



*An Introduction to the Pastoral Work of the*

# IRISH CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

COMHDHÁIL EASPAG CAITLICEACH ÉIREANN



## FOREWORD

Dear Parishioner,

The Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference warmly welcomes the honour bestowed on Ireland by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, by his choice of Dublin as host for the celebration of the 9th World Meeting of Families in 2018 in Ireland.

Across the island of Ireland the Church eagerly awaits Pope Francis' arrival to our country during which he will meet with local and international families participating in the World Meeting of Families on 25 and 26 August.

In his 2016 apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)*, Pope Francis identifies the joys and challenges faced by families in their daily lives. At the same time these experiences are also reflected in the life of the Church. As we all know, the family is good news indeed! This theme of service, humility and love of family is central to the mission and pastoral work of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference.

What does this mean in practice? All of us as Christians are invited to respond to our baptismal call to engage in ministry and service of the Gospel with others in the Christian community. The Church is a family of families which lives faith and radiates life (*AL*, 87).

To achieve its mission, the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference – the assembly of bishops of Ireland – exercises certain pastoral offices for Christ's faithful on the whole island of Ireland and in collaboration with the Universal Church. This enables bishops to exchange views and share their wisdom and experience in order to promote the Word of God and celebrate the Body of Christ.

To serve the common good and the world around us the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference holds general meetings on a quarterly basis in Maynooth, Co Kildare, and is supported by a secretariat. The Bishops' Conference consists of five Episcopal Commissions: Catholic Education and Formation; Pastoral Care; Planning, Communications and Resources; Social Issues and International Affairs; and Worship, Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development.

These commissions include councils, initiatives, agencies and various working groups, committees and offices. They look at the signs of the times and, guided by the light of faith, accompany families in moments of grief, pain, joy and hope.

The pastoral areas of outreach served by the bishops' commissions include: catechesis, education, liturgy, vocations, ecumenism, immigrants, emigrants and prisoners overseas and their families, responding to drugs and alcohol abuse at parish level, marriage and family, marriage preparation, marriage enrichment, counselling, relationships and sexuality education, advocating a consistent ethic of life and care for those most at risk, our common home: the earth, overseas aid, missions, research and development, communications and publishing.

All of these ministries support families and are part of the mission and message of Jesus Christ. They represent good news and grounds for hope in a world which earnestly searches for both. Our pastoral work is explained in detail in this booklet.

At this joyous time for Catholics throughout our country I wish to express, on behalf of the bishops of Ireland, my personal gratitude for the work of missionary disciples around the country – lay people, religious and clergy – who generously give of their time and expertise. Their God-given gifts support the mission of the Church in so many ways.

As part of our preparations for this faith-enriching occasion I invite you to join with me in praying the Official Family Prayer for the 2018 World Meeting of Families in Ireland (see page 5).

Gúim Rath Dé ar do chlann go léir,

Beir bua agus beannacht.

*+ Eamon Martin*

**Archbishop Eamon Martin**

President, Irish Catholic  
Bishops' Conference and  
Primate of All Ireland



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## OFFICIAL FAMILY PRAYER FOR WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018



God, our Father,  
We are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son,  
One family, in the Spirit of your love.

Bless us with the joy of love.

Make us patient and kind,  
gentle and generous,  
welcoming to those in need.  
Help us to live your forgiveness and peace.

Protect all families with your loving care,  
Especially those for whom we now pray:

*[We pause and remember family members and others by name]*

Increase our faith,  
Strengthen our hope,  
Keep us safe in your love,  
Make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share.

This we ask, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Mary, mother and guide, pray for us.  
Saint Joseph, father and protector, pray for us.  
Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for us.  
Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, pray for us.

## OFFICERS OF THE IRISH CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

**President:** Archbishop Eamon Martin

**Vice President:** Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

**Episcopal Secretary:** Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly SMA

**Finance Secretary:** Bishop Francis Duffy

The structure of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference – or the Irish Episcopal Conference – is made up of councils, agencies and initiatives which are clustered into five departments corresponding to the following Episcopal Commissions:

**Executive Secretary:** Monsignor Gearóid Dullea

**Executive Administrator of Commissions and Agencies:** Mr Harry Casey

Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare W23 P6D3 Tel: 01-505 3000



## COMMISSION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

**Executive Secretary to the Episcopal Commission:** Bishop-elect Tom Deenihan

Tel: 01-505 3014 Email: [education@iecon.ie](mailto:education@iecon.ie)

### Council for Catechetics

The Catechetics Council works collaboratively, especially with the other three Councils which are included in the Department of Catholic Education and Formation – namely Doctrine, Ecumenism and Dialogue, and Education – and with the Council for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development to promulgate the articulated policy and vision for the catechetical needs of Ireland, North and South, on behalf of the Episcopal Conference.

**Chairperson:** Bishop Brendan Leahy

**National Director:** Ms Kate Liffey

Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare

Tel: 01-505 3000 Email: [catechetics@iecon.ie](mailto:catechetics@iecon.ie)

### Council for Doctrine

The Council for Doctrine works with the Theological Committee and the Bioethics Consultative Group on matters relating to faith and morals.

**Chairperson:** Archbishop Michael Neary

Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare Tel: 01-505 3000

### Bioethics Consultative Group

The Bioethics Consultative Group advises the Episcopal Conference on questions related to bioethics and the ethics of healthcare. It has recently published, in partnership with the Council for Healthcare, a *Code of Ethical Standards for Healthcare* (Veritas, 2018).

**Chairperson:** Bishop Kevin Doran

**Secretary:** Father Michael Shorthall

St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare **Tel:** 01-708 6165

### Council for Ecumenism and Dialogue

The Council for Ecumenism advises the Episcopal Conference on ecumenical affairs in Ireland and maintains contact with the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, Rome. The council has a membership of approximately thirty-five, including episcopal members, a priest representative from each diocese, and people chosen for their competence and experience in the ecumenical field.

**Chairperson:** Bishop Brendan Leahy

**Advisory Committee on Ecumenism Secretary:** Father Gerard Garrett

Cork Regional Marriage Tribunal, The Lough, Cork, Co Cork **Tel:** 021-496 3653

### Council for Education (with Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education)

The Council for Education articulates policy and vision for Catholic education in Ireland, North and South, on behalf of the Episcopal Conference. It has responsibility for the forward planning necessary to ensure the best provision for Catholic education in the country. It liaises with other Catholic education offices, the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Education in Northern Ireland. The Council advises the Conference on all government legislation as applied to education. It responds to and acts as spokesperson for the Episcopal Conference on issues related to the work of education. It seeks also to develop long-term strategies in education for the Episcopal Conference.

**Chairperson:** Bishop Brendan Kelly

**Executive Secretary:** Bishop-elect Tom Deenihan

Council for Education, Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare

**Tel:** 01-505 3014 **Email:** education@iecon.ie

### Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education

Until 2005, there was no central body seeking to offer leadership across the Catholic education sector in Northern Ireland. The five hundred plus 'Maintained' schools (nursery, primary and non-selective post-primary) were managed by the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (a statutory body) while the thirty-two Voluntary Grammar schools had a considerable degree of independence. The Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education (NICCE) was set up in 2005 by the trustees in order to provide coordination of the Catholic sector in a time of rapid change.

**Chairperson:** Bishop Donal McKeown

Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education

St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP

**Tel:** 028-712 62302 **Email:** info@catholiceducation-ni.com

## Catholic Education Service

The Catholic Education Service (CES) is a national education service inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ in support of the mission of Catholic education. CES was set up by the Irish Episcopal Conference in conjunction with the Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious in Ireland (AMRI).

The Catholic Education Service is a charity created by Deed of Trust. The Trustees of the CES are four Catholic Bishops who are Ordinaries of Catholic dioceses in Ireland and each representing one of the four ecclesiastical provinces of Ireland (Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Bishop Leo O'Reilly, Bishop Fintan Monahan, Bishop Brendan Kelly) and two religious appointed by AMRI (Sister Elizabeth Maxwell PBVM, and Father Marc Whelan CSSp). The trustees of the CES are ex officio members of the Catholic Education Service Committee.

The Catholic Education Service Committee is a service incorporating a number of bodies as follows:

- The Catholic Schools' Partnership serves first and second level Catholic schools and colleges in the Republic of Ireland;
- The Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education serves Catholic schools and colleges in Northern Ireland;
- CESC serves the formal education system at all levels as well as the non- formal and informal sectors. It aims to support a vibrant Catholic education sector in response to changing social, economic and political conditions in Ireland.

**Chairpersons:** Bishop Leo O'Reilly and Sister Elizabeth Maxwell PBVM

**Executive Secretaries:** Bishop-elect Tom Deenihan and Sister Eithne Woulfe  
Catholic Education Service, Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare

**Tel:** 01-505 3014 **Email:** education@iecon.ie

## Catholic Schools Partnership

The Catholic Schools Partnership (CSP) was established in 2009 by the Episcopal Conference in cooperation with AMRI. It aims to provide support for all the partners in Catholic education at first and second level in the Republic of Ireland. This includes patrons/trustees, management bodies including boards of management and teachers in Catholic schools.

**Chairperson:** Father Richard Byrne

New House, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare

**Tel:** 01-505 3164 **Email:** office@catholicschools.ie

## Association of Trustees of Catholic Schools

The Association of Trustees of Catholic Schools (ATCS) was established in September 2009. ATCS is a representative body for the 'Catholic Trustee Voice' in Irish education at primary and post-primary level. Its membership includes members of the Irish Episcopal Conference, representatives of various religious



congregations, representatives of the recently established lay trusts, as well as the trustees of a number of other Catholic schools.

**Chairperson:** Sister Marie Céline Clegg IBVM

**Research and Administration Assistant:** Dr David Kennedy

Association of Trustees of Catholic Schools

New House, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare

**Tel:** 01-505 3164 **Email:** [info@atcs.ie](mailto:info@atcs.ie)

## Council of Management of Catholic Secondary Schools

The Council of Management of Catholic Secondary Schools (CMCSS) is the governing body for the Association of Management of Catholic Secondary Schools (AMCSS) which promotes, advises and supports Catholic voluntary secondary schools in Ireland. Founded in the 1960s, it adopted its present structure in 1972. Its membership includes a principal and chairperson of a board of management from each of its ten constituent regions. It also includes a representative of the Irish Episcopal Conference and a representative of AMRI. The council cooperates and maintains links with other national and international groups interested in Catholic education.

**President:** Father Paul Connell

**General Secretary:** Mr John Curtis

Secretariat of Secondary Schools, Emmet House, Milltown, Dublin 14

**Tel:** 01-283 8255 **Fax:** 01-269 5461 **Email:** [info@jmb.ie](mailto:info@jmb.ie) **Website:** [www.jmb.ie](http://www.jmb.ie)

## Catholic Primary School Management Association

The Catholic Primary School Management Association (CPSMA) represents the boards of management of all Catholic primary schools. Its standing committee has close links with the Episcopal Commission for Education.

**Chairperson:** Dr Andrew McGrady **General Secretary:** Mr Seamus Mulconry

New House, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare

**Tel:** 01-629 2462/1850 407 200

**Email:** [info@cpsma.ie](mailto:info@cpsma.ie) **Website:** [www.cpsma.ie](http://www.cpsma.ie)



## COMMISSION FOR PASTORAL CARE

**Executive Secretary to the Episcopal Commission:** Father Peter Murphy

**Tel:** 01-505 3000 **Email:** [peter.murphy@iecon.ie](mailto:peter.murphy@iecon.ie)

## Council for Marriage and The Family

In the spirit of *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*) the Council for Marriage and the Family assists the collective and local service of marriage and family life by the members of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, the culture of welcome for families in the Church, spiritual and pastoral care and promoting the sacrament of marriage and family life throughout the community.

**Co-chairs:** Archbishop Eamon Martin and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin  
Council for Marriage and the Family, Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare, Ireland

**Website:** [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie) [see Council for Marriage and the Family pages]

**Tel:** 01-505 3000 **Email:** [columbacentre@iecon.ie](mailto:columbacentre@iecon.ie)

**Executive Secretary to the Council for Marriage and the Family:** Father Peter Murphy

## Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service

Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service comprises three companies limited by guarantee: Accord NI, chaired by Archbishop Eamon Martin; Accord Dublin, chaired by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin; and Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service CLG, President, Bishop Denis Nulty, chaired by Mr Gordon Nicholl. Accord has over fifty centres located throughout the 26 dioceses of Ireland. Its ministry is primarily concerned with supporting the Sacrament of Marriage by helping couples as they prepare for sacramental marriage and offering support to them in times of difficulty. Accord's 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. Accord's core services include Marriage Preparation and Counselling (marriage and relationships) and Schools' Programmes in Relationships and Sexuality Education.

**Accord Central Office:** Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare

**Tel:** 01-505 3112 **Email:** [admin@accord.ie](mailto:admin@accord.ie)

**Websites:** [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie) • [www.accordni.com](http://www.accordni.com)



## Council For Emigrants

The Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants (IECE) seeks to respond to the needs of Irish emigrants prior to and following departure. It is particularly committed to addressing the needs of our most vulnerable emigrants, especially the elderly Irish emigrant community, the undocumented in the United States and Irish prisoners overseas. Working in conjunction with the host Church, our apostolates and sister organisations, the IECE seeks to respond to the needs of the Irish as an emigrant community.

**Chairperson:** Bishop John Kirby  
**Emigrant Officer:** Mr Brian Hanley  
**Administrator:** Ms Bernie Martin  
Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare **Tel:** 01-505 3155  
**Email:** [bernie.martin@iecon.ie](mailto:bernie.martin@iecon.ie) or [emigrants@iecon.ie](mailto:emigrants@iecon.ie)  
**Website:** [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie)

### **Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas (an Outreach of IECE)**

The Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas (ICPO) is currently the only organisation working on behalf of Irish prisoners overseas and their families. Established in 1985, the ICPO promotes social justice and human dignity for Irish people in prisons overseas and for their families. ICPO provides information, support and advocacy to Irish prisoners wherever they are: it makes no distinction in terms of religious faith, the nature of the prison conviction or of a prisoner's status. Casework, family support, prison visits and policy work comprise core components of this work.

**Co-ordinator:** Mr Brian Hanley  
**Administrator:** Ms Bernie Martin  
**Maynooth Office:** Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare **Tel:** 01-505 3156  
**Fax:** 01-629 2363 **Email:** [icpo@iecon.ie](mailto:icpo@iecon.ie) **Website:** [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie)  
**London Office:** 50–52 Camden Square, London NW1 9XB  
**Tel:** 0044-207 4824148 **Fax:** 0044-207 4824815

### **The Irish Chaplaincy in Britain**

The Irish Chaplaincy in Britain (ICB) is a registered UK charity. It meets and works alongside Irish people living in Britain, especially those most isolated and vulnerable including older Irish people, Irish prisoners, and Irish Travellers and Gypsies.

**Director:** Mr Eddie Gilmore  
**Tel:** 0044-207 4825528 **Fax:** 0044-207 4824815  
**Email:** [prisoners@irishchaplaincy.org.uk](mailto:prisoners@irishchaplaincy.org.uk) **Website:** [www.irishchaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.irishchaplaincy.org.uk)

### **Council for Immigrants**

The Irish Episcopal Council for Immigrants (IECI) develops and fosters initiatives for the pastoral care of immigrants among the dioceses and parishes of Ireland. It identifies immigrant communities within a local setting, recognises their needs and develops pastoral outreach strategies to engage with, support and integrate immigrant communities into dioceses and local parishes.

**Chairperson:** Bishop Raymond Field  
**Field Officer:** Dr Helen Kavanagh  
Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare **Tel:** 01-505 3009  
**Email:** [helen.kavanagh@iecon.ie](mailto:helen.kavanagh@iecon.ie)



'Opening the Door of Mercy' conference in the Red Cow Hotel on Saturday 5 March 2016



Bishop John Kirby, President of Ireland Michael D Higgins, Father Gerry McFlynn and Brian Hanley at the 2015 conference marking 30 years of the Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas in Dublin Castle



Bishop Brendan Kelly and altar server Tom Long with the new Irish language translation of the *Roman Missal*



Bishop Donal McKeown with his niece Theresa McKinley at Dublin Airport before their departure to Krakow for World Youth Day 2016



Kumba, from Freetown, Sierra Leone is the girl on the 2018 Trócaire Box



The new Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo is welcomed by Cardinal Seán Brady in August 2017



Accord's 'Blessing of the Rings' of engaged couple Anna Keegan and Seamus Walsh at the Shrine of Saint Valentine in Whitefriar Street Church, Dublin



The Catholic Communications Office's 40th anniversary conference in 2015: Catholic Comment's Petra Conroy with broadcaster and chair Audrey Carville



At the opening Mass for Catholic Schools Week 2017



Archbishop Diarmuid Martin presents the icon of the World Meeting of Families to Pope Francis in Saint Peter's Square in March 2018 along with the Tobin family from the Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin

Front Cover: 1. Servizio Fotografico – Vatican Media, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin presents the World Meeting of Families 2018 icon to Pope Francis in St Peter's Square, Rome on 21 March 2018  
2. John McElroy, Maeve Liffey at the launch of the publication of *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*) in





Staff of the Irish Bishops' Conference attending the ICPO 30th anniversary conference: Eileen Boyle, Sister Anne Sheehy, Sandra Garry and Nuala Kilduff



Father Tim Bartlett, Secretary General for the World Meeting of Families 2018, and Harry Casey at World Meeting of Families launch event in Dublin, 22 October 2016



At the launch of the Missionary Exhibition highlighting the work undertaken by Irish missionaries to Kenya over a period of 100 years (1916-2016)



Celebrant Fr Willie Purcell after the RTÉ broadcast Mass for Vocations Sunday 2017 at the launch of a new Vocations Prayer Initiative



Archbishop Eamon Martin receives some assistance for the April 2016 launch of *Amoris Laetitia* in Ireland



Darren Butler of the Irish Bishops' Drug and Alcohol Initiative speaking about his work with Wendy Grace



Launch of *The Cry of the Earth*, 1 October 2014



Diaconate Ordination in the national seminary of Saint Patrick's College Maynooth, 29 May 2016

Archbishop's House, Dublin, in April 2016  
3. Liam McArdle, Cathal and Lucy Fegan pictured with Archbishop Eamon Martin at the launch of Armagh World Meeting of Families Festival in May 2018

## Council for Healthcare

The Council for Healthcare was established by the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference in 2013. The council promotes healthcare ministry as an essential component of the healing mission of Jesus Christ. Its aims are (i) to articulate a vision of human health and wholeness, healthy living and healthcare that is based on Catholic spiritual and moral values, (ii) to contribute to the formulation of Catholic Church policy on promoting health and wholeness, and (iii) to represent the Roman Catholic position in public health discourse in Ireland.

**Chairperson:** Bishop Raymond Field

**Secretary:** Sister Pat O'Donovan RSM

Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare **Tel:** 01-505 3165

**Email:** pat.odonovan@iecon.ie

## The Healthcare Chaplaincy Board

The Healthcare Chaplaincy Board is a sub-committee of the Council for Healthcare. The board sets standards for certification for Roman Catholic healthcare chaplains and for the accreditation of clinical pastoral education programmes.

## Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative

The Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative was established in 1997 as a Church response to the growing problem of drug and alcohol misuse in Ireland. Its vision is to enable parishes to use a pastoral response in partnership with other service providers to respond to the primary and secondary prevention of drug and alcohol harm in parish communities.

**Chairperson:** Ms Patricia Conway

**Vice chair:** Bishop Éamonn Walsh

**National Coordinator:** Mr Darren Butler

Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare

**Tel:** 01-505 3044/087 790 1461 **Email:** ibdi@iecon.ie

**Website:** www.irishbishopsdrugsinitiative.ie

## Outreach to Prisoners

### Irish Prison Chaplains Team

There are at present twenty full-time and five part-time chaplains working in Irish prisons. The vision of the chaplaincy is one that affirms the dignity of the person and seeks to be a voice for those deprived of their freedom. It is a vision that urges us to take a prophetic stance on issues of social justice

and to continue the exploration of restorative justice as a valid alternative to imprisonment.

**Liaison Bishop with Prison Chaplains:** Bishop Éamonn Walsh

**National Co-ordinator of Prison Chaplains:** Vacant

## Chaplaincy for Deaf People

**Director:** Father Gerard Tyrrell

The National Chaplaincy for Deaf People, Deaf Village Ireland, Ratoath Road, Dublin 7

**Tel:** 01-830 5744 **Fax:** 01-860 0284 **Email:** gerard@ncdp.ie or office@ncdp.ie



## COMMISSION FOR PLANNING, COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOURCES

**Executive Secretary to the Episcopal Commission:** Mr Paul Corcoran

### Council for Communications

The mission of the Catholic Communications Office (CCO) is to provide, on behalf of the Episcopal Conference, its agencies and commissions, a professional communications team to serve the faithful, media, national and international Church organisations, other faiths and wider society, so as to help convey the Christian message of the Gospel.

The CCO also assists the press office of the Holy See, bishops, diocesan communications officers (DCOs) and seminarians with the promotion of the Church's pastoral work through the means of social communications.

There are twenty-six dioceses on the island of Ireland and, upon request, the CCO offers assistance to dioceses on issues requiring national publicity.

In relation to news promotion, the staff of the CCO work in partnership with the designated DCO of each diocese. The CCO also responds to information requests from both the media and public on Church issues.

The CCO is accountable to the Council for Communications of the Episcopal Conference.

**Chairperson:** Archbishop Eamon Martin

**Director:** Mr Martin Long

Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare

**Tel:** 01-505 3000 **Fax:** 01-601 6413

**Email:** info@catholicbishops.ie **Website:** www.catholicbishops.ie

**Twitter:** @CatholicBishops **Facebook:** Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

## Veritas Communications

Veritas advises the Episcopal Commission on communications and on matters related to the publication of religious books. Veritas publishes general religious books, liturgical texts in Irish and English, and catechetical texts.

**President:** Bishop Brendan Leahy

**Chair:** Father Ned Hassett

**Director:** Mr Aidan Chester

Veritas Company DAC, 7–8 Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1

**Tel:** 01-878 8177 **Email:** sales@veritas.ie **Website:** www.veritas.ie

## Intercom Magazine

*Intercom* is a subscription-only pastoral and liturgical magazine published jointly ten times per year by Veritas and the Catholic Communications Office.

**Editor:** Father Chris Hayden

**Email:** intercom@catholicbishops.ie **Twitter:** @IntercomJournal

**Tel:** 01-505 3055 **Fax:** 01-601 6401

## Council for Research and Development

The Council co-ordinates and assists in research projects approved or requested by the Episcopal Conference, its agencies and commissions.

**Chairperson:** Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly SMA

**Social Researcher:** Vacant **Tel:** 01-505 3000

## Council for Finance and General Purposes

The Finance and General Purposes Council is comprised of three episcopal members and seven lay persons. The Council provides central administrative and accounting services for all the commissions and acts in an advisory capacity to the Bishops' Conference on matters related to finance, audit and risk management.

**Chairperson:** Bishop Francis Duffy

**Finance Manager:** Mr Paul Corcoran

Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare

**Tel:** 01-505 3000 **Email:** finance@iecon.ie



## COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL ISSUES AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

**Executive Secretary to the Episcopal Commission:** Mr Harry Casey

**Tel:** 01-505 3000 **Email:** harry.casey@iecon.ie



## Council for European Affairs

**Chairperson:** Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

## COMECE

COMECE is a Commission of the Episcopal Conferences of the member countries of the European Community, with an office in Brussels.

**General Secretary:** Brother Olivier Poquillon OP

Bishop Noel Treanor is the Irish Episcopal Conference representative and a Vice-President of COMECE

19 Square de Meeûs, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium

**Tel:** 32-(0)-223 50510 **Fax:** 0032-2-230 3334 **Email:** comece@comece.eu

**Website** www.comece.org

## Council for Justice and Peace

The Council for Justice and Peace (CJP) supports the Episcopal Conference in promoting the social teaching of the Church and advises on issues of social concern, both nationally and internationally. Its main activities are in research, education and supporting peace and justice work in dioceses.

**Acting Chairperson:** Bishop Kevin Doran

## Northern Ireland Catholic Council on Social Affairs

The Northern Ireland Catholic Council on Social Affairs (NICCOSA), established by the Northern Bishops in 2003, is made up largely of lay people who provide advice on social, political and legislative matters to the Catholic Bishops of Northern Ireland.

**Chairperson:** Archbishop Eamon Martin

**Research Coordinator:** Dr Emer Crooke

Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare

**Tel:** 01-505 3016 **Email:** emer.crooke@iecon.ie

## Council for The Missions

**National Mission Council**

**Chairperson:** Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly SMA

## World Missions Ireland (Pontifical Mission Societies)

Coordinates the activities of all national missionary bodies and acts as a forum for discussion on matters related to national mission policy.

**National Director:** Father Martin Kelly CSSp

**Email:** director@wmi.ie

## Society of Missionary Children

**National Secretary:** Ms Julieann Moran

**Email:** julieann@wmi.ie

64 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 6 **Tel:** 01-497 2035 **Website:** www.wmi.ie

## Trócaire: The Catholic Agency for World Development

Trócaire, the Catholic Agency for World Development, was established by the Episcopal Conference in 1973 to express the Church's concern for the needs and problems of the people of the developing nations. Trócaire's long-term development projects and emergency relief programmes in Africa, Asia and Latin America tackle the injustice of global poverty. In Ireland, through its education programmes and campaigning, Trócaire works to raise awareness about development issues and the principles of social justice involved.

**Chairperson:** Bishop William Crean

**Executive Director:** Mr Éamonn Meehan

Maynooth, Co Kildare **Tel:** 01-629 3333 **Email:** [info@trocaire.ie](mailto:info@trocaire.ie)

**Website:** [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org)



## COMMISSION FOR WORSHIP, PASTORAL RENEWAL AND FAITH DEVELOPMENT

**Executive Secretary to the Episcopal Commission:** Father Danny Murphy

**Tel:** 01-708 3478

## Council for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development

The council supports ongoing dialogue and reflection on current, relevant topics between all groups and agencies represented by its members. The council brings to the Episcopal Commission for Worship, Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development the fruits of these dialogues and reflections, for crafting into recommendations and presentation to the Episcopal Conference. On behalf of the Episcopal Conference, the council promotes frameworks and processes which are aimed at ongoing development of shared vision as well as pastoral priorities and strategies at national level. Areas for research, reflection and supportive action by the council include evangelisation, adult faith development, parish development, lay discipleship and ministry, and the young Church.

**Chairperson:** Bishop Donal McKeown

**Project Officer:** Ms Anna Keegan

Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare

**Tel:** 01-505 3025 **Email:** [anna.keegan@iecon.ie](mailto:anna.keegan@iecon.ie)

## National Committee of Diocesan Youth Directors

**Chairperson:** Bishop Donal McKeown

St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry BT48 9AP

**Tel:** 028-712 62302 **Email:** [office@derrydiocese.org](mailto:office@derrydiocese.org)

## Council for Liturgy

**Chairperson:** Monsignor Joseph McGuinness

**Secretary:** Father Danny Murphy

National Centre for Liturgy, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare

**Tel:** 01-708 3478 **Email:** [liturgy@spcm.ie](mailto:liturgy@spcm.ie) **Website:** [www.liturgy-ireland.ie](http://www.liturgy-ireland.ie)

## National Centre for Liturgy

The National Centre for Liturgy, based in Maynooth, houses the National Secretariat for Liturgy, offers programmes in liturgical formation at the Centre and elsewhere and provides an advisory service on liturgical matters.

**Director:** Father Danny Murphy

National Centre for Liturgy, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare

**Tel:** 01-708 3478 **Email:** [liturgy@spcm.ie](mailto:liturgy@spcm.ie) **Website:** [www.liturgy-ireland.ie](http://www.liturgy-ireland.ie)

## Advisory Committee on Church Music

**Chairperson:** Father Columba McCann OSB

**Secretary:** Sister Moira Bergin RSM

National Centre for Liturgy, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare

**Email:** [moira.bergin@spcm.ie](mailto:moira.bergin@spcm.ie)

## Advisory Committee on Sacred Art and Architecture

**Chairperson:** Mr Brian Quinn

**Secretary:** Father Danny Murphy

National Centre for Liturgy, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare

**Tel:** 01-708 3478 **Email:** [liturgy@spcm.ie](mailto:liturgy@spcm.ie) **Website:** [www.liturgy-ireland.ie](http://www.liturgy-ireland.ie)

## Coiste Comhairleach um an Liotúirge i nGaeilge

**Cathaoirleach:** Dr Marie Whelton

**Rúnaí:** An Canónach Seán Terry

Baile an Londraigh, Cluain Uamha, Co Chorcaí

**Fón:** 021-464 6779 **Ephost:** [jterry@eircom.net](mailto:jterry@eircom.net)

## Council for Vocations

The Council acts as an advisory body to the Episcopal Conference on matters concerning priestly vocations. It supports the work of diocesan vocations directors and collaborates with other bodies to promote religious vocations.

**Chairperson:** Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan

**National Coordinator for Vocations:** Father William Purcell

**Administrator:** Reverend Eric Cooney (Deacon)

**Email:** [info@vocations.ie](mailto:info@vocations.ie) **Website:** [www.vocations.ie](http://www.vocations.ie) **Twitter:** @NVocations

## Council for Clergy

The Council for Clergy deals with matters related to the ordained ministry as well as the formation of men for Holy Orders. It assists the Episcopal Conference in addressing issues of interest to priests and deacons throughout the country.

**Chairperson:** Bishop Ray Browne

Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare **Tel:** 01-505 3000

## National Training Authority for the Permanent Diaconate

**Chairperson:** Bishop Ray Browne

Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare **Tel:** 01-505 3000



## NATIONAL BOARD FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN IRELAND

The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland was established in 2008 in order to provide best practice advice and to monitor the safeguarding of children in the Catholic Church.

Over recent years there has been an increasing recognition of the existence of child abuse and growing acceptance of the potential risks to children from others working in positions of trust. Greater attention, therefore, has been paid to how Church organisations ensure that the children with whom they are in contact are kept safe from harm.

**Chairperson:** Mr John B Morgan

**Chief Executive Officer:** Ms Teresa Devlin

National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland  
New House, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare

**Tel:** 01-505 3124 **Email:** admin@safeguarding.ie



## TOWARDS HEALING (COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE)

The operation of the Towards Healing Counselling and Support Services reflects the commitment of the Catholic Church in Ireland to meet the counselling and related support needs of survivors of religious, clerical and institutional abuse. The service commenced on 1 February 2011 and succeeds the Faoiseamh Counselling service established in 1996 by the Sisters of Mercy.

During 2017, Towards Healing provided independent face-to-face counselling to 665 primary survivors and 193 family members, at a cost of €2.04m financed by the Irish Episcopal Conference and AMRI.

The expenditure of €2.04m brings the total expenditure by the Catholic Church in Ireland, over the time frame of twenty-one years (Faoiseamh Counselling Service 1996–2010 and Towards Healing 2011–2017), to €39.78m. This has enabled the provision of counselling and support services to 6,342 service users with 429,851 face-to-face counselling sessions.

Towards Healing also provides a wide range of other services including child protection, group work, practical workshops, restorative justice/facilitated listening meetings, a friendly call service and advocacy to survivors of abuse. The services are available irrespective of the survivor's current residence and are free of charge to service users. Towards Healing maintains a 'no waiting list' policy.

**Chairperson:** Ms Marian Shanley

**Chief Executive Officer:** Mr Michael Lyons

**Freephone** 1800 303 416 Republic of Ireland

**Freephone** 0800 096 3315 Northern Ireland and UK

**Website** [www.towardshealing.ie](http://www.towardshealing.ie)



## TOWARDS PEACE

Towards Peace is a service offering spiritual support to people who have experienced abuse, be it physical, emotional or sexual which was perpetrated by Church personnel, either on an individual level or in institutions. Funded by the Irish Bishop's Conference and the Association of Missionary and Religious in Ireland, the vision of Towards Peace is to provide a safe supportive space for those people and their families, whose faith and spiritual life have been damaged by abuse. It is also a response to the continually growing understanding of the spiritual impact of the trauma of abuse.

Through spiritual accompaniment with a trained spiritual director, Towards Peace endeavours to accompany people as they seek their own experience of spiritual peace one step at a time. There is no predetermined roadmap on this journey. Each person travels at their own particular pace and the service is free.

**Chairperson:** Mr Andrew Fagan

**Co-ordinator:** Ms Una Allen

Towards Peace, Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare, Ireland

**Tel:** 01-505 3028/086 7710533 **Email:** [towardspeace@iecon.ie](mailto:towardspeace@iecon.ie)

**Website:** [www.towardspeace.ie](http://www.towardspeace.ie)

## STATISTICS ON THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND

### Overview

- The Catholic population is 4,634,182 people
- There are 26 dioceses
- There are 1,360 parishes
- There are 2,652 churches
- There are 1,848 priests currently active in diocesan ministry
- 14% of this figure relates to priests ministering in 199 parishes of the Archdiocese of Dublin

### Education

- There are 3,315 Catholic primary schools and 700 secondary schools with an enrolment of 532,351 pupils at primary level and 377,457 at second level
- There are 27,532 volunteers serving on Boards of Management and on Boards of Governors in Catholic Primary schools in the Republic and in Northern Ireland (Source: Catholic Primary School Management Association and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools)

### Trócaire, overseas development agency

- €22.2 million – the amount donated by the public to Trócaire in 2016 – 2017
- Trócaire delivered development projects and humanitarian support in 23 countries and territories in 2016 – 2017
- €57.1 million was spent helping to improve the lives of 2.6 million people in some of the world's most vulnerable places in 2017 (Source: Trócaire)

### Vocations

- In the academic year 2017 – 2018, there were 35 seminarians studying for the priesthood at the National Seminary of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth; 3 studying at Saint Malachy's, Belfast; and 13 studying at the Pontifical Irish College in Rome. In addition there are 8 students undertaking a propaedeutic (pre-seminary) year in various locations.

- At the end of 2017 there were 71 Permanent Deacons ministering in parishes (Source: Catholic Communications Office, Maynooth)
- The Association of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland (AMRI) is an amalgamation of two of the largest existing religious membership organisations, the Conference of Religious of Ireland and the Irish Missionary Union. AMRI represents 184 religious congregations and organisations with a combined membership of 9,347 religious sisters, brothers and clergy (Source: AMRI)

## Marriage

- In 2017, 16,500 people undertook Accord courses in preparation for Sacrament of Marriage
- In 2017, 26,946 Accord counselling sessions were delivered (Source: Accord)

All the above statistics have been sourced from the *Irish Catholic Directory 2018*, unless otherwise stated.

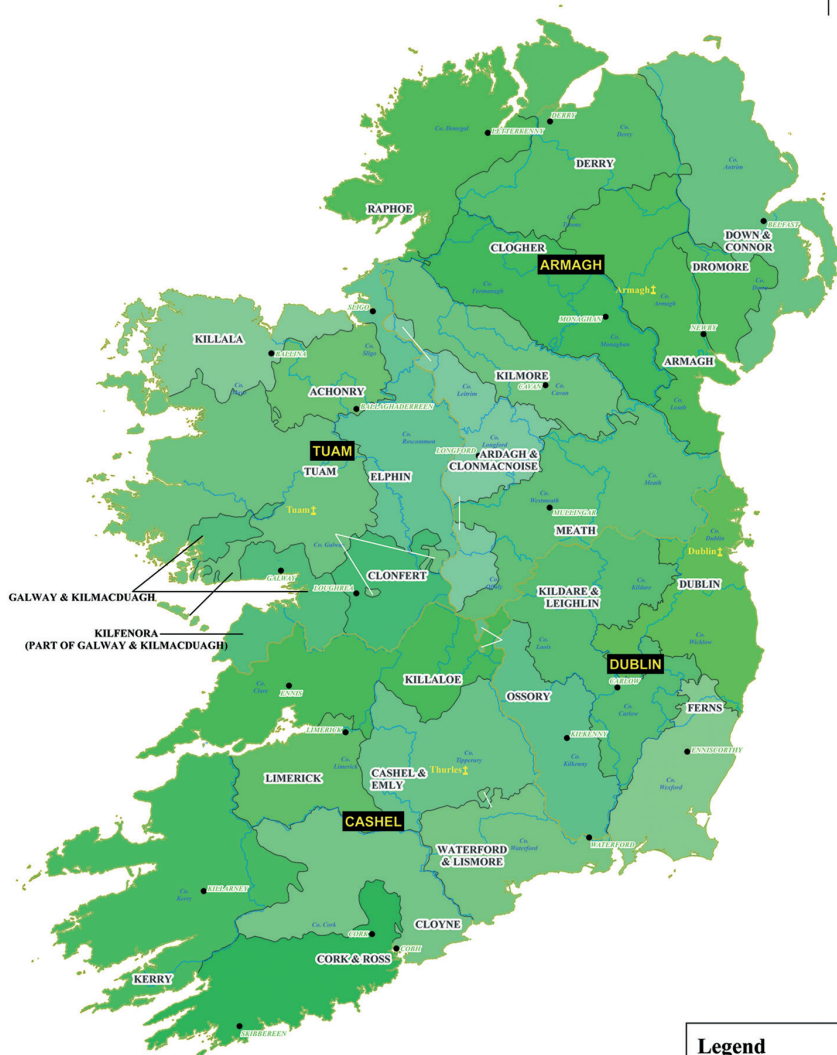


### **Knock – Ireland's National Marian Shrine**

The story of Knock began on the 21 August 1879 when Our Lady, Saint Joseph and Saint John the Evangelist appeared at the south gable of Knock Parish Church in Co Mayo. This miraculous apparition was witnessed by fifteen people, young and old. Knock is an internationally recognised Marian Shrine and was visited by Saint Pope John Paul II as part of his 1979 apostolic pilgrimage to Ireland. During his visit, which coincided with the shrine's centenary year, the late pope celebrated Mass at the shrine and addressed the sick, their helpers and pilgrimage directors. Archbishop Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam, is the custodian of the Marian Shrine and Father Richard Gibbons is parish priest of Knock and rector of the shrine. For further information please see: [www.knockshrine.ie](http://www.knockshrine.ie).

On Sunday 26 August 2018, before Pope Francis celebrates Holy Mass at 3 pm in the Phoenix Park, Dublin, to conclude the World Meeting of Families in Ireland, the Holy Father will pray the Angelus during the morning on the square in front of the Chapel of the Knock Shrine.

# Map of the 26 Catholic dioceses on the island of Ireland



## Legend

- Provincial Boundary
- Diocesan Boundary
- County Boundary

Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference  
Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co. Kildare  
Tel: 01-505 3000 Fax: 01-601 6401  
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