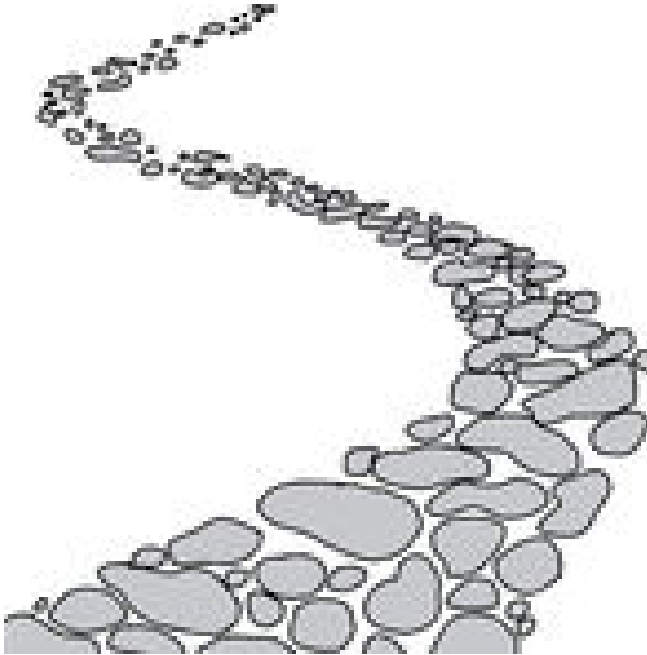




*SIXMILEBRIDGE /  
KILMURRY PARISH*



*PARENTS ON A JOURNEY*

Let me begin by saying 'thank you' to all who came to the first night of our Programme for parents. We know how hard it is to get out at night after a long day, to get homework done and children ready for bed and even in some cases to get childminding while you are at the meeting in the parish. A big thank you to all who made such a huge effort on November 7th. Well over a hundred people were present and there was great energy in the group. Through the Parents on A Journey Programme we hope that home, school and parish can support each other as we journey together. It teaches us again how important community is. We must not wait until things go wrong to feel the support of community. You can read some things that presenter, Dan O' Connell, said and comments from people about his input on these pages. We look forward to seeing you at Session Two. Fr Harry

*Thank You!*

"Dan was very real, very honest. I felt it was ok not to be the perfect parent."

I could identify with Dan's story about getting annoyed with his lads. I love my kids too but there are moments when my patience runs out."

"I have four children and I am really glad I came tonight. It's exactly what I need."

"Dan helped me to think about God in a new way. I never thought of God as loving us into our full potential."

*Some things Dan said on the night:*

As adults we see ourselves as the ones who teach our children. But in fact it's often our children who teach us. They force us to grow up, to take responsibility for something more than ourselves. They demand that we love them. They push us to do it. Children teach us to live in the present moment. They want us to be present with them **now**, when they need us.

*While we try to teach  
our children all about life,  
our children teach us  
what life is all about.*

—ANGELA SCHWINDT

There's a line in a song by Robbie Williams that says 'There's a hole in your soul'. There is a truth in that. We always want more. We are never fully happy. Deep down there is a restlessness in each of us that we can't fill on our own. Only God can complete the human heart. We can never fully settle for anything less than God.

**GOD**  
*is love.*

The deepest thing the Christian story tells us is that 'God is Love.' Why did Jesus come? He came to make us aware of the God who loves us and who wants each of us to grow to our full potential. Have we forgotten who God is? Do we need to bring Christ back into our lives? If we don't what are the implications for us and our children?

The school does not take the place of the parents. It complements the parents. For example, if you teach your child to pray Grace Before Meals they will learn to be grateful. The happiest people are those with gratitude in their hearts. The word Eucharist itself means gratitude. That is what we do each Sunday. We gather to give thanks for all that is good in our lives, for the ways we have been blessed.

**GATHER**  
*here with*  
**GRATEFUL**  
*hearts*

# FOOD *for* THOUGHT

## SOME QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTIONS AT HOME

At the end of the night, Dan O' Connell offered questions for reflection. Parents were invited to meet at home in groups of 3/4 or 4 or 5/6 to think about the following questions over a cup of tea.

1. What do you expect from your school regarding the religious education of your child or children? What is your experience of this?
2. What is it that you long for, what do you want from life? What are some of your hopes for your family and community?
3. How do you understand or make sense of God in your life? What helps you to believe in God?
4. Parents want the best for their children. They want practical values for good living. What values would you like your children to live by?

For the past number of weeks groups have been meeting around the parish to think about these questions. Even if you haven't had a chance to meet with others, it's worth thinking about the questions for yourself.

### INVITATION TO NIGHT TWO

*The 2nd Session of Grow in Love  
Parents on A Journey Programme*

*will take place on*

*Wednesday, December 2nd,*

*at 7.30 p.m. in*

*St Fiannachta's Church,*

*Sixmilebridge.*

*Presenter: Dr. Dan O' Connell*

*All are welcome!*

“”  
join the  
conversation