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# Sharing the Good News



Photos: Irish Defence Forces

## **“Good Friday Agreement allows a generation to reap the benefits of peace” - Bishop Dermot Farrell**

In his homily for the annual State Commemoration Ceremonies, Bishop Dermot Farrell of Ossory said, “The seeds of democracy – freedom, vision ideals and hope – sown at a foundational moment in the history of the Irish State had - and still have - momentous political consequences whose implications resonate to this day.”

Bishop Farrell continued, “In our time the Good Friday Agreement allows a generation never to witness the horrors of violence, but reap the benefits of peace. The great challenge, now as it was then, is to create a society which will enable all of its citizens to flourish in equality in a country with an identifiably distinctive voice in Europe and in the world, an Irish republic, a sovereign independent state to use the words of the Proclamation.”

You can read the full text of Bishop Farrell’s homily on [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie).

## **“All of us share in the responsibility of nurturing future vocations” - Archbishop Eamon Martin**

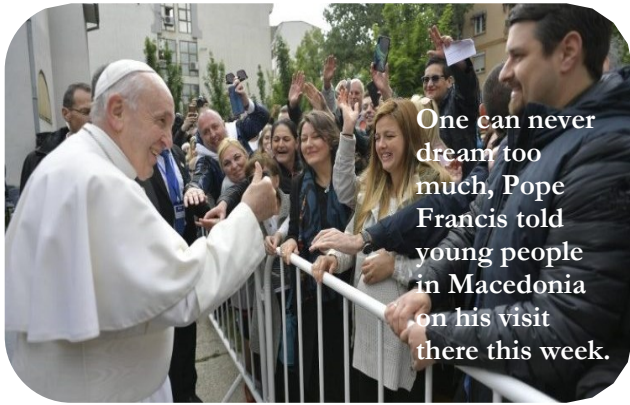
Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh has issued a pastoral message for Vocations Sunday, which is celebrated in the Universal Church on Sunday 12 May. In his message the Archbishop says that all of us share in the responsibility of nurturing future vocations and of supporting our young people to discern the call of the Lord. Archbishop Eamon said, “For many years the families and parishes of Ireland provided large numbers of priests for both home and for the missions overseas. I am keen to encourage and nurture vocations to the priesthood from among our own young people. Many of them have strong faith and great gifts to offer our Church. In that spirit I am inviting people to consider two questions: (i) What is the most important role that the priests of tomorrow will play in the diocese? (ii) What qualities will the priests of tomorrow need to have for our diocese?” The Archbishop invites responses by to [armaghpriest@gmail.com](mailto:armaghpriest@gmail.com) or by post to Diocesan Vocations Commission, Ara Coeli, Cathedral Road, Armagh BT61 7QY by 30 June 2019.



**Archbishop Eamon Martin is pictured with Fr Michael Router who has been appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh.**



## NEWS IN PICTURES



One can never dream too much, Pope Francis told young people in Macedonia on his visit there this week.

Mass for Vocations Sunday will be broadcast from the RTÉ studios in Donnybrook, Dublin on Sunday 12 May at 11am on RTÉ One Television, Radio One Long Wave and DAB.



Bishop Denis Nulty of Kildare and Leighlin pictured with members of the Amadeus Youth Group who were part of the St Conleth 1500 celebrations in Newbridge Parish on 4 and 5 May.

**Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service CLG** is currently recruiting marriage preparation course facilitators. Accord has 54 centres in dioceses throughout the country, North and South. Accord's marriage facilitators come from a wide variety of backgrounds and are trained and work under supervision in accordance with best practice. Successful applicants will receive professional training and be part of a team delivering marriage preparation courses locally. Application forms are available on [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie).



**A host of new retreat options are available at Lough Derg for individuals and parish groups.**

The season of one-day retreats to Lough Derg commenced again from 4 May. A new event, for those who serve in lay parish ministry, is the 'Parish Ministry Day' will take place on Saturday 18 May. Lough Derg's three-day pilgrimage season will run from 31 May – 2 June, 5 – 7 July, and from 9 – 11 August.

For further information on the new season at Lough Derg check out their website on [www.loughderg.org](http://www.loughderg.org).

### **Bishops pay tribute to Jean Vanier (90) following his death on 7 May**

Archbishop Eamon Martin has led the Irish tributes to Jean Vanier, the founder of the L'Arche Community, who has died in Paris at the age of 90. Archbishop Eamon said, "Rest in peace Jean Vanier and thank you for your inspiring, compassionate presence among us". Bishop Brennan Leahy of Limerick said, "His prophetic example, his untiring focus on helping us recognise the value of vulnerability and otherness and his constant underlining of the importance of community have always influenced me. We have much to learn from his life." Bishop Fintan Monahan of Killaloe said, "Jean Vanier was a true inspiration, a pastoral and spiritual giant. God rest his noble soul." The L'Arche community was founded by Jean Vanier in 1964 to support people with disabilities and is active all over the world with about 150 centres.