



# Sharing the Good News

Monthly newsletter for dioceses & parishes. Issue 30 | June 2016

## Secretary General, theme and dates confirmed for Ireland's World Meeting of Families 2018

Pope Francis has decided that the 9th World Meeting of Families will be held in Dublin from 22 to 26 August 2018, with the theme *"The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World"*. Welcoming the announcement in Rome, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin said, "The 2018 World Meeting of Families will be held in Dublin, but it is an event of the entire Church. The World Meeting will hopefully be a festival of witness to the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. The vocation of Christian couples, supported by the Sacrament of Marriage, is a call to witness to that love and to experience the joy of bringing the love of Jesus to those who are troubled and challenged."



The Summer General Meeting of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference announced that Father Timothy Bartlett has been appointed to the role of Secretary General of the 9th World Meeting of Families. He is Vicar for Education, and the director of public and social affairs, in the Diocese of Down & Connor. Father Bartlett is also secretary to the Northern Bishops. The office of the secretary general will be based in Clonliffe College, Dublin. See [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie) for more on the #WMF2018 including FAQs.

## Vocations a major theme of Summer Meeting of Bishops

Another theme for the Summer General Meeting of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference was the discussion on encouraging vocations to the priesthood and to religious life, and on seminary formation. Bishops announced that there will be consultation at local diocesan level on how best to create a culture of vocations. Bishops agreed to undertake a national vocations initiative during 2017 in order to promote vocations. Archbishop Jorge Carlos Patrón Wong, Secretary for Seminaries of the Congregation for Clergy, Holy See (pictured with Archbishop Eamon), addressed the conference on the challenges facing vocations in the contemporary world.



## God, Full of Mercy, the theme for the 2016 ICMA Summer School

Bookings are now being taken for the Irish Church Music Association's 47th Summer School which will take place from 6 to 9 July 2016 in Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare. The theme for the Summer School this year is *God, Full of Mercy*. This year's programme includes a blend of contemporary and traditional choral pieces with emphasis on psalms, the sacraments, ritual and music for the liturgical year in schools. The workshops will provide opportunities to develop the skills of cantors, organists and instrumentalists in addition to parish choirs and folk groups. For more information and booking please see [www.irishchurchmusicassociation.com](http://www.irishchurchmusicassociation.com).



## CatholicNews.ie

- Archbishop Eamon Martin has offered prayers for those killed and injured in the Orlando shootings. Archbishop Eamon said, "The taking of innocent human life is always wrong. On behalf of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference I wish to express my profound condolences and I offer prayers of solidarity from Ireland to those who have been touched by this tragedy in the United States."
- Bishop Liam MacDaid has launched a new book on Lough Derg, by Father Eamonn Conway, entitled *Lough Derg: Island of Quiet Miracles*. See our multimedia report on [www.catholicnews.ie](http://www.catholicnews.ie).
- The Bishops' Council for Catechetics has launched a new website to resource the parish, school and home. See [religionseducation.ie](http://religionseducation.ie).
- Bishops have asked for prayers for World Youth Day which will take place in Krakow, Poland, from 26-30 July. Approximately sixteen hundred pilgrims from sixteen dioceses, religious congregations and ecclesial groups will travel to World Youth Day from Ireland.
- Irish bishops have been invited to undertake an *Ad Limina* visit to meet with Pope Francis in January 2017.

For more on these stories please see the new 'news' website of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference on [www.catholicnews.ie](http://www.catholicnews.ie).

**Pope Francis Tweet of the Month:** "Do not tire of asking in prayer for the Lord's help especially in difficulty." Follow Pope Francis on Twitter @Pontifex and @news\_va.