brien's Bridge in Clare is a recent addition not to mind all of the trips to matches.

This year, to honour the school's 50th Anniversary, Anita Maher and her party visited Bratislava, where Presentation Sister Eileen Tobin from Kerry is based. There are very few sisters in the convent there but the tour group was delighted to link up with a Convent on the other side of Europe. Long may you all continue to travel and broaden your minds.



Lake District 1973



Lake District 1973



Paris 1979.



Cologne 2015



Craggaunowen 2012



Ski 2013



Kilfinane



Gaisce 2015



Redon 2015



Bratislava 2016

BRATISLAVA CENTRUM



Kolkata 2015



BT Young Scientist 2016.



Transition Year Programme - Sr Elizabeth Behan

Transition Year Programme is designed to act as a bridge for students to move from Junior Cycle to Senior cycle, to move from a state of relative dependence to independence. The course allows for the development of a broad, general education encompassing academic study, personal development and career education. Students take part voluntarily in the programme - it is an option. Participating in the programme enables the student to discover her own talents, aptitudes and abilities as well as developing the skills and competencies necessary to cope successfully with life. In such a programme, the role of the student changes from that of passive recipient to active learner. The role of the teacher is that of facilitator and catalyst, enabling the student to become autonomous and to assume a participative role with regard to her future. The enriched curriculum of the TY programme provides students with a variety of opportunities for innovation and research, for example, developing the capacity for self-directed learning as well as identifying problems and proposing and implementing solutions to them. The academic elements of the programme include subjects in the Arts, Science and Business areas. While literacy and numeracy remain cardinal in the battle for human liberation, account is also taken of the need to expose students to subjects like Computers Studies, Media Studies, Health Education, Irish Studies, Science Technology, Religious Education, Business Studies, European Studies, Aesthetic Studies, Science of Home-making and Public Speaking. Central to course content is the idea of subject integration. This calls for on-going planning and evaluation by the team of teachers. Students are also assessed on all aspects of the programme. Much of the assessment has a developmental purpose and modes of assessment, like written, oral, aural and practical, are used for academic purposes. Another key element of the programme is that of Vocational Development. Work experience, both real and simulated, constitutes part of this development. The relevance of real work experience is in providing young people with an insight into the concept of work and practice in using self-management skills. Training in enterprise is the main objective of the work simulation module. With automation no longer a trend but a practice, decision-making is more and more in the hands of operators of machines. Although this spells progress, yet, in my opinion, it has the possible inherent danger of reducing the resourcefulness of the human person. Therefore, there is an urgent need for educating young people to be enterprising and assertive. Training students to be enterprising is done very effectively in the "Young Enterprise" scheme which forms the work simulation module in the T Y. programme. Observing the students in action in this scheme gives one great hope for the future. The problems and dynamics which operate in the most high-tech industry are also to be found in miniature form within the confines of the "Young Enterprise" company, as operated by the students of the TY programme. Anyone involved with enterprise-training, who has seen the transformation of hesitant individuals into self-assured presenters of Business Plans, knows that self-confidence can be developed, and that helping this development is an important part of the work of a business adviser and it is also an important part of an education



Group pictured prior to their departure to Brussels, where they attended an International Trade Fair. Pamela Coughlan, Sarah Allen, Pam Duggan, Sr. Elizabeth, Caroline O'Callaghan, and Una O'Farrell.

programme like that of TY. Areas of concern like competence, confidence, commitment, human relations, contacts, customers, cashflow, commercial skill, market research, quality control, cost effectiveness, competition and profit are all to be found in a Young Enterprise company. Many salutary lessons are learned in the scheme, for example, when necessary, management benefits from the experience of shelving its authority and working alongside people. The enlightened manager gives ownership of problems and their solutions to workers, and affords recognition where they apply their skills in solving common problems. The Management Theorist, Peter Drucker, would be very encouraged by these young girls! Training in assertiveness runs throughout the whole TY programme. Femininity and assertiveness must be combined and femininity does not equal acquiescence. It is possible to be assertive, without being aggressive. Man/ woman fully alive, is surely the greatest way of giving glory to God, our Creator. I will conclude by quoting Edwina Gately in "I Hear a Seed Growing",

Spirit of all creation
 You unleashed in me
 just a little
 just a little of
 God's great loveliness.

Sr. Elizabeth Behan was the first Transition Year Coordinator at Christ King and the piece above is a great description and explanation of the fundamental principles underpinning Transition Year and its value to students. Here at Christ King we were lucky to have Sr. Elizabeth lead off the Programme. We were one of the first schools to implement it. Sr. Elizabeth was subsequently followed by Mr. Joe Dennehy, Mrs. Mary Corkery and Mrs. Eleanor Sherman all of whom developed different aspects of the course which has gone from strength to strength.

Debating Across the Years - Mary Hurley

Debating at Christ King Girls' Secondary School has been a way of life. The voices of so many of our students echo down through the ages, debating one subject or another with conviction, verve and enthusiasm. There was the argumentative debater, the aggressive one, the reasonable one, the appealing one, the sympathetic one, the convincing one. All had their own styles of delivery and every single team was a unique combination of different shades of the many styles. Some teams knitted right away, others took longer to mix the exact blend which guaranteed success. Once the key clicked and the styles complemented each other, the scent of success was in the air and the team fought vehemently to possess the coveted title.

In the early years, Sr. Berchmans was the spirit behind the enthusiasm of those first teams 1969, Margaret Geaney, Jo Hayes, Joan O' Riordan and Margaret Loughheed were the first successful debaters. They were followed in 1970 by another outstanding team which won the City, County and National finals in Road Safety Debates: Helen Murphy, Rose Noonan and Eilis Geary were a perfect combination. The whole body of students and staff followed the competition to Drishane, Ballingeary and many other venues. Assisted by Robert Molloy {the organiser and Dermot Cusack C.I.E. Manager, I joined Sr. Berchmans, Margaret Buckley and Sr. Maura Ward in coaching the team to absolute perfection. The whole procedure was a joint effort and the success which followed, instilled a pride in the entire school community.

Teams which formed down through the years were faithful to this first stamp of Success. Many competitions were entered and won until the school enjoyed a reputation for unequalled excellence in the entire Munster area. Competing in the national finals of the business Women's Federation, students, such as Carolyn Ryan and Lesley Murphy, gave outstanding performances. The Junior Chamber of Commerce's widely coveted debating title was won on several occasions by Christ King School teams. I can remember vividly two particular teams who returned in triumph: 1975: Carmel O' Riordan, Rena Tobin, Jacqueline Barry, Patricia Cronin. 1988: Deirdre McCarthy, Fionnuala Dwyer, Margaret Hanley, Edel Russell.

What wonderful feelings of exhilaration and exuberance followed these events, when the beautiful silver cup was proudly borne from class to class, the bubbly orange to be tasted eagerly by the excited supporters. A half day usually followed, to the delight of all. Many other competitions were on the agenda each year including: The Peace Debate, Mental Welfare Debate,

Philosophical Debate, Soroptomist Public Speaking Competition, Corporation Debate. Team coaches included Maureen O' Donnell, Kathleen Deely, Mary Corkery, Sheila Hourihan, Patricia Harrington and of course, yours truly. Considerable success continued to be achieved over the years.

There are special memories of many teams such as the 1987 Peace Debate winners: Lesley Murphy, Eleanor Hunter and Niamh Bushnell. All were mindful that, after each triumphant return from a final, the all-important trophy would be proudly displayed in the school library for the next year. In more recent times, the school has taken the Munster title and competed at National level in the Concern Debates. The valiant efforts of Frances Doyle and John Walsh, who himself served in the Third World for several years, have ensured the success of several magnificent teams. Among the most outstanding debaters were: 1985: Edith O'Callaghan, Evelyn Cronin, Katie Connolly and Margaret Hegarty. 1988: Ann-Marie McCarthy, Clodagh Duncan, Christine Wilkinson, Margaret Hanley.

In recent years Helen Kearney and Samantha Knight have taken up the debating and public speaking mantle, entering the Soroptomist Public Speaking Competition and winning the local final this year with 5th Year Student, Jessica Daly. The mental Health debates are still going strong as are the UCC Philosophical Debates. Long may debating continue as a way of life at Christ King. Chomh maith le sin tógaimid páirt go rialta sna díospóireachtaí gaeilge agus d'éirigh go maith linn i mbliana sna sóisearaigh agus sna sínsearaigh.



Angela and Laoise debating at UCC.

Remembrance of Things Past

A few Higher Diploma hours in the early 70's brought me into contact with the Presentation Sisters and with Christ King Girls' Secondary School or Sacred Heart Secondary School as it was then called. Some time later in the term, Principal Sr Berchmans called me into her office and offered me a permanent post. Being naïve and innocent I told her that I would think about it. I did not have to think too long!

From my very first days here I was highly impressed by the school, management, staff and pupils, and



Sheila Brosnan.

can honestly say that I have enjoyed every minute of my teaching career in Christ King.

The Presentation Sisters promote a Christian ethos of Spiritual values, hard work, welfare of students and staff with particular emphasis on those experiencing difficulties and problems.

They chose their Principals wisely. My first Principal, Sr Berchmans (Murphy) was a highly intelligent Abbeyfeale woman, well able to read and assess people, appointed capable, dedicated



and enthusiastic teachers, adept at working on their own, as part of a group or team, with an ability to interact and empathise with students.

Sr Gertrude (O'Grady), a gentle kind hearted Clare woman and Sr Catherine (Goode) from County Cork, each brought her own range of unique talents to the position. Under the care of these wise, capable women blossomed the excellent school that we are proud to share today.

Our era of Lay Principals began in 1990 with the appointment of Jean Geoghegan. Kathleen Feeney succeeded her and now our present Principal, Mary Keane, all three capable, committed women, steadfast in continuing the ideal and vision of their predecessors..... albeit in a totally different society.

I have the fondest memories of my early years in this school. Many of us teachers were more or less of similar age, young, foot-loose and fancy free. We blended very well. I felt we shared a common goal, a palpable sense of responsibility and loyalty to the school, to each other and to our students. As colleagues, we socialised together, we went on holidays together, and many of us even shared flats (apartments) together. It really was one happy family. Many of us have become firm life-long friends. The stories we could tell!!!

One of my flatmates, friend and colleague Ann Winters (nee O'Brien) an outstanding Science and Biology teacher conferred on me a signal honour by choosing me as bridesmaid at her wedding to Aidan in Rosslare Harbour in 1980. Happy days!!

Younger newcomers to a staff often admire the excellence of a more senior colleague. For me, quite a few teachers fit into this category but one stands out.... a woman of strong opinions and always willing to voice them, a woman never afraid to speak truth -- as she saw it -- to power. I'm referring of course to Maureen O'Donnell (nee Keane), a towering figure who bestrode the staffroom like a colossus. She was a superb English and History teacher with an encyclopaedic knowledge of all things pertaining to her wide range of interests. Involve her in conversation and be enlightened and entertained by the lengthy and histrionic response, delivered in sublime English, laced with wit and humour, often caustic, but generally hitting the nail on the head. I'm delighted to say that she is still hale and hearty and as vibrant as ever.

I taught Maths, Geography, Latin and Computer Studies, but most of my school life has been devoted full time to Maths, my favourite subject and great passion. I love the classroom, the interaction with students, the banter and the challenge of instilling a love of Maths in my girls. I enjoy exploring the intricacies of Probability or Trigonometry with top level students but I also enjoy explaining the rudiments of basic Maths to the less interested. Just to witness the exuberance and unrestrained joy of students on receiving satisfactory results in Junior and Leaving Cert is to have all one's labour and effort vindicated. What a thrill!

In the early days of my career, Honours Maths seemed to be the preserve of the fee paying and boarding schools, particularly boys' schools. That always irked me. Consequently, I hope that I have played some role in our school being recognised as having a top quality Honours Maths Department, thus opening to our girls doors to professions previously closed.

Good leadership, high quality teaching and diligent students have seen our school numbers grow exponentially over the years. New buildings, new classrooms, more teachers were required. Today our school boasts of over a thousand pupils.

Catering for the diversity of interests, talents, needs and problems can be challenging. However, our staff has always risen to the occasion and organise clubs, teams, groupings and societies which add to the quality of life of our students and indeed of the wider community.

Our school has seen many highs. On the sporting front, staff members are involved in training and coaching great numbers of students in many codes and have won titles at County, Provincial and National levels in camogie, football, basketball. In athletics, past pupil Derval O'Rourke was an athlete of international standing.

On the cultural front, staff and pupils are involved in musical and theatrical productions culminating in the annual public performances in the Firkin Crane, which always attract large audiences.

On the academic front, we have won awards in many categories at various levels and our State Examination results are always excellent. In 2000 one of our students achieved the highest Leaving Cert results in the country.... an astonishing nine A1's.

The involvement of so many staff members in extra curricular activities has very positive benefits for the pupils. They learn that the recipe for success is hard work, commitment and co-operation. They learn to respect and understand themselves and others. They learn essential life-enhancing social skills.

If there are high points in school life there will also be low points. I remember an early morning call in 1976 informing me that part of our school had been damaged by fire. A much darker day for the school was the tragic death by fire at her home of our former Vice Principal Teresa Treacy in 1983, RIP.

Some of the more senior members of our school community have now gone to their eternal reward. A small number of our students have tragically met untimely ends. The staff, as ever, sensitive to people's needs, organise an annual Mass for all these deceased members. This commemoration is one of the highlights of the school year. The service is always very well attended by family and relatives of the deceased. It is a moving, comforting and inspiring ceremony. Refreshments are served afterwards in the school, where people can meet, talk, see and feel that they are not alone in their grief. Perhaps this is the very essence of what the Presentation Sisters are about.

Today, we look back with pride and marvel at what our school has achieved over the last 50 years. We pass the baton of the next 50 years to a new generation of teachers. We have every confidence that by combining the best of the old with the best of the new that they will continue to lead Christ King Girls' Secondary School onwards on its path of excellence, well prepared to face the trials and challenges of an uncertain world. I think the future is in safe hands.

Sheila Brosnan (nee Tarrant)



Staff Group 2008



The Sporting Life - Pauline Hayes

When I was asked to write something on the last Fifty years of sport in Christ King I wondered if I could remember what happened last week whatever about years ago. Anyway we decided to make it very general and that if anyone was left out of the tale, to excuse the oversight.

I came to Christ King in September '98. The school facilities were very basic. The canteen was the P.E. hall as well as the assembly hall and the kitchen was the P.E. store room!! Anyone passing the hall would hear music for dance and gymnastics and aerobics. We played Basketball and indoor hockey, soccer and badminton, so you can see at that stage we were progressive. There were tennis courts, where we would play hockey and soccer. We were delighted in 2004 to open our new extension and the hall and stage and the P.E. department moved to the basement. We still use the assembly hall and the library.

In the eighties and nineties there were teachers who took on the responsibility of coaching the various Soccer, Camogie and Volleyball teams, Ger Coughlan, Bernard o Connell, RIP, John Walsh as well as a few parents. There has always been talent in the school and there have been many girls over the years who have made county sports teams and even Irish teams.

In the late nineties in Athletics there was one girl who stood out amongst her competitors and that was Derval O'Rourke, who won so much at juvenile level. She progressed to college and was a national, European and then a world champion all in her twenties. She led school relay teams to All Ireland success.

Basketball was a growing sport in Cork in the Nineties and Christ King School was one of the few schools that started to play competitively. They were looked after by Christine O'Regan and Ger Halbert and won an All Ireland in 1999. Some of the players on that team were Amanda O'Regan, Martha Halbert, Cliona Cummins, Eimer Carey RIP. Amanda is still playing competitively with Glanmire Montenotte and has been very successful. Indeed there have been a few of our players who have played with Munster and even Ireland. Hannah McCarthy and Kate Leneghan, who is our Deputy Head Girl have also played on the Irish team. Coaches like Christine O'Regan, Ger Halbert, Daire Keane and recently Francis O'Sullivan have guided the girls to their success. The school has reached seven All-Ireland Finals in the last number of years with 2012 being our most successful.

One person linked Basketball and Camogie and that is Christine O'Regan whose two daughters came to school here and played the two games.

Traditionally the girls played Camogie as the local clubs have all helped in the development of the sport. We have reached Cork colleges finals, Munster Finals and in 2008 won a senior All Ireland final. The girls on that team worked so hard training in all weathers and even over the Xmas holidays, but it was worth it for that medal! On that team we had Julia White, Pamela Mackey, Catriona Mackey, Áine Moynihan, Jessica Kavanagh, some of whom still play today. There were teams who nearly won and great games were we should have won, but that is the nature of sport.

Some of the girls who played camogie also played Gaelic Football. In the late nineties and early 2000 Charlie McLoughlin from Nemo Rangers came to train the teams. In recent times Gillian Cunningham and Máire O'Brien have been with the girls and in 2013 we won a junior All Ireland football trophy, the first football trophy in the school. This was a great achievement for us as the school did not have a pitch and we still don't, but Nemo Rangers have been very good to us.

To play Hockey we have to travel to Harlequins hockey club. We have had many coaches, many were teachers and recently Ursula Shannon, a parent of two daughters who came to school in CK. We have had senior, junior, first, and second year teams playing for many years. We have won Cork Leagues and in 2012 won a Munster League cup for seniors.

We have had rowing teams compete in the Irish Schools Regattas. Lately having success in the single sculls with Eimear Cummins. The school joined with Regina Mundi for an eights boat in the nineties. We still have girls competing in the schools regatta.

Soccer in the school has always been popular. With the help of Dads and interested teachers like Mr. Bernard O'Connell, Feargal O'Leary, Micheal Carroll, Denis Walsh, Mick Connolly, we have competed in Indoor Football competitions and won them at All Ireland level. In fact we have competed in seven All Ireland finals winning four of them at junior and senior level.

Our high profile players like Megan Connolly, and Saoirse Noonan play on the Irish soccer teams. Also Amanda Budden, Chelsea Noonan, Yvonne Cahill have all played on Irish teams. We have



Pauline, Amanda, Jessica, Caitriona, Pamela and Michelle McGinley.



RTE sports photo of the week on the 23rd January 2013.

been lucky to have College Corinthians soccer club and Douglas Hall to give their pitches.

Other sports that we have played were Volleyball, Tennis, in which we won Munster titles at senior level.

Our teams and supporters have travelled the four provinces and have seen all kind of pitches and changing rooms and especially those without toilet roll. They have travelled by car, train boat, and of course the Bus. The supporters have cheered, sang, waved flags and banners, painted faces, wore funny clothes and enjoyed

the game. They have laughed, chanted and cried and cried with the teams. They are very much the extra player. The teams appreciated everyone who have travelled with the team.

We have enjoyed the victory parties organised by Miss Michelle McGinley and Mrs Kelleher. All the teams have done their best and will remember the games and trips with fond memories.

Well done CKSS and good luck for the next 50 yrs.

Pauline Hayes



Basketball Team 1981



Cork Senior B Basketball Winners 1989



Camogie Team 1981



Cheerleaders 1990's



Why Send Your Child To A Catholic School.

(From the perspective of a past pupil, a teacher, and a parent)

By Una LongMcDonagh

I was born into the small parish of Turners Cross on the Southside of Cork city, unique in that we had four Presentation schools, a convent, a monastery and the most magnificent church which stands looking over the parish it's schools and it's people. It was a vibrant Catholic community in which people and faith were the centre of it's very being. Aged four I was immersed into what I can only describe as an idyllic Education setting that was next to none. A faith school community that would play such a huge role in moulding and defining the person I would become and who I am today. And so, all things Presentation were central to the lives of my family, my friends and my community. In secondary school I began to realise what a privilege it was to be a Presentation girl.

My secondary education began with a devastating blow to the school. A fire raged havoc within the school building which at the time was still relatively new. The entire parish rolled in behind the school in what was a community project to rebuild and start over. It was out of the smoke charred rooms and the piles upon piles of cremated library books that I experienced firsthand what community was really all about.

As a student I always appreciated the lengths the Presentation sisters, lay staff and management went to for the student body. They were not just our teachers they were our mentors and friends. They were our Anam Cara. These teachers instilled in us a sense of what was right and what was wrong, a sense of what was good and what was just. The Presentation ethos demands that of it's teachers. From the beginning this Catholic Educational vision was inspired and guided by Gospel values, which recognised the institutional injustice of the day that undervalued the poor of society in 18th century Cork. Though the political climate today has changed, the needs still remain. The willingness of the Presentation Educational vision to recognise this and to actively participate and strive to give equal opportunity to all, is a mark of profound prophetic thinking which has survived the test of time and today remains true to its mission.

The development of the whole person is key to the spiritual life of my school. Without even realising it, our students are absorbing and experiencing life forming skills which will help them make their way in life when their second level schooling is complete. Presentation tradition considers educating and engaging the adolescent to be a crucial part of mission for Catholic schools, in terms of faith development, our sense of life meaning, and human formation.

This approach differs to other models in that there is recognition of the uniqueness of all our students, gifted with different talents and that we are all created equal in the eyes of God. We encourage our students to recognise this within their own identity and to always respect and accept others for whom and what they are.

A defining aspect of our school is our daily recognition of the presence of God in all that we do. Our school charter promotes this Christian vision within our mission. In doing so we invite our students to reflect on what the Christian message is about. Freedom of mind, body and soul, rooted in Gods' image for justice and peace, in prayerful communion with others. Our school liturgies, prayer services, retreats and times of spiritual reflection, engage our students in what our Presentation founder was inspired by. A place where educators fulfil their spiritual vocation, to educate the future generations in Christian values as exemplified in the message of the gospels.

Modelled on the person of Jesus, the teacher and the man, a key part of teaching at Christ King is to fulfil a vocation. In Locus Parentus, a school family which endeavours to live out it's vocation and mission, giving light and hope to the students in our care. A place where spirituality flows gently within the ebb and flow of our daily lives, where we endeavour to lead our students where there are no roads and leave a path.

Schools today can be extremely busy places and one can be distracted quite easily by the constant rush of legislative change that can suffocate the real task in hand. In my school there is a conscious effort made to take that step back, and we do this through prayer and reflection. Be it in a religion class, at morning assembly, through action or through song, our daily return to prayer is the grounding force that always brings us back to who we really are and who we aspire to be. It creates that special space for time out where we open our lives to the presence of God, where we meet our students at the heart, and where we feed and nourish the souls of those we teach.

The last two years have been different. My daughter now attends my school. It took me a while to get used to meeting her along the corridor, or coming out of the canteen with garlic bread, even though I had gone to the trouble of making her a packed lunch! Just recently I found her sitting at the piano in the music room at lunch time, surrounded by a group of friends, singing pop songs in harmony. I smile to myself, the wheel really has gone full circle. What struck me that day were the smiling faces. What more could a mother want, when our children are happy, then everything else will fall into place.

As look back I can only conclude that my school has it all. Life lived to its full, faith and prayer at the core of the educational experience, the development of the whole person a priority, excellence in teaching and learning, enriched by a community setting.

A past-pupil, a teacher, and now a parent, I am so proud to have been part of this schools' journey. A place that dedicated itself to the Education of so many, a place with a real heart and soul. A unique Educational vision, which began in 18th century Cork.

A Happy Journey of 50 Years

When Mother Ursula and Sr Eucharia bought Sunview House and its grounds on the South Douglas Road from WD Murphy and Sons, fifty years ago, in 1965, they were following in the footsteps and vision of Nano Nagle who founded the original Presentation School and Convent at nearby Douglas Street in Cove Lane in 1754 with about thirty students. They set out to start a school to provide secondary education for the girls of Turners Cross and Douglas. Free Secondary Education was to come in September 1966 and the local students were quick to grasp the opportunity. Nearby Coláiste Chríost Rí had opened its doors a few years earlier and together the two schools have provided stellar service to the community, educating many leaders in academia, business, sport and beyond.

Christ King Secondary School began its life as Sacred Heart Secondary School in Sunview House. The Presentation Sisters were and are great developers and quickly set about building a fit for purpose building. Today, the sisters are developing the hugely anticipated Nano Nagle Centre at Douglas Street, which hopes to provide a focal point for celebrating the work of Nano Nagle and the sisters and also to provide a centre for spiritual reflection.

The new school was completed in 1970, even though Sunview House continued to be loved and used as a Retreat Centre and meeting area for years to follow. As a local girl myself and a first year student in September 1971, we were immensely proud of our new school and wore our uniform with pride. Out of acorns grow mighty oaks and so the school prospered, firstly under Sr. Eucharia and then under the principalship of Sr. Berchmans Murphy. By 1976 the school had grown to 400 students and we thought that was a great number. Each new principal developed the school a little bit more. This did not come easily and it happened thanks to the financial prudence of the sisters, often giving of their salaries to the school and the fundraising of the parents and friends. Sr. Gertrude, added an Assembly Hall and Office Suite and many pre-fabricated buildings. Sr. Catherine Goode replaced the pre-fabs with 11 permanent classrooms and Jean Geoghegan added two further wings of classrooms. Kathleen Feeney and Mary Hurley developed the state of the art PE Hall, Science laboratories, Art Room, computer Room and Gymnasium. Mary Keane, the present principal has just completed the re-modelling of the Pastoral Care Centre and a new art room and so the work goes on...

Christ King has always taken care to nurture the pastoral and academic education of its students. Through its broad ranging curriculum it strives to provide the best possible academic opportunities for all of its students. The pastoral care of the girls is also taken very seriously, providing adequate guidance and counselling being of prime importance. A loss education programme, Seedlings, caters to students who have experienced loss in their lives in any of its

forms and many teachers step up to the mark to provide this programme. In 1986 the name of the school reverted to Christ King Secondary School to forge greater links with the parish of Christ King, Turners Cross.

Through the years the Presentation Sisters have seen a decline in number but there is no shortage of people willing to take on the mantle and continue in the spirit of the founding sisters.

The founding staff played a great part in making Christ King the school it is today, a school of 1000 students.

New teachers, as they come to work at the school, bring something to add to the spirit of Christ King. Many past-pupils also work at the school. At any one time there can be up to 17 staff members counted as past pupils, including office staff. We realise that we have been entrusted with the guardianship of a positive learning centre in the community. Christ King celebrates 50 years in being as our great nation celebrates 100 years as a Republic and that fact is not lost on us. It is also poignant that the convent in Turners Cross has closed its doors this year with the remaining nuns moving to the nearby South Presentation Convent in Douglas Street.

The first Board of Management in 1986 opened a new chapter and each board continues that work. In recent years the Presentation Sisters have transferred the Trusteeship of the school to CEIST, Catholic Education, An Irish School's Trust. CEIST continues with the ethos of providing a holistic education in the Catholic tradition and welcomes students from all faith traditions and those of no faith precisely because the schools are Catholic and are thus open to dialogue with the other. The passing 50 years have also seen a more diverse student population, reflecting Irish society itself. Change and the mingling of diverse cultures can only add to the richness and fabric of school life and serves to enlighten us all. There is great enjoyment to be had in the coming together of cultures in a learning environment.

The involvement of the Student's Council and Parent's Council in the running of the school and the various staff committees who coordinate the teaching and learning business of the school all



Past Pupils on Staff 2015.



Board of Management 2008

seek to create an environment of inclusion and camaraderie.

Each school year we revel in the sporting activities, the musicals, the debates, all of which serve to enable students to develop their talents and move forward academically with a spirit of "Is féidir linn".

I often wonder when I leave the building during the school day if the community outside understands the energy and creative activity that happens inside the calm exterior and I suppose that is true of all schools and businesses. This is partly the reason we have invited all past pupils, neighbours and friends to come and visit our 50th Anniversary Past Pupil Open evening on Friday 6th May from 5.30pm to 8pm and relive memories past and maybe get to know us anew.

Cáit Watkins

A Special Word of Thanks.

In this our 50th Year we would like to say a big "Thank You" to Eddie Wallace, Jimmy Jordan, Alicja Pietrzyk, Tom O'Sullivan, Rosaleen Mulqueen, Patricia Moore and Eleanor Kenneally who keep services in ship shape for the smooth running of the school.



"Thank you to all who contributed articles and photos to this publication. We remember with affection those who wrote articles from the early years of the school and have gone to their eternal reward"



Christ The King School, 40th Anniversary Dinner, May 19th 2006
Sheraton Hotel, Fota, Cork



Staff Group August 2015







1A

Classes of 2015



1B



1C



1D

Classes
of
2015



1E



1F



2A

Classes of 2015



2B



2C



2D

Classes of 2015



2E



2F



3J

Classes of 2015



3K



3L



3M

Classes
of
2015



3N



TY1

Classes of 2015



TY2



TY3



TY4

Classes
of
2015



TY5



TY6



5A

Classes of 2015



5B



5C



5D

Classes
of
2015



5E



5F



6A

Classes of 2015



6B



6C



6D

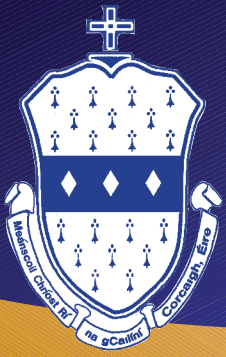
Classes
of
2015



6E



6F



Christ King

Girls' Secondary School
"per Ardua ad Astra"

