

## What a Day at the Eucharistic Congress will look like

**S**o we are just a month away from the 50th International Eucharistic Congress in Dublin and at this stage you might be wondering what an actual day at the Congress will be like.

The daily programme for the 50th International Eucharistic Congress, 11–16 June 2012, will take place in the Royal Dublin Society (RDS). The *Statio Orbis*, the Liturgy on the final day of the 50th International Eucharistic Congress, will be celebrated in Croke Park, Dublin on Sunday, 17 June 2012.

The Programme of the 50th International Eucharistic Congress is built around the daily celebration of the Eucharist and each day has a theme of its own, related to the main Congress theme *The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and with one another*.

The main events of the programme take place in the RDS Arena. On most days these will be in the afternoon and will include:

- The Catechesis: a 'teaching' moment, usually presented by a bishop, reflecting on the theme of the day and its challenges.
- The Testimony: words of encouragement and inspiration from a lay-person with a story of faith to tell.
- Celebration of the Eucharist: Mass celebrated with all the Congress delegates, presided over by a bishop.

For the purposes of illustrating a day at the Congress I have decided to focus on Tuesday, 12 June.

The theme of the day is *Exploring and Celebrating the Communion of Marriage and Family* so Tuesday is Family Day. The day will begin with Morning Prayer at 9.00am with Cardinal Keith O'Brien, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, Scotland in the Prayer Space or there is prayer in

the Chiara Luce Youth Space at 9.30am with Bishop Franz Lackner from Austria.

In the morning the workshops and presentations offer a wide variety of themes and choice: Faith of Our Grandparents, Spirituality for Married Couples with Teams of Our Lady, Do this in Memory, Communion and Co-responsibility: coming to life in pastoral practice, The Eucharistic Liturgy, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and much more. There will also be a musical performed by KISI-KIDS on the subject of Paul, called by God.

There will be an opportunity to see a Radharc film on the topic of Vatican II – A Council in the likeness of Pope John. Ger Gallagher from the Office of Evangelisation in the Archdiocese of Dublin will deliver a workshop on the question 'Where is the Young Adult Church today?'

Workshops and presentations continue throughout the morning with a choice of Religious Music for Children, Another Radharc film on the 1932 Congress, Liturgy that breathes, Blessings and Prayers in Family Life, The Changing Irish Family: for better or worse? And much more.

At 2.00pm the focus moves to the main arena in the RDS for Catechesis with Archbishop Barry Hickey, Archbishop of Perth on the theme God as Loving Communion. Personal testimony will be offered by Mr Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbanus on the theme of the day *Exploring and Celebrating the Communion of Marriage and Family*. At 4.00pm there will be celebration of the Eucharist and His Eminence André Cardinal Vingt Trois, Archbishop of Paris will preside.

The music programme for the Congress encourages everyone in the congregation to participate as much as possible in the liturgies during the week. Congregational singing is a key component in this. Particular emphasis

is placed on the celebration of the Eucharist and the singing of the various parts of the Mass. These have been chosen from the anthology: *Sing the Mass* [Veritas 2011] produced on behalf of the National Centre for Liturgy and the Advisory Committee on Church Music. The music reflects the repertoire of both the local and the universal Church so that together we can give praise and thanks to God.

After the celebration of Eucharist there will be some free time to browse the exhibition and cultural spaces in the RDS and to meet and greet others from Ireland and across the World.

In the evening there will be workshops and presentations on themes such as: Sharing Faith with the next generation, Evangelisation and Church Art and Matrimony: Renewing Our Dream for Each Other. There will be an opportunity to see another Radharc Film called *The French Connection*. Mr John Waters, Journalist, Author and Commentator will give a talk on *Finding my Religion* and ACCORD Catholic Marriage Care Service will offer a workshop, as will the Divine Mercy Apostolate.

Alongside the programme in the Arena, there is a full programme of workshops and cultural events. In addition there is the Youth Space which has its own dedicated programme, details of which are available on [www.iec2012.ie](http://www.iec2012.ie). You can book to attend the 50th Congress International Congress for seven days, three days or one day. See [www.iec2012.ie](http://www.iec2012.ie) for more information on the week-long programme and for booking details.

Join us at the 50th International Eucharistic Congress in the RDS and Croke Park and be part of this momentous occasion in Ireland in 2012!

# Pope Benedict XVI blesses Eucharistic Congress Bell

**P**ope Benedict XVI received the International Eucharistic Congress Bell in Rome on Wednesday 14 March. He blessed and rang the Bell as part of preparations for the upcoming 50th International Eucharistic Congress 2012 (IEC2012), calling people from across the world to Dublin for the Congress, which takes place from 10-17 June.

The Bell was presented by a delegation headed by the President of IEC2012, **Archbishop Diarmuid Martin**, accompanied by Secretary General of IEC2012, **Fr Kevin Doran**, and members of IEC2012 staff during a papal audience.

'Pope Benedict XVI blessed the bell, rang it vigorously and paused to admire the icons as Archbishop Martin explained their significance', explained Fr Kevin Doran.

Colette Furlong, Pastoral Services Manager in IEC2012, presented Pope Benedict XVI with the first commemorative medal struck to mark this year's 50th International Eucharistic Congress. Sheena Darcy, IEC2012 Office Manager, presented shamrock to the Holy Father.

Later in the day the Bell moved to St Peter's Basilica where it remained for Mass celebrated by Archbishop Piero Marini, President of the Pontifical Committee for the International Eucharistic Congresses. The Bell was rung at Masses throughout Wednesday as an invitation to the Congress.

During the week it spent in Rome, the Bell also travelled to St Isidore's Irish Franciscan College, where Mass for St Patrick's Day was celebrated. Deputy Pat Rabbitte, Irish Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, attended the Mass as part of his visit to Italy for St Patrick's Day celebrations. On Sunday 18 March, the Bell was present at Mass in the Pontifical Irish College.

Speaking during the Bell Pilgrimage in Rome, Fr Kevin Doran, Secretary General of the 50th International Eucharistic Congress 2012, said: 'It seems somehow appropriate that the Bell, on its way to visit Pope Benedict, was delivered on Tuesday afternoon [13 March] to the very office beside St Peter's Square where Pope Benedict himself worked for over 20 years.'

Father Doran added: 'We are truly delighted that with this visit the Bell has brought parishes, schools and hospitals all over Ireland into a closer Communion with the Pope as we enter the final phase of preparation for the Eucharistic Congress.'



Journeying with the Bell are the four Eucharistic Congress icons which represent the four parts of the Mass, and correspond to each of the four stages of the pastoral preparation programme for the Congress. The Bell calls people to prayer and the Icons offer rich themes for reflection.

**Ring for Renewal** invites people to pause on the journey of life and reflect on how we can renew as people and as members of the Church as we prepare for IEC2012.

## About the Bell

Tradition has it that St Patrick left a bell in each Church he consecrated as a way to call people to the Eucharist. In parishes all over Ireland, the

Eucharistic Congress Bell Pilgrimage is building on the tradition of St Patrick and the ringing of Bells.

Since commencing phase one of its pilgrimage on St Patrick's Day (17 March) in 2011, the Bell has visited the 26 Dioceses of Ireland, over one thousand parishes, more than 100 schools, and a dozen hospitals and nursing homes, calling people to 'Come to the Congress'. In September 2011, the Bell travelled to Lourdes, France with the Dublin Diocesan group. The Bell has now entered phase two of its pilgrimage and is travelling abroad for the second time.

## Eucharistic Congress Medal

Pope Benedict XVI was presented with a commemorative medal celebrating the 50th International Eucharistic Congress 2012.

To mark the 50th International Eucharistic Congress 2012, organisers have produced a commemorative medal designed by Martin Barlow, who also designed the IEC2012 logo. The medal carries the Congress logo in colour on the front and on the reverse a Celtic cross motif surrounded by the Congress theme: *The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and with One Another*. Each medal comes in a presentation case complete with an explanatory card available in the seven official languages of the Congress. There are two versions of the commemorative medal available: A medal for general issue and a limited edition Irish language version, of which only 1,000 will be produced.

*The medal will be available online at [www.thecollector.ie/iec2012medal](http://www.thecollector.ie/iec2012medal). The medal is priced €29.95 + p&p.*