

# The Year that was... 2008-2009

Another eventful year is coming to a close... as usual we've put together a little review of some of the high-lights from the past twelve months; hope they bring back some good memories for you! Thanks to all of you who volunteered as leaders this year and to all the young people we met who make our jobs so much fun. Looking forward to meeting up with you all again this year,

Aoife & Chris

## Anois 2009

This year we had two fantastic weeks in St. Patrick's College, and thanks again to Fr. Tom Fogarty and staff in Thurles. We have to say we've come to love St. Pat's almost as much as Fr. Tom although some people were a little unsure about the wall paper! This year we had students from seven schools, Ard Scoil Rís C.B.S., St. Fintan's C.B.S., St. Clements, Scoil Carmel, Villiers School, Coláiste Mhuire Askeaton and 2 groups from Crescent College Comprehensive.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the week and they were blessed to have such enthusiastic leaders - in fact some leaders enjoyed themselves so much that they begged to be allowed back for a second week! (Thanks James & Craig!) A huge thanks to all our leaders - hope to see you all again in Thurles in 2010.



# Lourdes 2009

This year the youth group were affectionately known as the 101 Dalmations in Lourdes as we had 91 young people and 10 leaders on the Youth Pilgrimage. We were also blessed to have Fr. David join us from Paris. We were so glad that he was part of our group that we presented him with a very special commemorative polo-shirt with "The Brack is Back" embroidered on it!

The youth pilgrimage got off to an early start with a 5am departure for Dublin airport where we flew to Carcassonne for two days before joining the main pilgrimage in Lourdes. We were blessed with the weather and thoroughly enjoyed the sights in and around Carcassonne, however for some it was a very scary place - remember the haunted house?



As leaders we were blessed with the group of youngsters who travelled with us and it was our pleasure and privilege to look after them. They worked so hard all week and showed such enthusiasm, commitment and spirit, not only in caring for the patients but also by taking part in the various ceremonies during the week. They really engaged with the patients and to be honest made the patient's week so special for them. This year fifteen young people received their hospitality badges and we are extremely proud of them. The youth group were responsible for the Closing Ceremony again this year and did a fantastic job - so good that when we got home we had a repeat "Closing Ceremony" for parents, family and friends.



Special mention for the youngest ever member of the Youth Group - Sean O'Dwyer!  
Ok technically he didn't travel with the youth group but he was in uniform!



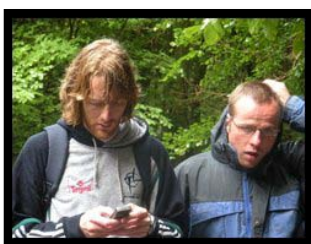
Yet again we had a wealth of talent in the group this year as witnessed by those who were on the "This Bus Has Talent" Bus, and all those people in the airport in Toulouse whose flight was delayed! In fact there was non-stop music, fun and laughter all the way from Limerick to Lourdes and back again!

# Brú 2009

We have so many people to thank for the success of this year's Bru Na Gráige. First and foremost the amazing Ali G! She was ably assisted and supported by Paudie, Lorna, Ciara, Craig and James. The atmosphere in Ballyferriter this year was just phenomenal and we don't have enough room on this page to cover it all. However if you were there the following list will have meaning for you!

Mafia - 3 Sisters(with boys names) - Ho Down/Throwdown - Under the Sea - Brú The Musical - Spoons - Friendship Bracelet Sweatshop - Just Stop! - Debs Hair Trials - Danny's Hair Trials - Blaskets - Carnival (The Bus Stop was the best) - Murphy's Ice Cream - Ciara's Car - Jellyfish in the face anyone? - Killarney - Bed time stories - Sleeping in corridors! - What about her eyes? - Lets dig a really big hole! - Hope the hand is better Kevin!

As with all the Muintearas Íosa events held throughout the year the Brú was full of cairdeamh, creidheamh and craic. Thanks to all involved with Muintearas during the year for keeping the flames burning!



# Thanks Aoife & Dave!

This year we add two very welcome additions to the Youth Ministry Team in the Pastoral Centre. Dave O'Sullivan Glynn joined us in January to complete his student co-op placement and Aoife O'Dwyer joined us at the end of February to complete her placement.

We want to thank them both most sincerely for all the hard-work, commitment, fun and friendship. Aoife was a great help both here in the centre and in St. Michael's where she put in a lot of hours for Fr. Noel with the Parish records.

Equally Dave was a great asset for us, especially his work with on the Anois programme and Confirmation Retreats.

We'll miss you guys!

