



# SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Monthly newsletter for Dioceses and Parishes Issue 4 February 2014  
Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference  
Columba Centre, Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare

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## Journeying Together - Challenges Facing the Migrant Today

'Journeying Together - Challenges Facing the Migrant Today', is the theme of a conference which will be jointly hosted by the Bishops' Councils for Immigrants and Emigrants on Wednesday 19 February in Dublin city centre.



The conference will celebrate the 10th anniversary of *Erga Migrantes Caritas Christi*. It will also provide a unique opportunity to explore both emigration and immigration in an Irish, European and global context. The conference workshops will offer forums to discuss the effects of migration on the undocumented, families, prisoners and trafficking.



Speakers at the conference will include Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin, who will deliver the keynote address; Mr Stefan Kessler, Policy and Advocacy Officer for the Jesuit Refugee Service, Europe; and, Ms Cecilia Taylor-Camara, Senior Policy Adviser, Office for Migration Policy of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. The conference will be held at Jury's Inn Hotel, Custom House Quay, Dublin. For bookings please phone + 353 (0) 1 5053155 or email [emigrants@iecon.ie](mailto:emigrants@iecon.ie).

## Archbishop E Martin encourages 'Covenant of Friendship'

Archbishop Eamon Martin addressed the Ballymena Borough Church Members' Forum with Dr Heather Morris, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland on 4 February last. He said: "I think we in the Churches have a particular responsibility to lead the way in transforming relationships and in healing the pain of the past. Perhaps one way in which we could do this would be to develop a 'covenant of friendship' between our Churches at leadership level and offer support to our local congregations and parishes in developing similar 'covenants' at local level." - Full address on [catholicbishops.ie](http://catholicbishops.ie).

## The Creed Video Series

Bishop Brendan Leahy has recorded a new four-part video series on the Creed. See [www.catholicbishops.ie/creed](http://www.catholicbishops.ie/creed).

## World Day of the Sick 2014

The 22nd World Day of the Sick will be celebrated on Tuesday 11 February - the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. This year's message from Pope Francis is on the theme 'Faith and Charity: "We Ought to Lay Down Our Lives for One Another" (1 Jn 3:16).'

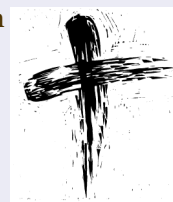
In his message Pope Francis says: "I turn in a special way to the sick and all those who provide them with assistance and care. The Church recognises in you, the sick, a special presence of the suffering Christ. It is true. At the side of - and indeed within - our suffering, is the suffering of Christ; he bears its burden with us and he reveals its meaning."



See [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va) or scan the QR code on the left for the full text of this year's message.

## NEWS SNIPPETS

- Sunday 2 February was the World Day of Consecrated Life. Speaking at the Vatican Pope Francis said: "Let us imagine a moment what would happen if there were no nuns in hospitals, no nuns in missions, no nuns in schools. Imagine a church without nuns! It is unimaginable."
- Lent begins on 5 March - Ash Wednesday. The message of Pope Francis for Lent 2014 is on the theme: "He became poor so that by his poverty you might become rich". Read the text of his message on [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie).



- Friday Penance during Lent: (i) Make a special effort at family prayer (ii) Make the Stations of the Cross (iii) Do something to help the poor, sick or lonely (iv) Make a special effort to avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (v) Abstain from meat or some other food. Read the background to Friday Penance by scanning this QR Code.



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**Pope Francis Prayer Intention for February:** "That the Church and society may respect the wisdom and experience of older people." (Follow Pope Francis on Twitter: @Pontifex)