

The Nano Nagle Icon

This icon, created by Desmond M Kyne, depicts Nano Nagle as a woman of the world in the best and truest sense. She was involved with people, yet totally absorbed in prayer for large parts of the day. Her life was spent totally for those who were genuinely deprived, needy and disadvantaged.

To communicate the eternally relevance of Nano's message, the artist has chosen a youthful image of Nano to occupy the central panel which is vibrant and alive with colour. The spiral motif behind her head is, as in Celtic times, a symbol of eternity, and it captures Nano's love of the God within who compels her to mission. To her right, the arm of the crucified Christ is pictured in a protective gesture, and the spiritual power coming through Christ is overshadowed by the wings symbolising the Holy Spirit. The image of the Sacred Heart in the centre of the icon, the heart on fire, symbolises Nano as a woman with a passionate love of God.

Nano's hands are depicted just above the river Blackwater at Ballygriffin where Nano experienced the great elements of nature, the sun, the earth, the waters and the hills. In the left hand side of the icon, however, the valley of the Blackwater is gloomy under the repressive influence of the penal laws, the sad situation of Irish Catholicism known first hand to Nano.

At Nano's feet is a group of children surrounding a lamb, the Lamb of God, with buildings representing the city of Cork to either side. The areas of the Southgate and Northgate Bridges were the centre of Nano's apostolate to children, many of whom in those days in Cork were exploited and disadvantaged. By contrast the bottom border of the icon depicts some of the more beautiful abstract symbols and

ornamentation from the Golden Age of Irish art and learning.

In the left hand panel at the top we see the Christ, whom Nano contemplates in the Eucharist, is the same Christ whom she meets in the poor and "heart speaks to heart".

This is followed by a scene in which a tiny cramped window illuminates a room, suggesting the poverty-stricken conditions of the cabin schools. Beneath that is a poignant reminder of the condition under which the people of Ireland lived in penal days. Nano appears in consultation with her formidable uncle Joseph Nagle in the next section. Joseph gave Nano a great deal of encouragement and support. Below that Nano is depicted caring for the sick, perhaps the hallmark of her life. Her care was always for those who were deprived, poor, old or lonely. This aspect of her apostolic life is shown in the next panel where she is seen moving through the dark streets of Cork with her lantern.

In the right hand section of the icon at the top is represented the Presentation of Our Lady, a favourite title under which Nano prayed to the Mother of God. The central panel on the right shows the four founding sisters standing by the well of living water. The Holy Spirit descends bearing the heart of Christ, and beneath them an acorn is falling to the ground; the seed is planted, and the oak, symbol of the Presentation



Sisters, spreads its shelter to the entire world. Rays from the sun, illuminate the sisters, suggesting the on-going influence of Nano amongst her spiritual family, and her relevance for today and the days that are to come.

(Adapted from Heart Aflame by Miceal Ledwith and Desmond M Kyne)

Sporting Achievements

Soccer – Grade 9 defeated The Friends School in the Grand Final, winning 3-1. Congratulations to Coach Bob Nicholson and team members: **Eloise Struwe, Ellen Ortmann, Clare Goss, Jane Archer, Ellie Davidson, Kathryn Nicholson, Gina Davidson, Lucy Cooper, Samantha Morley, Annie Johns, Eleanor Summers, Zoe Rose, Bridget Anderson, Katie Hartshorn, Hannah Gordon and Bella Reid.**



St Mary's College Grade 9 Soccer Team

Hockey - **Megan Baker** was selected in the U/14 Southern State Hockey team to participate in an intrastate Carnival. She captained one of the 4 matches and her team, Southern Blue, made it to the Grand Final winning the U/14 trophy.

Danielle Howell (Gr 7) has been selected in the U/12 Tasmanian State Hockey Team. Congratulations Megan and Danielle.

Water Polo - **Katie Kube** has been selected to represent Tasmania in the 16 and under Tasmanian Water Polo team. Well done Katie.



St Mary's College First Grade Softball Team

Softball - In a powerful batting display, St Mary's College First Grade Softball team defeated Collegiate 28-7 to win the Southern Grand Finals. The team, consisting of **Alyssa Cantrell, Clare Goss, Katie Hartshorn, Samantha McCarthy, Gabby Mann, Jessica Nicholson, Emma Norman, Jessica Norton, Emily Robinson and Olivia Tomes** then went on to defeat Scotch Oakburn 16-11 in the State Final. Congratulations to all the girls, along with coaches Luke Cantrell and Norm Nicholson. This is the first time in at least ten years that St Mary's College has won the State Final!

Cross Country - On Thursday 6th August, St Mary's College participated in the Southern SATIS Cross Country Championships at Tolosa Street Reserve. Congratulations to **Natasha Fitzpatrick** who won the Under 14 Championships and also congratulations to the Under 13 Team who were overall winners in their age group.



St Mary's College Under 13 Cross Country Team



Natasha Fitzpatrick