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Teresa Frances Ball

1794 - 1861





Seek ye first the
kingdom of God

Seek ye first the kingdom of God

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ss21lHl81_E

Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
And His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

We do not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God,
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you,
Seek and ye shall find.
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you,
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
And His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Alleluia, Alleluia.



Frances Ball – Family Tree and Childhood

- **D.O.B:** 06 January 1794
 - **Address:** 63 Eccles Street, Dublin 1
 - **Baptised:** St Michan's Church.
 - **Father:** John Ball (died 1804) **Occupation:** Silk merchant
 - **Mother:** Mabel Clare Bennet, Eyrecourt, Galway
 - **Siblings:** John Ball (half-brother), Cecilia, Anna Marie, Isabella, Nicholas
 - **Family Education:**
 - **Cecilia** – Ursuline Order in Cork, later became an Ursuline Sister and founded the Ursuline house in Blackrock, Cork.
 - **Anna Marie:** Attended Mary Ward's school in York, England 1798 – 1803. Co Foundress of the Religious Sisters of Charity with Mary Aikenhead. Anne Marie founded an Orphanage in Harold's Cross, Dublin and a refuge for women in the Coombe.
 - **Isabella:** attended Mary Ward's school in York, England 1798 - 1803
 - **Nicholas:** Attended Jesuit school in Stoneyhurst, England, Trinity College and Kings Inn and became a barrister. Later became an MP for a year. Married with three children. Anne became a religious sister in Cork, Mary in York and his son became an Oratian priest.
 - **Frances:** Attended Mary Ward's school in York 1803 – 1808. Education continued by Nicholas.
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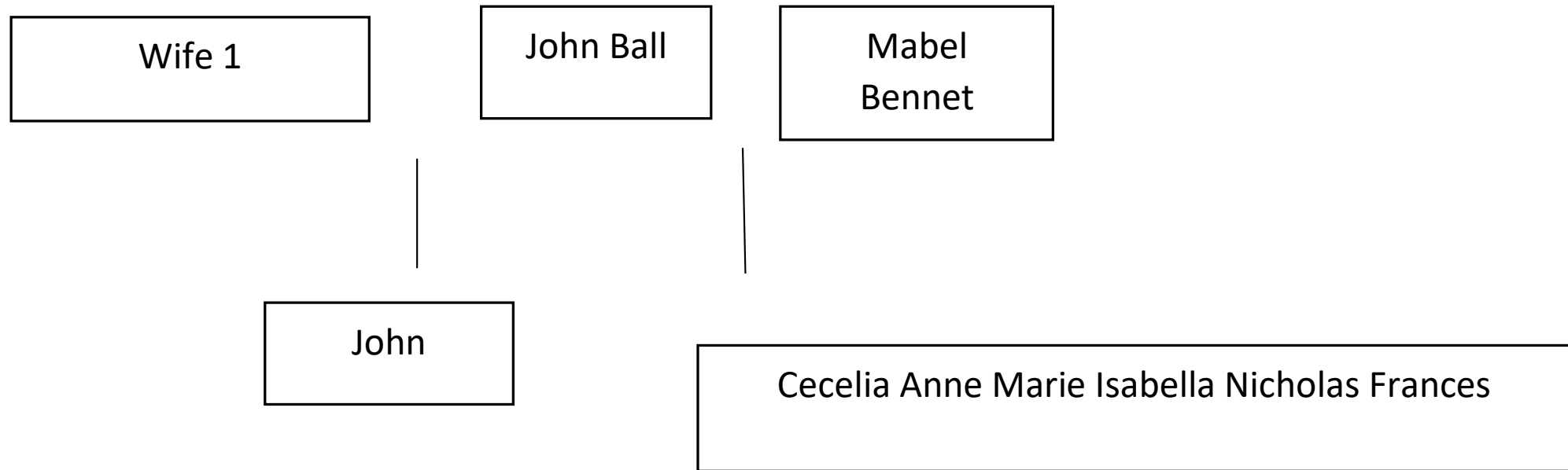
Early School Days

The apple of her father's eye, Frances was very upset when she was sent to school in York. She tried to have herself expelled by behaving badly. After her father's death in April 1804, although greatly saddened by her bereavement, Frances settled down in school. She was an intelligent, artistic and popular student. Mrs Ball was lonely following the death of her husband and decided to bring Frances back to Ireland in 1808.

Frances did not wish to end her studies and her brother, Nicholas, promised to continue her education himself.

Student Engagement

From what you have learned about Frances can you complete her family tree?



Student Engagement



**HOW DID YOU FEEL LEAVING THE COMFORT
OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AND STARTING YOUR
SECOND LEVEL EDUCATION?**



**WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THAT
EXPERIENCE?**

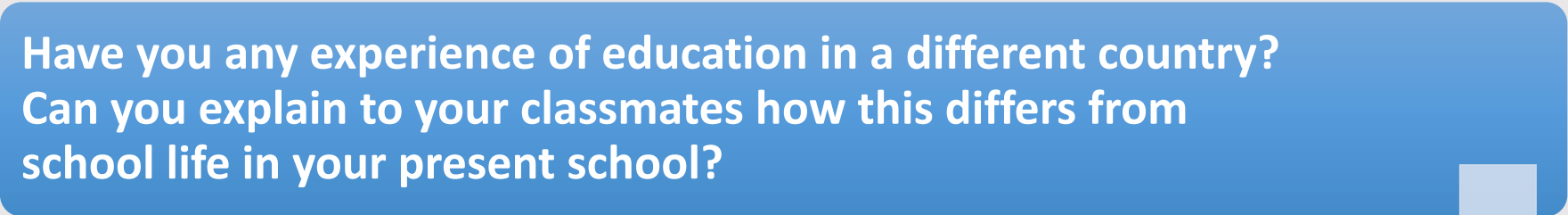
Do not be afraid

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2rOOLhSWJ0>



Student Engagement

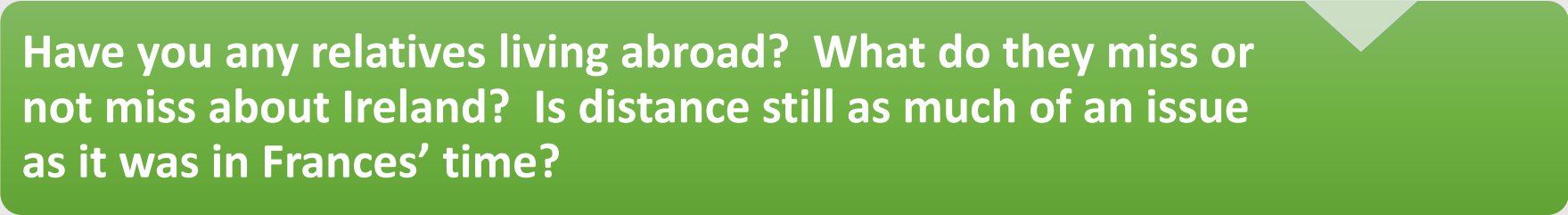
Have you any experience of education in a different country?
Can you explain to your classmates how this differs from
school life in your present school?



Would you like to study abroad in the future?



Have you any relatives living abroad? What do they miss or
not miss about Ireland? Is distance still as much of an issue
as it was in Frances' time?



A Mary Ward school today

*embraces diversity
as a mirroring of
the wonder of Creation.*

*(Mary Ward Schools' Compass
2017)*



Student Engagement

- If you were to visit a Loreto school in a different country how do you think you would recognise it as a Loreto school? Read the websites of Loreto schools around the world and identify what you feel they have in common. (Website links.....)



Student Engagement

- **Frances lost her father at an early age. What other forms of loss might a young person experience?**
- **Do you know of any organisation that helps young people deal with a bereavement or loss? Is this service available in your local area/school?**
- **Can you outline the stages of grief and how they impact on a person?**



+ • Frances Ball – change of plan!

- March 1810 Frances Ball aged 17 went to her **Debutantes' Ball**. Frances had completed 6 years as a student in York.
- Frances had dreams of marrying a wealthy young man so that she could continue as her father did to help the poor of Dublin and to have a family to love and by whom to be loved.
- It was while she was dancing that Frances had an experience that was to change the rest of her life. She heard a voice saying 'Seek first the kingdom of God and his justice and all things else shall be added unto you.'
- The next day Frances went to Mass and later spoke to her close friend Father Daniel Murray. He advised her to pray to understand better and clearer the meaning behind these words.



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Frances Ball – Mentors

- **Father**
 - Frances' father was her primary mentor. She was aware that he was very well known for his kindness and fairness to his employees. The poor of Dublin turned out in great numbers of his funeral as a sign of their respect for him. She experienced his acceptance of her impetuous personality and his respect for all the women in his life. His death had a huge effect on her. She was subsequently unable to pass on bad news to anyone concerning the death of a loved one.
- **Brother - Nicholas**
 - Frances' brother had a great influence on her. Nicholas brought her home from York in 1808. He insisted that her education continue and that she be widely read, versed in the classics and excelled in public speaking.
 - He accompanied her to the Debutantes' Ball and later to York when she returned as a novice.

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Frances Ball – Mentors

- **Sister – Anne Marie**

- Anne Marie was a strong defender of the underprivileged. She founded an Orphanage in Harold's Cross and a refuge for women in the Combe.
- She was the co-foundress with Mary Aikenhead of the Irish Sisters of Charity. Frances accompanied her on her visits to the poor of Dublin. These experiences may have inspired Frances to open a free school beside every fee - paying school she founded.

- **Friend - Father Daniel Murray**

- Father Daniel Murray was ordained in 1790 and later in 1809 became Co-Adjutor bishop of Dublin. He was famous for his oratory. He laid the foundation stone of the Pro Cathedral in 1815 and was responsible for the opening of 220 catholic schools in the Dublin Diocese. He encouraged the founding of the Irish Sisters of Charity he was instrumental in Frances bringing the Loreto Order in Dublin. All Hallows College, a training college for missionary priests was attributed to him and he introduced the Society of St Vincent de Paul to Ireland.
- Dr. Murray's two nieces had attended York as pupils and his dream was that Frances, once trained in the spirituality of the I.B.V.M. would bring that to Ireland to provide an education for Irish children.

Student Engagement

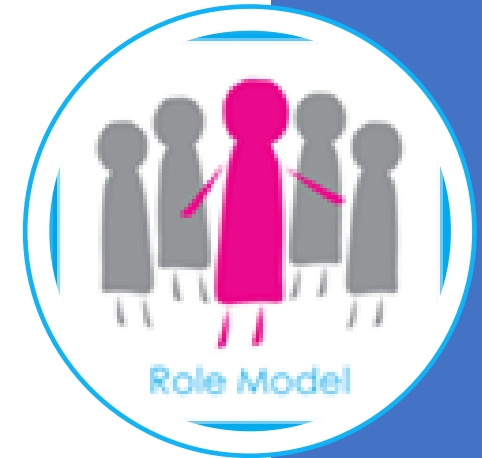
What does the term Mentor mean?

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Student Engagement

- **What qualities would you consider necessary in a mentor?**
- **Can you identify any mentor(s) in your life?**
- **In what way have you been mentored?**



Student Engagement

Have you been a mentor to anyone?

Is there a role for student mentors in the school?





Frances following her vocation



- Frances' mother and brother had an expectation that Frances would marry a suitable husband.
 - Her mother would not countenance France returning to York as a novice.
 - One morning Frances and her mother went to Mass in a different church to usual. The priest spoke about parents who block God's plans in their children who wish to follow Him. Frances's mother thought these words were meant for her. She relented and allowed Frances to go to York. Dr Murray hoped that Frances and a group of sisters would come back and set up a community of the I.B.V.M. in Dublin. The Leader of the community in York, Mother Coyney, agreed to train Frances and a few other Irish girls and allow them to return. She did not feel that, given the political situation at the time, a group of English educators would be welcome in Dublin.
 - Frances left for York on 11 June 1814 accompanied by her brother Nicholas. To Frances' delight Mary Aikenhead was also in York preparing for the Founding of the Sisters of Charity in Ireland.
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Frances following her vocation

- Frances joined the I.B.V.M. order on 08 September 1814. She took the name Teresa after Teresa of Avila.
- As time went on Frances began to get cold feet about setting up a community in Dublin. She became overwhelmed by fear. However, on 09 September 1816 she made her Final Profession in York. She took as her motto 'the mercies of the Lord I will sing forever.'



Student Engagement



Is there a difference between choosing a career path and having a vocation?

WHAT IS VOCATION?



+ • Frances ○ returns to Ireland

- Good news came to Frances (now Teresa Ball) in 1819. Another girl arrived from Ireland. She was Anne Therry from Cork and the following October another young woman presented herself in York. Her name was Eleanor Arthur, originally from Limerick.
- Meanwhile, her friend and mentor, Dr Murray had purchased a run- down house and 40 acres of land in Rathfarnham, Dublin for Frances, (Mother Teresa) and her fellow two sisters, Sister Baptist Therry and Sister Ignatius Arthur, to establish a convent and school. The three sisters left York in August 1821. By now Frances had spent six years at school in the Bar Convent and seven subsequent years preparing for this endeavour.
- It seems that Frances fortuitously refused to go on the designated boat to Ireland as that boat subsequently sank with all on board drowned.
- Frances began her journey by reciting the Litany of Loreto. Loreto was the place that Mary Ward had gone to on her way to see the Pope in Rome.



Frances returns to Ireland

- When they reached their destination the house in Rathfarnham was not habitable, so Frances accepted an invitation from Mary Aikenhead of the Sisters of Charity to stay with them in Stanhope Place until Rathfarnham was made ready.
 - Frances called her first house in Ireland after the Holy House of Loreto and that is what this new congregation became known as in Ireland and as they moved to other parts of the world. In Pontifical terms the congregation was known as the Irish Branch of the I.V.B.M. (The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
 - While residing with Mary Aikenhead in Stanhope Street, Sister Baptist and Sister Ignatius made their final profession.
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Frances returns to Ireland

- During the time the house in Rathfarnham to be made ready the three sisters rented a house in Harolds Cross in Dublin. In May 1822 they opened the first IBVM convent in Ireland there. On 04 November 1822 they finally moved into Rathfarmham.
- Waiting to greet them were Frances' mother, her sisters Anna Maria and Isabella, her brother Nicolaus, the sister and husband of Eleanor Arthur (Sister Ignatius), an old friend of Frances, and the 13 boarders from their temporary school in Harolds Cross.
- To open the school Frances had to get a licence from the local Protestant Minister and she had to take an oath of allegiance to the King of England.

Student Engagement



Please view this short film on the History of the Shrine in Loreto, Italy.



It was in honour of this shrine that Frances Ball named the house in Rathfarnham, Dublin and all subsequent convents and schools founded by sisters from Rathfarnham.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hswvJ2uurk>

Student Engagement



- The opening of a new school or a new facility in an existing school is always a memorable occasion.

- + Imagine what Frances might have written in her diary on the evening of the opening of Loreto Rathfarnham.

Student Engagement



Imagine that you are asked to give a speech at the opening of your new school/school wing/facility. What would you say to the school community?



Loreto Education circa 1822



- The school system of the time bore some similarities to the school curriculum today but there were many differences too.
 - French was the official language of instruction.
 - Languages, drama, music and art were studied by all.
 - Needlework was encouraged.
 - The students did not return home for Christmas .
 - Frances (Mother Teresa) advised her teachers to be tender in their treatment of the pupils but firm at the same time.
 - There were awards for good behaviour distributed at assembly.
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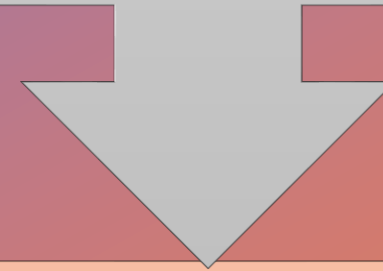
Loreto Abbey Rathfarnham



LORETO ABBEY, RATHFARNHAM

New Members

From 1822 – 1825 five young women joined Teresa Ball's group of Loreto sisters. Between 1828 and 1833, sixteen girls who had been educated in Loreto Abbey Rathfarnham joined the order.



Teresa Ball planned courses for them in languages, Art, History, Music and other areas of the curriculum that were considered important at the time. She also included skills related to administration and care of the sick.

Student Engagement



- Design a website page for Loreto Abbey circa 1830



Expansion

- The success of the Abbey in Rathfarnham spread far and wide. Mother Teresa received constant requests to found schools in other parts of Ireland and abroad.

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Expansion

- Mother Teresa was requested to open a school in **Navan, Co Meath**.
- The house being provided in Navan was in a very poor state. Mother Teresa took on the challenge and managed to have the place ready to open on 31 July 1833. The new school was called **St Annes**. A boarding school was later added called **St Michael's**.
- It was the first school to be opened from Loreto Abbey Rathfarnham and also the first Catholic day school run by religious in Ireland.
- On 05 September 1833 another school was opened in **Harcourt Street, Dublin**. In 1841 the house moved to the house of Lord Charleville in St Stephen's Green



Expansion

- Mother Teresa received a request to send some of the Sisters to India. A small group set off for **Calcutta, present day Kolkata** in 1841. They sailed from Dunlaoghaire and it was reported that Mother Teresa watched them from the top of a house she had rented in Bullock Harbour, Dalkey. It was highly unlikely that any of the Sisters would ever return to Ireland.

Further
foundations
included:



1841	Calcutta (Kolkata) First overseas mission
1843	Gorey Dalkey
1866	Wexford Enniscorthy
1845	Mauritius Gibraltar
1847	Canada Clontarf Dublin
1850	Bray
1851	England Spain
1852	Lough Cooter (2 years)
1853	Fermoy
1854	Letterkenny
1855	Omagh
1857	Balbriggan
1859	Borris
1860	Killarney

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Expansion

- By the time of her death on 19th May 1861 in Loreto Dalkey, Mother Teresa had founded 37 communities around the world. She is buried in the grounds of the Abbey, Rathfarnham.



Student Engagement

❖ What do you know about the early days of your own Loreto School?

Student Engagement

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What is the definition of a pioneer?

2

What qualities are required in a pioneer?

3

Who else do you admire in this respect and why?

4

Can you create a picture or word collage illustrating the qualities of such a person?



The Legacy /Making a Difference

- Frances Ball, the young girl from Dublin, followed her heart and in so doing ultimately created an amazing legacy.
- In truth, her story never ends as her spirit continues in all Loreto ventures throughout the world.

The Legacy / Making a Difference



- <http://www.loreto.in/>
- <https://www.loreto.org.au/>
- <https://soundcloud.com/engine/engine-ft-loreto-girls-rumbek-a-call-for-unity>