

Thank you from Noah and all our family.

My name is Tracy and my family and I want to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts to everyone that is joining this year's Great Irish Bake for Temple Street. You have no idea how important your support can be.

Our beautiful baby boy Noah was only a few weeks old when we noticed he was losing a lot of weight, very fast. From when we first noticed and went to the GP, he had lost 1.2kg in a week and by 12 weeks was almost back to his birth weight.



After 11 anxious days in hospital in Cork we were sent to Temple Street as Noah was just getting sicker and sicker and couldn't seem to absorb any calories from food. His doctor in Temple Street began testing him for a type of disease called Mitochondrial disease.

Mitochondria are responsible for producing more than 90% of the energy to sustain life and support organ function. These diseases are inherited, chronic and progressive. There are more than 500 Mitochondrial diseases, so Noah's doctors began painstakingly sending his samples all over the world, testing for different ones.

While we waited for a diagnosis Noah's amazing team kept him safe and stable and began to prepare us for the worst. Generally, with a mitochondrial disease, there is no treatment and there is no cure. Words no parent should have to hear. We were living a nightmare and only for our wonderful team on Temple Street, we don't know how we would have survived.



There were so, so many dark days and nights, sitting holding Noah, just trying to feed him and willing him to stay with us. But

through it all, the care and support of our doctors and nurses pulled us through. The level of care and compassion is just incredible.

Seven weeks into our stay, on February 28th, which is actually World Rare Disease Day, we were told the diagnosis of Mitochondrial Disease was confirmed and, in that moment, I cannot even put in to words what we felt.

Unbelievably for us we were then told that amazingly Noah's specific Mitochondrial disease is one of only two out of over 500 that can spontaneously get better with time and if we could get through this acute phase, there was every hope that in time he would make a full recovery. Noah is currently the 24th known case of the disease in the world.

We say every day that we feel like "the luckiest, unlucky people on the planet". That's why Temple Street means so much to us. It gave us back our baby, it gave our girls back their brother. It put the joy back in all our lives.

Noah is 16 months now and is going from strength to strength, hitting his milestones and charming everyone with his loving nature and mischievous personality.

So, we are so glad to be able to join The Great Irish Bake again this year. Noah and his sisters Isla and Amelie will be helping me bake and raise as much as we can for this very special hospital.

Please join us. Your support really does make such a difference. Our beautiful baby boy is proof of that.

Tracy, Ken, Isla (aged 5),  
Amelie (aged 3) and Star Baker  
Noah (16-months.)

