

# Bish E-Zine Christmas



WELCOME TO OUR E-ZINE

Dear Friends of the Bish,

Thankfully Christmas is coming and the prospect of a well needed and well-earned break is on the horizon for all. This time last year we approached Christmas wondering how many of our families would catch Covid 19. Would they survive it? Would there be a successful vaccine? Would we return to school after Christmas? Many of us have lost loved ones during the past year and we remember them fondly at this time. We know the answer to a number of the questions above, yet there are other questions about Covid 19 that we don't know. What we do know is that we have an incredible number of resilient pupils and staff in the Bish. They have accepted all of the restrictions that have been imposed on them and yet have ensured that the Bish continues to operate in as safe a manner as possible.



John Madden - Principal.

There have been many highlights this term with the return of extracurricular activities being one of the major ones. There have been some wonderful performances on stage, on courts and on pitches, highlighted in this ezine, but the main gain is seeing the pupils heading off to practice and training in all of the various venues we use. Colin Sheridan writing in the Examiner on Feb 1st this year captured it best in when he wrote:

*"The River Corrib is empty. No college crews rowing to the din of a cranky cox. So too, the Swamp. No schoolboys from the Bish, walking the town in their boots and gear at lunchtime, down to kick a ball before returning to class, filthy but happy, a contentment only teens can feel."*

Congratulations to the team of pupils and teachers who were involved in ensuring that the Bish Bash was able to take place recently. It was a wonderful night for all involved and indeed the school. Being able to take to the stage and put the show on was a stunning achievement, given that Covid 19 had led to a number of cancellations around the country.

Restrictions in the number of tickets being available also caused an amount of upset to parents, however, on the night, all performers had at least one family member in the audience. Thanks to Derek Cahalan, Sarah Gleeson, Ciara and Sharon in the office for looking after the collection and redistribution of these tickets.

Seeing our 6th years, and indeed pupils from all years invest so much effort and energy and getting so much enjoyment from performing was uplifting and great for their, and our, wellbeing.

Well done and thanks to Derek Cahalan, Sarah Gleeson, Gráinne Cotter, Mike Quain, Stefanie Carr and Adrian Morrissey.

The contentment Colin Sheridan mentions has returned to the Bish and it is brilliant. It does cause a knock on of pupils and teachers missing classes but that is the trade-off that is worth having. It adds to the education of the whole person, not just the academic.

I want to pay tribute and thank all of the staff who volunteer to provide these activities for our pupils.

Since our last ezine we have watched the progress of the latest building project in the Bish with interest.

Our Technology and Home Economics rooms have come along nicely. We are waiting for an ESB connection in early January and then the rooms will be fully operational. The photos in the e-zine give a good outline of their progress.

Many thanks to all of the partners involved in the Bish school; pupils, teachers and parents. It is in their cooperation and working together that makes the Bish a great place. Thanks to all teachers, office staff: Sharon, Ciara and Rosaleen, our caretakers: Frank and Piotr, for looking after the school. Thanks especially to PJ Folan and Seamus Cahalan for their day to day 'firefighting' and ensuring the smooth and safe running of the school.

The words of Bishop Daniel Delany, Founder of the Patrician Brothers 1808 and our school motto: **'Love God, work hard and take care of one another'** have never been more evident in life in the Bish. The school is a busy place, everyone is working really hard and looking after each other and please God, we will emerge out of the dark tunnel of Covid 19 in the future.

Thanks for reading our ezine. The ezine along with our social media profile gives a great flavour of life in the Bish in 2021. Many thanks to all involved.

Wishing you all and your loved ones a Christmas break that is merry and bright! Nollaig shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh.

John Madden.



New Home Economics and Technology Classrooms being fitted out - December 2021



## SACRED SPACE



Our Sacred Space has now been completed. The Bish Sacred Space was created to provide our community with a place for quiet prayer and reflection. It was blessed by our school chaplain, Fr. Sean. The Sacred Space has transformed a forgotten dark alcove into a lovely outdoor reminder of our Christian faith.

## BISH MASS



Our Christmas Mass was held on the 17th December in the Augustinian Church with Fr. Seán. We paused at 10 o'clock to think about the season of Advent and the birth of Jesus. To all the staff and the students involved, we would like to say well done and thank you to everyone who participated in the mass or helped in making it such a special time for our school community.



## UNWRAPPING CHRIST FOR CHRISTMAS 2021?

*"Get the road ready for the Lord; make a straight path for him to travel! ... The whole human race will see God's salvation!" [Mark 1:2,4]*

Get ready. These words were the cry of John the Baptist during his mission to prepare the people of his day for the arrival of Christ. John the Baptist's challenge still holds true for us today.

Advent marks the beginning of the Christian liturgical calendar and the start of the Christmas season. 'Advent' in Latin, refers to "arrival". It is a time of anticipation, preparation and spiritual reflection on the birth of Jesus, the arrival on Earth and in our hearts, of the Messiah. However, in today's society, Advent is often reduced to a season of preparation *only* for the *feast* of Christmas. Finding the time and the discipline in one's day to stop, to be still and to reflect on the arrival of the Messiah in our life can often be a challenge.

However, the Lord can say a lot to us even *in two minutes*, if we choose to listen.

I would like to share with you the following practice from a community in the US who struggle each day with poverty. People keep their Bible on their pillow. This means that each night, before sleep, they must pick up their Bible. This encourages them to take *a moment* to read the word of the Lord and carry this with them into sleep. Before sleep they place their Bible on their shoes. When they arise and before putting on their shoes, they must again pick up their Bible. Again, they are encouraged to take a moment to read the word of the Lord to prepare them for their day. Clever practice.

Let us not forget amid the rushing and season's preparations to pause, to listen, and to unwrap Christ this Christmas.

A reading from the Gospel of Luke (2:8-12)

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

The word of the Lord.



## BT YOUNG SCIENTIST EXHIBITION

Congratulations to two of our second year students; Bertalan Jager and Andrew Finnerty (pictured here with their Science teacher Mr. Paul deHora) who were awarded certificates of merit for their projects in the BT Young Scientist Exhibition. Wonderful to see this in our school.

## DRAW A DAY - ART



Congratulations to our 1st Year November Drawing a Day challenge winners; Ron, Daniel and Jamie. Thanks also to Mr. Revill for choosing the winners.

# TY CHRISTMAS FAIR



Well done to all our TY students who put on a very successful TY fair on Friday 17th December. Coordinated by Mr. Loughnane, the fair was a great showcase of many of the mini companies that the students have been working hard on throughout the past few months. Plenty of baked goods were on sale as well as orders taken for Christmas wreaths and delicious smoothies as well, the lads did a really great job. Each group also made a donation to charity on the day and these proceeds, along with what we raised through our Christmas Jumper Day will go towards Galway Simon Community.



# CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY IN AID OF GALWAY SIMON COMMUNITY



The Bish are pleased to announce that we raised over €635 for Galway Simon Community. Well done and thank you to all our amazing students for taking part and donating so generously.

## BRAINS OF THE BISH QUIZ



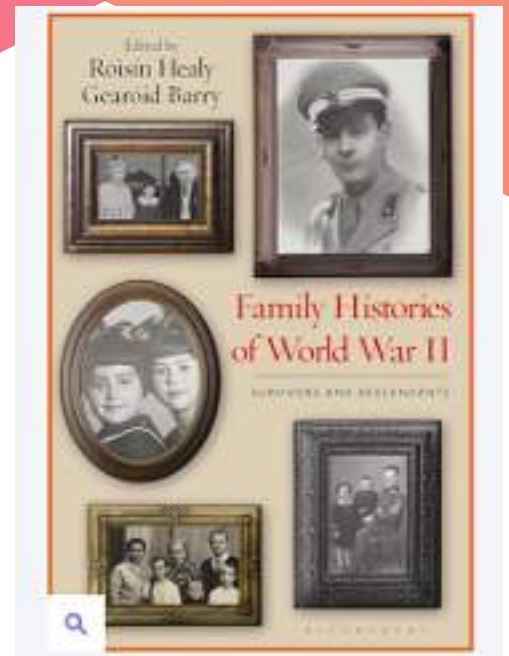


# PUBLICATION

Congratulations to our own Cormac Ó Liodeáin who recently wrote a chapter in the book 'Family Histories of World War II.'

Chapter 8 is entitled 'Recording the War in Connemara: A Guianese Sailor in the Eastern Mediterranean, Cormac Ó Loideáin (NUI Galway, Ireland).

Cormac spent the first lockdown researching and writing the chapter. The book is available from Bloomsbury Academy in Paperback, Hardback and eBook.



I samhradh na bliana 1998 bhuail m'athair bleid ar a uncail Manny del Santo, fear lách, géimiúil a thagadh, le fad mo chuimhne, ar saoire chuile bhliain againn as California i rith m'óige. Bhí Manny pósta le deirfiúr mo mhamó, Mary Bheag Mhichael Shéamais as an Rinn, an Cheathrú Rua. Ní mórán eolais i ndáiríre a bhí againn ar shaol Mhanny go dtí sin. Ní raibh Manny i bhfad ag déanamh cur síos ar a óige in Georgetown i nGuiana na Breataine áfach. Nuair a labhair sé ar a shaol i gCabhlach Ríoga na Breataine ag deireadh an Dara Cogadh Domhanda, thuig m'athair ag an am gur scéal é seo arbh fhiú é a insint. Tharraing sé amach an ceamara agus rinne sé taifead ar an agallamh.

Bhí an píosa scannánaíochta sin ligthe i ndearmad nó gur tionscnaíodh an leabhar, Family Histories of World War II: Survivors and Descendants in Ollscoil na hÉireann Gaillimh i bhFómhar 2019 ar foilsíodh é le gairid. I gcaibidil a 8, rianaím scéal Mhanny, mo shean-uncail agus an chaoi a raibhsé ar imeall chuid de mhóreachtraí an chogaidh agus lárnach sa tasc ollmhór, síocháin a thabhairt chun réime arís san Eoraip i ndiaidh an chogaidh.

*During the summer of 1998, my father decided to quiz his uncle Manny del Santo about his life. Manny, a kind and gentle man from California, used to visit us every year for as long as I can remember and was married to my grandmother's sister, Mary Bheag Mhichael Shéamais from An Rinn, An Cheathrú Rua. Up until that point we didn't really know a great deal about Manny. Before long, however, we learned of his upbringing in Georgetown in British Guyana and how he enlisted in the British Royal Navy in the last year of World War II. Sensing he was on to something big my father decided to record this impromptu interview on his camcorder.*

*This footage, however was forgotten until NUIG initiated a project on family lore connected to World War II in 2019. This project formed the collection of stories recently published in Family Histories of World War II: Survivors and Descendants. My grand uncle's story which I researched and wrote during the first lockdown in 2020, can be followed in chapter 8; Recording the war in Connemara: A Guianese sailor in the eastern Mediterranean.*

# SPORT IN THE BISH







Fantastic to see the return of sports in The Bish. We have missed them. Congratulations to Galway Utd U14's who won the National League. Jacob Carroll, Billy Regan, Tommy Lillis and Macdara Scanlon all played brilliantly. Basketball made a welcome return to the school with the u16 and the u19 teams winning their All Ireland Cup games against St. Brendan's Killarney. These were the first games to be played since March 2020!

Our Juvenile Football team are also pictured above as is our u17 soccer team. Our oarsmen are training hard and great success occurred in Limerick with James Murphy placing 2nd in the Mens j18 2000m, Adam MacDonnchadha 1st and Conail Cunningham 2nd in the j16 500m, James Murphy 2nd and Cathal Monaghan 3rd in the j18 500m and the j16 Team Relay coming 1st. Outstanding results there.

Final picture is of the 1st year soccer trials - great excitement being back on the pitch!





Congratulations to Victor Tashev (TY) who was selected on the Irish u16 Basketball Panel (top left photo).

Top right photo - The Bish hurlers who had a great first day out in Ballindereen beating Athenry on a scoreline of 2-14 to 1-4.

Bottom photo - Junior A Footballers who defeated Pres Athenry in the Shield final.





David Herson, 3rd Year student who is an active member of the Irish Amputee Soccer Club in Dublin. David is part of the junior squad and plays every second weekend.



Congratulations to 6th Year student Churchill Idemudia and teachers Alan Murphy and Alex Lee who won the FAIS Interprovincial Tournament with Connacht at the start of December.



Hard luck to our u14 Rugby players who lost by a point against CBS Roscommon. This was the first game the lads played together. It was a promising start for the team and we look forward to future games.



Bish Junior Rugby Team defeated Summerhill of Sligo in the Connacht 'A' Junior league semi final in Sligo RFC. 15-18 points. Despite two yellow cards and a penalty try they still prevailed with the tries coming from Nathan Tierney and Emmet Walsh in either half and two expertly converted penalties from Cillian McCullagh sealed the win. Summerhill bettered the Bish line at the end by the Bish were steadfast in their efforts to hold them out.

# SENIOR 'A' GALWAY LEAGUE FINAL

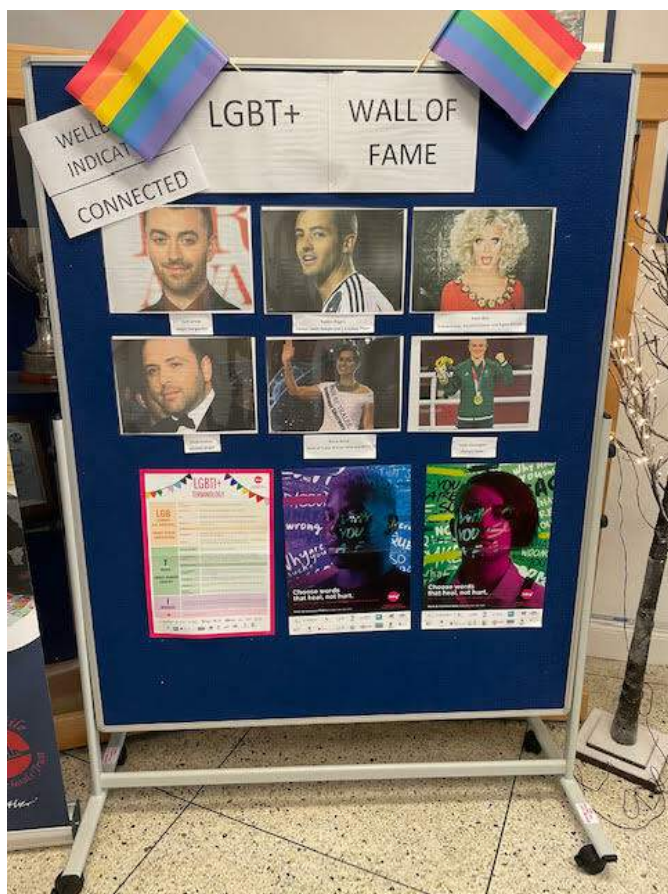


St. Joseph's Patrician College, The Bish, defeated St. Jarlath's College, Tuam by 3.12 to 2.14 in a pulsating Senior A Galway league final played in Began on the 23rd November. The Bish were well represented by St. James', St. Michaels, Moycullen, Barna, Salthill Knocknacarra and Killanin players. Jack Nolan, St. James', was the captain and he contributed 6 points to the victory ably assisted by the likes of Sean Dunne, Barna, with 2.1 and Jack Folan, St. James', with a goal. The Bish battled heroically from start to finish and thoroughly deserved their win.





# STAND UP AWARENESS WEEK 15TH TO 19TH NOVEMBER



We were delighted to have had our first Stand Up week in support of the LGBT+ community in the Bish. Displays were found in the main school, the Monastery and the Pres buildings. Teachers embedded resources from Belongto into their classes with lessons in Wellbeing, in particular, dedicated to LGBT+ support. The Art department committed to some fantastic work which was really creative and empowering. Thanks to all for their participation.

## PAINTBALLING WITH 5TH YEARS



Some of the French classes were lucky enough to go Paintballing recently with teachers Ms. O' Halloran and Mr. Cahalan. Great fun had by all. A few bruises, but great fun!



# BISH BASH 2021



Despite a very reduced capacity, Bish Bash 2021 was a roaring success. Comprising of 15 acts ranging from singing, dancing, magic and musical performance, the return of the show was a joyous occasion. In first place, we had the incredible singing talents of Keith Hanley followed in second place by Dillon Kitt and Cathal Joyce on the guitar and banjo. In third, we had our Bish Ballerinas who swapped rowing for tutus in a very cleverly choreographed dance routine. From the mentors to the acts themselves, the backstage crew to our judges and everyone who helped get this show off the ground - a sincere thank you. Special thanks goes to Derek Cahalan who directed the show. After 21 months of restrictions, lockdowns, mask wearing and general hardships, we all needed this! Well done everyone.









# BISH BASH PRESENTATIONS



## BISH BASH WINNER 2021

Congratulations again to our worthy winner Keith Hanley. Keith came second in 2017 and also performed in 2018 before coming 1st this year. We haven't heard the last of this star!





## PREFECT TRAINING



Our 5th Year Prefects took part in Leadership Training in An Tobar Nua. Photos are of team building exercises completed.

## DIAMOND HILL EXCURSION





# LEARNING IN ACTION



We are thrilled to be able to bring our TY and LC students to the Train Station Gym as part of their PE training. Students have engaged in rigorous training programmes over the past few months with their assistance. Other photos include Maths and Science classes in action. Great to see physical examples of learning around the school.



## TY WORKSHOP - REPTILE HAVEN



## WREATH MAKING





# STUDENT COUNCIL

We are delighted to introduced our newly elected student council. Students interested in the Council were asked to put themselves forward for nomination and their peers had the opportunity to vote for two reps per year group. Thanks and well done to Alastair Morton and Diarmuid Murphy representing 2nd Year, Samir Hassan and William Duggan representing 3rd Year, Killian Ward and Ross Bradley representing 5th Year and Sean Gannon and Caylem Casey representing 6th Year. The Council have already had their first meeting to discuss the underpinning charter from the ISSU as well as collaborating with prefects to discuss future planning for the school.



# STUDENT VOICE





# SOCIAL MEDIA

We are currently working on building our social media platforms to connect with current and past students more. Please follow our pages, like them and share them to keep up to date with latest news and events in The Bish. Thank you to all our contributors for this edition of the ezine.

We wish you all a very happy, peaceful and restful Christmas and New Year. Stay safe and see you all in 2022!

**Facebook** St. Joseph's Patrician College 'The Bish'

**Twitter** stjosephsbish

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