

Tá áthas orm bheith anso chun páirt a ghlacadh i gceiliúradh caoga bliain na scoile. Is mian liom mo bhuíochas a ghabhail don phrionmhoide, Ms Murray agus foireann na scoile as ucht a gcuireadh dom a bheith libh inniu.

I am pleased to be here today and I thank Ms Murray and the staff for the invitation. First of all, congratulations on the Golden Jubilee of the school. On behalf of the Sisters, I'd like to spend a few moments reflecting on the involvement of the Sisters of St. Paul.

Before ever the school came into existence 50 years ago the site of this church and that of the schools was a wide open farm, an eco-friendly, organic farm. The owner, James Taylor describes it as follows:



The farm consisted of about 27 or 28 Irish acres. As far as I can remember I grew about 4-5 acres of wheat yearly. This produced about 15-20 barrels per acre for which the price was roughly 3 pounds per barrel. Also in my time I kept two cows mostly for milk for the house - the surplus was used to rear 2 or 3 calves which eventually were sold in the Dublin Cattle market.

I grew about 4-6 acres of potatoes per year.

Cauliflowers, about 2 or 3 acres, sold in dozens at about 3 to 9 shillings.

Turnips, about 1 acre, sold in bags at about 4-6 shillings per bag.

***Signed: Yours sincerely
James Taylor***

Now, some homework not for the children, but for the adults! Two questions:

1. A dozen cauliflowers were sold for 6 shillings - how much did one cost? Answer to be in euro and cents.
2. A barrel of barley seed was sold for three pounds. Estimate in grams and kilograms what one barrel would weigh and what three pound is worth in today's currency.

The first two correct answers will be considered for a prize!

The farm, when it went on sale, had been earmarked by the diocese as a possible site for the convent and schools. The Sisters visited the school site on July 25th 1962 where they met the Town Planning Officer, Mr. O'Brien, and solicitor, Mr. Ryan.



Mother Claude was appointed Sister-in-charge. We know that for the first three weeks of December 1964 the Sisters were accommodated in Assumption Convent Walkinstown, but on December 18th they moved to their new home, 23 Wellington Road while they awaited the building of the

1903, the first house being in Kilfinane, Co. Limerick. Another fifty years on, we went to South Africa and again fifty years later we arrived in Romania.

Not surprisingly then after 50 years a-growing here in Greenhills, we, in the Convent are on the move, thankfully not too far. Both St. Paul's and St. Peter's are also on the brink of change. We hope and pray that this transition will progress in the best possible way for all. Some here in the Church today will see the 100th Anniversary and I wonder what will be written then!

Now for a moment I turn to the children who are absolutely exemplary. They are so well turned out - parents and teachers can surely be so proud of you. Because I didn't give you any homework I am going to ask you to please stand up. Now turn around so that everyone can see you! You may sit down now!

These children and all former pupils are the reason why the site was purchased more than fifty years ago. These children are the new harvest and this is where the renewable energy is! Long may it last!

May all in the school grow and flourish in the years to come under the guidance and leadership of Ms Murray and her staff.

And my final few words today come from a song: "Standing on the Shoulders"

"We are standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before us.
We are stronger for their courage
We are wiser for their words
We are grateful for their vision, for their toiling on this earth
We are standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before us".

Congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of the school!

Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

