

Archdiocese of Tuam

Archbishop's House, Tuam, Co. Galway, H54 HP57

☎ 093 24166 @ email: admin@tuamarchdiocese.org 🌐 www.tuamarchdiocese.org

Mr. Joe Carty
Principal
Castlebar Primary School
Chapel Street,
Castlebar,
Co. Mayo,
F23 K389.

30 September 2022

Patron's Letter to the Castlebar Primary School Community

Dear Mr. Carty,

The amalgamation of Scoil Naomh Aingeal and St. Patrick's De La Salle BNS brought into existence on 1 September 2022 the new Castlebar Primary School. I wish to congratulate and thank everybody on the work that was done and the considerable investment of time and energy that brought this plan to the successful conclusion you see today.

I take this opportunity to greet the pupils of the school – on both campuses – and to celebrate with them their part in this historic educational development in Castlebar. Not only are they making history, not only are they the beneficiaries of the rich educational heritage that has been characteristic of Scoil Naomh Aingeal and St. Patrick's De La Salle BNS, but these students – girls and boys – bring, through their own unique personalities, gifts and talents a new vibrancy to Castlebar Primary School. This is truly something to recognise and celebrate, and it must surely be a source of immense pride for their parents and families whom I also wish to greet through this letter. By enrolling their sons and daughters in Castlebar Primary School, they are endorsing the high standard of education provided up to now by the two parts of this new entity.

While children are the life blood of every school, they receive their education and formation during the school day from dedicated teachers and staff members. As someone who spent many years of my priestly life in the school setting, I know first-hand the generosity and selfless commitment that animates those who come to work in schools every day. I thank the teachers and other members of staff for all they do for the children in their care.

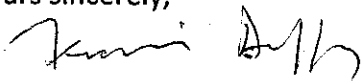
Behind the scenes in every school there are people who voluntarily give of their time and expertise to serve on Boards of Management. Until now there were two Boards of Management involved – one in Scoil Naomh Aingeal and the other in St. Patrick's De La Salle BNS. No letter could adequately present or even summarise the great work done by the parent representatives, the teacher representatives, the community representatives, or the Patron's representatives – one of whom serves as the chairperson. On my own behalf, and on behalf of my predecessor Archbishops, I offer a sincere and heartfelt word of thanks to all who at any point in the past served on these Boards of Management. These people made a real and valuable contribution to the education and formation of generations of young people in Castlebar and we are in their debt.

When a new school comes into existence, it can take a little while for things to settle and relationships to develop, and to simply get to know people – teachers and staff, parents, and the pupils themselves. It takes time, therefore, before a new Board of Management can be appointed. For that reason, as Patron, I have appointed Mr. Malachy Molloy to serve as Manager of Castlebar Primary School until such time as the Board of Management can be established. Many of you may know Malachy already since he was the person who facilitated the amalgamation process. He has a wealth of experience in education, and he has served with distinction in these roles in other places in the Archdiocese of Tuam. Together with the Principal and Deputy Principal, Malachy will prepare the ground for the various representatives to be chosen in due course.

With every good wish and the Lord's blessing,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,



+Francis Duffy
Archbishop of Tuam
Patron of Castlebar Primary School