

Jesus & Mary Secondary School
Enniscrone • Co. Sligo

*Honouring our past
Celebrating our present
Looking to our future*



**Celebrating 85 Years of Education
in the spirit of Jesus & Mary**

*The Education of the heart,
is the heart of education.*

Celebratory Mass
**JMSS
Enniscrone**



Celebrating 85 Years



**Main Celebrant
Fr. Gerry O'Hora**

**Our Lady Assumed into Heaven Church
Enniscrone**

Friday, 25th September 2026 @ 11am



**A FINAL WORD OF THANKSGIVING
A LIGHT CARRIED FORWARD**

Welcome

With grateful hearts we

thank you

for joining us to celebrate

85 years of JMSS Enniscrone.

A celebration of

Faith, Education & Community

Every school has a heartbeat – and for 85 years, that heartbeat has echoed through the classrooms and corridors of Jesus & Mary Secondary School, Enniscrone. Today, as this Mass draws to a close, we listen to it once more, and we give thanks. We think of St. Claudine Thévenet and the RJM Sisters who first lit this flame in 1941, and of every teacher, staff member, parent and pupil who has kept it burning since. A school is never built by one generation – it is carried, hand to hand, year to year, story to story. Today we honour all who have carried it: those no longer with us, those who came before, and those who continue the work. To Fr. Gerry O'Hora and to all the priests who concelebrated our Mass today, we extend our heartfelt thanks for leading us in this special celebration. We are deeply grateful for the care and warmth you have shared with us as we mark this significant milestone in the history of JMSS. To all who prepared today's ceremony – through music, readings, prayer and quiet acts of organisation – thank you for helping us mark this day so beautifully. And to everyone gathered here, thank you for being part of this moment in our story. As we go out from this church, may we carry a small piece of that flame with us – a reminder that we belong to something bigger than ourselves, something built with love over 85 years ago, and something worth passing on to the next generation.

The story continues. The light goes on.

Thank you for being part of our story.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

REFLECTION AFTER COMMUNION

As we come towards the end of our Mass, we take a moment to be still and to think about the year ahead. At Jesus and Mary Secondary School, our ethos reminds us that education is about more than results, achievements or what happens in the classroom.

It is also about the people we become.

It asks us to value each person, to show kindness and compassion, to respect one another and to make sure that everyone feels that they belong. As we begin this new school year, perhaps we can each ask ourselves:

What kind of person do I want to be this year?

Will I notice the person who is having a difficult day?

Will i include someone who feels left out?

Will I choose kindness when it might be easier to walk away?

Will I use my words to encourage rather than hurt?

These are often small choices, but they can make a very real difference to another person.

So, as we begin the year ahead, may we carry the values of Jesus and Mary with us - not simply in what we say, but in how we live and in how we treat one another.

May our school continue to be a community where people feel valued, respected, supported and, above all, that they belong.

MASS ITINERARY

OPENING SONG - CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

Sung by Ruth McDonnell

INTRODUCTION

by Ailbe Murphy

FIRST READING

by Luke Beirne

PSALM - YOU ARE MINE

Sung by Ella Winters, Katie Hallinan
& Anna Shevlin

SECOND READING

by Anne Fleming

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Prayer 1: Kayden Gordon

Prayer 2: Sinéad Corr

Prayer 3: Sr. Bernadette Hallinan

Prayer 4: Rachel Hannon

Prayer 5: Pauline Timmons

Prayer 6: Celia Sheridan

Prayer 7: Grace Feeney

Prayer 8: Pat Sweeney

MASS ITINERARY

HARP INSTRUMENTAL

Ellie Gavin

OFFERTORY PROCESSION

Readers Teresa Irwin & Caitlyn Tuffy

BRINGING UP THE GIFTS

- 1:** Carmel Hughes {Old school picture}
- 2:** Evie O'Connor {Candle}
- 3:** Isabel Lynott & Jake Gilroy {Uniforms}
- 4:** Edwina O'Dowd {Booklet}
- 5:** Mary Hanley {Book of student names}
- 6:** Con Rooney & Fidelma Mulligan {Bread & Wine}

COMMUNION

LORD I NEED YOU

Sung by Isabel Lynott

SHEPHERD SONG

Sung by Michael McGowan

COMMUNION REFLECTION

Reader Seán McHugh

PROCESSIONAL HYMN- HERE I AM TO WORSHIP

Sung by Kelly Mae Cogan Flynn

CLOSING

Ruth Hamilton

OFFERTORY PROCESSION

They represent the generations of students who have been part of Jesus and Mary – those who came before us and those who fill our classrooms today. While the uniform may have changed, the sense of belonging to the Jesus and Mary community continues. May today's students carry forward the values and spirit of Jesus and Mary for the generations still to come.

We bring forward our celebratory book, which records the people, events, photographs and memories that make up the history of our school. We also bring forward a booklet which holds within its pages the names of every pupil who has walked through our doors since 1941. These pages remind us that a school is much more than a building. A school is its people – the friendships made, the lessons learned, the challenges overcome, the celebrations shared and the memories carried with us long after we leave.

We now bring forward the bread and wine, the gifts at the heart of our Eucharistic celebration. In these gifts, we offer to God not only bread and wine, but also ourselves – our work, our hopes, our challenges and our prayers for the year ahead.

May the bread and wine we place upon the altar today remind us that, just as we gather as one community around this Eucharist, we are called to support one another and to carry the values of our faith into our daily lives.

OFFERTORY PROCESSION

We bring forward symbols that reflect the story of Jesus and Mary Secondary School – remembering our past, celebrating our school community today and looking with hope to the future.

On the altar is a statue of St. Claudine Thévenet, foundress of the Religious of Jesus and Mary. Her presence reminds us of the faith, vision and values on which our school was founded and which continue to guide our school community today.

We bring forward an old photograph of our school. It represents the generations who came before us – the students who learned there, the teachers who taught the and the many people who helped make our school what it is today. We give thanks for the foundations they laid and for the memories they created.

We bring forward a candle, symbolising the light of Christ which has guided Jesus and Mary Secondary School throughout the past 85 years, and which continues to guide our school community into the future.

We bring forward our uniforms – Isabel Lynott, our oldest student brings a green uniform from the past and Jake Gilroy, our youngest student brings the grey and maroon uniforms worn by our students today. Placed side by side, they remind us of how much has changed over the years, but also of what has remained.

INTRODUCTION

Good morning and welcome to our beginning of year school Mass. Today, the community of Jesus and Mary Secondary School, gathers here to mark the beginning of a new school year and a very special milestone – 85 years of our school in Enniscrone.

We are delighted to welcome our students, staff, parents and families, along with the Sisters of Jesus and Mary, former pupils, former members of staff and all those who have shared in the life of our school over the years. It is wonderful to have different generations of our school community gathered together for this special celebration. As we celebrate 85 years, we look back with gratitude. Much has changed since our school first opened its doors, but the values at the heart of Jesus and Mary have remained – faith, compassion, respect, care for others and belief in the value of every young person.

Beside our altar today is a statue of St. Claudine Thévenet, foundress of the Religious of Jesus and Mary. Her presence reminds us of the vision and faith which our school tradition grew, and of the importance she placed on education and care of young people.

Today is a time to remember and give thanks for the Sisters who began our school, for the generations of students and staff who have passed through its doors, and for the families and wider community who have supported it along the way. We remember too, with affection, those who are no longer with us.

As we begin a new school year, we also look forward with hope. Each of us has a part to play in continuing the spirit and values that have shaped Jesus and Mary over the years.

So today, we give thanks for all that has gone before us, for the community we share today, and for the year that lies ahead. May this celebration remind us of what it means to belong to Jesus and Mary, and inspire us to carry its values with us throughout the year ahead.

FIRST READING

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Our first reading reminds us that life is made up of different times and seasons. As we celebrate the history of our school and begin a new school year, it invites us to be grateful for what has gone before and hopeful for what lies ahead.

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under Heaven:

*A time to be born and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to uproot;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to search, and a time to give up;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to be silent, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time for peace.*

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-14, 27

Our second reading reminds us that although we are all different, each person has their own gifts and an important part to play. It reflects what we hope for our school - a community where everyone's contribution is valued and where we work together for the good of one another.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Fifth Prayer:

We pray for all who work in our school. Give them patience, wisdom and enthusiasm for the year ahead. May they continue to recognise and encourage the potential within every young person entrusted to their care.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Sixth Prayer:

We pray for our parents, families, past pupils, parish and the wider Enniscrone community. We give thanks for the support they have shown our school throughout the generations and ask God's blessing upon them.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Seventh Prayer:

We remember young people throughout the world who do not have the opportunities that we sometimes take for granted. We pray especially for those affected by war, poverty, discrimination or displacement. May we never become indifferent to the suffering of others.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Eighth Prayer:

We remember with gratitude deceased Sisters of Jesus and Mary, former staff members, past pupils, family members and friends of our school community. Their names may not all be known to us, but their lives remain part of our school's story. May they rest in God's eternal peace.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest:

As we begin a new school year and celebrate 85 years of Jesus and Mary Secondary School in Enniscrone, we bring our prayers before God with gratitude and hope.

First Prayer:

We pray for Jesus and Mary Secondary School as we celebrate 85 years in Enniscrone. May our school continue to be a place where young people are welcomed, encouraged and given every opportunity to grow and reach their potential.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Second Prayer:

We give thanks for the Sisters of Jesus and Mary, Principals, teachers, staff, parents and members of the local community who have shaped our school throughout the past 85 years. May we value the legacy they have entrusted to us and continue to build upon it.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Third Prayer:

We give thanks for St. Claudine Thévenet and the vision she began. Inspired by her example, may we recognise the value of every person and show particular care and compassion towards those who need our support.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Fourth Prayer:

We pray for all our students as they begin another school year. May they find friendship, belonging and happiness, and may they have the courage to use their gifts and talents well.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL MATTHEW 5:13-16

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us, "You are the light of the world." As we begin a new school year, these words challenge each of us to use our gifts well, to be a positive influence on others, and to bring kindness and goodness into our school community.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"You are the salt of the earth.

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and give glory to your Father in Heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



RJM SISTERS: A LEGACY OF FAITH, LOVE AND SERVICE

At the heart of the story of JMSS Enniscrone are the Sisters who came here with a vision, a faith and a deep belief in the potential of every young person. For generations, they taught, encouraged, guided and cared for the young people of this community, becoming part of the very fabric of life in Enniscrone. Their legacy is found not only in classrooms and school buildings, but in the lives they touched, the values they instilled and the many generations who carry something of their spirit with them today. As we celebrate 85 years, we remember with gratitude the women who began this journey. We give thanks for their courage, their dedication and their loving service, and we honour the lasting gift they have left to our school and our community. May their spirit continue to live on in all who learn, teach and belong to JMSS Enniscrone – and may they look upon the school they helped to build with pride and joy.

