



Issue 54
July/August 2019

Newsletter for Parishes and Dioceses | www.catholicbishops.ie

Sharing the Good News



Archbishop Michael Neary to lead annual Croagh Patrick Pilgrimage on Ireland's holy mountain

Archbishop Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam, will lead the annual Reek Sunday Pilgrimage which will take place this weekend on Ireland's holy mountain Croagh Patrick. The archbishop will be joined by Bishop Fintan Monahan of Killaloe and by pilgrims from across Ireland for the pilgrimage which has been undertaken for almost 1500 years. Croagh Patrick (2,510ft/765m), dominates the landscape of southwest Mayo both spiritually and physically. The pilgrimage is associated with Saint Patrick who, in 441, spent forty days and nights fasting on the summit, following the example of Christ and Moses. During Reek Sunday, Mass will be celebrated every hour on the summit, beginning at 8.00am, with the final Mass commencing at 2.00pm. Father Stephen Farragher will celebrate Mass *as Gaeilge* at 10.00am. Archbishop Neary will celebrate Mass at 11.00am and Bishop Fintan Monahan will celebrate Mass at 12.00noon. Pilgrims may also avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) at the summit from 7.30am to 2.00pm. Croagh Patrick is a physically demanding pilgrimage. Intending pilgrims should make themselves aware in advance of health and safety information about the mountain. Pilgrims should also heed the instructions of stewards, the mountain rescue teams, Order of Malta, and Gardaí. For more information see www.catholicbishops.ie.

Joyful celebration as Bishop Michael Router ordained as Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh

There were joyful celebrations in Saint Patrick's Cathedral Armagh on Sunday 21 July for the episcopal ordination of Bishop Michael Router as Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh. Archbishop Eamon Martin was the Principal Consecrator. Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo, Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland and Bishop Leo O'Reilly, Bishop Emeritus of Kilmore Diocese were the co-consecrators. Speaking after his consecration, Bishop Router said, "The most supportive and loving people in my life are, of course, my parents Tony and Nora and my sisters Breda and Martina, my brothers in law, Derek and Ollie, my nieces and nephews and all my family circle. I know I am blessed by God to have my parents here with me today I thank them for all they have contributed to my life thus far. Especially for their witness to fidelity and love over 57 years of married life together and the support they have given me during my 30 years of priestly ministry." See catholicnews.ie for more.



Bishop Router with his parents
Tony and Nora.

News in Pictures

Archbishop Eamon Martin is pictured with the newly unveiled statue of Saint Oliver Plunkett in Saint Patricks' Cathedral, Armagh and with the sculptor Dony McManus.



Father Michael Duignan is pictured (centre) with Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo and Bishop John Kirby following the announcement of his appointment as Bishop of Clonfin on 16 July.



Group photo from the ecclesial/Church-Community all-island family movements day at Curryhills House, Prosperous Co Kildare on Saturday 6 July.



The search is on for Ireland's favourite prayer. Visitors to the 88th National Ploughing Championships from 17 – 19 September are being asked to vote for their favourite traditional prayer, and to compose a prayer for the protection of the environment. The search is the quest of Bishop Denis Nulty of Kildare & Leighlin, in whose diocese the ploughing championship is once again being held. People can submit their preferences and entries to prayerattheploughing@kandle.ie between now and 10 September. The Prayer at the Ploughing is one of several initiatives being taken by Bishop Nulty at the event.



The Season of Creation has a special significance for the Catholic Church, particularly since Pope Francis established 1 September as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

The Season of Creation runs from 1 September to 4 October (Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) and it celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment. Resources for this year's Season of Creation, including a new short series of podcasts, are available for download from www.catholicbishops.ie.

Bishops express alarm at rush to remove rights of the most vulnerable

Catholic Bishops in Northern Ireland have expressed alarm at the rush to remove the rights of the most vulnerable. In a statement signed by Archbishop Eamon Martin, Bishop Noel Treanor, Bishop Donal McKeown and Bishop Larry Duffy, the bishops said, "With the thousands of others who have voiced their concern in recent days, we wish to express our alarm at the unprecedented way in which the Westminster Parliament has used the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation) Bill to rush through legislation which will have a devastating impact on the right to life of unborn children. What is happening in Westminster during these days recklessly undermines this fundamental right of citizens and the principle of devolution at the heart of the Good Friday Agreement. It should be a matter of grave alarm for every citizen in Northern Ireland and all who cherish the right to life as the most fundamental of all human rights." Read their statement in full on www.catholicbishops.ie.