



Moate Community School Students lead the Youth Night of Local Mission

The cold snap last winter resulted in too many different events in the area being postponed, one of those events was the Parish Mission. Thankfully the students of

Moate Community School had the opportunity to become involved in this event again in September, and were given the honour of leading the Youth Night on Thursday 29th September.

Volunteers were plentiful as always. The School choir began building on their preparations from last year and offered up an amazing rendition of many popular songs as well as two beautiful instrumental pieces.

The night was broken into a number of sections. A welcome by Peter Cunningham was followed by an opening prayer from Emmet Ryan. Lisa Digan and Anne McCormack offered up a different version of the Our Father which called on all of us to reflect more deeply on the meaning of the prayers we say so often without a second thought.

As on all mission nights, a decade of the rosary was offered up, led by Niamh Connell. A drama from Aine Egan and Robbie Holloway looked at the pressure that young people are under which called on all present to reflect on the lives of young people today.

Two of our 6th year students took on the difficult task of participating in an interview with Fr. Denis from the Redemptorist retreat team. Karl Picard and Orla Higgins spoke with confidence and maturity as they described to the congregation their hopes and aspirations, their fears and their worries and all that they have to feel thankful for in the world. This was an amazing moment for all in the congregation as they watched and listened to two young people who spoke with honesty and integrity. The message from both students was clear; do not underestimate young people.

A moving song, accompanied by four dancers, Gemma Dalton, Jessica Byrne, Chloe Slammon and Rachel Hennessey, left only time for the reflection which was read by Leonie Canavan and the final prayer of the night by Peter Cunningham.

The Mission in the parish reached out to all involved and none more so than the students and teachers who were involved in the preparation and had the joy of participating in the Youth Night. Many thanks to Lorna Duignan, Giselle Foley, Neasa Ni Chonghaile, Ann Marie Farrell and the School Choir for their beautiful and inspirational music. A special note of thanks goes to Fr. Denis and Fr. Tony who helped us to prepare for the Youth Night. To Monsignor Noonan, Fr. Farrell and Fr. Kiernan who play an important role in the school, we would like to express our sincere thanks for their continued support and for the kind

invitation to be involved. It was an honour to Moate Community School to be part of the mission and an honour to offer our students the opportunity to speak directly to the hearts of so many people.