

# Winter



**Our Lady's  
Student Publication  
2020/21**

# Contents

Foreword – Connie Heather, Lydia Wang .....	1
Winter is Here – Alannah Giles .....	2
Bushy Park – Maria Farrell, Kate Heffernan, Stephanie Strahan .....	3
Lockdown Poetry – Elizabeth McElroy .....	9
Gluten-Free Brownies Recipe – Maria Farrell .....	10
Christmas Carol Review – Bronagh Delaney .....	11
Shadowman – Connie Heather .....	12
Lockdown Diaries – Shauna Finn.....	13
News Features – Bronagh Delaney, Kate Heffernan, Roisin Evoy.....	16
Interview with Ms. Coyne – Shauna Finn, Roisin Evoy, Kaylin Galvin.....	19
Interview with Mr O'Donnell – Roisin Evoy, Kaylin Galvin.....	21
Things to Do in These Dark Times – Katelyn O'Connell.....	23
No Name – Kaylin Galvin .....	24

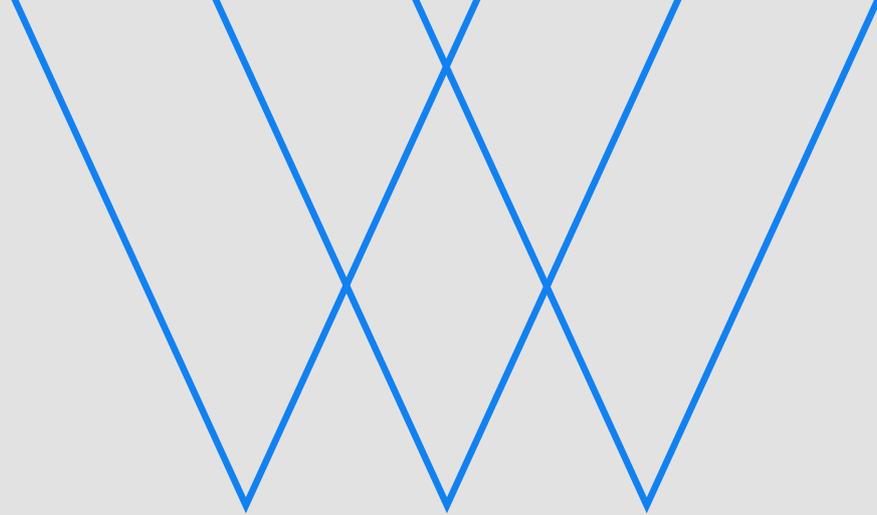
Cover art by Elizabeth McElroy

# Editors' Foreword

We, the Our Lady's publication group, are delighted to present this collection of creative writing, art, interviews and photography, titled 'Winter'. A wide range of amazing students and teachers worked incredibly hard throughout this unpredictable year to compile this publication and all their efforts are to be commended. Many promising young writers, artists and creative thinkers banded together to showcase their diverse range of talents and I'm happy to say that this collection won't disappoint. As a group we chose the theme of 'Winter'; this theme is simultaneously broad and acute and can be looked at from a wide range of angles. Winter is not just a season, it can be a place or even a state of mind. Covid-19 has locked us down into a long and harsh winter, where we have to cover our faces and stay inside, no matter the weather. This publication explores this theme with great insight and innovation and it was a pleasure to edit.

There are no words to describe the exhilaration and elation that one feels when a complete project is published, mingled with the sadness you feel when it's over. Every publication is a journey, a journey that will immerse you into so many different genres, moods, personalities and styles. We'd like to thank everyone who contributed to this publication - not just those whose work is printed on the pages, but everyone who gave their effort, encouragement and help in order to make this a reality. Ms. Ryan and Mr. Garrett deserve a special thanks for all the time they've put into this project, without them it wouldn't have been possible. And finally, thank you, the reader, for taking time out of your busy life to read the first ever OLS publication. We hope there are many more to come.

Connie Heather and Lydia Wang  
The Editorial Team



# WINTER IS HERE

*Alannah Giles*

A crisp white blanket covers the ground,  
No footsteps have yet marked the snow all around.

Grass can't be seen, the flowers are dead,  
But the snow provides all of the beauty instead.

Lakes and rivers are just icy sheets,  
No birds make a sound, no twitters, no tweets.

Icy blizzards swirl snowflakes through the air,  
Trees are covered with snow but of leaves, they are bare.

Icicles hang from bushes and trees,  
The air is so cold it would make your breath freeze.

No plants can be seen, no hidey-holes can be found,  
Because of the snow that covers the ground.

Snow days have come, ice days are near,  
And now winter is finally here.



## Bushy Park

*Maria Farrell, Kate Heffernan & Stephanie Strahan*

Bushy Park is located in Terenure but stretches all the way to Rathfarnham and Templeogue, having the River Dodder pass alongside it.

Bushy Park has a lot of attractions and activities on display. Many children enjoy visiting the playground and having fun. The lake is a great place to meet the ducks and relax. Bushy Park has a wonderful forest that is always an exciting place to explore. You may enjoy the bird watching or even fishing by the River Dodder. There are many kinds of trees such as hazel, ash, birch, etc.

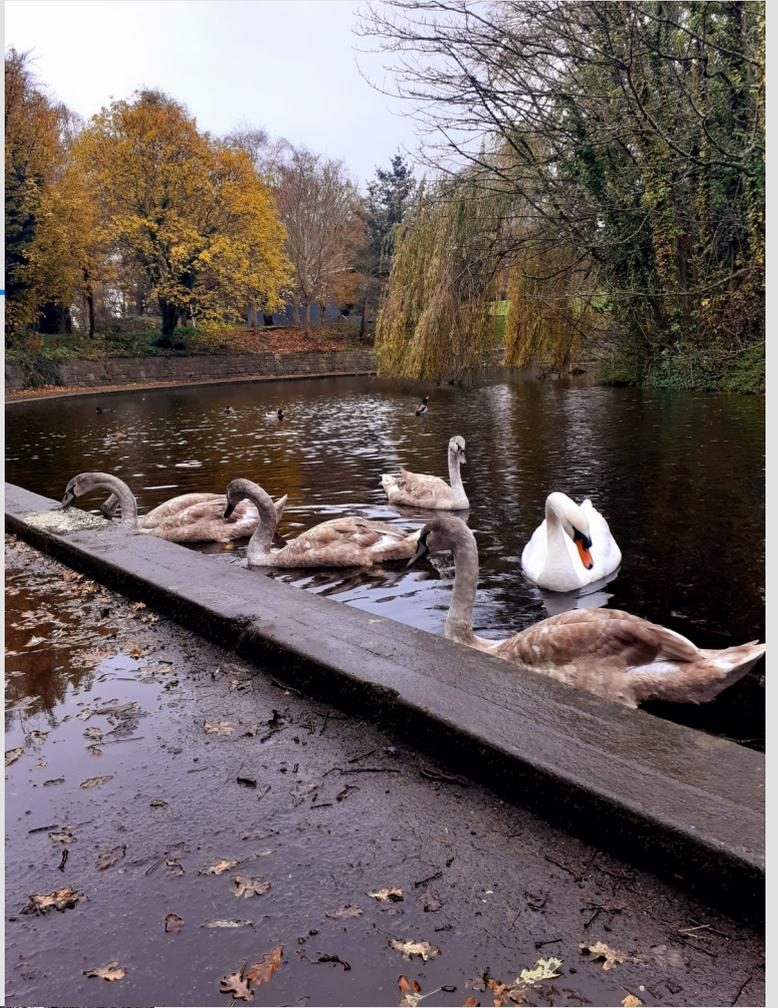
Bushy Park has a lot of sports activities to accommodate the public, including eleven tennis courts, a skate boarding area, football fields and a clubhouse located at the Terenure entrance.

The market is usually open on Saturdays, with a wide variety of foods and occasional music performances, however due to cold weather the markets closed.

Bushy Park was originally owned by Arthur Bushe in the 1700s when he built a house beside the four acres of land. The original name for this house was 'Bushe House', but then the four acres of land were sold to John Hobston in 1722. He changed the name to Bushy Park as a reference to Bushy Park in London. The third owner was Abraham Wilkinson who added 40 hectares of land. His daughter Maria married Robert Shaw, who sold the house and grounds to the Dublin City Council.











# Lockdown Poetry

In my cocoon am I.  
I'm not the offspring of a fly.  
I'm not a chrysalis  
In a silken palace.

I'm just a human being  
Who's better off not seen.  
In isolation  
Is my present station.

By the rules I abide  
Where I reside  
But oh the tedium!  
I long for freedom.

## April 2020

If you cough or sneeze  
Aim underarm please.  
If faced with a hug or clinch  
Just flinch.  
Keep your distance  
To maintain your existence.

You got to be a loner  
To avoid a corona donor  
Or maybe you could  
Dress up in a hood  
Or, better still,  
The full PPE drill!

*Both of these poems were written  
by Elizabeth McElroy and her  
grandfather*

# Gluten-Free Brownies

*Maria Farrell*

## Ingredients

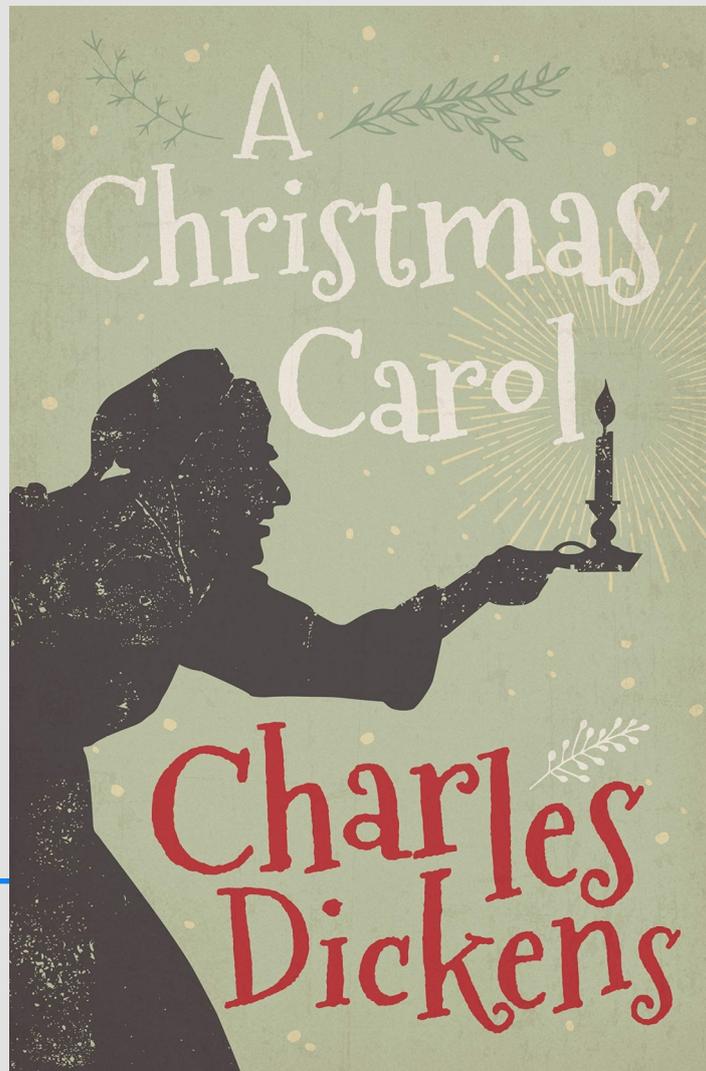
50g Dark Chocolate  
1 tsp of Vanilla Extract  
100g Butter  
75g of Ground Almonds  
200g Caster sugar  
1 tsp of Baking Powder  
2 Eggs  
Pinch of salt

## Method

Cooking time: 30 mins  
Preparation time: 30 mins  
Temperature: 180°C

1. Place the chocolate in a bowl over a simmering pot of hot water.
2. Cream the butter and sugar until pale and fluffy.
3. Whisk eggs for 1 min until completely orange.
4. Add the whisked eggs, vanilla extract and melted chocolate.
5. Lastly fold in the ground almonds, baking powder and salt.





## Review:

### A Christmas Carol

*Bronagh Delaney*

I thought that this book was very good. It was very descriptive and the characters were written very well. The Christmas atmosphere was very well portrayed. The author's use of adjectives is impeccable. It is a very festive book that I would recommend to readers of any age.

My only criticism would be that the ending was kind of expected. Overall it was a great book that I would recommend to anyone and would definitely read again.

\*\*\*\*\*



# Shadowman

*Connie Heather*

I am a shadowman, I am what I am shown.  
I shiver as I am ambushed by the rain showers,  
Unsheathed knives shatter my bones.  
Sharp shards slash skin, slice shins.  
It is a sheer sham, just a shaded illusion.  
Oceans will crash on shallow shores, alone.

I am a shadowman, the breath between dial tones,  
The shed and shrivelled skin of snakes,  
My sharp tongue shorn, left shackled to a tombstone.  
To shout is to ashame. I shoulder shame.  
It flourishes inside a corpse without a name.  
No lashes to be shut. Just skin, no bones.

I am a shadowman, it's all I've ever known.  
Hear shrieks of the banshee as fire spits ash,  
Wildfires scorching these sacred shapes in moonstone.  
It shall always be by firelight that shadows are cast.  
Flames will outshine and overshadow to outlast the past.  
I am a shadowman, it's all that I was ever shown.

*Here, Shauna presents two different diary entries that explore her experience of different lockdowns throughout the past number of months. Shauna's first diary entry takes us back to November of last year...*

## Lockdown Diaries

*Shauna Finn*

November 28th 2020

As the days steadily grow darker, hope burns brighter. The last six weeks are coming to an end and we have reached the light at the end of the tunnel.

Five months ago in June, restrictions were eased for the first time. The sun was shining, and the beauty of our Emerald Isle was in full glory. People were beaming with hope.

But now, things are slightly different. There's no soaring temperatures, and beach days are a thing of the past. It feels like forever ago when the only mention of algebra and Pythagoras' theorem were in the Netflix shows we binge watched until all hours.

We get to see our school friends everyday this time around, but we can't hug our grandparents. Christmas exams and homework are all real and can't be avoided due to "bad wifi". Face masks are no longer a strange possibility, but a second skin. Oh and strangers being close to each other in movies makes you cringe. The world feels like it's upside down.

We were given a definite amount of weeks that we had to once again become cautious and housebound. Six weeks. Six weeks of staying within 5 km of our confinements, fathers and mothers were once again sent home like sick children from school to work from the kitchen table.

If you asked me four weeks ago, I would have told you the impossibility of these weeks ever ending. However there are only four days left and my calendar is full. Now, my days are dedicated to exciting things like shopping! And walking somewhere that isn't the same route around Bushy park! Eeek!

Dundrum will once again become the bustling chaotic world it becomes around Christmas.

As we leave this lockdown, I reflect on the events that took place - well, more like the events that didn't take place. I didn't have a body transformation thanks to

Chloe Tings, or try to become TikTok famous, like before. Instead, I did my homework. Unlike last time, I knew how the world would now operate with the “restrictions”. Face masks must be worn all times, sanitize your hands, don't touch your face, two meters distance, no hugs.

To be honest I never thought words such as ‘restrictions’, ‘vaccine’ and ‘quarantine’ would now come up in my suggestion bar on my phone.

In June we were like baby giraffes, all knobbly knees and wobbly. Indecisive and uncertain. Which way was right, which way was left. What was this new world we had finally been allowed to return to. This new world with emptier buses and Luases.

These days the roads are no longer quiet and tranquil like when it seemed each metal beast was hibernating in their caves. Earphones were used to create lyrics to match the summer's peaceful melodic presence. Now earphones are used to block out the screeches and rumbles of engines.

Now as the second lockdown ends streets are alive and bustling with people.

As this second lockdown ends we are aware of our responsibilities and the patience we must possess.

I can't wait for these restrictions to be lifted, so I can go to Penneys and see the sea once again. All will be alright in the world for a little while. Right?

January 19th 2021

Well, Christmas is over. So is New Years. And, here we are. Finding ourselves in yet another lockdown. Looking back at these last few months, it's kind of hard to know how to feel.

I was counting down the days to go to Penneys, I could scream at lockdown 2 Shauna. And complaining about being in school but not seeing my grandparents? Well now, like the rest of the country, I'm stuck at home.

Looking back at lockdown 2, I realise how lucky I was to enjoy those continuous laps of Bushy Park with a friend. Now all that is forbidden.

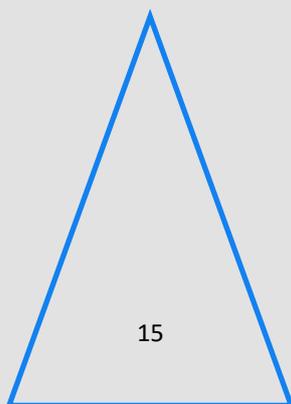
So lockdown 3 it is. The days are dull but the evenings are getting brighter. Lockdown as a teenager is tough.

I started lockdown as a 15 year old and my 17th birthday is quickly creeping up. What do I have to show for my 16th year? I spoke about tranquil walks and being unable to venture further than the bounds of bushy park, that is now starting to feel like a playpen. I just wanted to watch the sunset with the girls and have a Christmas party and get all dressed up. When I thought about turning 16, I always imagined it to be this big year, the summer between junior cert and transition year.

I thought the end of lockdown 2 was going to cure world hunger. I literally could do absolutely everything during that lockdown but play basketball inside.

When I wrote my New Year's resolutions I resolved to have the best summer ever. How was I going to achieve that? Instead I got a quarantine. Lockdown 1, 2 and 3. The Tiresome Trilogy I like to call them. Every night just before sleep embraces me, I smile and say "one more day closer until all of this is all over".

Why does the grass always seem so much greener when you're looking back, or when you dream of the future? Maybe the moral of the story is to take each day, each moment, and accept it for exactly what it is, without comparing it to past moments, or possible moments in the future.



## Man Saved By His Parrot From House Fire

*Bronagh Delaney*

Anton Nguyen was saved from a house fire by his pet parrot Eric.

Eric started chirping and woke up Mr. Nguyen before the smoke alarm went off!

He lives in Brisbane, Australia. The fire had “pretty much well engulfed” the house by the time the fire fighters reached his house at 2am. He told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, “I heard a bang and Eric - my parrot - he started to yell so I woke up and smelled a bit of smoke. I grabbed Eric, opened the door and looked to the back of the house and saw some flames. And so I grabbed my bag and took off and bolted downstairs. I’m in shock,” he said, “but I’m fine”.

There were smoke detectors in his house but Eric notified Mr. Nguyen before they went off. Mr. Nguyen said “Everything’s alright as long as I have myself and the bird”.

## After 14 Boys, Michigan Family Finally Welcomes a Baby Girl

*Kate Heffernan*

Kateri and Jay Schwandt have 14 sons: Tyler, Zach, Drew, Brandon, Tommy, Vinny, Calvin, Gabe, Wesley, Charlie, Luke, Tucker, Francisco and Finley.

On November 1st the family welcomed its newest member, Maggie Jayne. Jay Schwandt told reporters that the family were “overjoyed and beyond excited” to add Maggie Jayne to the family.

Their eldest child, Tyler Schwandt, 28, said his parents thought they would never have a daughter after 14 sons. And that it’s unlikely the family own anything pink.

# The Capitol Storming: A Complete Breakdown

*Roisin Evoy*

The United States Capitol, often called the Capitol Building or Capitol Hill, is the meeting place of the United States Congress and the seat of the legislative branch of the U.S. federal government. The Capitol is home to two chambers of the US government that make up Congress - the House of Representatives and the Senate.

On the 6th of January 2021, the Capitol was breached by rioters. Earlier that morning, thousands of people had gathered at the Ellipse, near the White House, to hear the president speak at a "Save America" rally. Trump told his supporters that if they wanted to save America and save the fraudulent election, they had to take matters into their own hands.

After the rally, Trump supporters made their way to the Capitol and a riot ensued. That afternoon, a joint session of Congress was taking place, certifying the election of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. Chanting crowd gathered at both sides of the building and began grappling with police and attempting to cross the metal barricades. Tear gas and pepper spray were used in an attempt to keep the protesters at bay. Police officers struggled to maintain control of the situation, but the throngs of rioters eventually got the better of them.

The rioters unlawfully entered the Capitol building, forcing Senators to abandon the process of confirming Biden's victory. The doors of the House chamber were locked and a makeshift barricade was erected. As protesters progressed inside the building, Mike Pence and, members of Congress, and staff were rushed out in an emergency evacuation.

The rioters breached the Senate chamber and multiple staff offices, including the office of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. One Trump supporter even sat in the Speaker's chair and another sat in Nancy Pelosi's offices, with his feet on the table. Much of this was recorded or streamed live.

The rioters remained in the Capitol for several hours before Capitol and DC police removed them. Two improvised explosives were found - one near the Republican National Committee and another near the Democratic National Committee. A cooler was also found filled with molotov cocktails. One woman was shot as she attempted to break down the barricade protecting the House chamber, and later died. One police officer died of injuries sustained during the riots. Three other Trump supporters also

died as a result of medical emergencies. Police made 52 arrests in the days following the storming.

After receiving a lot of hate in the hours when the Capitol was under attack, Trump took to Twitter to call for “peace” and to tell the protesters to “go home”. He also praised the rioters, calling them “special”. He repeated that the election had been stolen and that it was fraudulent while telling his supporters to “remember this day”.

Biden called the riots an “insurrection” that “borders on sedition”. He said the words of a president matter and “at their best, can inspire us at their worst, incite”. He said Trump was a disgrace for encouraging his supporters and condoning violence. He finished by saying that “Today was a shameful day for our country”.

The next few days saw many of the perpetrators identified, including the man who went viral on social media. He was at the centre of the riot and wore a bear skin headdress with horns and carried a six foot spear with an American flag impaled at the top. He was identified as Jacob Anthony Chansley, a conspiracy theorist who claims Donald Trump is waging a secret war against a global liberal cult of Satan-worshipping paedophiles. Chansley called the FBI on Thursday to confirm his presence at Capitol Hill. He said he came “at the request of the President that all ‘patriots’ come to DC on January 6th”. Chansley had been spotted many times at pro-Trump events in Phoenix, Arizona in recent months, wearing his distinctive headpiece.

Another man who was identified was the newly-elected member of West Virginia’s House of Delegates, Derrick Evans. The Republican West Virginian politician was live-streaming on Facebook as he and other rioters pushed their way into one of the Capitol’s entrances, carrying Trump flags and signs.

He was charged with one count of knowingly entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds without lawful authority, and one count of violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds. In a statement made to local media, Mr. Evans said “I take full responsibility for my actions, and deeply regret any hurt, pain or embarrassment I may have caused my family, friends, constituents and fellow West Virginians”.

As a result of the riot, Instagram and Facebook blocked Trump’s profiles for 24 hours. Twitter suspended his account until he removed all of his false claims that the election was fraudulent. There were also much more serious repercussions for Trump when he was impeached due to his remarks inciting the Capitol riot. There will also be a vote where Senators can vote to bar him from ever holding public office again.

# Interview with Ms. Coyne, Our Lady's Chaplain

*Roisin Evoy, Shauna Finn & Kaylin Galvin*

*Roisin: How has the charity work here in Our Lady's been impacted by the coronavirus?*

**Ms. Coyne:** At OLS, we are a very determined bunch, so we're not going to let our love for giving to other people and charity go out the window with Covid, but certain things have been affected. The Gift to the Crib is being impacted because we usually give all our donations to Peter McVerry or to St. Vincent De Paul and an array of other charities, but this year they're only taking tinned foods or luxury items.

So instead, we've again been resilient, and we've looked for other charities, so the Crumlin and Temple Street Children's Hospital are going to take toys, we just had to edit things and change things a bit. It's a little bit disappointing that we can't do our usual bake sales. Even our group meetings have to be so much more distant! Usually we all get working on making posters together. But, look we're going to keep going. We won't let Covid stop us!

*Shauna: How can students get involved in these challenging times?*

**Ms. Coyne:** At Our Lady's, we encourage the creativity of students. If they have the idea and the motivation, there is nothing stopping the fruition of those ideas, especially with the help and support of fellow students and staff. It goes back to the voice of individual students and wanting to get involved. We need to spread the love. So if somebody comes up with an idea, they'll always be pushed to succeed.

Every student has a voice, and we want to listen! Everybody is welcome to join and get involved in all of the various charity work we organise within the school community, the more the merrier! Just simply ask, and you will always be welcomed with open arms.

*Kaylin: Can you tell us a little bit about the Wells for Zoe charity? And how is Our Lady's involved in it?*

**Ms. Coyne:** The first years usually do a Fright Night, where they raise money. It has been postponed for the time being, but that event is hugely important to us because €8,000 is normally raised and that money can ensure that 275 girls are educated for the year. It's amazing, girls helping to make sure other girls are educated. That project is called the Wells for Zoe and Girl Child project.

Our Lady's has been so generous to Wells for Zoe over the years. We've been amazing at funding and helping. The girls are so appreciative. This year, the TYs have learned loads about sustainability and climate change, which Wells for Zoe is really involved in. They are planting trees, they have planted over 2 million trees already, and that will obviously help sustainability and climate change. Equally, they've planted fruit trees, which will be very beneficial to them as well, but those kinds of things don't happen without sponsorship.

*Roisin: Can you tell us about the interfaith and cultural group?*

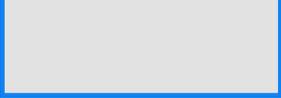
**Ms. Coyne:** Well, we have the interfaith and cultural group, and you have students from 1st to 6th year there and we have people from different heritage ranges, like Vietnam, the Philippines, Turkey, Italy and Norway. We're trying to represent every different culture that's in the school community. Our students celebrate their faith in whatever way they can.

I love being on board, doing anything I can to help. I like helping to make sure that Our Lady's continues to be a really safe, happy home away from home for all of our students

*Kaylin: What's your favorite thing about your job?*

**Ms. Coyne:** I have so many! I love young people, I think young people are the future of the world and I think they have just so many creative ideas and they have so much passion.

I love being with the students and I love the enthusiasm and excitement, feeling like you made a difference. Every day knowing that you're trying your best to make a difference, I think that's really nice.



# Interview with Mr. O'Donnell

*Roisin Evoy & Kaylin Galvin*

*Roisin: What was it like moving to Canada and leaving your family behind?*

**Mr. O'Donnell:** First of all, when I moved to Canada I took a career break because I knew I would be coming back to work in Our Lady's at some stage. I think the motivation behind moving was that I needed a change. I had friends that had moved over there but leaving was difficult. There was a moment in the airport where my mom cried, I cried and my dad cried. It was emotional.

*Roisin: Was there any defining differences between life in Ireland and life in Canada?*

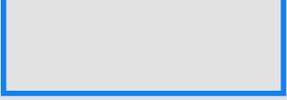
**Mr. O'Donnell:** People in Canada are very polite and kind and I liked that, it's a lot calmer there. But there's a wildness to Ireland that doesn't exist in Canada and I realised I preferred the wildness, the energy. The history of Dublin is something that really interests me. In Canada, it's more on the boring side and I don't mean that in a critical way. I realised how great Ireland is. It has its faults, it's not perfect but it is a great country.

*Roisin: Why did you decide to move back home?*

**Mr. O'Donnell:** Yeah, my motivating factor was family. I have nieces and nephews and I didn't want to be an absent uncle. When I first came back I spent two and a half months with my parents and they're wonderful but that was tough.

*Roisin: How did it feel to return to teaching?*

**Mr. O'Donnell:** I was actually really excited which surprised me. Of course returning during Covid was very stressful but I was very enthusiastic about it. I have no regrets about taking a break and moving to Canada. You need to create opportunities where you can make memories.



*Roisin: What is your favourite thing about being a teacher?*

**Mr. O'Donnell:** Every teacher has an impact on a student's life whether it's positive or negative. There's moments in life where hopefully I'm helping someone. I suppose I also like having fun in the class. And we can still do the material, we get through the material but we can have a laugh along the way. We're living life right now so we might as well enjoy it.

*Roisin: What's your least favourite thing about being a teacher?*

**Mr. O'Donnell:** This is funny, but adulting. Nobody likes it, no one wants to pay their mortgage or have the responsibility that comes with it. Sometimes I look in the mirror and I'm wearing a check shirt and a jacket and I think wow I'm turning into my dad. We all want to rebel against these things.

# Things to Do in These Dark Times

*Katelyn O'Connell*

In these dark times we all need things to do to keep us occupied and busy. Some people will know already how they can stay busy, but there may be some activities on this list that you didn't think of:

**Taking a walk:** This can help to clear your mind and make you feel better about yourself.

-----

**Facetiming your friends:** Talking to a friend can improve your own and their state of mind and wellbeing.

-----

**Baking:** Baking a treat for someone you love can be fun and result making them feel good and you feel proud.

-----

**Playing with a family member:** You could play a board game or a digital game with a family member.

-----

**A D.I.Y project:** You could do a D.I.Y project for your room or for a room in the house, this could include painting the walls or making a chair.

-----

**Take up a new hobby:** You could learn how to play a new instrument, learn to code, learn to knit or learn a new language, the options are endless.

-----

**Donate to charity:** It may not be very time-consuming but it makes a difference to someone else's life.

# No Name

*Kaylin Galvin*

“Ready or not here I come!”  
But where to hide?

Lottie hides behind the door,  
Jazz is somewhere outside.  
Charity crawls under the bed,  
And Kate’s behind the slide.

Cody hops into the basket,  
Teddy sneaks under the table.  
Mindy races to the attic,  
And Heidi heads for the stable.

The basement is ideal for two birds of a feather,  
So Stella and Ivy hide there together.  
They smile and giggle in delight,  
Knowing they are safe out of sight.

But one little girl stands in plain sight,  
Smiling from ear to ear.  
Teddy is found first, then Mindy, then Jazz.  
One by one all the children are found  
But no one can find the smiling little girl-  
She is nowhere to be found

But she’s safe to stay there for a while,  
As one could search for miles and miles,  
But they’d never think to look

Behind a smile.

:)