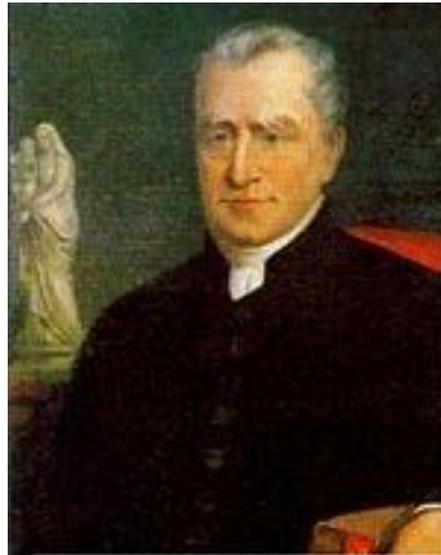


Blessed Edmund Rice Award 2015



St. Clare's Abbey Primary School, Newry.

September 2014 St Colman's Abbey Primary School (An Edmund Rice School) amalgamated with St Clare's Convent Primary School.

We are now called St. Clare's Abbey
Primary School.



Celebrating Our Founders!

- This was a huge change and a challenge for all the boys and girls involved.
- We needed to know from the outset who were the founders of each of our wonderful schools.
- To help us arrive at this everyone in the school embarked on a project focusing on the founders of both schools.



Developing a shared ethos.

- The boys gained a great insight into the lives of St Francis and St Clare.



- The girls became aware of Blessed Edmund Rice's life and the positive vision he brought in creating an educational system for the poor and marginalised which touched many lives and helped shape our country.





- One of our founders Saint Francis used to say, ‘It is in the giving that we receive.’
- Whilst this might be hard to believe, it is when you do it that you feel the wonder, warmth and the magic of it and you know it to be true.
- This is what it was for us, the boys and girls of St. Clare’s Abbey Primary School.



St. Clare's Abbey Primary School – a helping school.

- Helping others is at the very heart of all that we do in school.
- We operate systems in school where we ensure no one feels left out and everyone has a friend- a buddy system, a prefect system, school leaders and monitors. Everyone is there to help each other.



Following in the footsteps of our Founders.



- We wanted to put into practice the example that our founders set for us so we all embarked on a number of projects to help others less fortunate than ourselves, this mainly included the poor, the elderly and those less fortunate.





Helping the Poor.



- Coming up to Christmas 2014 we enlisted the help of the whole school to make up Food Hampers for those less well off in our community.
- This year we were able to make forty five hampers. The Saint Vincent De Paul organisation helped with identifying those most in need of our parcels and in the delivering of them.
- The feedback we got from this was one of a genuine gratitude for our generosity.
- We're sure Edmund Rice himself would have been proud of our work for the poor and needy.

Carol Singing

- To raise money for Barnardo's and St. Vincent de Paul in the approach to Christmas, our school choir sang their hearts out in our local shopping centre.



Parish festivities.

- The choir also sang at our local parish centre to bring Christmas cheer to our local community (and to do a little fundraising too).





Helping the elderly.



- Another one of our projects involved the P.7 boys and girls helping the elderly and making their world a better place.
- All boys and girls have special talents so we all were chosen to visit the Orchard Centre; a Day Care Centre for the Elderly.
- We sang, played music and entertained the senior citizens. The boys and girls all remarked on the joy they could see on the faces of the elderly people.





A school for all 😊

- We are a very lucky school because we have an Educational Centre for Disabled Children attached to our school.
- Every lunch time we all take turns to visit the ECPD and play with the boys and girls.
- Playing with these boys and girls made us think and reflect upon and indeed appreciate all the things we take for granted. We realised just how lucky we all actually are.

Charity Work.

- Working alongside our school council we took part in a non-uniform day to raise much needed funds for 'Friends of Africa', our local hospice and a variety of other charities (based on the £40,000 for 40 charities fund).

We raised £300 – we added this to the weekly donation for the Missions.



- This gave us an immense sense of satisfaction. We wanted to do more for people less fortunate than ourselves.

Fundraising for the needy.

- We also decided to raise money for Trocaire during Lent.
- A Fun Day was organised involving the whole school.
- £1000 was raised.

Trocaire

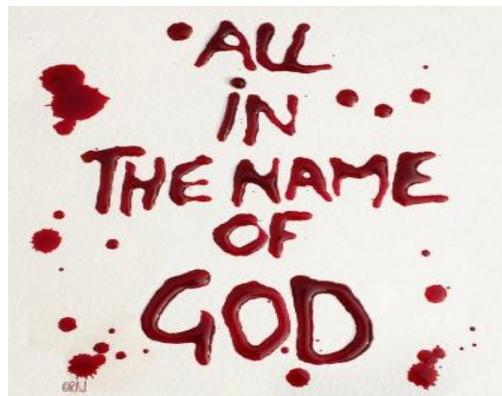




St. Mary's Restoration Fund.

- Our parish is close to our heart and we have done lots of fundraising this year to help with the restoration of our local church-this involved bun sales, non uniform days, dress up days, Halloween performances and Christmas plays.





- Over the past year we have reflected upon the real meaning of the word 'Respect.' We learned to listen and to appreciate the many things that we have.



- We loved participating in the many activities that we took part in, visiting the Orchard Centre, in the ECPD and in helping different people from around the world.



- As members of the Edmund Rice Family we have been privileged to give our time and talents to helping the disadvantaged. We are constantly bringing to these people something of Edmund's vision of the dignity of each person.



- We have been inspired by Edmund's response to the call of Christ, a generosity of giving that is needed as much now as it was in his time.

