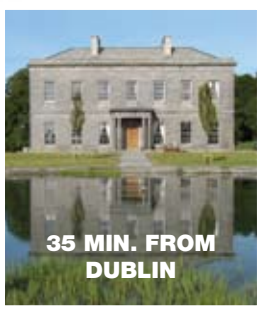


**25<sup>th</sup>** ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF  
**A DAY WITH  
PLATO**



**AT TOWNLEY HALL**  
SLANE ROAD, NEAR DROGHEDA

*Saturday 24th and  
Sunday 25th March 2012*

9.15 am to 5.30 pm each day

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***A Day With Plato*** is a celebration of the wisdom of Socrates as handed down to us through the writings of Plato. This stimulating and highly enjoyable day introduces you to the words of Socrates in a friendly and easy atmosphere within the magnificent classical setting of Townley Hall.

“  
An unexamined  
life is not worth  
living”  
SOCRATES

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**This is a day for everyone. No prior knowledge of Plato required.**

**Admission: €45 per person - lunch & refreshments included  
Return transport by coach €10**

**Presented by the School of Philosophy and Economic Science**  
49 Northumberland Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Tel 6603788

The School is a registered educational charity (CHY 5791)

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“

**Plato is philosophy and  
philosophy Plato”**

EMERSON

## **Plato's Republic – in search of justice**

In Plato's dialogues philosophy becomes alive and dramatic.

The great issues which faced mankind two thousand years ago and which still face us today are discussed and argued with an enthusiasm and urgency which can be appreciated by anyone who reads Plato.

The dialogues are simple and direct and they have shaped the thinking of the modern world. They still remain fresh and new and reading them is like meeting Socrates face to face.

Socrates, the central character of Plato's dialogues was a philosopher who lived in Athens in the 4th century B.C. as the city went into decline and political and civil strife reigned. He was brought to trial in 399 B.C. on charges of impiety and of corrupting the youth.

## **The Magic of Plato**

The day begins with a short informal talk from the head of Platonic Studies in the School who will set the scene in a style which is always engaging, insightful, relevant to contemporary life, and often humorous.

Next comes Plato's extracts from Books 1 and 2 of the Republic, on film, the main theme for this year's Day with Plato. We then break into small groups, before and after lunch, to read and discover Plato for ourselves and examine again the great issues which are raised.

**What is Justice?**

**Are there disadvantages to  
acting justly?**

**Is just action the key to  
a happy life?**

**What is the ideal way to  
organise our society?**

The day finishes with a talk summarising what we have heard and taking questions.

Although many will not have read or discussed the subject before, everyone will almost certainly discover the magic of Plato at first hand, and become a fan for life.



# One-Day Programme

- 9.15 am Registration**  
Morning Tea /Coffee (25 mins)
- 9.45 am Introduction**  
by Michael Ryan, Chairperson
- 9.50 am Setting the Scene:**  
David Horan on “Plato’s Republic – in search of Justice”
- 10.05 am Theme for the Day:**  
Plato’s Republic – in search of Justice  
Video Extract 1.
- 10.15 am Discovering Plato 1:**  
Read extract 1 in your assigned discussion group.
- 11.15 am Morning Refreshments**
- 11.45 am Discovering Plato 2:**  
Return to your assigned discussion group for Extract 2.
- 1.00 pm Lunch**
- 2.15 pm All assemble in the Library**  
for Video extract 2.
- 2.30 pm Discovering Plato 3:**  
Return to your assigned discussion group for Extract 3.
- 3.45 pm Afternoon Refreshments.**
- 4.15 pm Discovering Plato 4:**  
All assemble in the Library for concluding talk with David Horan, including questions and discussion.
- 5.00 pm Reception**
- 5.30 pm Cloaks and Depart, including coach departure for Dublin from the Front Door**



David Horan



Michael Ryan



## Townley Hall

Townley Hall is a magnificent Georgian mansion built in the classical style over 200 years ago on a hilltop setting, and a wonderful venue for A Day With Plato. It stands on 60 acres of parkland overlooking the Boyne valley, close to the site of the famous battle. The location is strikingly beautiful and peaceful. The House is an architectural jewel, renowned for its exquisite interior, wonderful proportions, the quality of the materials and craftsmanship used in its construction, and, in particular, its magnificent staircase – of which Country Life magazine once said “*There is nothing lovelier in the Georgian architecture of these islands than the rotunda and staircase at Townley Hall*”.

See [www.townleyhall.ie](http://www.townleyhall.ie)

## Getting There

Townley Hall is 35 mins drive from Dublin, heading north on the M1. Exit immediately after crossing Boyne suspension bridge, take the N51 slip road toward Slane for 2 kms. Entrance to Townley Hall is on the right at the gate lodge, then uphill on a narrow avenue for 1 km. There is ample free parking.

Alternatively, a special coach will depart each day from the School at 8.30am, arriving at Townley Hall in good time for registration and refreshment before starting.

The same coach will make the return journey at 5.30 pm, arriving back at the School by 6.15 pm.



## Lunch and Refreshments

Fresh tea and coffee will greet you on arrival in the Dining Room. Excellent Lunch and refreshments are included.

The day finishes with a convivial wine reception, after which we bid farewell to an enlightening and rewarding Day with Plato at Townley Hall.

## Booking

Advance pre-paid booking is essential. Numbers are limited to 100 per day. Early booking is advised. This year's event is expected to sell out quickly, as did last year's. See Booking Form. Cost €45.

**I would trade all of  
my technology for an  
afternoon with Socrates."**

**STEVE JOBS**

## Platonic Tradition

The Platonic tradition spread from Athens and schools were eventually established across the ancient and later medieval worlds. John Scottus Eriugena, the 9th century Irish scholar, was the leading Platonist of his day in Europe; the tradition which he founded in France gave rise to Platonic schools in Paris and Chartres. A Platonic school also flourished in Renaissance Florence.

Why read Plato today? Because, says Scott Buchanan, editor of *The Portable Plato*\*, "...the reading of Plato's dialogues by a large number of people could make the difference between a century of folly and a century of wisdom for the world."

\* *The Portable Plato*, Penguin Classics, available in paperback from bookshops and through Amazon.