



SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Monthly newsletter for dioceses & parishes. Issue 22 - October 2015
Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference
Columba Centre, Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare

Pope Francis announces World Meeting of Families in Dublin



Pope Francis has announced that the 9th World Meeting of Families will take place in 2018 in Dublin. Held every three years and sponsored by the Holy See's Pontifical Council for the Family, the World Meeting of Families is the world's largest Catholic gathering of families. It has been

described as a celebration of family life and of the Catholic Church's commitment to support families. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin said that he hoped the holding of the Meeting in Ireland would be an occasion to take up the programme of the Synod to strengthen the place of the family in handing on the faith in the face of many new challenges. He said, the family in Ireland is strong and the Church is called to take up the challenge of ensuring that future Catholic generations are prepared to live their marriage as an itinerary of faith. Welcoming the announcement, Archbishop Eamon Martin said: "Despite many challenges, the family remains at the heart of faith and of so much that we hold important in this country. Our preparations for the World Meeting of Families will inspire us as we implement, over the next few years, the recommendations which will emerge from the Synod on the Family in Rome next month."

Synod of Bishops in Rome

Archbishop Eamon Martin, and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, President and Vice-President, will represent the Irish Bishops' Conference at the XIV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops which will take place in Rome from 4 to 25 October 2015. The theme of the Synod is: "The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and Contemporary World."



See catholicbishops.ie for answers to frequently asked questions on the role of a Synod in the life of the Church.

Launch of new Catholic religious education curriculum



Bishop Brendan Leahy, Chair of the Bishops' Council for Catechetics, is pictured with

6th class students at the launch of the new Catholic Preschool and Primary School Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland (2015), and its related religious education programme *Grow in Love* in the Presentation Girls' School, Maynooth.

This is the first time in the history of primary religious education that teachers have been offered, in the form of a curriculum, a structured outline of religious education as an academic discipline.

NEWS SNIPPETS

- *Day for Life* is celebrated in Ireland on Sunday 4 October on the theme 'Cherishing Life, Accepting Death'. In their pastoral message for *Day for Life 2015*, bishops share a reflection on end of life matters: "Every person is loved by God and every life is a precious gift never to be destroyed or neglected. It is wrong to hasten or bring about death." See catholicbishops.ie for text and resources.
- The Autumn 2015 General Meeting of the Irish Bishops' Conference discussed the following issues during its meeting in Maynooth: World Meeting of Families in Dublin in 2018; Synod of Bishops in Rome; Homelessness; Human Trafficking and Prostitution; Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Migrant Crisis; Sustainable Development Goals; Safeguarding Children; Northern Ireland; 50th anniversary of *Ad Gentes* and Mission Sunday 2015; Day for Life; New Catholic Religious Education curriculum and programme; and, Visit to EU institutions in Brussels. The full text is available on www.catholicbishops.ie.



Please support our missionaries on Mission Sunday 18 October.
www.wmi.ie



Pope Francis Tweet of the Month: "God loves the lowly. When we live humbly, he takes our small efforts and creates great things." Follow Pope Francis on Twitter @Pontifex & @news_va.