



SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Monthly newsletter for dioceses and parishes. Issue 18 - June 2015
Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference
Columba Centre, Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare



Events for Saint Columbanus 1400

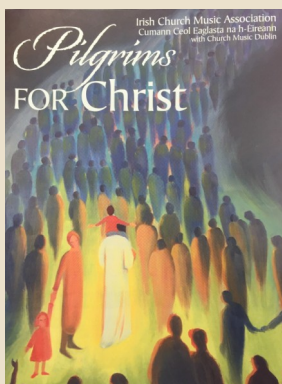
Saint Columbanus was a sixth century Irish monk who is remembered as one of the greatest of the Irish missionary monks and revered across parts of Europe. In 2015 the 1400th anniversary of his death is being marked and the national celebrations will take place on the weekend of Saturday, 20 and Sunday, 21 June in Bangor and Armagh. There will also be pilgrim walks and gatherings in many parishes and communities to honour Saint Columbanus. Local parishes are encouraged to organise a pilgrim walk by using the nine-step way of Saint Columbanus to mark the occasion. Celebrations will centre on Bangor on Saturday, 20 June beginning with an ecumenical morning prayer service in Bangor Abbey followed by a Civic reception in the Town Hall. On Sunday 21 June a National Mass of Thanksgiving for Saint Columbanus will be celebrated in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh at 11.00am with Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh. For more information on the celebrations and the life of Saint Columbanus, as well as the nine step pilgrim way, please see the feature on www.catholicbishops.ie.

Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

Pope Francis has announced a Holy Year of Mercy which will begin on 8 December to commemorate both the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council, which called the Church to proclaim the Gospel to the world in new ways, bringing God's mercy to everyone. The Holy Year will conclude on 20 Nov 2016, the feast of Christ the King. See feature on www.catholicbishops.ie for more information.



'Pilgrims for Christ' Irish Church Music Association Summer School 2015



The Irish Church Music Association Summer School will take place from 2- 5 July 2015 in Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth on the theme 'Pilgrims for Christ'. This year's guest director is Andrew Reid. For more information on the Summer School and to download a booking form please see irishchurchmusicassociation.com.

NEWS SNIPPETS

- Archbishop Eamon Martin, and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, will represent the Bishops' Conference at the XIV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops which will take place in Rome from 4 to 25 October. The theme of the 2015 Synod is: "The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and Contemporary World."
- The June issue of *Intercom* magazine is now available featuring news, resources and all your liturgical needs for Sunday Mass. For more information see www.catholicbishops.ie/intercom.
- Please pray  for vocations and especially for the nine men who will be ordained deacons on Sunday 31 May in Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth. Ordination as a transitional deacon takes place one year before ordination to priesthood. The deacons are from Armagh, Clogher, Cork & Ross, Derry, Down and Connor, Galway (2), and Meath (2). They will continue their priestly formation in Maynooth for the next year.

Produced by the Catholic Communications Office. See www.catholicbishops.ie for more information.



Pope Francis Tweet of the Month: "Let us invoke the Holy Spirit each day: He guides us along the path of discipleship in Christ." Follow Pope Francis on Twitter @Pontifex and on @news_va.