

Sharing the Good News

NEWSLETTER OF THE IRISH CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE



Bishops welcome publication of the Mother & Baby Homes Report

Bishops have welcomed the publication of the Mother and Baby Homes Report. Archbishop Eamon Martin said, "As Church, State and wider society we must ensure together that, in the Ireland of today, all children and their mothers feel wanted, welcomed and loved."

Statements issued in response to the report can be accessed on the Catholic Bishops' website www.catholicbishops.ie/category/news/news-archive-2020.

Pope Francis appoints Bishop Dermot Farrell as the new Archbishop of Dublin

Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Dermot Farrell, until now Bishop of Ossory, as Archbishop of Dublin. Speaking at the announcement in the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Sean McDermott Street, Dublin on 29 December last, Archbishop-elect Farrell said, "It is with a humble heart that I accepted Pope Francis' invitation to serve the people and clergy of the Diocese of Dublin as bishop. From a young age Dublin has always been part of my life. My late mother worked here as a young woman. As a teenager, I spent summer holidays with my aunt and uncle who lived and worked in the Liberties. They introduced me to the history and rich cultural life of the city. Dublin has always been a place of welcome for people from all over Ireland. Now it is a city of welcome for people from all over the world and the Archdiocese of Dublin is more than the city: its 198 parishes – rural and urban – stretch across Leinster. This presents distinctive challenges and opportunities."

Archbishop-elect Farrell concluded his address by asking for prayers. He said, "I would be grateful if you would remember me in your prayers as I begin my ministry as Archbishop, among you and with you." You can read more on this appointment on www.catholicbishops.ie.



Photo: John McElroy

Catholic Schools Week 2021 to celebrate schools as places of faith, learning, resilience and hope

Catholic Schools Week 2021



24 - 31 January 2021

Catholic Schools Week 2021 will be celebrated from Sunday 24 January to Sunday 31 January 2021 on the theme 'Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith and Resilience'.

Parish communities are being invited to get involved in this year's celebration especially in light of the challenges and uncertainty we have collectively faced over the past year. A special resource for parishes offers an opportunity to reflect on how our faith sustains us and how we as a community support and care for each other. In this context, we can consider ways that the parish community can honour and support the work of their Catholic school during this weeklong celebration.

The parish resource as well as resources for Primary and Post Primary Schools are available to download, in English and Irish, from www.catholicschools.ie.

New Accord advertising campaign:

'If you can't talk to each other...talk to Accord'

The largest counselling service in Ireland, Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service CLG (Accord), supported by Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, has launched a multi-channel advertising campaign – across digital platforms, social media, local newspapers and radio – to offer hope (support) to individuals, couples and their families, where relationships are experiencing tension, anxiety and stress during this time of pandemic.

Accord has commissioned the marketing communications company Core to design this integrated advertising campaign to promote its counselling service and Covid-19 Support Line 01 531 3331.

The key message of this campaign is: 'If you can't talk to each other, talk to Accord'. It will target specific audiences on digital platforms and social media during January and February. During this time Accord will also advertise its counselling service in the *Irish Farmers Journal*, *The Irish Catholic* newspaper as well as in local newspapers and on local radio stations around the State. Launching the new countrywide advertising campaign Bishop Denis Nulty, President of Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service CLG said, "Accord has over 50 years of experience in supporting couples who face marriage and relationship difficulties, and it is particularly important to raise public awareness of the availability of our counselling service as we begin a new year. As counselling has been classified as an essential service under the Government Plan for Living with Covid-19, visit the accord.ie website to check for a convenient location and arrange a face to face appointment". See www.accord.ie for more information.

Sunday of the Word of God

Resources for Sunday of the Word of God, which will be celebrated on 24 January, are available to download from www.catholicbishops.ie.

Pope Francis pays tribute to healthcare workers in his message for World Day of the Sick 2021



"A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love", Pope Francis said in his message for this year's World Day of the Sick which will be celebrated on 11 February, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Speaking about the impact of Covid-19, he said, "The current pandemic has exacerbated inequalities in our healthcare systems and exposed inefficiencies in the care of the sick, with the elderly, weak and vulnerable people not always granted access to care, or in an equitable manner. The pandemic has also highlighted the dedication and generosity of healthcare personnel, volunteers, support staff, priests, men and women religious. Pope Francis paid homage to them as silent multitude of men and women who chose not to look the other way but to share the suffering of patients, whom they see as neighbours and members of our one human family. You can read his message in full on www.catholicbishops.ie.

Vatican announces a year of reflection on the family

On 19 March, the Feast of St Joseph, the Church will celebrate five years since the publication of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)* on the beauty and joy of love in the family. On that day Pope Francis will launch "Amoris Laetitia Family" which will be a year dedicated to further reflection on his document in the context of family life. This year will conclude on 26 June 2022, on the occasion of the Tenth World Meeting of Families in Rome with the Holy Father. Pope Francis has invited everyone to take part in the initiatives that will be promoted during the year, and that will be coordinated by the Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life - www.laityfamilylife.va.



Welcoming vaccines for the Common Good

The Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference has welcomed the encouraging news that a number of vaccines for COVID-19 are available for use. In a statement the bishops said, "The Catholic Church recognises that safe and effective vaccination is an essential aspect of the prevention of disease. We are encouraging Catholics to support a programme of vaccination, not only for their own good, but for the protection of life and the health of those who are vulnerable and for the common good of humanity." You can read the bishops' statement in full on www.catholicbishops.ie.



Living Lent 2021

Lent begins this year on Wednesday 17 February. We will be launching our #LivingLent initiative on Twitter and Instagram again this year and inviting the faithful to use social media to grow closer to God during this sacred season. Daily #LivingLent suggestions and resources will be available on Twitter and Instagram on the @catholicbishops profiles.

Níl aon tinteán mar do thinteán féin: Irish Chaplaincy to host 'Fireside Gathering' concert

The Irish Chaplaincy in London will host a 'Fireside Gathering' concert live on Facebook on Friday 5 February at 7.30pm. Speaking ahead of the concert, Eddie Gilmore, Irish Chaplaincy CEO, who will himself be performing on the night, said, "We hope that this event will raise spirits at what has been a challenging time for many and that it will also show how the Chaplaincy has continued to reach out to some of those most affected by the pandemic, namely prisoners,"

Headlining the concert will be the London Celtic Youth Orchestra. Also performing will be Thomas McCarthy, an Irish Traveller, singer and storyteller who was named Traditional Singer of the Year in the Gradam Ceoil Awards in 2019. Other performances on the night will come from Lucy Bone, Sean Ryan and Family, Gerry Molumby, The Byrne-Whelehan Family and Anton Thompson-McCormick. For more information on the concert see www.irishchaplaincy.org.uk.



Help is at hand on the Digital Hub

The Digital Hub is a new resource from the Catholic Communications Office of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. The resource has been designed to assist dioceses and parishes to effectively 'put out into the deep of the net'. The digital parish has truly emerged and come into its own in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Some parishes have found themselves plunged into the unknown when it comes to broadcasting, live streaming and sharing content online. Wherever you are in terms of preparedness, the Digital Hub aims to assist you in the creation and management of your website and social media content.

The resources available on our Digital Hub are gleaned from current best practice in the Church across Ireland. You will find a mixture of guidelines and principles for engaging on the digital highways; an overview of digital media platforms so as you can understand how to best use them in a faith context; and an A - Z of technology terms so as you can find out what hashtags are and how to use them or learn how to manage paid content on your social media pages.

The Digital Hub is live on www.catholicbishops.ie/digitalhub.



Dedicated news feed for parish websites

A dedicated news feed is now available from www.catholicnews.ie for parish and diocesan websites. The news feed is free of charge and really simple to install. It features local, national and international news of relevance to the Church, with two to three news stories per day. A news feed is a great way to keep your home page up to date, especially if you don't have the resources to update it daily. Email: bdrumm@catholicbishops.ie for more information.

