

# CHILDREN'S HOUR

## AROUND THE FIRESIDE

The Children's Hour is a club for children held each Tuesday afternoon in the Parish Centre. It all began in 2008, set up as a small pilot venture consisting of three adult leaders and eight children. With the backing of our then beloved former Parish Priest, Fr. Micheál Comer we began in all seriousness in September 2009. We are a group of Mums and Grandmothers who wish to pass on our faith to young children in a warm and gentle manner.

The afternoon begins with a Circle Time where all of the children sit around and are encouraged to share their news of the week. They are given a drink and a chocolate bar and the atmosphere is fun and relaxed. After that we have a game, some prayer, singing, petitions, and quiet time ending with prayers of thanksgiving. We then assemble in the library around the fireside where one of the leaders reads a prepared Gospel story and there is time for questions and answers from the children.

The following week instead of a game we have arts and crafts usually based on the Gospel story of the week before. Once a month, we have a takeaway and also a 'Chewey Tuesday' whereby some of the children bake (the night before at home) and share out all their baking with the entire group the next day. The afternoon is patterned after childhood winter days as remembered by one of our leaders. It sets out to be a warm, fun and welcoming 'afternoon with Grandma' featuring crafts, games, chat and the prayer woven seamlessly into the afternoon.

Christmas is magical. It begins with a short meditation of the Shepherds followed by carols around the Crib and then an unexpected visit from Santa (all the way from the North Pole) with a party of goodies, drink, presents plus a bumper raffle and seasonal music. All great fun! We finish the year mid-June with a party and a guest speaker (usually a young person from Youth 2000) and each child is awarded a certificate of Life Skills in a presentation ceremony with parents/family present.

We hope your child can join us each week on Tuesday afternoons 3.30-4.45pm. There is a suggested donation of €3 to cover costs (no child is refused entry because of lack of funds). This group is fully recognised and approved by St. Anne's Parish, the Pastoral Council and The Faith Development Group.

All Welcome.

Margaret Godwin, Anne Farrell, Cora McGrael and Margaret Canavan.