

# Make it memorable with ICT

## Using digital technology in the preparations for First Holy Communion

Children and teachers throughout Ireland will now be busy preparing for communion ceremonies in May. Teachers go to great lengths with the children in making this a very special time for them and their families. I thought it might be a good time to think about using ICT in the many different activities and preparations that children undertake to make it more memorable.

### Some ideas

- If you have a school blog, now might be a good time to ask the children to post one line about what they are doing or what they are thinking about in preparation for communion.
- You could post some of the prayers or hymns on the school blog/website and children can view these at home with their families.
- For those children who will be preparing to read at the ceremony, using the digital video to record their reading

is a useful way of helping children gain confidence and in helping them to self critique. A flip camera could be very useful for this and remember when using a digital video camera, try to use a tripod as it makes life much easier.

- Children can share their communion stories or thoughts online via *Storytime* on Scoilnet.
- The children can create their own/class prayer book or 'souvenir' memory book using any basic word publisher or presentation tool and can add images or sounds if they wish to make a multimedia book.
- If you are visiting the church, take some photos with the digital camera while you are there and you can use them back in the class for discussion.
- Digital story. This can be created very simply using a collection of images gathered while children are preparing for communion e.g. artwork around communion themes, images relating to their thoughts and feelings and pictures

of the church. Children can take these pictures using the digital camera and then create the story using *Photostory* or any other presentation tool. If you wish to take this one step further you could record the children singing hymns and use this as the soundtrack to their story. There are some very easy to use USB microphones, relatively low cost, which are very effective for sound recording. It may also be interesting to explore the use of *Audacity* (free sound editing software that can be downloaded from the internet <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>) to do some editing on the sound recording. A podcast of the children's singing or reciting prayers could also be created and uploaded to the website.

- If you have the time and energy, it would be lovely to create a short film about 'Our Communion'. It could be as simple as asking each child's their thoughts and compiling this using, for example, *Movie Maker* or *Photostory*. FÍS [www.fisfestival.com](http://www.fisfestival.com) presents you with a very good methodology for exploring film.
- Some schools often have a gathering in the school hall after the Communion ceremony in the church and this would be a good time to show the film, the digital story, the multimedia prayer book or other images to parents and others who attend. This could be done very simply using a computer, a digital projector and a white surface to project onto.

I hope that you and the children have some very memorable moments in your preparations for their First Holy Communion. Go n-éirí libh. 🇮🇪

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## NCTE's Summer Courses



The NCTE's free online *Developing e-Learning in your School* (Primary) was so successful last summer that it is being offered again this summer, this time with a literacy dimension. This 20 hour course is developed around the e-Learning handbook which was sent to all schools, is highly interactive and includes plenty of videos as well as practical examples of e-learning in action. It is aimed at all teachers in a school, not just ICT coordinating teachers and principals. ICT skills and experience of using the internet are required as well as a good broadband internet connection. See [www.ncte.ie/onlinecourses](http://www.ncte.ie/onlinecourses) for details. Enrolment will be available from mid-April. Places are limited.

If online courses are not for you, the NCTE also provides ICT-related summer courses which are available countrywide through the network of local education centres. This year, the focus is on Creating and Using ICT Resources for Literacy. Contact your local education centre for more details of the courses available near you ([www.ncte.ie/educationcentres](http://www.ncte.ie/educationcentres)).



## NATIONAL Gifted Education AWARENESS DAY Friday April 8th



## EU Talent Day Saturday April 9th

Irish Gifted Education Blog  
[www.razzledandrazzled.com](http://www.razzledandrazzled.com)

supported by

FACCS  
ELSTA  
NAPD  
fedcbe.ie  
CITY  
ICEP  
scoilnet

**scoilnet**  
portal for irish education  
lárshuíomh oideachais na héireann

No 18



Star site



### Mother of Divine Grace Primary School

[www.mdgballygall.scoilnet.ie](http://www.mdgballygall.scoilnet.ie)

Conventional looking site but packed full of information about the school and the activities within. Well maintained with the latest school news. Uses video and podcasts and has recently started an excellent blog at <http://mdgballygall.scoilnet.ie/blog/>

### My favourite sites

Gráinne Curran, teacher in a  
four teacher NS in Co Wexford



### Scoilnet Quizzes

<http://quiz.scoilnet.ie>

Great selection of quizzes. Also allows you to build your own quiz.

### Mash.ie

[www.mash.ie](http://www.mash.ie)

Takes a thematic approach to lessons. Always good for an unusual link.

### Explorers Hall of Fame

[http://library.thinkquest.org/4034/hall\\_of\\_fame.html](http://library.thinkquest.org/4034/hall_of_fame.html)

It's not cutting edge but useful in class. Big list of explorers and notes on each.



### Top 10 sites

The most viewed resources for early March

- 1 St Patrick's Themepage**  
[www.scoilnet.ie/Themepage\\_StPatrick.shtm](http://www.scoilnet.ie/Themepage_StPatrick.shtm)  
*Single location for links on the national day.*
- 2 I went to the Zoo**  
[www.theschoolbell.com/Links/2002/1.html](http://www.theschoolbell.com/Links/2002/1.html)  
*Simple infants resource about the zoo.*
- Money Games**  
[www.teachingmoney.co.uk/eurosite/euroindex.html](http://www.teachingmoney.co.uk/eurosite/euroindex.html)  
*Maths games to help teaching about money.*
- 4 What Age are You?**  
[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryfrench/how\\_old/game.shtml?nav](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryfrench/how_old/game.shtml?nav)  
*French game where you have to listen to someone tell their age.*
- 5 All about Lent**  
[www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/easter/lent.html](http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/easter/lent.html)  
*Notes for Religion on Lent.*
- 6 Journey through Lent**  
[www.refuel.org.uk/projects/lent/index.html](http://www.refuel.org.uk/projects/lent/index.html)  
*Information about the season of Lent.*
- 7 Classroom Labels**  
[www.senteacher.org/Worksheet/4/Labels.xhtml](http://www.senteacher.org/Worksheet/4/Labels.xhtml)  
*Printable labels.*
- 8 Cricket for Dummies**  
[www.squidoo.com/cricketfordummies](http://www.squidoo.com/cricketfordummies)  
*Guide of PE class on the game of cricket.*
- 9 Fling the Teacher: Volcano Quiz**  
[www.geography.learnontheinternet.co.uk/activities/volcanoes.html](http://www.geography.learnontheinternet.co.uk/activities/volcanoes.html)  
*Highly visual quiz game.*
- 10 Fractions Crossword**  
[http://test.scoilnet.ie/res/Crosswords/lb3\\_4mathsfractions.html](http://test.scoilnet.ie/res/Crosswords/lb3_4mathsfractions.html)  
*Teacher generated crossword.*