

CHRISTMAS Newsletter

COLÁISTE ÍOSAĞÁIN

2025

Bóthar Stigh Lorgan, Baile an Bhóthair, An Charraig Dhubh, Co. Átha Cliath
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CHRISTMAS Eve

by Dubglas de hÍde

CHRISTMAS Eve the sky was sky-clear,
clean, without haze or cloud.

Between one and two
the snow came like mist.

Between two and three
the snow lay heavy and deep.

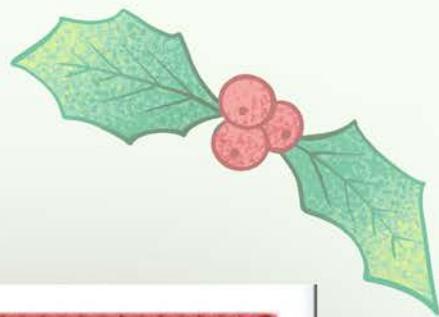
The people woke from their sleep
and there before them - behold, the Christmas blanket!

May he who spread that blanket beneath us
grant us a wonderful Christmas.



The ADORATION of the shepherds by CARAVASSIO

Masses in Irish



ARD-DEOISE Átha Cliath

Archdiocese of Dublin

ΔΙΦΡΙΝΝ ΠΟΛΛΑΞ Ι ΝΞΔΕΙΛΞΕ ΣΑΝ ΑΡΔ-ΔΕΟΙΣΕ, 2025

CHRISTMAS MASSES IN IRISH
IN THE ARCHDIOCESE, 2025

ΔÉΑΡΔΑΟΙΝ, ΛÁ ΠΟΛΛΑΞ ΔΙΦΡΙΝΝ ΝΑ ΜΑΙΔΙΝΕ *

THURSDAY 25th, CHRISTMAS DAY

σα Τυοισσεαοο:

9 am Domhnach Cearna
(le carúil ó 8.45 am)

churchmedia.tv/our-lady-of-consolation

9 30 am Glas Naíon

glasnevinparish.ie/mass-times/webcam-our-lady-of-dolours/

10 am Baile Dúill

churchmedia.tv/st-peter-st-paul

11 am Draigheón (Soró)

san Iarðheisceaοο:

9 am Cluain Dolcáin

clondalkinparish.com/?page_id=1461

9 30 am Baile an tSaoir

mcn.live/Camera/st-john-the-evangelist-church-ballinteer

san Oirðheisceaοο:

9 am Bré, Naomh Peaοar

churchservices.tv/braystpeters

9 30 am Δσcail Choill na bhFeó
(Raghnaíoch)

beechwoodparish.com/webcam/

10 30 am Dún Laoghaire

* Bíonn ceol de ghnáth ag na hAifrinne seo ach ní nós seanmóir Gaeilge i gcónaí. I gcúpla cás bíonn an téacs dátheangach. Ár n-aiféal, leis, nach mbeidh Aifreann na Gine againn Oíche Nollag i mbliana ní fhéadfaí séipéal a fháil dó.

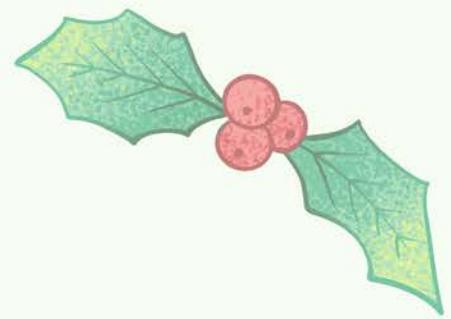


Ardeaglais Chartres:
Notre Dame de la Belle Verrière
(Muir na Fuinneoige Áille)
Gloine daite, 1180.
Íomhá: [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Notre-Dame_de_la_Belle_Verrière.jpg)



Coiste Tréadach
Ard-Deoise Átha Cliath

A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL



I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the entire school community, including students, teachers and parents, for the very warm welcome extended to me at the beginning of this school year and for all that we have achieved together during this first term. You will gain an understanding of some of the school's initiatives and activities from the past term in this newsletter.

At Christmas time, the community of Coláiste Íosagáin has a long tradition of helping other communities who are disadvantaged, both at home and abroad. Once again this year, the students have been very active in this work. We have raised €3450 this year through the Christmas Concert and Christmas Raffle. This money will be donated to the Society of St Vincent de Paul. I congratulate all the students and teachers who helped to bring this work to fruition, and it shows that the true spirit of Christmas is alive and well in Coláiste Íosagáin.

On a final note, I would like to wish you all, and the entire school community, a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Treasa Ní Fhearraigh



CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2025

September - October

We had a busy, rewarding and enjoyable term to begin the academic year as we welcomed a new principal and new members of staff to Coláiste Íosagáin. Renewal and continuity were clear themes within the school, with our Irish culture and our Christian heritage at the heart of the events that have taken place since the end of August.

SPIRITUAL RETREATS

To give the year a fun, spiritual and calm beginning, students from Fifth Year and Sixth Year attended spiritual retreat programmes in Glendalough, County Wicklow. This beautiful annual retreat is organised by the De La Salle Order from Ballyfermot and includes prayer, reflection and outdoor walks. Sixth Year students attended the retreat together with students from Coláiste Eoin, and there was plenty of fun and enjoyment, with the weather staying dry for them on the day.

Students from Third Year and Fourth Year also attended spiritual retreats, where prayer, reflection and deep thought also formed a central part of the programmes.



Trip to the Gaeltacht with 2nd Year

Second Year students enjoyed a special trip to the Connemara Gaeltacht, where they made a fun and friendly start to their second year in Coláiste Íosagáin. The entire year group travelled to Ros a' Mhíl to attend Coláiste Chamuis and took part in a wide range of activities. They participated in yoga classes and a drumming workshop, took part in a céilí in the evenings, and attended a singing workshop, as well as going on trips to the adventure parks Wildlands and Elemental. They had a genuine Gaeltacht experience, staying with host families in the local area. To conclude the four days, they visited Pearse's Cottage in Ros Muc.



LANGUAGE LEARNING

Careers with German

Sixth Year German classes attended a careers fair, the “Karriere Roadshow”, in the Deutsche Schule St Killian, organised by the Goethe-Institut. The students heard talks from representatives of the German Departments in UCD and TCD and spoke with German professionals, as well as with a representative from the German-Irish Chamber of Commerce and from the German Embassy. The students visited all of the stands and entered a variety of competitions throughout the day. It was an enjoyable and worthwhile morning.



Transition Year Exchange with German Visitors

As part of the Erasmus+ programme, there is now an established tradition of Transition Year students in the school taking part in an exchange with a group of students from Germany (this is the third year in which we have run this exchange). The school achieved Erasmus+ accreditation at the beginning of this year and, as a result, another group of Fourth Year students had the opportunity to participate in this excellent scheme, funded by the European Union.

Ten students from Coláiste Íosagáin had the opportunity to travel to Germany in September, accompanied by In. Uí Raghallaigh. The students attended classes in Mädchengymnasium Jülich (MGJ, a girls' secondary school in Jülich in western Germany) and experienced school life in Germany. They completed a STEM course, learning coding, gaining experience in 3D printing, and working through the stages involved in building a digital irrigation system. In addition to this, they visited Aachen and saw the great cathedral there, which houses the throne of Charlemagne. As a highlight of the trip, the students attended the Europafest at MGJ, with "Ireland" as this year's theme. They were excellent ambassadors and gave a singing and dancing performance in front of the school community in Germany.



The German visitors also travelled to Ireland and were warmly welcomed later in the month. They took part in a range of workshops together with students from Coláiste Íosagáin, many of which focused on wellbeing and on learning about Irish culture and our environment. They practised yoga, took part in a wellbeing workshop, and visited the Dublin Waste to Energy facility and the 3fe café located on that site.



German Exchange



European Languages Day

Fourth Year students went out to local primary schools on European Day of Languages (26 September) to celebrate European culture. Our students taught German words and phrases, acting as language teachers for the day in local primary schools. They sparked interest among the primary pupils and strengthened links with students who will attend Coláiste Íosagáin in the future. They did excellent work on the day.

PROTEST - CEARTA

The Coláiste Íosagáin community took part in the national protest in support of language rights on 20 September in Dublin city centre. Íosagáin students showed their commitment to the language as they stood at the heart of the action at the largest demonstration in support of Irish for many years. It was an inspiring, energetic and hopeful protest among the Irish-language community.



Mental Health Week

Coláiste Íosagáin celebrated Mental Health Week in October. The Wellbeing Committee organised a wide range of activities to promote mental health within the school. These included craft sessions, a photography competition, bingo, a coffee morning, games sessions and a céilí with the various year groups in the school. The importance of breaks, diet, sleep and friendship was discussed. It was an excellent week.



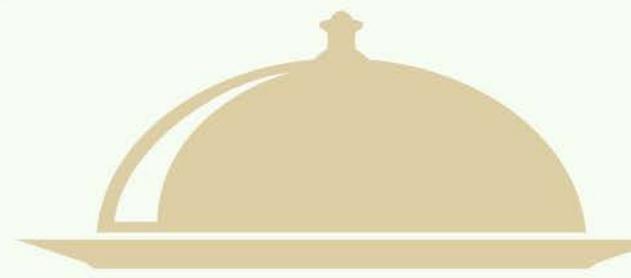
Book Club

An Irish-language book club was established last year and the club is going from strength to strength, with plenty of reading taking place again this year. Both the Junior Irish Book Club and the Senior Irish Book Club have been in full swing since the start of the school year. There is lively discussion of novels, authors, different reading genres and more. Our thanks to COGG for sponsoring the Junior Irish Book Club and to In. Uí Choileáin for managing these clubs.



Eoin and Íosagáin Lunch

Current students and past pupils, current and former staff, and principals and former principals came together on Friday, 17 October for the annual Friends of Eoin and Íosagáin lunch. This event provides an opportunity to meet the wider school community and to celebrate the school's heritage. Sincere thanks to the committee who did outstanding work in organising this wonderful and special occasion.



Visit from the School of Irish Archaeology

Ireland's heritage was celebrated in October when the School of Irish Archaeology visited Coláiste Íosagáin. An archaeology workshop was held, and First Year students had the opportunity to carry out an archaeological dig at a mobile excavation site. Historical artefacts were shown to them, and the students learned about the importance of physical evidence in understanding the past.



Maths Week

Maths Week was organised recently to celebrate students' mathematical skills and to promote numeracy within the school. Puzzles and questions were shared at morning assemblies, and students and teachers took part in a variety of small competitions to test and showcase their mathematical abilities. The highlight of the week was a baking competition, in which students produced tasty demonstrations of their learning. Thanks to In. Mhic Phiarais and to all the teachers who were involved.



Environmental Work

The Environment Committee is currently working extremely hard. Changes and campaigns are under way to improve recycling standards, with more effective sorting of waste now in place, including bottles and cans, plastic, organic waste and other refuse. First Year students worked diligently planting bulbs in the garden at the back of the school. Each student had the opportunity to plant a bulb, while fun games were taking place on the basketball court at the same time. In addition, International Food Day was celebrated on 16 October. Under the guidance of In. Uí Leathlobhair, the Second Year cookery class prepared a beautiful and delicious meal for the Environment Committee, using fresh potatoes and garlic from the most recent harvest, and a poster competition was organised for the occasion.

In December, a number of students from the Environment Committee went to The Light House cinema to watch the new film *Ocean* by David Attenborough. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learned about the implications of overfishing. Many thanks to Green Schools Ireland for organising the event.



6th Year AT *Higher Options*

Sixth Year students attended the Higher Options event in September and listened to talks on careers involving Irish and on STEM and science-related courses. There was a wealth of information about a wide range of careers. Thanks to In. Uí Raghallaigh for bringing them there. It was a very worthwhile day, giving the students much to reflect on as they consider their future.



TRANSITION Year ACTIVITIES

Cooperation, friendship and fun were evident in many Transition Year activities from September to October. This is, of course, a very interesting year, with students engaged in a wide range of activities from week to week, such as first aid courses, visits to the criminal courts, public speaking courses, yoga workshops, music workshops and more. A couple of events that stood out in the first few months were a trip to Killruddery House and cycling courses in the Phoenix Park. Killruddery is a historic house and also has an adventure park on site. The year group really got to know one another while taking part in outdoor adventure activities at the beginning of September. Another activity that added to both the atmosphere and the physical activity of the year was the cycling course in the Phoenix Park. All classes enjoyed lively days over a number of weeks as they cycled in the park. Naturally, there is much more to come, and we are all very much looking forward to those events.



Halloween Celebrations

First Year and Sixth Year students came together to celebrate the arrival of Halloween before the mid-term break. This event was part of the "Special Friends" programme. Pumpkins were carved and plenty of sweet treats were enjoyed at the same time. This fun occasion is now a well-established tradition that brings together the younger and senior members of the school. Thanks to In. Uí Choileáin and to the teachers and prefects who helped on the day.



November - December

Christmas is upon us, and the values of the season have certainly been evident in Coláiste Íosagáin in recent times: friendship, joy, generosity and a sense of belonging. As the days grow shorter, we reflect on the past and on our connection to our ancestors who have gone before us. Spirituality gives us hope, reminding us that light comes after darkness and that brighter days lie ahead.

A remembrance reflection took place during the month of November in memory of those who have gone before us. A remembrance basket was placed in the school so that members of the school community could say prayers and write a note in honour of those who have passed away.

With the arrival of December, Advent is now being celebrated in Coláiste Íosagáin. An Advent wreath with lit candles can be seen in Halla Íosagáin, and the Christmas crib is on display at the school reception. On Friday the 5th, an Advent ceremony took place with music, prayers and an explanation of the symbolism of the manger. Students were reminded that Saint Francis of Assisi began the tradition of decorating the Christmas crib in Europe after visiting Bethlehem. The Christmas crib highlights the importance of belonging, hospitality and friendship during the dark days of winter.



The Visit of the Astronauts

There was great excitement throughout the Coláiste Íosagáin school community in mid-November when two astronauts, Dr Norah Patten and Dr Shawna Pandya, visited the school. The school captains, Éabha Scollard and Kate Nic Giolla Deacair, interviewed them in front of students and teachers, and both astronauts spoke about their experience of working in the spaceflight sector. Dr Norah Patten is Irish, from Mayo, and is set to become the first Irish person in space when she is aboard a Virgin Galactic spacecraft launch at the end of next year. Dr Shawna Pandya is a Canadian astronaut and will be on the same flight alongside Dr Patten.

Both speakers spoke about their work on space experiments and their experience working in the aerospace sector. Dr Patten spoke about Irish companies involved in research within the space industry and reminded the school community that students with an interest in aerospace no longer need to go abroad to pursue this type of work.

There is no doubt that the visit had a strong impact on the audience, with two inspiring women showing that it is possible to achieve one's dreams.

The talk took place in the Eoin and Íosagáin Sports Hall, which was beautifully decorated by a group of workers and artists with the help of their colleague, Julian Hills. They constructed a model Delta spacecraft for the occasion, which provided a fitting backdrop on the stage.

We wish them every success on their journey.



The Visit of the Astronauts



The astronauts visited a science class with In. Uí Thuirn  ir   anaigh

Forensic Work

Sixth Year biology students had the opportunity to carry out forensic science in November when the Amgen Biotech Experience provided them with investigation kits. A simulated forensic crime investigation was conducted during the workshop, and the experience was thoroughly enjoyed. Thanks to In. Uí Chatháin, who organised the event.



The CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Fair was a great success once again this year. The annual event took place on Sunday, 16 November and, as usual, there were games, music, shopping and the Wheel of Fortune. Sincere thanks to the Parents' Committee and to the management, teachers and students of the schools who helped on the day.



CHARITY WORK

SVP

Since November, members of 3 Bóinn have been working diligently, organising a raffle to raise funds for the SVP. The school has a strong tradition of charitable work and, for many years, a Third Year group has raised money for the SVP to support its Christmas campaign. The class has gathered fantastic prizes, including cinema vouchers, hairdressing vouchers, prize hampers, restaurant vouchers and many more. The raffle draw will take place in the final week of school. Thanks to Máistir Ó Feannachta, who organised the initiative.



Childline

Transition Year students came together in the city centre to raise money for the charity Childline at the beginning of this month, on 2 December. It was an excellent experience overall, and they raised over €3,500.



"Think Languages"

Think Languages Week took place in mid-November, with a series of excellent events organised by the organising committee and Iníon Uí Chonghaile. A German workshop was held, and First Year students learned about Sankt Martinstag, or Saint Martin's Day. Lanterns were made, as is traditional in Germany. There was a baking competition, and Transition Year students ran a Polish language workshop. In addition, Transition Year students also delivered a workshop on Irish Sign Language, and a table quiz was organised. It was an excellent week overall.



LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS

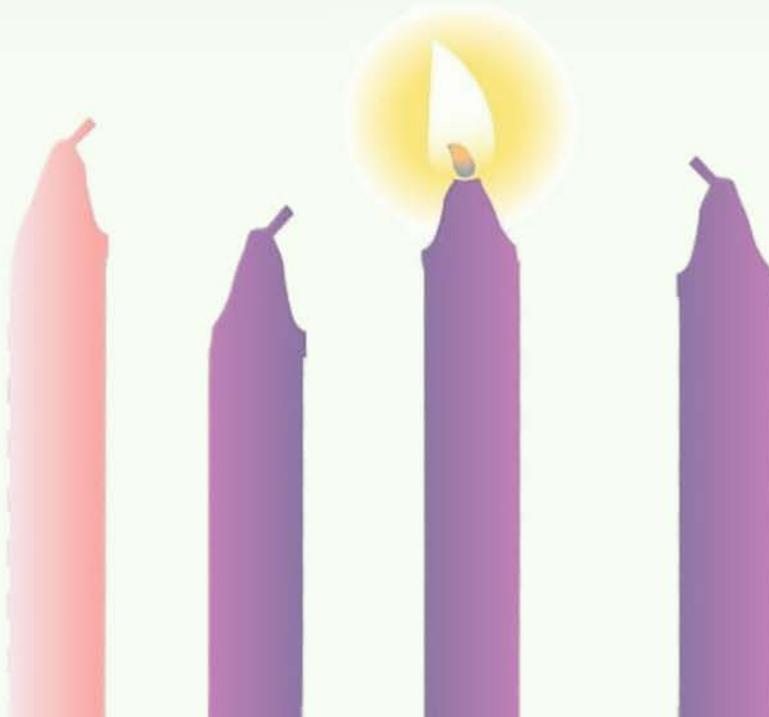
The school will be bidding farewell to our German language assistant, Inthuja, at the end of this month. We also had another German language assistant, Sofia, at the beginning of the year for two months. The German language assistants are extremely helpful, supporting students' language learning. Listening to a native German speaker is a great benefit for students, and they contribute greatly to the classes. Danke schön, friends!



Sofia



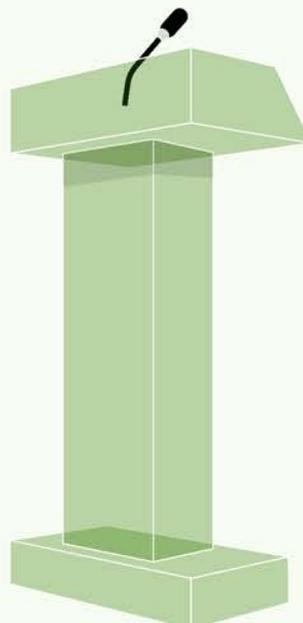
Inthuja



Debatins

The senior debating team performed well in the Uí Chadhain Competition this year. They debated a range of motions, such as “This House does not believe that the presidency has merit”, and succeeded in qualifying for the second round. Unfortunately, the two Ulster teams had the upper hand against them in that round.

The French debating team has also been performing very well. They reached the quarter-finals of the Joutes Oratoires competition this year. Félicitations!



TRANSITION YEAR EVENTS

November - December

Musical in Full Swing

Auditions, rehearsals and plenty of fun have been evident around the school for several weeks now, with the Eoin and Íosagáin musical well under way. The school communities are very much looking forward to March, when audiences will flock to the Eoin and Íosagáin theatre in the Sports Hall to watch the production of the musical *Mary Poppins*.



Transition Year students were recently given plenty of food for thought as they attended talks and took part in a range of extra-curricular activities. They participated in Fighting Words writing workshops and attended a talk about women working in the STEM sector (Engineering, Technology, Science and Mathematics). They had great fun taking on the GoQuest challenge at the end of November, involving team games based on challenges and puzzle-solving. In addition, they learned about issues of poverty around the world when they attended a talk by guest speaker and charity worker John O'Shea. The school bid farewell to Fourth Year on 8 December as they headed off on work experience. We wish them every success in their placements.

Student Achievements

Rowing Scholarship

There were great celebrations at the Garda Rowing Club in November when a rowing scholarship was awarded to Emma Jane Ní Dhúgáin (Sixth Year). It is a full four-year scholarship to Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, where she will study architecture and row for the university team. Congratulations, Emma Jane!



Oireachtas Awards

Congratulations to Méabh Ní Cholmáin (First Year) and Kate Nic Giolla Deacair (Sixth Year), who were awarded prizes in the Oireachtas Literary Competition at Oireachtas na Samhna in Belfast. They won awards in the categories *Comic Strip (Sixth Class – Irish-medium and Gaeltacht Primary Schools)* and *Journalism (Under 18)*. We are very proud of their commitment to the Irish language.



Student Achievements

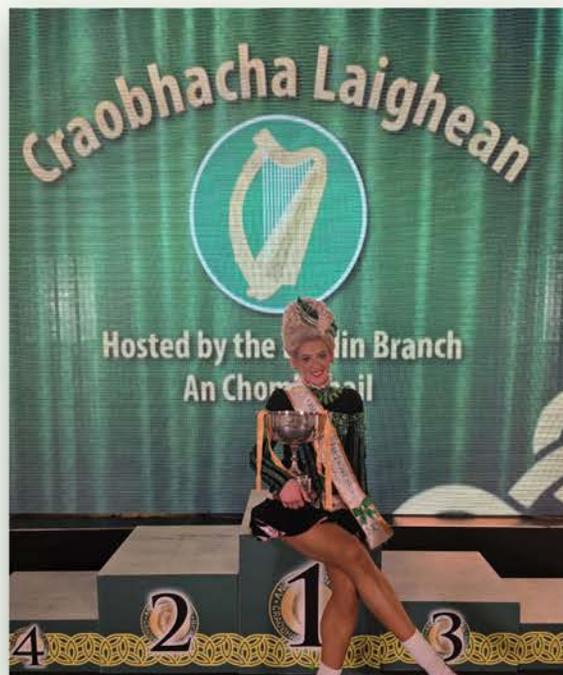
Camogie Success

Huge congratulations to Niamh Comerford, former Sports Captain of Coláiste Íosagáin, on winning the *Friends of Dublin Hurling and Camogie – Young Player of the Year* award. This honour is richly deserved. She is an outstanding player and an exemplary captain.



Irish Dancing

Huge congratulations to Niomi Ní Aodha (Sixth Year), who won her ninth consecutive Leinster championship at the end of November. We are immensely proud of her.



ÍOSAÁIN SPORT

Coláiste Íosagáin has had a very successful term in camogie, football, basketball and athletics since the beginning of the year.

The Senior camogie team reached the championship semi-final against Our Lady's Terenure. They were unsuccessful on the day, but there was much to be encouraged by in their courageous performance, and there is no doubt that this strong team will return again next year.

The Under 16 team also faced Our Lady's Terenure in the championship semi-final. The team showed real strength in the group stages, but once again Our Lady's proved too strong for us in the decisive match. The Under 16 group is a young team, and there is no doubt that they will be well prepared for the challenge next year.

Congratulations to every player who has put in such a great effort since the beginning of the year. We wish the Under 14 team every success as they begin their season in January.

In football, the Under 16 team recorded a dramatic victory in the Leinster quarter-final after extra time and a free-kick shoot-out, and advanced to the semi-final. Unfortunately, they were defeated in that match by Mercy College, Ballymahon. The Under 14 team is now training for the season ahead, with the Leinster Competition beginning in the New Year. Training takes place after school on Tuesdays.

Our athletes enjoyed a very successful day in Abbotstown at the beginning of December, competing in the Indoor Relay Competition, with many members of the team winning medals.

