

# Notre Dame Catholic College Newsletter

February 2019 – Special Anniversary Issue



2019 marks two very important anniversaries in the life of Notre Dame Catholic College. It is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our college and also the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the canonisation of Mere Julie. A unique commemorative lapel pin has been commissioned for the college community.

As we mark these milestones with special events during the year we are very mindful of the debt of gratitude we, in the city of Liverpool, owe to St Julie and her Congregation for their unstinting work in education.

February 2<sup>nd</sup> was chosen as our college Feast Day because it was on that date Julie, Françoise and two companions made their vows and so the Congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur was founded. St Julie's Feast Day is April 8<sup>th</sup>.



**'Ah Qu'il Est Bon  
Le Bon Dieu'**

(How Good God Is)

St Julie Billiart

## Special Forthcoming Events

College Feast Day  
February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019

Visit to Rome – 22<sup>nd</sup>-  
24<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Celebration in the  
Metropolitan  
Cathedral of Christ  
the King – June 19<sup>th</sup>  
2019



The Religious Education department has arranged a trip to **Rome** from June 20<sup>th</sup> to June 24<sup>th</sup> 2019 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the canonisation of St Julie Billiart, the founder of the Notre Dame Community. Notre Dame Schools from across the UK will be joining together for this very special occasion.

The itinerary of the trip will include: a walking tour of Rome to see the Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, Church of St Clemente and the Pantheon; visits to the Vatican, the Sistine Chapel, San Callisto Catacombs, St Peter's Cathedral, the Colosseum, Palatine Hill and Roman Forum; Meet with other Notre Dame Schools visiting Rome too.

## 1804 Society

1804 is significant to Notre Dame as it is the year that St Julie and the sisters of Notre Dame began their quest to educate the young people without access to education. They travelled across the globe from their home in Namur, Belgium, to open schools and places of learning for those who needed it most.

The 1804 Society was established here in 2012 and its' members are dedicated Sixth Form students who aspire to live in the spirit of St Julie. Each year the new society members visit the motherhouse of the Sisters of Notre Dame in Namur, this visit inspires their everyday work within the college community. In Notre Dame the society create links in their community, organise charity events and represent their college in many different ways



**To be simple is to be like a sunflower which follows all the movements of the sun and ever turns toward it.'**

- St. Julie Billiart



Sister Edith Brash with a group of pupils on a visit to the Silver Blades Ice Rink in the late 1960's.

## Notre Dame Catholic College

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur first arrived in Liverpool in 1851 at the request of Father Nugent. A house in Everton Valley was purchased in 1867. In 1869 Notre Dame Everton Valley began its long association with the education of girls in Liverpool when a Pupil-Teachers' Centre was opened. Links were forged with many local primary schools, including St Augustine's (1871), Our Lady Immaculate (1872) St. Alexander's School from 1872, St. Sylvester's School (1873), St. Michael's (1875), All Souls (1876), St. John's (1878) and St. Alphonsus' (1888) as Sisters and their Pupil-Teachers joined the teaching staff.

In 1902 the Collegiate School came into existence and in 1908 the Pupil-Teachers' Centre and the Collegiate School amalgamated to form one establishment.

Notre Dame Collegiate School developed in size and stature between 1908 and 1983. In 1978 the Sisters finally moved from Everton Valley to make way for the extended building needed when it opened as an all-girl Comprehensive School in September 1983 following the re-organisation of Catholic Secondary Education in the Archdiocese of Liverpool. Three schools, Notre Dame Collegiate School, St John's Secondary Modern Girls' School and St Catherine's Secondary Modern Girls' School amalgamated and became known as Notre Dame High School. In 2001 all the Catholic High Schools in Liverpool inserted the title 'Catholic' into their name. During the academic year 2002 Notre Dame Catholic High School was awarded the status of a Performing Arts College. Along with the status came the opportunity to change the school's name. Fittingly, the school returned to its original title of College. September 2012 was an important milestone when the school became co-educational.

In September 2013 the Everton Valley site closed and all staff and pupils moved to the new building on Great Homer Street.



Pupils examine the crater left by a World War II bomb which fell into the convent garden in 1941. The convent was severely damaged. The Sisters had to be housed in other Notre Dame convents (Birkdale, Parbold, Wigan, St Helens and also in Manchester) they travelled by trolley bus into Liverpool each day to continue their work in eleven local primary schools.

### Head Teachers

1902 - 1908	Sister Mary Joseph of the Angels (Ellen Marsland)
1908 - 1938	Sister Imelda of the Angels (Wilhelmina Aspell)
1938 - 1966	Sister Francis of St Wilfred (Agnes Mary McIntyre)
1966 - 1972	Sister Marie Philippa (Susan Waters)
1972 - 1978	Sister Rosina Julie (Rosina Fleming)
1978 - 1993	Sister Eileen Kelleher
1993 - 2010	Miss Christine Byrne McCann
2010 -	Mrs Frances Harrison



Play time, now known as break time, for the older pupils (dated 1930-40).



Musicians and choir 1936

New building 180 Great Homer Street 2013





Cottage in  
Cuvilly



Namur today

## Saint Julie Billiard

St. Julie (Marie Rose Julia) Billiard was born on July 12<sup>th</sup> 1751 and died April 8<sup>th</sup> 1816. As a child, playing "school" was Julie's favourite game. When she was sixteen she began to teach "for real". She sat on a haystack during the noon recess and told the biblical parables to the workers. Julie carried on this mission of teaching throughout her life, and the Congregation she founded continues her work.

Julie was the fifth of seven children. She attended a little one room school in Cuvilly. She enjoyed all of her studies, but she was particularly attracted to the religion lessons taught by the parish priest. Recognizing something "special" in Julie, the priest secretly allowed her to make her First Communion at the age of nine, when the normal age at that time, was thirteen. She learned to make short mental prayers and to develop a great love for Jesus in the Eucharist.

A murder attempt on her father shocked her nervous system badly. A period of extremely poor health for Julie began, and was to last for thirty years. For twenty-two of these years she was completely paralyzed. All of her sufferings and pain she offered up to God.

When the French Revolution broke out, Julie offered her home as a hiding place for loyal priests. Because of this, Julie became a hunted prey. Five times in three years she was forced to flee in secret to avoid compromising her friends who were hiding her.

At this time she was privileged to receive a vision. She saw her crucified Lord surrounded by a large group of religious women dressed in a habit she had never seen before. An inner voice told her that these would be her daughters and that she would begin an institute for the Christian education of young girls. She and a rich young woman Françoise Blin De Bourdon founded the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (SND).

At Amiens, the two women and a few companions began living a religious life in 1803. Julie, Françoise and Catherine Duchatel made their profession and took their final vows in 1804 on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. In May 1804, Julie was miraculously cured of her illness and walked for the first time in twenty-two years. She was elected as Mother General of the young Congregation. In 1815, Mere Julie taxed her ever poor health by nursing the wounded and feeding the starving left from the battle of Waterloo. For the last three months of her life, she again suffered much. She died peacefully on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1816 at the age of 64.

Julie was beatified on May 13<sup>th</sup> 1906 by Pope Pius X, and was canonized by Pope Paul VI on June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1969.

Since 1804, more than 10,000 women have dedicated their lives as Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Today, the sisters and their associates continue to live out the spiritual vision of St. Julie Billiard, educating children and adults and working with the poor on five continents.

Bibliography: Catholic Online

Pathways to God's Goodness – Sr Magdalen Lawler, SND



**'Do small things with great love' – St Julie Billiard**

## The badge of Notre Dame Catholic College

The crown represents the queen-ship of Our Lady.

The three stars represent:

1. The three vows: poverty, chastity and obedience
2. The three theological virtues: faith, hope and charity
3. The three characteristics of the institute: obedience, charity, simplicity

The spray of roses symbolises love. The spray of lilies symbolises purity

The cross represents:

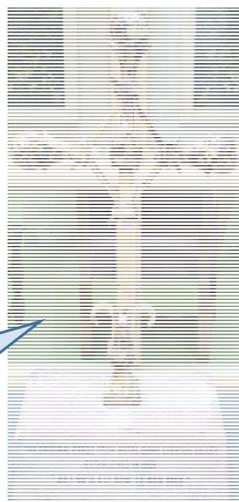
1. Love of sufferings
2. The religious life itself, itself a happy cross which wins heaven.

The use of gold represents the reign of Jesus Christ over souls and the use of blue represents Our Lady's colour

The Dorothy Stang Theatre – named in honour of Dorothy Stang SND who was martyred for her work to secure land rights for the peasants in Brazil.



The original cross from Notre Dame Everton Valley established in 1869.



The stained glass windows, originally in the sanctuary of Notre Dame Hall chapel, were painstakingly restored and placed in the new chapel. The chapel is physically at the very heart of the new building and spiritually the heart of the community

**‘We are what we want to be by the efforts we are willing to make’ - St Julie Billiat**

### Contact Information:

Notre Dame Catholic College, 180 Great Homer Street, Liverpool, L5 5AF

Tel: 0151 330 5122

Fax: 0151 207 0904

Email: [ao@notredame.liverpool.sch.uk](mailto:ao@notredame.liverpool.sch.uk)