

Ember Newsletter

Sharing the Good News of our Faith Leaders

2nd Edition - December 2020

A Light of Hope in Challenging Times

We are delighted to share with you the second edition of our Ember Newsletter! Thank you especially to Kris Gueret and Meghan de Barra who has done huge work and dedicated many hours to putting this newsletter together. Thank you too, to all the schools and teachers who contributed to this edition. We hope you enjoy it!

Dear Ember Teams and Teachers,

We are living through a pandemic. Our schools are quite different places to be than when we left them back in March. The way in which we gather today and interact with one another has changed so much. This is a time when we must keep our physical distance, wear face masks, and adhere to a range of measures to keep everyone safe.

Yet despite these challenges, you our Ember leaders, stepped out of your comfort zones and stepped up to offer your gifts and talents in the service of your school communities. You did not shy away from the challenge of the Gospel to **'be the light that shines in the darkness'** (John 1:5) but rather you embraced it! So, on behalf of the Dublin Archdiocese and Core Ember Team, I thank you sincerely for all you have offered and will continue to offer in service of others.

Since you engaged in training, I have been blown away by your commitment and service to Ember. You have shown creativity in the events you have offered to your schools. We get just a glimpse of these events in this newsletter.

I am reminded of the Ember prayer from St. Paul, **"God did not make you timid...He gave you a Spirit of power...He gave you a Spirit of Love...of self-discipline"** and you, our Ember leaders 2020/21 have made these words a realisation and become an embodiment of this Christian message! I look forward to seeing the fruits of the Spirit in your continued ministry. I wish you every blessing in your role as Ember Leaders.

May the joy of Christmas burn bright for you, your families, and school communities this Christmas season. Remember that while there may be **"darkness in human hearts, the light of Christ is greater still"**. (Pope Francis)

Lily Barry, Post-Primary Diocesan Advisor, Archdiocese of Dublin



An Advent Message

The season of Advent is here. Preparations are underway for our Ember Teams to help with their school's carol service, fundraising campaigns for charities, prayerful reflections and more. It might seem like there is less waiting and more rushing to celebrate Christmas this year. Trees are perched in living rooms and festive lights flicker around doorways and window frames of homes earlier than before. People are getting into the festive spirit for extra joy and excitement in what has been a difficult year. With this in mind, we would like to remind our Ember leaders and their contact teachers & chaplains of the following message this advent:

To those who deck the halls. And those who pace the halls. To those visiting family. And those missing family. To those looking at the lights. And those looking for the light. Remember that He was born for you."

Did you know that we are now on Facebook?

This will be a space for Ember Teams across the Dublin Archdiocese to share the highlights of their work as Faith Leaders and student mentors in their schools. Check us out: Dublin Archdiocese Ember Programme Facebook Page for updates and more.

Link to page: <https://www.facebook.com/kris.ember.5>





The start of a new journey... Welcome Ember Teams 2020/1.



Our training in Ovoca is traditionally the beginning of our Ember journey. However, due to Covid-19, this was not possible, so we adapted our training programme to meet the needs and challenges faced by Ember Leaders this year. The training of new teams took place in schools this year, with students linking up virtually with the Dublin Archdiocese to complete their training programme. Diocesan Advisors and Ember Programme Coordinator, Lily Barry and Sr. Bernadette Carron provided support to schools in the training of their new Ember Teams. During training, students learned how to be active listeners so they can be better able to connect with others and help build positive relationships among our peers in school. They participated in a series of challenges that helped to develop their decision making, team building and problem-solving skills. They learned that no Ember member can go it alone, that we are at our absolute best when we work together and support one another. *"Individually we are one drop, but together we are an Ocean".*



Dominican College Wicklow

Congratulations to the first official Ember Team of 2020 - Dominican College Wicklow. Monsignor Dan O' Connor presided over the team's Commissioning Ceremony. We wish them and their teacher, Rachel Flood, every blessing for the year ahead.

Loreto Foxrock-Ember Ignite

We are delighted to announce that Loreto Foxrock are our first official **Ember Ignite** Team! They completed their team training guided by teacher, Leonora O'Shea. They were commissioned as Faith Leaders by Sr. Kathleen of the Loreto Trust. Congratulations Ladies!



Pobalscoil Neasáin

The Pobalscoil Neasáin Ember Team had a wonderful day of Faith Leadership training with Lily Barry and teacher, Celine Donohoe. God has put the desire in the hearts of these young people to impact the lives of the people around them.



Catholic University Team

Congratulations to the Catholic University Team on a successful Ember training day. The boys did a fantastic job under the guidance of their two teachers, Kate Gaskin and Deirdre Maloney.

Loreto Balbriggan-Ember Ignite

The Loreto Balbriggan Ember Team completed training for their Faith Leadership roles and were joined by Sr. Kathleen from the Loreto Trust for their 'virtual graduation'. They are guided by teacher Mairéad McNally. We wish them every blessing and success in their outreach to staff and students in their school community this year.



Rosmini Community School

A group of 5th year students in Rosmini Community School completed training on Friday October 9th for their Ember Leadership roles. They are guided by their teacher, Kris Gueret. They were joined virtually by Sr. Bernadette Carron, for their Commissioning Service.



Loreto Crumlin-Ember Ignite

Congratulations to the Loreto Crumlin Ember Team on the completion of training for their Faith Leadership roles. They were Commissioned in a lovely ceremony by Sr. Kathleen from the Loreto Trust. We wish these ladies and their teacher, Liam O'Reilly, every blessing, and success in their outreach to the staff, students, and local community of their school this year.





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Loreto Dalkey-Ember Ignite



Congratulations to the students in Loreto Dalkey for completing their Ember Faith Leadership training. This is the first year for the school to join Ember and we are delighted to welcome them onboard! Wishing them and their teacher, Maire Powell, every blessing in all the work they do this year.

St Michael's College

A big shout out to St Michael's College Ember Team who have completed training and are ready to serve as Faith Leaders in their school community. They will be guided in their ministry by teacher's Katie Doherty and Bronagh Monaghan. We look forward to following their journey in the coming year!



St Marys Glasnevin

Pope Francis said, 'You too, dear young people, can be joyful witnesses of his love, courageous witnesses of his gospel, carrying to this world a ray of light.' We have every confidence that the Ember Team from St. Marys Glasnevin, guided by teacher Ciarán Coll, will be inspiring Faith Leaders to their peers in the year ahead. We wish them well in their new roles.

St. Paul's College

St. Paul's College Raheny joined Ember for their second year under the guidance of their new chaplain, Sr. Éibhlís. We look forward to the valuable contributions they will make to their School Community.



Welcome also to St. Vincent's Castleknock, St. Tiernan's, St. Kevin's and St. Colmcille's who all successfully trained as Ember leaders for their School Communities 2020/21! Congratulations to all 15 Ember Teams.

#MAD – Make a Difference Sunday

Ember Teams were encouraged to take part in **Make a Difference Sunday** on the 25th October 2020. We encouraged all our Faith Leaders to do something lovely and kind to make someone's day. We hope that our Teams random acts of kindness brought joy to many people. A special thanks to Frank Brown from the Combined Parishes of Clondalkin for the opportunity to do this.



Ember Ignite

Kathleen Fitzpatrick IBVM/Faith Development Co-ordinator

We were delighted to begin Ember Ignite in Loreto schools this year. Thanks to the generosity of principals, teachers and students, training days for the Ember Ignite groups were arranged in each school over Zoom in October. Since then, the Ember Teams have contributed much to the life of the school, helping first years settle into their new environment, informing the school community about the Ember Team, organising and developing the school prayer space, designing the religion notice board, preparing and taking part in Remembrance services in November and most recently, organising celebrations for Advent, Christmas Hampers and preparations for Carol Services. It has been a delight to meet the teachers and students involved in the programme and inspiring to see all sharing their talents, vision, and creativity for the good of their school communities. They are certainly living out the values expressed in the Commissioning Ceremony we had in October:

"You are part of a Loreto tradition whose founder Mary Ward used her gifts and talents generously and creatively wherever she saw that they were needed. Today we ask God to bless abundantly, these young women, as they begin their year of ministry as Ember Leaders."

Special Thanks to Lily Barry, Diocesan Advisor who oversees and supports the Ember Programme in Dublin Diocese and is always a joy to work with.

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In November, We Remember

There is a traditional saying that in **'November We Remember'** which means that at this time of year, when the shadows lengthen, the days grow short, the cold wind starts to blow, and the leaves begin to fall from the trees, we think of those people who we have lost, those friends and family that have passed from this world and gone to heaven to be with God in peace. Although we can no longer see them, touch their hand, smell their hair, or hear their voice, they live on in our memory and in our hearts.

Many of our Ember Teams were busy helping to organise November Remembrance Services for the staff and students in their schools.

Take a moment now to think of the people you love who have passed on. Remember them with love and fondness – how they made you feel when they were alive, what you especially miss about them. Is it their lovely smile, or their kindness? Can you remember something special they did for you? Or even something special you did for them?

St Kevin's Community College

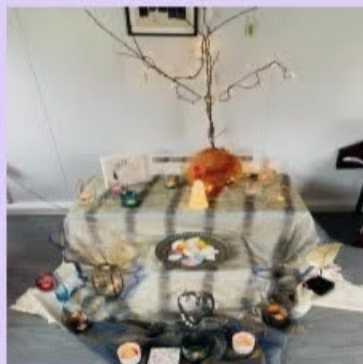
Clondalkin Ember Group share with us an update on the wonderful work that they are doing so far this year...

Since our training in October, we have met every week and planned activities for the school, especially the junior years. We used the skills from our training to put together a Remembrance tree for the month of November. We went to every class in the school introducing ourselves as Embers and talked about the task of putting together a remembrance tree in the main hallway. We handed out paper leaves and the students wrote the names of loved ones they have lost on them. Once we had done this with every year group, we placed them all on the tree on the hallway. The whole experience was a great way to introduce ourselves to the school and in helping people in the school remember the people they have lost.



Rosmini Community School

In a Service of Remembrance this afternoon, students and staff in Rosmini Community School gathered to pray for their loved ones who have passed on. We carry treasured memories of those who have died in our hearts. A special thanks to the Ember Team for all their work in organising at this prayerful moment for their school community.



Loreto Abbey Dalkey

'Since joining our school Ember team we have been able to do so much thanks to the amazing support and guidance that we have been given from both our teacher and the Ember Faith Leadership Programme. So far, we have focused on the first years adapting to their new environment and encouraging them to make friends and expand their social groups. Moreover, we have contributed to organising and developing the prayer space by the student entrance to our school. Similarly, we redecorated the religion notice board, we did this so that we could show students in the school who we are and what we stand for.

The most recent project that we are working on is **'In November, We Remember'**, a time when we as a school community remember those who have gone before us. This is something our school marks every year. Usually there would be a Book of Remembrance outside the office where students and staff could right down the names of the people they would like to remember. However due to Covid-19 we could no longer do this. We asked the staff and students to email us the names of the people they would like to remember so that we could write their names in the Book of Remembrance for them. The Book of Remembrance will then be used in our In November, We Remember prayer service which will take place online next week.

We have really enjoyed working on these various projects and it is so nice to see how much these acts have helped other members of our school community. We look forward to many more experiences like these.'

Lily Dunne-Fleming and Amelia Kelly



Loreto College Crumlin

November is a time for remembering loved ones that have gone before us. This has always been an important part of our school's yearly traditions. We organised a remembrance service, that would allow for a socially distanced gathering for students in our school. The students attended class group by class group, meaning, we held this service of reflection and prayer over eighteen separate times. This required us to delegate our team members with many different tasks.

The first role for some Ember members was to sanitise the room as class groups arrived, cleaning down chairs and resetting the room for the ceremony to begin afresh every time. Some of us acted as guides going from class to class. We would collect the groups and bring them to the service. "I was one of the two guides. I was to collect the class groups and welcome them to the ceremony. This job really showcased my organisation and time management abilities. It was a pleasure to take on this role."

As they were welcomed, we asked participants to take a candle and remember someone in prayer. Once inside we had other members guide the participants into creating the shape of a heart with the candles to help focus them in prayer. "My job was to help the students place their candle in the right spot. We as the Ember team had an idea to form the shape of a heart with the candles the students brought in, and I felt happy to see all our ideas and thoughts come to life. This ceremony was really good for the students because it gave them the chance to reflect and focus on a loved one that had died and the beautiful memories they left behind."

We selected the background music that was playing as students entered the space for the ceremony. This was to create a prayerful and calm atmosphere as people were getting settled. Once our participants were all settled, we had selected members to lead them in prayers and reflections. This allowed students quiet time in our busy school year to stop and remember people they have loved. "My job was to read the introduction to the service. I felt great meaning in this, as I hoped to set the tone for the service. The service was serene, and all the students were comfortable. I hope to do more services like these to remind students that school is not just a place of academic growth, and we support them in their beliefs and religious growth as well."

We are all so grateful for the success of our "November We Remember" celebration.



St. Mary's Holy Faith Glasnevin

St. Mary's Holy Faith Glasnevin Ember Team have been busy organising Remembrance Services for the staff and students at their school. They share with us, an update on their work. Our Ember Team here in St. Mary's Holy Faith Glasnevin organised and led our Annual Remembrance Services which took place in our prayer room on the week of the 9th of November. It is always a special time in our school year when we take time to remember our loved ones who have died. Due to Covid-19 restrictions and social distancing rules in the prayer room, we decided to hold three services over three lunch times, this way we could accommodate Staff, Juniors and Senior students on separate days. We led the prayers and reflections and others on the team helped by welcoming people at the door and seating the students according to their year group. At the services students and staff were invited to write the names of their loved ones on a leaf and add it to our remembrance tree. The tree remained in the prayer room for the rest of November.



St. Vincent's College Castleknock

In November, we took on the task of completing a Remembrance activity with 1st years. We visited our classes again and explained what the month of Remembrance is. We took a minute to share who we would be dedicating this time of remembrance to. Together we then decorated a "In November We Remember" leaf. This leaf was then displayed in our sacred space in the College Chapel. This activity really allowed us to connect with our classes. We were able to share with them our personal memories and this, in turn, allowed the 1st years to feel comfortable enough to do the same.

We look forward to starting some festive activities with our 1st years next month.

Loreto Balbriggan

On the 17th November, our Loreto Balbriggan Ember team took part in a Remembrance Service to acknowledge the remembrance of loved ones who have passed on.

Every year we hold a Remembrance Evening, but this year we adapted to the current situation as we felt it was especially important to support members of the school community who have lost loved ones.

The theme of our remembrance service this year was "A Light in The Darkness" and we portrayed this theme through music, prayer, and poetry. We worked with the music and departments, as well as staff to organise the day. A videographer filmed and produced the service for us, and we were able to upload the video to the website so that extended members of the school community such as parent guardians and the Loreto Order could easily access it. The video was played for students in their religion class as well.

*'Light cannot see inside things.
That is what the dark is for:
Minding the interior,
Nurturing the draw of growth
Through places where death
In its own way turns into life'
(John O'Donohue)*

From Faith leader to Ember teacher!

My Ember Journey – A reflection from Ms Kate Gaskin, Catholic University School.

During my time in Loreto Foxrock school, I was always interested in Religious Education. I enjoyed Religious Education classes. The option of being a religious prefect in the school came up when I was in fifth year. My teacher Ms Browne encouraged me to go for it. Throughout the year I worked with the Religion department in the school. I wanted to continue this in sixth year so when the opportunity of becoming a member of the Ember team came up, I applied.

Four students were selected to be Ember members. On a sunny Monday in June, the four of us packed our bags and headed to Ovoca Manor with our teacher Ms Campbell. We loved participating in the different activities and getting to know different people from different areas and different schools. We learned a lot different skills during this training such as communication skills, listening skills and leadership skills. All the skills we learned during our training have stood to us all as we transitioned through college. One of the schools on the training with us was Catholic University School. We quickly became friends with the boys from the CUS Ember team and we have been friends now for many years. My Ember training really allowed me to explore my own faith. One aspect of the training that I have always remembered is when we discussed where we can see God in nature. This was a concept I had never been aware of previously. I was fascinated and therefore began to see God in my day to day life. During my time as an Ember leader, I felt that I became much surer of myself as a faithful person. Knowing I loved Religious Education and working with people I decided to study Religious education with English in DCU. Throughout college I was encouraged to learn more about both my own faith and more about different religions. Although my faith was challenged at times in college, I always look back on my Ember training and remember the lessons I learnt.

When I joined the Catholic University School on Lesson street, Dublin 2 in September 2020 I was delighted to see the Ember programme was still being run by Ms Maloney who I had met during my own training in Ovoca manor. Ms Maloney kindly took me under her wing and allowed me to get heavily involved with the Ember team in CUS. From being a leader myself I can really see how far the Ember programme has come. Although we were unable to go to Ovoca manor this year it is great to see how the Ember programme has adapted to the challenging times, we are living in. Mr Martin, our new principal is dedicated to promoting the school's ethos. Mr Martin recognises the important role the Ember team plays in the school and works alongside Ms Maloney and I to ensure the schools ethos is being recognised and students are exploring and recognising their faith.

Ms Maloney and I are leading a team of fifteen enthusiastic, kind, and motivated students. As a teacher watching these young men grow and become active Faith Leaders in CUS has already been extremely rewarding. We have already been involved in and ran numerous different projects, prayer services and events within the school. For example, a new beginnings prayer service for Mr Martin and the month of remembrance. As the year continues, I look forward to continuing my journey as a Faith Leader, aiding Ms Maloney with the Leadership team and working with the fantastic CUS students.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the Ember Faith Leadership programme for helping me explore my own faith and grow as a person. I also would like to thank them for encouraging and motivating me to become a Religious Education teacher. I would not be where I am today without the Ember programme.

A Warm Welcome from CUS

My name is Elliot Manks, a fifth-year student who is a proud member of the Ember team. Already the Ember team from Catholic University School, Leeson Street have been involved with several different projects and events in the school. In this short piece I will mention three of the events we as an Ember team have been involved in and ran.

Firstly, our principal Mr Byrne retired the Friday before the mid-term break. As a school community we wanted to mark this occasion and recognise all the hard work Mr Byrne has done for CUS. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, we were not able to have a whole school gathering to wish Mr Byrne a happy retirement. Therefore, a small number of students were selected to do a guard of honour for Mr Byrne. We as an Ember team were delighted to be asked to be part of Mr Byrne's special day. Ms Mc Namara and Ms Rowland put together a fantastic video for Mr Byrne. She asked us to make small clips talking about the ethos of CUS. We all really enjoyed making this video and being involved.

On the first week back after midterm, on the Tuesday, we gathered in the school Oratory for our prayer service. Mr Martin, Fr O Gara, Ms Roberts Byrne, Mr Tonge and a small number of staff members including our leaders Ms Maloney and Ms Gaskin attended the prayer service. During the service, we prayed for Mr Martin in his new role, we prayed for staff, students, and parents. One part of the prayer service the stood out to me was the wishing tree exercise. Everyone put a small wish in an envelope and hung it on the wishing tree. This was a lovely way to welcome Mr Martin as our new principal and it was also a lovely challenge for us as this was the first prayer service we had planned.

Also, in the first week back after a small breather for Halloween the Ember team was entrusted with becoming the first-year mentors. Mentors assist the new students integrate into CUS, while lending a hand in their attempt to grasp the Schools ethos. Which is what the Ember team is dedicated to advocating. On the Friday, we allocated each class group four to five Ember mentors each. Methodically and organised, we brought each class in separately making sure that all COVID-19 restriction and precautions were followed. Once settled we got to know the students. Discussing our experience in 1st year and comparing it to theirs, giving advice on homework, public transport, and other relevant topics were discussed. I talked with many of the boys about rugby and the fabulous culture surrounding it in our school. Ten to fifteen minutes later we escorted the lads back to their classes, while the next mentors deep cleaned the room and prepared for the next mentees. Thank you to the first year, year head for intrusting us with this task.

I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know my class, participating in Mr Byrne's retirement celebration, and preparing the prayer service for Mr Martin. I am ecstatic for our next Ember meeting to hear what else we will be doing this year in CUS. The rest of the members agree with me there. Many thanks to Ms. Gaskin and Ms. Maloney for permitting and assisting our team or this endeavour could not have happened.



Supporting Friendships in Dominican College Wicklow

The Ember Team in Dominican College Wicklow have been helping 1st year students to settle into their new school, offering peer support, encouragement, and friendship. Fantastic work. Here is an update on their journey as a team so far this year.

In Dominican College Wicklow, we wanted to show our appreciation for our friends during this difficult time and help the first years to make new friends within their year group.

We organised Friendship Week activities that reminded us that even during these hard times, we all have friends around us to help and support us. We helped introduce the first years to new friends by dividing them into groups based on similar interests. They then made friendships bracelets as a group to help them bond.

During the week we also shared friendship quotes over the intercom to remind our school of the importance of good friends. We feel the first years really enjoyed this event and we were happy to share it with them. It brought our school community together, even when we must stay apart.



Bonding with 1st Years in St. Vincent's Castleknock College

The Ember Programme had a positive start here in St. Vincent's Castleknock College. Once we completed our training, we divided our group, and two members visited each 1st year class. By dividing our group, we could follow Covid-19 rules.

We checked in with our 1st year class and answers questions that they had regarding Ember or just school life in general. This created a level of fun and positivity within the class as it gave the 1st years an opportunity to have a laugh and get to know all about the Ember Team.

Sending Letters to the Residents of Nazareth House Nursing Home in Rosmini

The students of Rosmini Community School have such a special friendship with Nazareth House Nursing Home. Their Ember Team invited 1st year students today to write letters to the residents there to let them know that they are thinking of them. They are looking forward to organising a prayer service, music concert and storytelling events for the residents very soon. It is so lovely to see this group of Faith leaders encourage their younger peers to reach out in an act of Christian compassion to those whose lives have been really impacted by the pandemic. Although the students of Rosmini and the residents of Nazareth house are physically apart, their friendship remains strong.



A Message from Ember Core Committee Member – Mr. Chris Gueret

One day I was telling my Ember Team a story that I had heard of an older lady in her 80's who had no visitors to her home since March of this year. That is nearly eight long months without face to face company in the home place. What a reminder of how incredibly difficult and isolating this pandemic has been, especially for the most vulnerable members of our communities. This started a conversation about what my Ember Team could do to reach out to elderly people living alone. As the team started to brainstorm ideas, I reminded them of an important message that they can share with any person struggling right now...

If you are going through hard times, please remember that God our Heavenly Father is always there. He will help you through your troubles. He will lift you up ❤️🙏🏻🙏🏻



A Moment to Pause for Reflection

*He might use your words to heal a heart that has been bruised
He might use your hands to rescue
He might use your whisper, maybe your smile
To tell somebody that they're worthwhile
You might be the one He speaks through
The one He speaks through*



(Mandisa)



Social Justice Book Club in Rosmini – Exploring Environmentalism

The Rosmini Ember Team are exploring the theme of social justice and environmentalism through their participation in the Young Saint Vincent de Paul Social Justice Book Club. Chair of the team, Sarah, engaged in a virtual discussion of the book 'The Territory' by Sarah Govett with other students across the country. This is a great opportunity for the Rosmini Ember Faith Leaders to increase their knowledge and understanding of social issues that are negatively impacting people in the world today. The team are planning a social action project in support of the work of Saint Vincent de Paul and all that they do for those who are in poverty and are marginalised.



Social Media Outreach from St. Paul's College Ember Team

We have recently set up a YouTube channel and Instagram page in the hope of communicating with the students in our school.

We have recently posted a new introduction video and a Christmas playlist. We plan on continuing this throughout the year. We have also posted on our Ember Team Instagram account to communicate and inform our students of our work.

We have plans to continue uploading and would appreciate any support. We also have plans for fundraisers in the future and are preparing for the upcoming season of Christmas and Advent.

YouTube Channel:

Ember St Paul's College

Instagram Account:

ember_stpaulscollege

The Ember Prayer

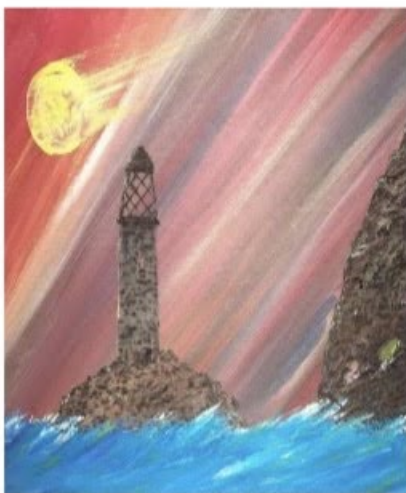
Help me to fan into flame the Gift of God
That is within me,
Because God did not make me timid;
He gave me a Spirit of Power,
He gave me a Spirit of Love,
And He gave me a Spirit of Self-Discipline.
We ask God's blessing on us, both as leaders
and as servants to all those in need.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

An adaption of 2 Timothy 1:6

Having the Courage to Lead – A Message to our Ember Leaders from Frank Brown (Combined Parishes of Clondalkin)

It seems to be the way of each generation to be on a downer about the 'Youth of today'. Whether it is the press during this pandemic making much of gatherings and house parties or the church bemoaning the perception that young people walking away from the church. Young people have gotten bad press when I was a kid and that seems to be the way of it. But most unfairly so. A quote I have often heard is, "The Youth are our future!". This does our young people such a dis-service. Their worth is not tied up in the future they *may* bring but they are an integral and vital part of our community, our Church NOW. Their worth is not in their future possibilities but in their present story and my experience is that this is so bright. I have been blown away by the inspirational young people who have stood up, had courage, and taken the lead to be witnesses to love, kindness and compassion. It was a humbling privilege to meet the young people from St Kevin's who did the training for the Ember program and be energised by their enthusiasm. To watch them, and so many of their peers be willing, like the lighthouse, to stand in the midst of any storm and let their light shine for others as a guide, comfort, and a beacon of hope. We need to learn from them. So, to the young people I would ask you to keep your light shining – do not be discouraged about the difference you make no matter how much the storm rages. And, most of all, teach us to be Church, teach us to be community by your witness and example. But be patient with us – we can be slow and reluctant learners!

Please, see below, a beautiful picture of a lighthouse on canvas that Frank painted and an Ember chair that he carved for the Remembrance Garden in St. Kevin's Community College Clondalkin. We are very grateful to Frank for his kindness and generosity to the Ember Programme. These are gifts that will enrich the work of the Ember Faith Leaders in St. Kevin's for years to come.



Resources that we highly recommend!

Interactive Online Advent Calendar – Bishop's Conference

Are you an Ember leader planning to celebrate Advent and Christmas in your school? You and your teammates can help your peers get ready to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas starting with this digital resource. Follow the link below for more info 🙏❤️

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/IrishCatholicBishops/>



NUA Christmas Video Series – Scripture Union

For any teacher/chaplain and Ember Team looking to invite 1st year students in their school to reflect on the true meaning of the first Christmas and what it means for us today, sign up to NUA Christmas. Follow the link below for more info!

Link: <https://nuafilmseries.org/nu-a-christmas-registration-form>



Virtual Icebreakers for Team Building Activities – Diocese of Limerick

We just love these Online Icebreakers from the fabulous team in the Diocese of Limerick. They could be used by our Ember Teams in the bonding and friendship focused activities that they plan for their peers, especially 1st years.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/kris.ember.5>



Young Saint Vincent de Paul Champions Programme – Young SVP

A great opportunity for our Ember Teams to engage in social justice and advocacy this year.

Link: <https://www.svp.ie/what-we-do/young-svp.aspx>

We, the core team, Dublin Education Secretariat, Scripture Union, Lily Barry, Sr. Bernadette, Kris Gueret, Mairéad McNally, Deirdre Maloney, Ciarán Coll, and Darren Burke (Scripture Union) thank each and every one of you for your commitment to Ember. We ask God's blessing on your ministry. We wish you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas and New Year. God bless and Stay Safe!