

Believers in the Digital World: Opportunities for Mission

Seminar Schedule

9.00am Registration

9:20 – 10.00am Welcome and Opening Address

Senator Joan Freeman, seminar chair, welcomes attendees and introduces speakers.

Archbishop Eamon Martin leads the prayer and delivers the Opening Address: 'Believers in the Digital World: Opportunities for Mission'.

Senator Freeman to explain structure of seminar and to introduce four key questions for discussion during the working sessions.

10.00 – 10:40am Working Session I

Brenda Drumm to reflect on faith and evangelisation in the digital space.

Detective Sergeant Mary McCormack to offer an overview on the extent of the challenge to society of online abuse and how to respond.

30 minute discussion then follows where the working groups consider related questions informed by the speakers in this session.

10.40 – 11.00am All rapporteurs report briefly to the plenary on feedback from their table regarding their discussion of the first and second themes.

11.00 – 11.20am Coffee break



11.20 – 11.30am Brief video testimony

Students from Saint Peter's College, Dunboyne, on how social media has a positive effect on their lives.

11.20am – 12.00pm Working Session 2

Mr Darren Butler explains the role of parishes in addressing internet addiction.

Ms Emma Tobin and Mr Oisín Walsh reflect on the digital media experience of, and environment for, young people.

30 minute discussion then follows where the working groups consider related questions informed by the speakers in this session.

12:00 – 12:20pm All rapporteurs report briefly to the plenary on feedback from their table regarding their discussion of the third and fourth themes.

12:40 – 1.00pm Q & A for panel and seminar closing remarks

Senator Joan Freeman synthesises the reports and invites questions from the floor for the panel.

Closing comments and prayer by Archbishop Eamon Martin.

1.00pm: Lunch in Pugin Hall



Wednesday 29 May 2019

Renehan Hall, Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth,
Co Kildare

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Seminar Chair:



Senator Joan Freeman is chair of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Future of Mental Health Care and has published the *Children's Digital Protection Bill 2018* to safeguard children from online exposure to harmful and age inappropriate content by placing responsibility for the distribution of such information on Internet service providers. A psychologist, Senator Freeman was a candidate for the office of the President of Ireland in 2018 and was the founder of Pieta House, the suicide and self-harm charity, in 2014. Senator Freeman is a former member of the Council for Justice and Peace of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference.

Speaker biographies:



Archbishop Eamon Martin is Archbishop of Armagh and Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Dromore, Primate of All Ireland, President of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference and Chancellor of the Pontifical University, Maynooth. He is also chair of the Council for Communications of the Bishops' Conference. Archbishop Eamon attended the 2018 Synod on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment in Rome, as well as the global gathering of Bishops' Conference leaders and Major Superiors of Religious Congregations on the protection of minors which was hosted by Pope Francis in February 2019.



Brenda Drumm is Communications Officer with the Catholic Communications Office in Maynooth where she manages the digital media output. Brenda was Media and Communications Manager for the World Meeting of Families 2018. Brenda writes a monthly 'Get Connected' column in *Intercom* magazine on digital media and has written a book called *The Digital Parish* which will be published by Veritas in the autumn.



Detective Sergeant Mary McCormack is based in the Online Child Exploitation Unit in An Garda Síochána since 2010. She works with serving members of AGS in the area of the detection and prevention of online exploitation. She also delivers lectures on this issue to the private and public sector. Mary has 15 years of service in An Garda Síochána having previously worked in the area of Community Policing. Mary is currently undertaking a Diploma in Criminology.



Darren Butler is the national coordinator of the Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative. The IBDI serves as an active pastoral response to drug and alcohol issues in our parishes. In 2018 Darren presented to an international gathering in Vatican City on the topic 'The Commitment of the Church in the Battle Against Addictions'. The conference was hosted by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development on the theme 'Drugs and Addictions: an Obstacle to Integral Human Development.'



Emma Tobin is a 22 year old post-graduate student from Newbridge in Co Kildare. She graduated from UCD in 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts in English and Philosophy. Emma is an award winning writer and poet and will commence a Masters' in Creative Writing in University College Dublin this coming September.



Oisín Walsh is 22 and lives in Trim, Co Meath. He is Assistant to the Editor of *Intercom* magazine and a full time intern with the Catholic Communications Office in Maynooth. Oisín is an active member of his parish and graduated in 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Dublin City University.