



SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Monthly newsletter for Dioceses and Parishes Issue 9 - July 2014
Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference
Columba Centre, Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare

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National Pastoral Conference 2014

Growing in Faith Together as Local Church Community is the theme for the national pastoral conference which will take place from 25 - 27 September in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone. The event is organised every two years by the Bishops' Council for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development. It offers people in positions of pastoral leadership, faith development and pastoral care (bishops, priests, deacons, lay people and religious) an opportunity to renew their spirits, be nourished together in faith and share programmes and experiences. Resource-speakers this year are Rev Professor Robert Schreiter, a priest and member of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood based in Chicago and Rev Dr Gareth Byrne, of the Archdiocese of Dublin and head of the Religious Department in Mater Dei. Download the brochure from adultfaith.ie or by email from pastoralrenewal@iecon.ie. The conference capacity is 200, with space for an additional 50 on the Saturday. The cost is €140 with a special rate of €50 for those who wish to attend on Saturday only. Due to demand early booking is advisable.



NEWS SNIPPETS

- The statement of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference welcoming the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes is available on catholicbishops.ie or by scanning this QR code. 
- On 25 June Maura Hyland, Director of Veritas, presented Pope Francis with a copy of the new *Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults*.
- See statement from the Summer Meeting of the Irish Bishops' Conference on catholicbishops.ie or scan this QR code. 
- The 45th Irish Church Music Association Summer School takes place from 3-6 July in Saint Patrick's College Maynooth. It will be featured by *Nationwide* on RTÉ One Television on 11 July at 7pm.
- Bishops have designated 5 October as Rosary Sunday to encourage the practice of this much loved family prayer and to encourage prayer for the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family.
- Video: Teacher Ciaran Coll on the benefits of being involved in a church/parish choir. 

Archbishop D Martin's address at Marriage and Family conference

Speaking at the conference on 'Marriage and the Family at the Heart of the parish' in Clonliffe College on 14 June, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin said: "We need to focus on how we build strong families. We need to focus on the fact that we have great families and that families bring joy and happiness to their members. We need to help the next generation to understand how the stable and loving family is a primary focus for their happiness and fulfilment". The full text of Archbishop Martin's address is on catholicbishops.ie or watch a video version on iCatholic.ie.



Pictured above: Anne Marie O'Reilly CCO, Dr Tony Fahey UCD, and Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin.

ICPO campaign urges young Irish emigrants to take care

The Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas is launching an information campaign this summer encouraging young emigrants to take care while travelling and living overseas. This is in response to the current wave of emigration and an increase in the number of Irish prisoners in certain jurisdictions, including Australia. The campaign will emphasise the importance of being aware of cultural differences and of adhering to local laws and customs. Follow @ICPOprisoners on Twitter and access information and campaign video on catholicbishops.ie.



Annual Croagh Patrick Pilgrimage is on Sunday 27 July. All welcome.



Pope Francis' Tweet of the Month: There is never a reason to lose hope. Jesus says: "I am with you until the end of the world".
Follow Pope Francis on Twitter @Pontifex

Produced by the Catholic Communications Office. Further information and contact details see www.catholicbishops.ie
Also on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Audioboo.