



SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Monthly newsletter for Dioceses and Parishes | Issue 3 January 2014
Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference
Columba Centre, Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare



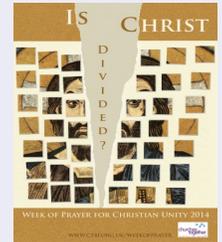
Catholic Schools Week 2014: 'Places of Faith and Learning'

Catholic Schools Week 2014 will begin on Sunday 26 January and will conclude on 1 February. The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year is 'Catholic Schools - places of faith and learning'. This year's theme was chosen to highlight that all learning takes place in a values context. Catholic Schools Week is an occasion to celebrate the work and achievement of Catholic Schools in Ireland, north and south. Resources have been provided to all primary and post-primary schools to assist with the celebration of CSW. Bishop Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, will launch Catholic Schools Week on 20 January in Saint Dominic's College, Cabra, Dublin. The launch will comprise a liturgy and discussion involving over 200 students and staff from 14 local schools as well as representation from across the country. It will be facilitated by Ms Maura Garrihy, Youth Officer for the Diocese of Galway, and will include input from special guest Mr Ger Brennan, teacher and Dublin GAA senior football player. Archbishop Eamon Martin, Coadjutor Archbishop of Armagh, will celebrate Mass in Saint Peter's Church, Drogheda, on Sunday 26 January to mark the beginning of Catholic Schools Week. Local schools will contribute to the liturgy which will be broadcast at 11.00am by RTÉ radio and television. During this week RTÉ broadcasts *A Living Word* and *iWitness* will reflect CSW. For more information please scan the QR code opposite.



NEWS SNIPPETS

- The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is observed from 18-25 January on the theme 'Is Christ Divided?' See catholicbishops.ie for this year's resources.
- 24 January is the Feast of Saint Francis de Sales, patron of writers, journalists and the Catholic press and the date on which Pope Francis will publish his first message for World Communications Day, which is celebrated on 1 June.
- 28 January is the Feast of Saint Thomas Aquinas, patron of schools, universities, students and booksellers.
- Saturday 1 February is the Feast of Saint Brigid, Abbess and Secondary Patron of Ireland.
- The Bishops' Councils for Emigrants and Immigrants will jointly host a conference on 19 February on the theme 'Journeying Together: Challenges Facing the Migrant Today'. Booking information: Call (01) 505 3155 or send an email to immigrants@iecon.ie.



World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2014

This year's World Day of Migrants and Refugees is marked on Sunday 19 January on the theme 'Migrants and Refugees: Towards a Better World'. In his message Pope Francis says: "Migrants and refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity. They are children, women and men who leave or who are forced to leave their homes for various reasons, who share a legitimate desire for knowing and having, but above all for being more. The reality of migration, given its new dimensions in our age of globalisation, needs to be approached and managed in a new, equitable and effective manner; more than anything, this calls for international cooperation and a spirit of profound solidarity and compassion." See text on the Catholic Bishops' website catholicbishops.ie.

'Quenching the Thirst' - IBDI Alcohol and Drugs Conference

The Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative is hosting a National Alcohol and Drugs Conference on Saturday 1 February, ahead of Temperance Sunday (2 March). The conference, themed 'Quenching the Thirst - a Spiritual Response', will be held in the Holy Child Parish Centre in Whitehall, Dublin 9. Speakers at the conference include Bishop Éamonn Walsh, IBDI Vice-Chair, Father Eamon Treanor and Mr Ger Brennan. The conference will also feature a number of presentations from diocesan/parish projects on the theme of 'How Parishes Respond to Alcohol and Drugs'. Places are limited and are aimed at those with an interest in this field or hoping to establish a parish response to substance misuse. Contact John or Darren on (01) 5053044 or email ibdi@iecon.ie.

Pope Francis Tweet of the Month:



Let us leave a spare place at our table: a place for those who lack the basics, who are alone. @Pontifex



Produced by the Catholic Communications Office. For further information and contact details see www.catholicbishops.ie

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