



**St Mary's
Parish
Haddington
Road**

**Serving
the
Community**

**Serving
the
Family**

**Serving
the
City**

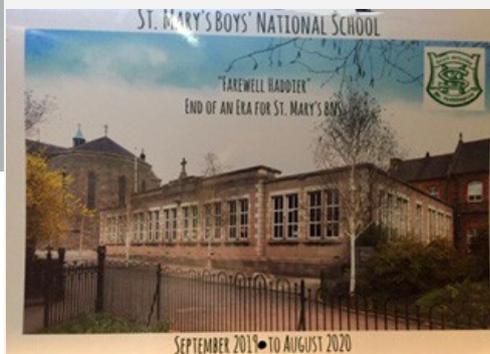
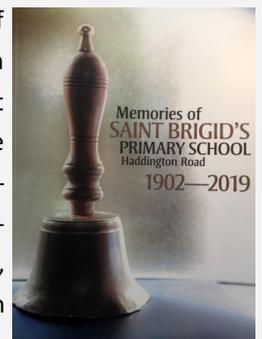


The End of an Era and New Beginnings

On Friday afternoon the yard of St Mary's went quiet and will remain relatively quiet with the closure of our two wonderful schools and their merger into the very lovely St. Christopher's Primary School, which opens its doors in August. It can certainly be said that this is the end of an era as the history of St Brigid's Primary School stretches back to the beginning of the last century, 1902, while St Mary's Boys School stretches back at least to 1934 and, it seems there was a school on the site even before that time.

In his homily at a special service to mark this very significant event in the life of our parish and our school community, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin evoked this past and the Dublin of the time; 'a poor city', as he described it, but also a city with strong values and a hope for a better future through the benefits of education. This was shared by the Holy Faith Sisters who founded the school and who were well represented at this event by Sr Clare O'Brien (1984-1991), Sr Mary Coleman (1991-1994), Sr Marie Louise Harding ((1994-2004), as well as members of the Holy Faith leadership team. Several former staff members of the school were also delighted to come back and meet old students..

This was an evening of memories, particularly memories of the thousands of girls and boys who have passed through these school walls, several of whom were delighted to be part of the evening and to meet their old teachers. St Brigid's produced a beautiful book of staff and student memories of the school, while St Mary's produced a commemorative calendar with a wonderful title, "Farewell Haddier", as both schools were locally known.



The move to St Christopher's has been a long and arduous process, and never more so than in the last few weeks. Packing up and moving a school involves all kinds of challenges. The challenge is practical as well as emotional. For the past several weeks the exemplary staff have been going through literally tons of accumulated materials, sorting out what has to be kept and moved from what sadly has to go, and all of this while coming to the end of the school year with all that this entails.

Inevitably a change like this deeply affects the people involved as they take decisions for their lives.

Ms Maeve Brew, Principal of St Mary's, has the distinction of having spent the whole of her career at the school. She came to 'Haddiers' fresh out of St Patrick's Training College 40 years ago, in 1979, and has been principal since 2008. Maeve, no doubt, built upon the work of her predecessors but she also made a unique personal contribution. She leads a team that is very much a team and St Mary's is a happy school, where all the boys (and more recently girls) find their place and are actively encouraged to fulfil their potential. That is perhaps one of the highest achievements in real education, life education. She leaves with our gratitude, our affection and our best wishes.



Ms Gerardene Harty shares with Maeve the distinction of having spent her whole career, 38 years, in one school, having come to the school in 1981. And how lucky St Brigid's was. For the past three years, Ger has been Vice-Principal, a role she carried out with real distinction. She played a large part in the editing and publication of the Memories book. A teachers' teacher and a students' teacher, she quietly talked the talk and she definitely walked the walk. We wish her every blessing into the future.



Ms Annemarie Hogan, came to St Brigid's Primary School as principal 2004, when the Holy Faith Sisters left the school. She has now been appointed to lead the new St Christopher's Primary School of over 600 students, which will open its doors as the 'new Haddiers' in late August. Along with Maeve, Annemarie has been the driving force behind the St Christopher's Project going back to at least 2014. As people will be aware this project has had its 'ups and down' over the years and it has made enormous demands on the character and resolve of the both the principals and the staff in both schools. The low point was certainly when the project came to a complete halt nearly two years ago and new contractors had to be found. This did not, however, halt the process of change and development. The truth of other matter is that the merger of the two schools has already taken place before they move into their new building. It has been a seamless process made possible by the grace, the administrative and the human skills of more than thirty people under inspired leadership. It is a great achievement.



Margaret Irwin came to St Mary's in 1997. She is the perfect of a 'hands-on' teacher. She moves easily between the classroom, her garden shed in the yard and the staff room, where she has taught classes of boy how to bake cakes. For the past three years Margaret has been the Vice-Principal of the school and will now assure that same role in St Christopher's.

This is a time for a 'hands-on' person who gets stuck into the great challenges that this transition will bring on several levels both amongst the students but also amongst the staff as two teams from different schools are challenged to become one new team in this exciting new venture. Margaret will play a central role in that process.

This is been a very exciting week in both schools. There is a genuine sense of sadness to be leaving these happy places. At the same time, however, there is a great sense of excitement at the challenges that are opening up for everybody concerned, students, parents and teachers.

St Mary's Parish is rightly proud of our schools with which we have such a positive pastoral relationship. The new school like the old ones will be proudly Catholic in the broadest and most open sense of that word. It faces into the future with a proud and distinguished history but also with great hope and the desire to be an important part of tomorrow. We wish them the best in the new adventure.

In Memoriam

9.30am: Ray Ward (Anniversary)

11am: Dr Walter Halley (1st Anniversary)

5pm... Maureen Hanephy (Anniversary)

Masses on 6th/7th July 2019

6pm: Peter Mc Cormack (Jnr) (2nd Anniversary)

Masses and Confession

Sundays: Vigil, 6pm (Saturday), 9.30am, 11am, 5pm

Croatian Community Mass 6.30pm

Daily masses 10am and 12.40pm, Saturday 10am only

-**Rosary** daily after 10am mass

Adoration Blessed Sacrament, Weds 10.30-12.40

Last Week's Collections

1st Collection: €1,070

Share Collection: €600

Weekday collections: €520.

THANK YOU