

Seinn2015 - Parents Information

1. Introduction: Seinn is a joint initiative of the Dioceses of Limerick and Killaloe to promote liturgical music in second-level schools in the two dioceses. Students and teachers learn music in their schools during the year and come together for a one day event featuring workshops, rehearsals and a concert in the University of Limerick on March 19th 2015. This is the second year of the Seinn programme – the first was created as part of the Limerick City of Culture celebrations and featured almost 500 students from 22 schools.

Seinn is organised by a committee of six

- Chairperson: Dom Richard Purcell, Mount St Joseph Abbey, Roscrea
- Director of Music: Ian Callanan. www.iancallanan.com
- Post Primary Diocesan Advisor, Limerick Diocese: Carmel Plant
- Post Primary Diocesan Advisor, Killaloe Diocese: Sr. Marie McNamara
- Pastoral Co-ordinator, Limerick Diocese: Noirin Lynch
- Administrator: Nodlaig Liston

More details are at: www.seinn.ie

2. Vision: The aim of the programme is to provide students and teachers in post primary schools with a resource of liturgical music for use at various school celebrations and by extension it teaches and promotes good liturgical music which will be of benefit to parishes. The focus is on faith and liturgy, so religion teachers are encouraged to lead this programme.
3. Programme Outline: Schools are invited to sign up for Seinn each Autumn and teachers are offered a preparation workshop. Teachers and students are invited to learn this new liturgical music in their schools over the winter months.
In January/February student soloists and musicians gather in advance for rehearsals.
On March 19th all students and teachers gather in the University of Limerick (UL) for a one day event featuring workshops, rehearsals and an evening concert in the University Concert Hall with a full orchestra. This evening concert is open to the public and the families of the participants are encouraged to attend.
4. Venue: The programme begins in the local school, where teachers and students learn this new liturgical music. On March 19th, Seinn will use the facilities of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, Irish Chamber Orchestra, Health Sciences Building, The Pavilion and the University Concert Hall. All these buildings are situated near one another on the University of Limerick campus. Adult volunteers are assigned to supervise for any movement between buildings, so that teachers and students can move confidently across the day.
5. Food: Students will arrive between 9.30am and 10.00am for a 10:30am opening gathering. Students have been told to bring a packed lunch and a hot meal with 2 choices will be provided at 5:30pm in a UL restaurant. Vegetarians will also be catered for and teachers have been asked to forward dietary requirements in advance.

6. Volunteers: The Seinn Committee will be joined by a group of adult volunteers on March 19th to ensure that the programme runs smoothly. All schools also send teachers/staff with their students, and teachers/staff remain in a supervisory role for their students for the day.

Seinn2015's volunteer co-ordinator, (Noirin Lynch); has invited one of Limerick Diocese' Diocesan Safeguarding trainers to act as the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for Seinn2015. Aoife Walsh will be available to students and teachers in that capacity to ensure that the agreed Safeguarding Policies and Procedures are in place. (A copy of this policy document is available on the website).

To be a Seinn volunteer you must be 18 years or older, fill in an application form, meet with Noirin Lynch, the volunteer co-ordinator, and sign a declaration form. You must also supply the names of two referees who are in turn contacted by the co-ordinator to ensure that you are suitable for the role of leader. Volunteers also complete Garda Vetting and receive information on the programme, facilitation skills and child safeguarding issues.

7. Supervision: Teachers/school staff remain supervisors of the students in their care. Volunteers support the smooth running of the programme by guiding groups to workshops and other events and by having information and support to hand when needed. At the start of the day on March 19th, participants are introduced to key contact people and a mobile number is made available for concerns or information. A copy of our Child Safeguarding Policy, Procedure and Guidelines is available on our website and will be available on request on the day.
8. Social Media: A special aspect of Seinn2014 was how participants used #Seinn2014 to communicate with Ian Callanan – musical director – during rehearsals. Students took some group photos and shared them to quickly create a fun, positive interaction among groups of 200 – 400 students. This twitter handle was only used during the Seinn event and as a group - that is, no one-to-one conversation's during or after Seinn2014. Many students also tagged Facebook photos with #Seinn2014, and these can be seen on our Facebook page.

We will be using #Seinn2015 on March 19th and you are welcome to look into the conversation and see the day's events unfold.

9. Medical Information: One volunteer holds a qualification from the Irish Red Cross in Occupational First Aid. However it is vital that if your child has an ongoing medical condition, is allergic to medication, or is currently taking any medication that the teachers/staff from your school are aware of this, and share that information with the First Aid volunteer as necessary. St John's Ambulance provide First Aid cover during the second half of the day.
10. Parental Consent Forms. Students have already been asked to complete these forms and return them. We cannot accept a student on March 19th who does not have this written consent from their parent/guardian to attend.

11. Contact Information:

- a. In advance of March 19th: Seinn committee, c/o Limerick Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Denmark St, Limerick. 061 400133. www.seinn.ie
- b. March 19th: A mobile number will be available to participants on the day for contact with the DLP and leaders. Students may bring and use their mobile phones during the day, though we will ask that they be turned off during the concert as they will interfere with the sound system.

12. Finance: Most of the costs of Seinn2015 are carried by the Dioceses of Killaloe and Limerick, with ticket sales on the night being important too. Students were asked to contribute €10 at the start of this programme. Students each received a Seinn music book and CD, and a hot dinner is provided on March 19th. We appreciate that in the current economic climate some people may be experiencing financial difficulties. If there are any issues regarding payment please contact your school, as some schools have generously supported students, so no young person feels unable to participate.

13. Seinn 2015 – the Concert: The concert in the University Concert Hall, Limerick is a hugely memorable event for all involved. 500 students from 24 schools will sing 22 pieces of liturgical music together, with a full orchestra. Tickets for the night are €10 and available from www.uch.ie While your child may have school transport, we would encourage families and friends to consider attending the concert themselves so as to share in these memories. A video is good, but witnessing your child smile and sing on stage in UCH is pretty special!

14. Tiredness! It's a very full day – we have shortened it from last year, but still expect participants to go home both energised and tired!

15. What to bring: Please remember that students will need

- To be in uniform
- To bring their Seinn music books (not CD's). Copies can be purchased for €10 on the day and are needed on stage.
- A packed lunch and water.

We hope this will be a great experience for all involved. Please feel free to contact us on 061 400133 with any questions.