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Sharing the Good News



Joy for faithful of the Diocese of Clonfert as they welcome Bishop Michael Duignan as their new bishop

“God is real, Christ is alive, He is present, He wants to befriend us, forgive us, heal us, free us and make our lives better. Life lived in friendship with Christ in the midst of the Christian Community is life profoundly enhanced beyond our greatest expectations. This invitation is not only for the priests or religious or even bishops here – it is for each and every one of us.” These were the words of Bishop Michael Duignan in his first address as Bishop of Clonfert to those gathered for his Episcopal Ordination in Saint Brendan’s Cathedral in Loughrea, Co Galway on Sunday 13 October.

He continued, “Clonfert is a diocese with a rich spiritual tradition dating back to Saint Brendan the Navigator and that great era of the early Irish saints. I would like to thank the people, priests and religious of the Diocese of Clonfert for the warm welcome I have received since the announcement of my appointment some months ago. I look forward very much to walking with you on the journey of faith that opens out before us.” You can read Bishop Duignan’s full address on www.catholicbishops.ie as well as Monsignor Cathal Geraghty’s homily.

Archbishop Eamon Martin introduces the ‘Laudato Tree’ project as he launches the Extraordinary Month of Mission 2019

Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh has said that it is time to revive our missionary genes and to renew our hearts for mission. Archbishop Eamon was speaking in Saint Patrick’s College Maynooth at Mass to mark the beginning of Pope Francis’ Extraordinary Month of Mission which is taking place in the Universal Church during the month of October.

As part of the Mass, Archbishop Eamon launched the ‘The Laudato Tree – Great Green Wall Project’ which is an environmental initiative in Ireland and Africa being run by the Tree Council of Ireland and for the Society of African Missions (SMA). The purpose of the “wall” is to halt the impact of desertification across the Sahel, a region stretching across the continent just south of the Sahara Desert.

Archbishop Eamon said, “I commend to the dioceses, congregations and especially to the young people of Ireland, the ‘Laudato Tree’ project which is taking its inspiration from Pope Saint John Paul II’s appeal for the Sahel in 1980, and Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical on care for our common home *Laudato Si*, the project encourages a concrete action - the planting of trees and increasing biodiversity both in Ireland and also along Africa’s Great Green Wall, together with awareness raising and education about Faith and the environment.”

For more see www.catholicbishops.ie.





Above members of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference in session at their Autumn General Meeting which concluded in Maynooth on 2 October.

Below Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okola, Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland greets Julieann Moran of World Missions Ireland at the launch of the Extraordinary Month of Mission in the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore.



Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh at the 40th anniversary celebration of the visit of Pope Saint John Paul II to Ireland which took place at the Papal Cross near Drogheda on Sunday 29 September.

Below the Poor Clare Sisters Galway with Sister Consilio launch their song *Calm the Soul*, to speak to people going through troubled times.



Irish Catholic Bishops have called for a time of prayer and action for unborn life. Bishops said, "Human laws do not determine what is good or true. What was true in advance of the legalisation for abortion in the Republic of Ireland, or its proposed imposition in Northern Ireland, remains true today. Every human life is a gift and a blessing and ought not be destroyed or disposed of at will."

Prayer resources are available to download from the website of the Bishops' Council for Life on www.councilforlife.ie.



Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin delivered a lecture on 'The Relevance of Cardinal John Henry Newman in Ireland today' in the Pontifical Irish College, Rome, on Friday 11 October. The lecture took place ahead of the canonisation of Cardinal Newman by Pope Francis on Sunday 13 October.

Archbishop Martin said, "Newman's vision for education continues to inspire" and that "it is necessary to revert to Newman's ideas and to create in young people a new sense of Catholic faith." You can read Archbishop's Martin's address in full on www.dublindiocese.ie.

Canonisation of Cardinal John Henry Newman takes place in Rome

Cardinal John Henry Newman was declared a Saint by Pope Francis at Mass in Saint Peter's Square on Sunday 13 October. Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick, Bishop Francis Duffy of Ardagh & Clonmacnois, Bishop Fintan Monahan of Killaloe and Bishop Emeritus Philip Boyce OCD of Raphoe, were in attendance at the Canonisation Mass. Pope Francis invited the faithful gathered for the Mass to be "kindly lights amid the encircling gloom".

Saint John Henry Newman is best known in Ireland as the founder of the first Catholic university in Ireland. He served as the university's first rector in 1858. For more on his life and ministry see www.catholicbishops.ie.

