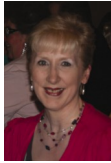


## Programme Saturday March 3



Chairperson: Dr. Mary Goss is a graduate of Queen's University Belfast. Mary, a tutor, supervisor and counsellor with ACCORD has served in the Newry Centre since 1980 and is its current Chairperson.

7:30 Mass in the Prayer Room (Rotunda Room, 2nd Floor, Europa Hotel). The Celebrant will be Father Peter Murphy, National Chaplain of ACCORD



9:00-9:30 Registration

10:00 Opening Liturgy - Facilitated by Newry and Dundalk ACCORD Centres

10:20



Welcome and official opening of Conference by Bishop Noel Treanor, Bishop of Down and Connor and Bishop Christopher Jones

10:30 *Marriage in the Future* - Gerard O'Neill

11:10 Tea/Coffee Break

11:30 *Marriage and Family from a Counselling and Public Service Perspective* - Gemma Loughran

12:00 **Keynote Speaker - Emily O'Reilly**, The Ombudsman and Information Commissioner in Ireland

12:45 Lunch

14:00 *Reflections on the Journey of Marriage* - Mickey Harte

14:45 *From Heartbreak to Hope* - Christy Kenneally

15:30 *Marriage: A Communion of Life and Love* - Father Kevin Doran

16:15 Tea/Coffee Break

19:00 Pre-Gala Dinner gathering

19:30 Gala Dinner



Special guest Ms Frances Fitzgerald TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. After dinner speaker, Bishop Anthony Farquhar, Auxiliary Bishop of Down and Connor



## Programme Sunday March 4

9:20 Morning Prayer and Reflection - Facilitated by Belfast and Cloyne ACCORD Centres

9:30 *Pastoral Engagement in a Professional Moral Space* - Sister Pat O'Donovan

10:50 Gather in hotel foyer, walk to Saint Malachy's Parish Church for Mass

11:30 Celebration of Mass.  
Principal Celebrant:  
**His Eminence Séan Cardinal Brady**  
Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland and formal close of Conference.



Tea/Coffee/Sandwiches in the adjacent Parish Centre

**Please note:** A minimum of 3 hours CPD will be offered to Conference attendees.



**THE PEACE OF THE FATHER BE WITH YOU,  
THE PEACE OF CHRIST BE WITH YOU,  
THE PEACE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
BE WITH YOU.  
ALWAYS, EACH AND EVERY DAY AND NIGHT.  
AMEN**



Catholic Marriage Care Service

# ACCORD Golden Jubilee Conference

1962 - 2012  
Caoga bliain ag fás...

3rd and 4th March 2012

Europa Hotel, Belfast

## ACCORD Golden Jubilee Conference 2012



ACCORD, Catholic Marriage Care Service, is an agency of the Irish Bishops' Conference. Its ministry is primarily concerned with supporting the sacrament of marriage by helping couples as they prepare for marriage and offering support to them in their marriage relationship. ACCORD's

**Bishop Jones** aim is to promote a better understanding of Christian marriage and to help couples initiate, sustain and enrich their commitment to one another and to family life.

In this very special celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the formation of the organisation we remember the many people who, as members of ACCORD, have given of their time over the years in the support of marriage and family, those who continue to do so and those who will follow us into the future. From its humble beginnings in Belfast in 1962 ACCORD today has centres in every diocese with 60 locations throughout Ireland (North and South).

I hope that all ACCORD members, our speakers and our special guests enjoy this Golden Jubilee Conference. As we reflect on the last 50 years, and look forward to our future, I hope that the time we spend together will be rewarding, inspiring and spiritually uplifting.

On behalf of my brother bishops I acknowledge and compliment the generosity of all involved in the work of ACCORD. I pray God's blessing on all who work with us and on those whom we are privileged to serve.

+ **Christopher Jones**  
President of ACCORD

## SPEAKERS



**Emily O'Reilly is our keynote speaker**

On 11 June 2009, Emily O'Reilly was appointed to a second six year term as Ombudsman and Information Commissioner by then President, Mrs Mary McAleese. As Ombudsman, Ms O'Reilly is also an ex-officio member of the Standards in Public Office Commission, the Referendum Commission, the Constituency Commission and the Commission for Public Service Appointments. In May 2007, following the introduction of the Access to Information on the Environment Regulations, Ms O'Reilly was assigned the additional role of Commissioner for Environmental Information. Prior to her appointment as Ombudsman and Information Commissioner in June 2003, Ms O'Reilly was an accomplished journalist and author whose roles included many years as a political correspondent with prominent print and broadcasting media. She is a native of Tullamore, Co Offaly and is married with five children. Ms O'Reilly is a graduate of UCD and TCD. She was also the recipient of a Niemann Fellowship in Journalism at Harvard University, Cambridge, U.S.A. In December 2008 Ms O'Reilly was awarded a Doctor of Laws by the National University of Ireland in recognition of her contribution to public service and to human rights.

**Gerard O'Neill** is Chairman of Amárach Research. He leads the strategic consulting practice in Amárach, working with senior management teams to create resilient strategies for the future. He is a co-founder of Hireland.ie, the job creation initiative. Gerard is a director of the Irish Internet Association and was previously chairman of the Marketing Society. He is on the external advisory board of the UCD Institute of Food & Health as well as the board of Beacon of Light Counselling Support Service. His book - *2016: A New proclamation for a New Generation* - was published recently.



**Michael "Mickey" Harte** is the current manager of Tyrone Gaelic football team. He has led the team to three All-Ireland titles, three Ulster titles, one National League, and four Dr McKenna Cups to date. Raised in Ballymacilroy outside Ballygawley, County Tyrone, Mickey is a columnist, author and a renowned public speaker. In October 2009 he published an autobiography, *Harte: Presence is the Only Thing*.

## SPEAKERS



**Christy Kenneally** is a writer, broadcaster, communications training consultant and poet. He is the author of 13 books. He was awarded the Amazon Award for his work on behalf of women with breast cancer.

Formerly a presenter of the "No Frontiers" travel programme on RTÉ. He is well known for his work in the area of Loss and Bereavement. Christy lives in Co. Wicklow with his family.

**Father Kevin Doran** is a priest of the Archdiocese of Dublin and Secretary General of the 50<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress which takes place in June in Dublin. Fr Doran is a former national coordinator for diocesan vocations and coordinator of the European Vocations Service. Up to recently he was Secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Committee for Bioethics.

Over the past thirty five years, Fr. Doran has participated in many pre-marriage preparation courses offered by ACCORD.



**Gemma Loughran** was a counsellor with ACCORD in Belfast for many years and is currently a County Court Judge in Northern Ireland.



**Pat O'Donovan** is a Sister of Mercy. She has a background in education, theology, spirituality and pastoral practice. She spent seven years as Co-Director of the Spirituality and Pastoral programmes at St. John's Seminary in Waterford. She was Director of Clinical Pastoral Education for Roper-St. Francis Healthcare in Charleston, South Carolina. She has worked as a staff chaplain at Bon Secours Hospital in Cork and Director of Clinical Pastoral Education at St. Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin. She is a member of the Healthcare Chaplaincy Board, serving as Chairperson for three years. Pat has recently been appointed Assistant Director of the Conference of Religious of Ireland (Healthcare).