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Young Irish Catholics travel to see the Pope at WYD, Panama

A group of more 30 young pilgrims from Ireland are in Panama, joining thousands from around the globe for World Youth Day 2019 with Pope Francis.

The group is made up of young people primarily from Dublin parishes, including third level students and several young people from around Ireland, including the Diocese of Ferns.

Pope Francis personally chose Panama for WYD2019 and he will be there from 23 to 27 January leading young people in an encounter of faith, friendship and reflection on what it means to be Catholic

today.

World Youth Day is one of the largest events of its kind in the world and will be hosted in 33 locations around Panama City, engaging young people from all over the globe in various expressions of faith, art and culture.

One of the novelties of the Youth Festival programme is the "WYD 2019 Cup," a friendly soccer tournament that will be held Wednesday 23 January in Costa del Este.

Bishop Donal McKeown, Bishop of Derry, is in Panama for the World Youth Day events. Speaking ahead

of his departure he said, "World Youth Day 2019 is another important opportunity to actively engage and reflect on the role of young people in the modern Church."

Bishop McKeown has invited young people who are unable to travel to Panama for World Youth Day to get involved here at home by attending events in their local diocese/parish and by tuning into the events in Panama online.

For more on World Youth Day 2018 see www.catholicbishops.ie and use the #wyd2019 hashtag online.

Archbishop Eamon Martin consults faithful ahead of Rome summit

Archbishop Eamon Martin has invited the faithful in Ireland to share their thoughts on abuse ahead of a universal Church summit on safeguarding in Rome next month. As well as consulting with victims and survivors, Archbishop Eamon is also inviting Catholics, in an open letter, to pray, reflect and offer feedback on a number of key questions (see www.catholicbishops.ie).

The archbishop said he is conscious that, "a group that is often forgotten is the faithful who have been deeply impacted by the grave scandal of abuse in the Church. Many of them have been bewildered, angered and had their faith tested in recent years by the revelations of these terrible things happening. I want to

give them the opportunity to reflect and to pray and put pen to paper to me if they wish."



Those interested in offering feedback can do so by post to: Ara Coeli, Cathedral Road, Armagh, BT61 7QY or by email to feedback@aracoeli.com.

NEWSLETTER FOR PARISHES AND DIOCESES | WWW.CATHOLICBISHOPS.IE

Sharing the Good News

NEWS SNIPPETS

The Vatican has launched an athletics team with the aim of competing in international competitions including the Olympics. About 60 Holy See runners are the first members of Athletica Vaticana (Vatican Athletics). It is the latest initiative in the Holy See's long-standing promotion of sport as an instrument of dialogue, peace and solidarity. The launch was overseen by representatives from the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Culture including its President, Cardinal Ravasi and its Secretary, Dublin-born Bishop Paul Tighe (pictured above).



Bishop Brendan Leahy has invited Catholics across Ireland to support and pray for Christian unity throughout the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which takes place from 18 to 25 January 2019. Resources are available to download from catholicbishops.ie for use in parishes during Christian Unity week or at any time during the coming year.



Celebrating the Work of Our Local Catholic Schools during CSW2019



Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2019

January 27 - February 2

#CSW19

Catholic Schools Week 2019 will run from 27 January to 2 February on the theme 'Catholic Schools: Celebrating the Work of Our Local Catholic Schools'.

During Catholic Schools Week 2019 we invite each of our Catholic school families to participate in a week of celebration and reflection.

The Catholic Schools Week Steering Committee has made a series of resources available, each with its own unique daily theme as follows: Monday: Living Tradition; Tuesday: Welcoming Diversity; Wednesday: Grandparents Day; Thursday: In Service of our Community; and Friday: Supporting Faith.

Primary and Post-Primary resources for use in the parish, school and home are available to download, in English and Irish, from www.catholicschools.ie.

Bishops to Christians in Holy Land: You are not forgotten



For over 20 years the Holy Land Co-ordination Group has been visiting this region to shine a light on the challenges Christians face and to tell them they are not alone and not forgotten. Bishop Noel Treanor and Bishop Alan McGuckian were part of this year's visit which was based in the city of Haifa. Bishops took part in inter-faith encounters as well as meetings with local politicians and visits to Christian schools and hospitals. For more on the visit see www.catholicnews.ie.

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Continue to promote and protect life at every stage of its development

- Pope Francis

In a letter to the Pontifical Academy for Life to mark its 25th anniversary, Pope Francis has called on its members to promote human fraternity and a humanism of life. Pope Francis also said that our commitment to valuing, supporting and defending the life of every human being is ultimately motivated by God's unconditional love.

You can read the Pope's letter in full on the Irish Bishops' Conference 'Council for Life' website www.councilforlife.ie.

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- Pope Francis