

Sharing the Good News

Monthly newsletter for
dioceses and parishes
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#Pray4Vocations prayer initiative launched on Vocations Sunday

A new vocations prayer initiative 'Pray4Vocations' was launched on Vocations Sunday to coincide with centenary celebrations of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. The Bishops' Council for Vocations in collaboration with St Joseph's Young Priests Society, the Knights of St Columbanus and Vocations Ireland are promoting prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life in Ireland on 13 May, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. At 12noon, people are invited to pray the Angelus or a decade of the Rosary for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. People are also invited to continue to #Pray4Vocations on the 13th of each month, from May to October 2017.

Father Willie Purcell, National Coordinator for Diocesan Vocations said, "This #Pray4Vocations invitation is aimed at parishes, schools and families. Pope Francis said that 'vocations are born in prayer, and only in prayer can they persevere and bear fruit'. This initiative ties in with Pope Francis' message for Vocations Sunday in which he asked parish communities, associations and prayer groups present in the Church, not to yield to discouragement but to continue praying that the Lord will send workers to his harvest."

If you are interested in speaking to someone about a vocation to the priesthood or to religious life, please see www.vocations.ie and www.vocationsireland.com.

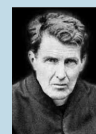
News Snippets

- ◆ Archbishop Thomas A White, a priest of the Diocese of Ossory and the former Papal Nuncio to Rwanda, Ethiopia and New Zealand, passed away on Sunday 7 May.
- ◆ Find out how you can volunteer for World Meeting of Families 2018 on worldmeeting2018.ie/ volunteer. 
- ◆ Ecumenical Bible Week takes place from 4-11 June - see bibleweek.ie.
- ◆ Many parish and diocesan websites have now installed the free CatholicNews.ie news feed. Email info@catholicbishops.ie for more.
- ◆ You can download our weekly faith podcast from catholicnews.ie. Faithcast is also available to subscribe to on iTunes.



Father John Sullivan SJ: first beatification in Ireland

Fr John Sullivan SJ will be beatified on Saturday 13 May in Gardiner Street Church, Dublin. The principal celebrant and homilist will be Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. This will be the first ever beatification in Ireland and, in an unprecedented ecumenical gesture, the request for beatification will be made jointly by the Catholic and Church of Ireland Archbishops of Dublin, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and Archbishop Michael Jackson, reflecting the fact that Fr John was an Anglican for the first half of his life and Catholic for the second. The ceremony will be broadcast live on www.jesuit.ie/beatification. See also frjohnsullivan.ie for more on his life and ministry.



Archbishop Eamon Martin delivers Newman Lecture on 'The Church in the Public Sphere'

On 8 May in the University of East Anglia, Norwich, Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh delivered the annual Newman lecture on the theme 'The Church in the Public Sphere – a perspective from Ireland'. In his address Archbishop Eamon said, "we enter the public square with the conviction that 'something else is needed' and not simply to win arguments through the clever use of reasoning and debate. When we speak, we draw upon both reason and faith and upon an integral vision of the dignity and vocation of the human person linked to the common good. We seek to present in public discourse 'a consistent ethic of life', based on natural law, which includes for example, our teaching about the sacredness of all human life and the dignity of the person, about the centrality of the family, about solidarity and the need for a fair distribution of goods in the world. Our vision is of a society marked by a culture of peace, justice and care for all, especially the most vulnerable." For the full address see catholicbishops.ie.