



IRISH CATHOLIC
BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

COMHDHÁIL EASPAG CAITLICEACH ÉIREANN

Annual Report 2007 & Directory

THE DIOCESES OF IRELAND

- Diocesan Boundaries:
- Provincial Boundaries:
- Cathedral Towns: Armagh
- County Boundaries:



Cartography by Michael D. Gleason

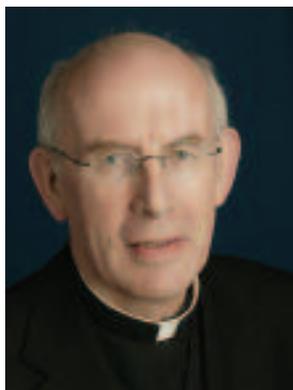
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Foreword by Cardinal Seán Brady



Cardinal Seán Brady,
Archbishop of Armagh
and President of the
Irish Catholic Bishops'
Conference

'There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.' (1 Cor 12:5-7)

St Paul reminds us that those who work for the Gospel are united by a common bond: 'For in one Spirit we were all baptised into one body' (1 Cor 12:13). It is particularly apt then that in this year dedicated to the Apostle Paul the Catholic Communications Office has brought together the activities of the Commissions, Agencies, Councils, offices and projects of the Irish Bishops' Conference in one annual report for the first time.

This report, covering the year 2007, provides a summary of the diverse and wide-ranging activities of the many lay faithful, religious and priests who work in collaboration with the Bishops in service of the Church in Ireland. This service is inspired and motivated by the Gospel, the Word of God, which is for all, and offers real hope for humanity. In the 2008 Synod on the 'Word of God in the life and mission of the Church', the Bishops in their final message spoke of the 'Word of God', which 'issues from his house, the temple, and walks along the roads of the world to encounter the great pilgrimage that the people of earth have taken up in search of truth, justice and peace.' (n. IV)

The projects and activities described in this report represent part of the Church's response to that 'search for truth, justice and peace'. It

includes details on the outreach and educational initiatives of the Bishops' Conference on the abuse of drugs and alcohol, a tragic reality which affects the lives of so many individuals and families in Ireland. It covers the activities of the Refugee Project, one of the many non-state agencies providing essential advice, support and representation on behalf of those who come to our shores in need of protection and opportunity. It describes the work of groups such as the Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas, an initiative which provides pastoral outreach and support to Irish prisoners and their families across the world. It outlines the work of the Bishops' Conference in support of Irish Emigrants Abroad, an organised initiative and service stretching back two generations, which provides an international support network for many thousands of Irish people and which continues to be in great demand. This report also presents an overview of the work of the Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs, including its highly publicised reflection on *Violence in Irish Society* and its recent conference, 'Who is my neighbour?', on the encyclical *Deus Caritas Est* of Pope Benedict XVI.

Other parts of the report describe the work of Agencies of the Bishops' Conference like ACCORD and CURA, which continue to make an invaluable contribution to the support of marriage and the care of those responding to an unplanned or crisis pregnancy. Their work has never been more necessary, especially as the link between marriage and the generation of new life becomes subject to an ever wider range of economic, technological and moral challenges in Irish life.

The work of Trócaire, the international aid agency of the Irish Bishops' Conference, continues to give practical expression to the Church's duty to bring good news to the poor. The crisis response and long-term development strategies of Trócaire make a real difference to the lives of many thousands of people across the world, thanks to the generosity and support of Irish people to their various appeals and campaigns, especially the Trócaire Lenten campaign.

I take this opportunity to thank all those across Ireland who support the work of Trócaire through their pennies and pounds, their cent and euro, which are given so generously out of a sense of Christian solidarity with our sisters and brothers who are poor. I also want to take this opportunity to commend the Government for maintaining its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and to the target of spending 0.7% of GNP on aid by 2012. In the context of more challenging economic times and so many competing calls on public spending, this was a laudable and progressive decision reflecting the high value placed by Irish people on concern for those most in need in our unequal world.

Finally, in addition to the work of the Commissions and Agencies, this report contains important information about the five departments of the Bishops' Conference and many of the committees, offices and advisory boards that support the day-to-day work of the Irish Bishops at national level. This represents the contribution of literally hundreds of people, most of them volunteers who give of their energy, advice and expertise to assist the Bishops in exercising their ministry of communion, teaching and pastoral leadership. They represent the 'voice of the faithful' at the service of the Gospel, bringing their experience and insight to bear on the work and decisions of the Bishops' Conference. I take this opportunity to thank all of them for their vital and generous service of the mission of the Church.

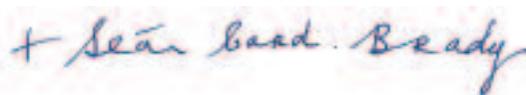
Details of this work are now more widely available, not only in this first combined Annual Report, but also on the new website of the Irish Bishops' Conference, launched in September 2008: www.catholicbishops.ie.

At the 2008 Synod on the Word of God, the final message of the Bishops stressed the need to spread the good news of the Gospel through the 'specific and expressive grammar' of new technology. My hope is that those who interact with the new website of the Bishops' Conference and those who read this Annual Report, which is also available online, will glimpse something of the truth that, 'In an age dominated by images put forward, in particular, by hegemonic means of communication such as television, the privileged model of Christ is still meaningful and evocative today'.

That same Christ, as the Bishops at the Synod said, 'proceeds along the streets of our cities and

stops at the doorstep of our homes: "Look, I am standing at the door, knocking. If one of you hears me calling and opens the door, I will come in to share a meal at that person's side" (Rev 3:20).'

Thankfully, many people in Ireland continue to discover the joy of responding to this invitation with generosity and service. That is why the activities in this report are good news and grounds for hope in a world which earnestly searches for both.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Seán Gaed. Brady". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the right of the main text block.

The Role of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

The Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference (also known as the Irish Episcopal Conference) is the assembly of the Bishops of Ireland exercising together certain pastoral offices for Christ's faithful on the whole island of Ireland.

The Conference consists of a General Assembly and a Standing Committee, together with various commissions, agencies, councils and other bodies. Day-to-day operations are overseen by a secretariat. The Conference enables the Bishops to exchange views and share their wisdom and experience in order to promote the common good of the Church in Ireland.

The current membership of the Irish Bishops' Conference comprises of twenty-six bishops of the dioceses of Ireland, together with the seven auxiliary bishops. General Meetings of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference normally take place on a quarterly basis.

The Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference seeks to build effective consensus among the Bishops, thereby contributing to the unity of the Church in

communion with Pope Benedict XVI. Through its links with the Church in neighbouring countries and across the world, it strengthens and enriches efforts to increase faith and proclaim the Gospel message to all nations. At the same time, the Conference fully respects the personal authority, responsibility and ministry of each individual Bishop within his own diocese.

The Bishops' Conference comprises five departments, which are:

- Department of Social Issues and International Affairs
- Department of Planning and Communications
- Department of Catholic Education and Formation
- Department of Pastoral Care
- Department of Worship, Pastoral Renewal, Faith Development and Worship

For further information see www.catholicbishops.ie



The staff of the secretariat of the Irish Bishops' Conference with Bishop John Fleming.
Seated: Ms Sandra Garry, Bishop John Fleming and Ms Lorna Pegley
Standing: Ms Noreen Kennedy, Ms Bernie Martin, Ms Hilary O'Carroll, Fr Eamon Martin, Ms Nuala Kilduff, Ms Anne Young and Mr Harry Casey

Review of Events and Initiatives in 2007

The 2007 review of the pastoral initiatives, undertaken by members of the Irish Bishops' Conference and the commissions, councils and agencies of the Conference, reveals a particularly busy, challenging and exciting year. The following highlights some of these activities:

January

On 18 January, Irish bishops participated, as part of an international Catholic Church delegation, in a visit to the Holy Land. This group, representing European and North American bishops, was originally set up at the request of the Holy See in October 1998. The group – which included the Bishop of Clonfert and Chair of Trócaire, Bishop John Kirby and Bishop Raymond Field, Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin and Chair of the Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs (ICJSA) – visited Catholic communities in the Holy Land.

On the same day, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, the Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland, addressed the National Forum for Europe in Dublin Castle on the theme: 'The Values Underpinning European Integration'. On 22 January, Archbishop Martin addressed the Greenhills Ecumenical Conference on the subject of Inter-Religious Dialogue. Archbishop Martin stressed the theological foundation of such dialogue in the shared recognition of God's existence: 'In recognising God's existence, believers of all faiths open themselves then to the affirmation of the fundamental unity of all humankind and recognise that God is the Father of all and that, therefore, the entire human race shares a common origin and a common destiny: God, our Creator and the goal of our earthly pilgrimage.'

Bishop Joseph Duffy, Bishop of Clogher and Chair of the Communications Commission of the Bishops' Conference, welcomed Pope Benedict XVI's publication of the Catholic Church's forty-first World Communications Day on 24 January. Bishop Duffy said: 'The theme of this year's World Communications Day is Children and the Media: a Challenge for Education.

'Appropriately this message is published today, the feast of St Francis de Sales, the patron saint of writers, editors and journalists. Because of

their influence on society, those who work in the media have a special duty, as exercised in their day-to-day employment, to contribute responsibly to the common good. An example of this has been highlighted by Pope Benedict in this message, as he suggests that children ought to receive exceptional protection against the excesses of the media.'

February

Archbishop Martin's homily for the fifteenth World Day of the Sick on 11 February reminded us that: 'The most striking aspects of the way in which Jesus carried out his mission was his attitude to the sick. Everywhere He went the sick were brought to Him. Probably there is no other group so constantly mentioned in the Gospels as the sick. Everywhere where Jesus preached the good news He also met with and healed the sick and those who were troubled.'

On behalf of the Bishops' Conference, Archbishop Martin launched the pastoral letter *Alcohol: The Challenge of Moderation* on 16 February. This media launch took place at the Fr Mathew statue on Dublin's O'Connell Street. The launch date was timely as the Day of Prayer for Temperance was held on the following Sunday, ahead of the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday.

At the launch, Bishop Éamonn Walsh, the Vice Chair of the Bishops' Alcohol and Drugs Initiative, said: 'Fr Mathew addressed the excessive consumption of alcohol in the Ireland of the 1850s. Today Ireland is a very different place, yet once again we have a destructive relationship with alcohol. What is our response? Do we just shrug helplessly, leave it to others to do, or do we assume responsibility ourselves? Are we going to let the slide continue, and then in time lament by perhaps quoting the late John Healy, "No one shouted stop"?''

On 17 February, Bishop Leo O'Reilly, Bishop of Kilmore and Chair of the Education Commission of the Bishops' Conference, welcomed the announcement by the Minister for Education & Science, Ms Mary Hanafin, of her intention to pilot a new additional model of primary school patronage.

Bishop O'Reilly said: 'The development of models of educational patronage is something desirable and welcome in contemporary Ireland. The Catholic Church has always supported the rights of parents to establish schools that reflect the values of the home. I especially welcome the assurance that provision will be made within the school setting for the religious, moral and ethical education of children in conformity with the wishes of their parents.'

On 24 February, Bishop John Fleming, Bishop of Killala and President of CURA, addressed the thirtieth CURA Annual Conference in Renmore, Co Galway. The theme of this conference was: 'CURA: 30 Years on, Celebrating the Past and Looking to the Future'.

The inauguration of a structured dialogue between Church and State took place on 26 February in Dublin Castle. Archbishop Martin welcomed what was formally called 'The initiative inauguration of the process for structured dialogue between the Government and the Churches, philosophical and non-confessional organisations of Ireland.' He said it was an important step in recognising the role and contribution religious groups have to make. 'I believe the planned dialogue will be a positive step forward between Church and State in Ireland,' said Archbishop Martin, 'it should accord true recognition by each and delineate the rights of each, within what I would call a "co-operative regime of separation between Church and State."' He added that this separation means the Church does not interfere in the role of the State, but also that politicians respect the legitimate autonomy of the Church.

On 27 February, Bishop John Kirby and Fr Eoin Cassidy, along with Bishop Raymond Field, launched the ICJSA publication, *Palestine/Israel – Principles for a Just Peace*, at a press conference in Buswells Hotel, Dublin.

March

The Irish Bishops' Conference welcomed the publication on 13 March of Pope Benedict XVI's Post-Synodal Exhortation on the Eucharist, entitled *Sacramentum Caritatis* – 'The Sacrament of Love'.

The March General Meeting of the Bishops' Conference discussed: priests working on the missions; Trócaire Lenten Campaign; Proposed Constitutional Amendment on the Rights of

Children; Northern Ireland Assembly Election; Irish pilgrimages to the Holy Land; Intercultural & Anti-Racism Week; St Patrick's Day; Bioethics; and the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty of Rome.

On 19 March, Bishop Séamus Hegarty, Bishop of Derry and Chair of the Irish Bishops' Commission for Emigrants, thanked all those who supported the Bishops' Supporting Irish Abroad (SIA) awareness campaign over the last three years. Each year this campaign focused on pastorally supporting Irish emigrants in different ways. Bishop Hegarty was speaking at the launch of a website dedicated to helping the 'undocumented Irish' currently based in the United States – www.usairish.ie

April

Bishop Willie Walsh, the Bishop of Killaloe and President of ACCORD, the Catholic Marriage Care Service, launched its survey findings on 10 April. The survey, commissioned by ACCORD and undertaken by Amárach Consulting, focused on responses from 712 couples regarding the first seven years of marriage. Bishop Walsh said: 'The sacredness of the marriage relationship is at the heart of the Christian understanding of marriage. This survey is clearly good news about marriage. It reassures us that the deeply felt human need for a life-long, loving relationship – which is marriage – is alive and well.'

May

On 10 May, Archbishop Seán Brady was presented with the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity by the oldest Catholic Seminary in the United States, St Mary's University, Baltimore, in recognition of his leadership of the Catholic Church in Ireland and his work for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

Bishop Donal Murray, the Bishop of Limerick, addressed a conference on 14 May on *Religion and the European Project: The Irish Contribution*, which was held in All Hallows under the auspices of the European Society for Catholic Theology. During his address, Bishop Murray suggested that: 'If we are to build a religious identity for the new century, we have to address the aching thirsts which lie, often unrecognised, at the heart of human life. Faith requires a connection between the words of the

Church's creeds and our hunger for meaning, belonging, affirmation, forgiveness, empowerment and happiness. These are the thirsts which the Good News addresses in our lives, offering us the water which "will become in [us] a spring of water gushing up to eternal life" (Jn 4:14). We need to reflect on our own thirst for that water if we are to address the thirst that may lie deeply hidden in the heart of the person shaped by a secularist culture.'

June

Having previously handed in a letter to the German Embassy in Dublin, the Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs on 4 June called on German Chancellor Angela Merkel, in her capacity as chair of the G8, who were meeting at that time in Germany, to fulfil promises made by the G8 in July 2005 in Gleneagles, Scotland, on aid and debt cancellation for poor countries. In Gleneagles the G8 leaders promised to cancel poor countries' debts and increase aid by \$50 billion by 2010, including a doubling of aid to Africa. ICJSA chair, Bishop Raymond Field, said: 'Our protest is concerned with preserving life. Let's look at the facts: every day 5,000 children die from drinking dirty water. This is intolerable in a world of plenty. The G8 leaders have a golden opportunity to set down concrete plans to deliver on the promises made in Gleneagles. In doing so, such plans would have the potential to lift millions out of poverty.'

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving for the Canonisation of Saint Charles of Mount Argus on 4 June. The Mass, which was attended by pilgrims from Ireland, Holland and many other nations, took place in the Basilica of Saint John and Saint Paul on Rome's Coelian Hill. Since 1773 this ancient Church and Monastery has served as the seat of administration for the Passionist Order to which Saint Charles belonged.

A press conference held in the Columba Centre at St Patrick's College, Maynooth, on 13 June, following the conclusion of the June General Meeting of the Bishops' Conference, addressed the following issues: Saint Charles of Mount Argus; Mass for peace in Iraq and for the late Fr Ragheed Ganni and the three deacons who were killed in Iraq; visit of Patriarch Sabbah of Jerusalem to Belfast and Dublin; protection of

unborn human life; Catechetics; elections to the thirtieth Dáil and the Northern Ireland Assembly; prayers for trafficked and missing people; Catholic Education in Northern Ireland; Healing Through Remembering; Bishops' Conference Pastoral Letter on the environment; and the unveiling of a new logo for the Bishops' Conference.

On 21 June, the bishops of Ireland called on the Zimbabwean government to address its crisis of governance and leadership. The Irish bishops said: 'In company with Catholic Bishops' Conferences throughout the world, [we] wish to express our deepest concern and dismay at the ever worsening political and humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. We wish to register our solidarity with the Bishops and the people of Zimbabwe in their struggle against the forces of oppression.'

July

On 1 July, Archbishop Seán Brady, addressed the Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Saint Oliver Plunkett in Drogheda. Archbishop Brady said: 'Today we ask to be given the courage to be witnesses to the truth and to follow Christ. We are here today to remember. We remember that on this day, 326 years ago, Oliver Plunkett died. He died on 1 July 1681, hanged, drawn and quartered, a martyr for his faith in Christ. His following of Christ and of the Christian faith had given offence. Some powerful people were offended. They were powerful enough to have him put to death. We are here today to remember and to offer thanks, thanks for a greater power, the power of love which inspires the martyrs to give all for Christ. Sacred Scripture describes that power at work on three occasions:

- in the martyrdom of the seven brothers in the book of Maccabees, in the Old Testament;
- in the martyrdom of Stephen in the Acts of the Apostles; and,
- in the death of Jesus himself.'

On 15 July, the Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, called on the Government to call a summit of community leaders to address the roots of this violence. Speaking at the annual Cemetery Mass in Donabate, Archbishop Martin said that, 'The levels of violence and the repetitions of killings are reaching levels which are truly close to an emergency for our society. I appeal to the government to convoke a summit of

a wide range of leaders in society, not just those involved in the important work of law enforcement, but of all those in society who are in a position to forge a new national consensus to address the roots of this violence. We must take a stand as a society. Too many lives have been wasted. Too many families shattered.'

On 21 July, Archbishop Seán Brady welcomed Archbishop Fouad Twal to Ireland on his first official visit since becoming Coadjutor Patriarch of Jerusalem. Opening a Mass in Maynooth to celebrate the investiture of new members of the Equestrian order of the Holy Sepulchre, an ancient Order of the Catholic Church which undertakes charitable works in support of Christian sites in the Holy Land, Archbishop Brady addressed the current plight of the Christian community in the Holy Land and the need for a new initiative to establish a just peace between Israel and the Palestinians: 'It is very sad to see so many Christians leave the Holy Land. What a shame to hear Bethlehem, so dear to Christians, now described as a vanishing Christian community, an isolated town, with boarded up shops and surrounded on three sides by an eight metre high concrete wall. I believe the Christian presence in the Holy Land is a moderating influence and is essential to achieving peace.'

On 29 July, Archbishop Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam, celebrated Mass for Reek Sunday on Ireland's holy mountain, Croagh Patrick. This pilgrimage involved up to 20,000 people. Archbishop Neary said: 'In our sense of this holy mountain we experience, at one time or another, the temptation to give up. Feet are sore and blistered, breath comes in gasps, the rain leaves us wet and miserable, and the journey back to rest, heat and refreshment is so tempting. It is at times like this that we need the support and encouragement of our fellow strugglers on the windswept hillside. Too many young people in their pilgrimage through life in our land have come to believe that giving up on life is more attractive than the living of it. They too need the strength of all of us, and the gift of our time, when all around are caught in a rush.'

August

On 11 August, the bishops of the mid-west region issued a joint statement in relation to the closure of services by Aer Lingus on the Shannon–Heathrow route. The bishops said: 'We

warmly welcome the expansion of activity at Belfast International Airport made possible by the new situation of peace on our island. However, we share the dismay that the decision by Aer Lingus to abandon the Shannon–Heathrow flights has caused among its staff, its passengers, and the people of the area. It is a serious blow to tourist and business enterprises in the region. While it has to be noted that Aer Lingus has served the Shannon region well over the years, this decision now closes a profitable route which provided the west of Ireland with an incoming and outgoing link with a major European hub. We issue this statement out of our concern for all of those whose lives will be adversely affected by this decision. In particular, we feel that it is our duty to point out that public policy and the behaviour of private companies must have regard to moral obligations beyond merely commercial and short-term considerations. We welcome and strongly support the initiatives in recent days of local politicians, organisations and business interests in the region to address the decision to close off this major arterial air-route from the mid-west region.'

On 22 August, Archbishop Seán Brady delivered a sermon at Knock Shrine on the theme 'Following Christ in 21st Century Ireland', as part of the 2007 National Novena. Archbishop Brady celebrated the Mass of the 'Queenship of Mary', which closed the annual Novena.

September

A delegation of fifteen Catholic lay and clerical representatives from Ireland, led by Bishop Anthony Farquhar, the Auxiliary Bishop of Down and Connor and Chair of the Bishops' Commission for Ecumenism, traveled to Sibiu, Romania, to attend the Third European Ecumenical Assembly, which took place from 4–9 September. Cardinal Walter Kasper, President of the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity, was among more than 2,000 delegates attending the Assembly, whose theme was: 'The light of Christ shines all over mankind. The hope for renewal and unity in Europe'.

On 14 September, Bishop Leo O'Reilly published a statement on schools admissions policy and equality. Bishop O'Reilly said: 'The enrolment policies of faith schools have prompted the Equality Authority to express

concern at “the emergence in effect of segregated primary school provision for black and minority ethnic students.” This is indeed regrettable, but it is not the fault of faith schools, which provide education for large numbers of students from other faiths and none, whatever their colour or ethnic background. I am confident in saying that the only restrictions on this provision in the case of Catholic schools are space and resources. In the Catholic schools recently in the news there were simply not enough places for all the students who wished to enrol.’

On the same day, the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, accepted the resignation of Bishop Laurence Forristal, the Bishop of Ossory, having reached the age limit in accordance with Canon Law. Pope Benedict appointed Fr Séamus Freeman as Bishop-elect of the Diocese of Ossory. Archbishop Brady and Archbishop Martin were amongst the many people who congratulated Bishop-elect Freeman on his new appointment.

On 19 September, Bishop Philip Boyce issued a statement on the news of the decision of the AGM of the National Conference of Priests of Ireland (NCPI) to wind up the conference. Bishop Boyce said: ‘The NCPI was a forum to support the priests of Ireland, and to discuss and represent their views. Since it was founded over thirty years ago, it has promoted and organised many useful initiatives for priests: diocesan, religious and missionary, including residential renewal programmes, annual conferences etc. As the Episcopal Conference representative to the NCPI for the last number of years, I have attended many of the meetings of its National Executive Committee as well as the Annual Conference and AGM of the NCPI. Support for priests in their ministry in these difficult and challenging times is very important. I would encourage all clergy and laity to continue to support each other, and to support our priests in general.’

On 21 September, Archbishop Seán Brady launched www.catholiceducation-ni.com in Belfast for the Consultative Group on Catholic Education. On launching the new website, Archbishop Brady stated that: ‘Reconciliation, love of neighbour, respect for difference: these values are intrinsic to Catholic education. Catholic education brings together the three most important and formative influences in the life of any child: the home, the parish and the school. The school curriculum can, and should, offer

technical and professional training for future employment, but we believe it cannot, and should not, be shaped solely by the needs of the consumer economy ... it should serve society by forming human individuals who, in turn, will change society for the better.’

On 26 September, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin launched the publication *Companion to the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, written by Dr Padraig Corkery, at St Vincent’s Trust, Daughters of Charity, in Henrietta Street, Dublin. Archbishop Martin said at the launch: ‘A book on Catholic Social teaching is not a recipe book, or a catechism old style with a list of ready made answers to the social and political questions of the day. It presents a unified corpus of principles and criteria which draw their origin from the Gospels and which are applied to the realities of the times in order to inform Christians to make their own personal responsible judgements on the best manner to stimulate the ideals proposed by the Gospel in contemporary culture. Catholic Social Doctrine does not take away the risk of politics, but it aims to provide an injection of purpose, idealism, integrity and truthfulness into the way politics is carried out.’

October

On 1 October, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, at the commencement of the Michaelmas law term 2007, warned that the ‘situation in Burma is a warning to every society.’ Archbishop Martin said: ‘Burma is a country I know personally and for which I have for years had a great interest and concern. Who could not be moved by the contrast between, on the one hand, the peaceful march of the Buddhist monks, clad in their simple robes and devoid of any of the traditional symbols and trappings of power, and on the other hand the exercise of sheer power on the part of a corrupt and cynical regime which is devoid even of an ideology except that of holding on to power.

‘The example of Burma is a clear one of the significance of virtue, of moral convictions and moral training for the health of a society. The peaceful marchers, the dignity of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, contrast with a regime which has degenerated into brutality because of the total absence of moral convictions. It is also a warning to every society, including our own, of

the results of what Pope Benedict has called an “ethical blindness caused by the dazzling effect of power and special interests.”

On 2 October, Bishop Leo O’Reilly, Chair of the Bishops’ Education Commission, launched a policy document, *Catholic Primary Schools – A Policy for Provision into the Future*, at a press briefing in the Columba Centre, Maynooth. The policy addressed the provision of Catholic primary schools into the future.

Bishop O’Reilly said: ‘It is very necessary at a time of rapid change that we discuss openly and honestly the new developments and sometimes unforeseen challenges that face us. The teachers and staff in our schools have made an outstanding contribution to education in this country over the years. There has been a long history of co-operation between Church and State in the provision of education, which has been to the benefit of both. However, there is need for ongoing and in-depth examination of our education system so that it will provide the best education for young people, now and in the future.’

The October General Meeting of the Bishops’ Conference addressed the following topics: the theme for the Day for Life on 7 October as ‘Blessed is the fruit of your womb’; the National Conference of Priests of Ireland; Parish Pastoral Councils – *A Framework for Developing Diocesan Norms and Parish Guidelines*; new requirements for the Civil Registration of Marriages; undocumented migrants in Ireland; Apostolic Letter *Summorum Pontificum*; fiftieth anniversary of *Fidei Donum* – Mission Sunday 21 October; National Day of Prayer for Children – 12 October; Third European Ecumenical Assembly; Myanmar (Burma); and the appointment of Mr Francis Cousins as the new editor of *Intercom*.

On 6 October, the Presidents of the Catholic Bishops’ Conferences across Europe met in Fatima, Portugal. Archbishop Seán Brady attended this meeting in his role as President of the Irish Bishops’ Conference. The meeting focused on supporting marriage and family life across Europe. The meeting decided to dedicate families to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and published a special prayer to mark this dedication.

On 7 October, the Bishops of Ireland published a joint statement marking the Day for Life 2007. The theme for this Day for Life, as chosen by the

Bishops’ Conferences of Scotland, Ireland, England and Wales, was ‘Blessed is the fruit of your womb’.

In this joint statement, the bishops referred to its own agency CURA: ‘But “CURA Cares” is not just a slogan; it is a course of action. CURA can justly claim that it has consistently offered compassionate and practical care to pregnant women and to their unborn children. It is an organisation that has sought to value and respect the life of mother and child, each of whom is an image of God and a sister or brother of Christ. We are determined that it will continue to do so without in any way compromising the faith and the principles that have motivated it from the beginning.’

On 17 October, at the end of his weekly Wednesday Audience in St Peter’s Square Rome, His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, announced the creation of twenty-four new Cardinals, including Archbishop Seán Brady, the Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland and President of the Irish Bishops’ Conference.

On news of his appointment, Archbishop Brady said: ‘I am deeply honoured and humbled by Pope Benedict’s announcement that I am to be made a Cardinal. Today’s news is a mark of the affection and esteem of the Holy Father for the whole Church in Ireland. It is a daunting privilege to join Cardinal Cahal Daly and Cardinal Desmond Connell in the College of Cardinals. This small country is to have three Cardinals for the first time in its history. I ask people for their prayers as I undertake my new responsibilities within the Universal Church.’

On 20 October, Cardinal-elect Brady was the chief celebrant at the annual Mass of Remembrance for the Deceased and Living Members of the Industrial Schools in Ireland, which took place in St Joseph’s Church, Wilton, Cork. During his homily, he said: ‘Every Mass is a Mass of Remembrance. Every Mass remembers the saving passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Every Mass reminds us of the healing power of Jesus Christ – “By his bruises we are healed.”’

On Mission Sunday, 21 October, Bishop Colm O’Reilly celebrated Mass in St Mel’s Cathedral, Longford. Bishop O’Reilly said: ‘On Mission Sunday every year the Church puts before the rest of us the fact that, in a real sense, [missionaries] are doing work for which we too have a responsibility. This year the words

“Reflecting God’s Love” sum up what missionaries of all kinds do, ourselves included. It is the love of God in our own hearts that makes all of us true missionaries. We give that practical expression when we pray for missionaries and support what they do to reflect God’s love to the ends of the earth.’

November

On 6 November, Bishop Donal Murray delivered an address to the Céifin Conference in Ennis, Co Clare, on the theme of Religion and the Secular in Contemporary Ireland. Bishop Murray said: ‘The conflict is not between religion and the secular but between the searchers for deeper meaning and those who believe that human life has no meaning beyond what can be measured, analysed and scientifically proved. It is a conflict ultimately between faith and the ideology of secularism ... [recently] Pope Benedict said to young people in Loreto: “It is true that finite things can give glimmers of joy, but only the Infinite can fill the heart.”’

On 11 November, Archbishop Michael Neary celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Westport/Aror Partnership in Westport, Co Mayo. Archbishop Neary said: ‘The twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the Westport/Aror partnership is a historic occasion. Westport was way ahead of its time in striking up this partnership with Aror in Kenya. It is one thing to be committed to eradicating poverty on a global map, however this experience of partnership has focused minds in a very special way by putting a human face on poverty and helping the development of the Aror area. This partnership resulted in an awareness which in turn inspired and encouraged people to help with donations.’

On 15 November in Tallaght Community School in Dublin, Cardinal-elect Archbishop Seán Brady, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and Bishop Éamonn Walsh of the Bishops’ Drugs and Alcohol Initiative launched a DVD for secondary schools called *Find the Balance, Dare to Dream* to 150 students, staff, public representatives and members of the media.

On 20 November, the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, appointed the Right Reverend Monsignor Brendan Kelly Vicar General, Parish Priest of Spiddal, Co Galway, to succeed the Most Rev. Thomas Flynn as Bishop of the Diocese of Achonry.

At the opening of the Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants (IECE) conference on migration on 21 November in Dunboyne, Co Meath, entitled ‘From Pastoral Care to Public Policy – Journeying with the Migrant’, Cardinal-elect Seán Brady called on legislators to consider inclusion of a provision in the proposed Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill for temporary or ‘bridging’ visas to be made available to those migrants in Ireland who, having arrived here in good faith with offers of employment, now find themselves undocumented.

Other speakers at the three-day conference included Archbishop Michael Neary, Bishop Seamus Hegarty, Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio from the USA, Professor Des Cahill of the University of Melbourne, Mr Francis Davis of the Von Hugal Institute and Dr Patricia Kennedy.

On 24 November, Archbishop Seán Brady was created a Cardinal by Pope Benedict XVI. Speaking to national and international journalists, representing print and broadcast media, Cardinal Brady said: ‘Today has been a very joyful day – a day of many graces and much happiness. I am very honoured and humbled that Pope Benedict XVI has created me a Cardinal. I hope that people in Ireland will see in it an expression of our Holy Father’s particular regard and affection for them and for the Church in Ireland.’

‘On this special occasion, I am delighted to be joined in Rome, a city I love so much, by so many of my family and friends, and by brother Cardinals, Bishops and Priests from Ireland.’

‘These have been difficult, at times traumatic, years for the Church in Ireland. Yet in the midst of these challenges, the overwhelming majority of priests and religious have continued to serve their people, in humble patience, with quiet devotion and outstanding generosity.’

‘That is why I believe that today is, in some sense, about them. It is about the quiet acts of kindness, the supportive, prayerful presence in times of tragedy and disaster, the efforts to build community, and to bring dignity, comfort and hope to those in need. These have been the hallmark of generations of Irish priests and religious at home and across the world. It is a legacy of which, I believe, Ireland can be proud. Their generosity and commitment are recognised and celebrated in many parts of the world.’

December

On 5 December, the Northern Bishops issued a statement on violence in Northern Ireland. Speaking after the first meeting of the Northern Bishops since his elevation to the College of Cardinals, Cardinal Seán Brady urged people to unite in rejecting the activity of those who resort to violence for political ends in Northern Ireland. The Cardinal said: 'Recent attacks on members of the PSNI are a direct attack on the right to life and the freedom of all to play their part in the new, agreed institutions of Northern Ireland. Such activity should be condemned by all those who have the good of our society at heart.'

Calling on people to demonstrate their support for the PSNI, the Ambulance Service, the Fire Service and all those who provide essential services to the community, the Cardinal went on to say: 'The Police and those who provide essential emergency services deserve the support of the whole community and attacks against them are attacks against us all. I appeal to anyone who has information about such attacks, whether they are on police officers, ambulance drivers, fire service or medical personnel, to bring it to the police.'

The December General Meeting of the Bishops' Conference addressed the following issues: elevation of Cardinal Seán Brady to college of Cardinals; Advent and the Sacrament of Reconciliation (or Penance); new Encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI: *Spe Salvi*; Pope Benedict's general prayer intention for December; Catholic Education; drug use in Ireland; the Irish Prison Chaplains' Annual Report 2006/2007; Veritas radio advertisement and Christmas Cards with a Christian theme; ACCORD, the Catholic Marriage Care Service; and Trócaire's Global Gift Campaign.

Bishop Leo O'Reilly, Chair of the Education Commission of the Irish Bishops' Conference, welcomed the announcement on 13 December by the Minister for Education and Science, Ms Mary Hanafin, that a new State model of community national school, under the patronage of County Dublin Vocational Education Committee (VEC), is to be piloted in two locations, the Phoenix Park and Phibblestown, from September 2008.

Bishop O'Reilly said: 'These schools are being provided at a critical time and will assure a wide variety of access to primary education in accordance with the wishes of parents. The

Catholic Church welcomes choice and diversity within the national education system. We believe that it is important to accommodate the rights and needs of people of different faith backgrounds, and of none, to an education which reflects, as far as possible, their sincerely held convictions and values.'

Bishop O'Reilly reiterated the Catholic Church's firm intention to continue to provide Catholic schools to meet the needs of parents who wish their children to have a Catholic education. He said: 'The Church will continue its investment in Catholic education and, where there is need, will establish new schools. We welcome the Minister's generous acknowledgement that, "The role of the traditional churches in managing and providing schools is enormously valued and appreciated as is the growing role of other patronage bodies."'

The website of the Bishops' Conference holds greater detail on the foregoing initiatives and statements. Please see the media archive on www.catholicbishops.ie.

Photo Gallery



16 February: Bishop Éamonn Walsh, Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin, Fr Dan Joe O'Mahoy OFM Cap. and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin, at the Fr Mathew statue on O'Connell Street, Dublin for the launch of *Alcohol: The Challenge of Moderation*, a pastoral letter for Temperance Sunday and Lent.



27 February: Bishop John Kirby, Bishop Raymond Field and Fr Eoin Cassidy, members of the Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs, at the launch of *Palestine/Israel – Principles for a Just Peace* in Buswells Hotel, Dublin.



Lent 2007: Trócaire's petition during Lent called for better protection of women during conflict. Pictured from left are: Betty Williams, Professor Wangari Muta Maathai, Finola Finnan, Trócaire, Dr Shirin Ebadi, Professor Jody Williams and Mairead Corrigan.



24 April: Ms Caroline Navagh with her daughter Emily, Bishop Willie Walsh, President of ACCORD and Ms Gemma Kinsella with her daughter Rebecca at the launch of the ACCORD survey, *Married Life – the First 7 Years* in Dublin.

Photo Gallery



4 September: Bishop Anthony Farquhar and Bishop John McAreavey, part of the Irish delegation to the Third European Ecumenical Assembly in Sibiu, Romania from 4–9 September.



26 September: Bishop Raymond Field, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Rev. Dr Padraig Corkery and Ms Maura Hyland at the launch by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of the ICJSA publication, *Companion to the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, at St Vincent's Trust, Daughters of Charity, Henrietta Street, Dublin.



15 November: Cardinal-elect Archbishop Seán Brady with Martin Breen and other students from Tallaght Community School, Balrothery Estate, Tallaght, Dublin, at the launch of the DVD *Find the Balance: Dare to Dream*, from the Irish Bishops' Drugs and Alcohol Initiative.

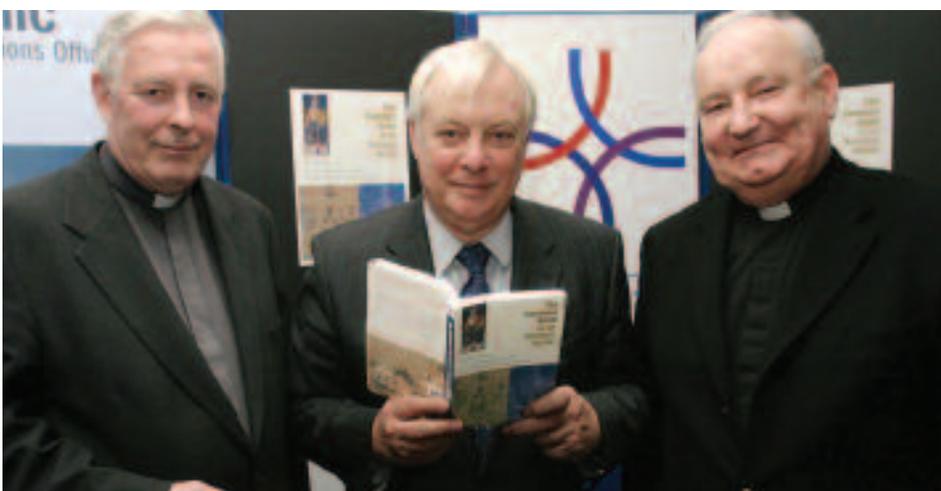


20 November: Bishop Thomas Flynn, Bishop of Achonry, congratulates Bishop-elect Brendan Kelly on his appointment as Bishop of Achonry.

Photo Gallery



21 November 2007: Mr Francis Davis, Cardinal-elect Archbishop Seán Brady, Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto, Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland, and Sr Joan Roddy at the IECE-organised conference *From Pastoral Care to Public Policy – Journeying with the Migrant* in Dunboyne, Co Meath.



4 December: Fr Eoin Cassidy, Lord Chris Patten and Bishop Raymond Field at the launch of *The Common Good in an Unequal World* at the headquarters of St Vincent de Paul in Sean McDermott Street, Dublin.



17 December: Cardinal Seán Brady receiving 'Best of Irish Award' from *The Star's* Political Correspondent Catherine Halloran in the Columba Centre at St Patrick's College, Maynooth. (Pic Gary Ashe /Allpix)

Cardinal Seán Brady's elevation to the College of Cardinals on 24 November 2007



Archbishop Seán Brady being created a Cardinal by the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, in St Peter's Basilica, Rome.



Cardinal Seán Brady greets President Mary McAleese and her husband Dr Martin McAleese in the Pontifical Irish College in Rome after the ceremony.



Four Irish-born Cardinals – Cardinal Desmond Connell, Cardinal Cahal Daly, Cardinal Seán Brady and Cardinal Keith O'Brien – and the Head of State, President Mary McAleese, celebrate Cardinal Brady's elevation at the Pontifical Irish College in Rome.



Cardinal Brady addresses members of the Irish and international media in the Pontifical Irish College in Rome after the ceremony in St Peter's Basilica.



29 November: Cardinal Brady's stop in Drogheda, Co Louth to meet parishioners and well-wishers on his way home to Armagh, having been created a Cardinal five days earlier by Pope Benedict XVI.



29 November: Spirits high on a damp wintry night – Cardinal Brady and Fr Eugene Sweeney, Cathedral Administrator, are welcomed home as well wishers line the streets of Armagh. (Courtesy of *The Irish Times*)

Apostolic Nunciature in Ireland



His Excellency Most Reverend Dr Giuseppe Leanza,
Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland

His Excellency Archbishop Leanza arrived in Ireland on 22 April, 2008, and presented his Credential Letters to President Mary McAleese on Monday, 28 April.

Born in Cesar (Messina), Italy, on 2 January, 1943, he received his priestly ordination on 17 July, 1966.

After being awarded a Doctorate in Canon Law, he entered the diplomatic service of the Holy See in 1972. Archbishop Leanza has served successively at the Pontifical Representations in Paraguay, Uganda, the United States of America, and in the Section for Relations with States at the Secretariat of State.

On 3 July, 1990 he was appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Haiti and Titular Archbishop of Lilybaeum. He was appointed Apostolic Pro-Nuncio to Zambia and Malawi on 4 June, 1991.

On 29 April, 1999 he was appointed Apostolic Nuncio in Bosnia Herzegovina and subsequently Apostolic Nuncio to Slovenia and the Republic of Macedonia on 15 May, 2002.

Archbishop Leanza has served as Apostolic Nuncio in Bulgaria since 22 February, 2003.

Besides his native language, the newly appointed Apostolic Nuncio speaks English, French, Serbo-Croat and Spanish.

His Excellency Most Reverend Dr Giuseppe Leanza, Titular Archbishop of Lilybaeum
Counsellor: Reverend Juan Antonio Cruz Serrano
The Apostolic Nunciature
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PART II

THE DEPARTMENTS OF THE BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin is the Chairman of the Department of Social Issues and International Affairs, which is comprised of the following commissions and agencies: Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs, Europe, Trócaire and Missions. Mr Harry Casey is Executive Secretary of this department.



Archbishop Dermot Clifford is the Chairman of the Department of Planning and Communications, which is comprised of the following commissions and agencies: Communications, Finance and General Purposes and Research and Development. Fr Timothy Bartlett is Executive Secretary of this department.



Bishop Donal Murray is the Chairman of the Department of Catholic Education and Formation, which is comprised of the following commissions and agencies: Bioethics, Education, Catechetics, Ecumenism, Doctrine*, Clergy/Seminaries/Permanent Diaconate and Religious. Mgr James Cassin is Executive Secretary of this department.



Bishop Christopher Jones is the Chairman of the Department of Pastoral Care, which is comprised of the following commissions and agencies: ACCORD, CURA, Migrants, Healthcare* and Family and Children. Fr Peter Murphy is Executive Secretary of this department.



Bishop James Moriarty is the Chairman of the Department of Worship, Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development, which is comprised of the following commissions and agencies: Pastoral Renewal and its sub groups, (i) Faith Development and Family Life, (ii) Renewal of Parish Life and (iii) Pastoral Outreach to Young People, Liturgy, Irish Language and Vocations. Sr Anne Codd is Executive Secretary of this department.



* A Bioethics Consultative Group serves the various commissions and agencies of the Bishops' Conference, in particular the Doctrine and Healthcare Commissions.

Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs



Bishop Raymond Field, Chairman and Ms Nicola Rooney, Research Co-ordinator of the Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs

The Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs (ICJSA), established by the Irish Episcopal Conference on 26 February, 2005, is composed of four Episcopal members and an Advisory Board of sixteen additional members with a wide range of related experience and expertise. The Commission is chaired by Most Rev. Raymond Field, Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin, with Fr Timothy Bartlett (Diocese of Down and Connor) acting as Executive Secretary. The Research Co-ordinator is Ms Nicola Rooney. The Commission advises the Irish Episcopal Conference on issues of social justice, national and international. Its mission statement is as follows: 'To promote the social dimension of the Gospel with a view to building the civilisation of love.'

In 2007, the ICJSA had a fruitful year in terms of output and outreach activities. A summary of some of the key achievements of the ICJSA during this period is outlined below.

Launch of Position Paper *Palestine/Israel: Principles for a Just Peace*

On 27 February, 2007, the ICJSA, in collaboration with Trócaire, launched a position paper entitled *Palestine/Israel: Principles for a Just Peace*. The document focused in particular on the restriction of movement in the Occupied Territories, and the impact of these measures on the Palestinian population. Following the launch, Bishop Raymond Field led a delegation who met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Dermot Ahern, TD.

Appeal to the G8 on Debt Promises

On 4 June, 2007, the ICJSA wrote a letter calling on German Chancellor Angela Merkel, in her capacity as chair of the G8 meeting held in

Germany on 6–8 June, to ensure that previous promises on development aid and debt cancellation were fulfilled. A copy of the letter, translated into German, was presented by a delegation from the ICJSA to the German Consul, who delivered it to the Chancellor.

Launch of the *Companion to the Compendium of the Social Teaching of the Catholic Church* by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

On 26 September, 2007, the ICJSA launched the *Companion to the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church*, published by Veritas. The Companion, written by Rev. Dr Pádraig Corkery, is designed to make the social teaching of the Catholic Church more readily available to all. Launching the publication, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin stated: 'The Social Teaching of the Church is an admirable instrument for community formation. The availability of this Companion will make the wealth of the Compendium accessible to a wide range of groups and individuals.'

Second World Conference of the Ecclesial Organisations Working for Justice and Peace

The ICJSA was represented at the Second World Conference of the Ecclesial Organisations Working for Justice and Peace, which took place in Rome on 22–24 November, 2007, by Bishop Raymond Field, Rev. Timothy Bartlett and Professors Vincent McBrierty and Eda Sagarra, who are members of the ICJSA Advisory Board.

Launch of *The Common Good in an Unequal World*

The ICJSA publication, *The Common Good in an Unequal World*, was launched on 4 December, 2007. The publication, edited by Rev. Dr Eoin Cassidy, was based on the proceedings of the conference hosted by ICJSA the previous March, with the inclusion of several papers from additional contributors. Speaking at the launch, Bishop Field stressed the importance of the publication and the conference that preceded it in helping the ICJSA achieve its goal of promoting the Social Teaching of the Church.

Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs
Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare
Tel: 01 5053000
www.catholicjustice.ie

Refugee and Migrant Project



Bishop Raymond Field, Chairman of the Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs and Sr Joan Roddy, Director of the Refugee and Migrant Project

Recognising the need for a Church response to the growing numbers of people seeking asylum in Ireland at that time, the decision was made by the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, at its meeting of March 1999, to set up the Refugee Project.

The objectives of the Refugee Project are:

- to act as a well-informed resource to the Bishops' Conference and to individual bishops on asylum, refugee and related issues;
- to promote awareness, information and education within the Church and the community at large regarding the nature of asylum, the needs of asylum seekers and refugees and related issues;
- to contribute to the pastoral care of refugees and asylum seekers by being a resource for relevant Church Commissions with specific areas of pastoral responsibility, such as Pastoral, Liturgy, Doctrine and Education;
- to contribute to public policy debate on asylum, refugees and related issues.

Although set up under the aegis of three Commissions, including the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace, it was agreed that the Project would be located and operated within ICJP on a day-to-day basis. With the subsequent establishment of departments within the Bishops' Conference, the Project was assigned to the Department of Social Issues and International Affairs and its brief expanded to include migrants, in order to reflect their presence in the country in increasing numbers.

The Refugee and Migrant Project is a project of the Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs, which is chaired by Bishop Raymond Field. The Project initiated and facilitates the Churches' Asylum Network, which meets six times annually and brings together members of Christian Churches/communities, including

delegates of Catholic dioceses, working with and on behalf of refugees and migrants around the country. *Sanctuary*, a bi-monthly newsletter, covers asylum, refugee and migrant matters, nationally and internationally, from a religious perspective. Published by the Project, the flyer *Who's Who?* (2007) is a reader-friendly guide to the various categories of newcomers to Ireland and their rights and entitlements.

In conjunction with other organisations, the Project is in ongoing discussion with various statutory and other bodies on a range of issues relating to rights and entitlements of people seeking asylum, refugees and migrants. Working with CAN, a response to the draft *Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill* (2008) has been submitted to Government. The Project is a member of Act to Prevent Trafficking (APT is associated with the Conference of Religious in Ireland/Irish Missionary Union) and part of APT's Working Group on Legislation and Policy.

Nationally, the Refugee and Migrant Project participates in several inter-Church initiatives, including those which promote the integration of newcomers to the country, address racial justice issues and enable contact with minority ethnic Churches.

At European level, the project is actively involved in the Migration Working Groups of the Commission of Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (ComeCE – www.comece.org), Commission of Bishops' Conferences of Europe (CCEE – www.ccee.org), Caritas Europa (www.caritas-europa.org) and has close links with the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC – www.icmc.net) and the Conference of European Churches (CEC – www.cec-kek.org).

In September 2007, the Refugee and Migrant Project was represented at the Third European Ecumenical Assembly in Sibiu, Romania, where Sr Joan Roddy spoke on the presence of migrants and refugees in Ireland as a challenge and gift for the Church.

As part of the All-Ireland Churches' Consultative Meeting on Racism, the Project has in the past year collaborated in the preparation of several resource booklets.

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Trócaire



Bishop John Kirby, Chairman and Mr Justin Kilcullen, Director of Trócaire

Trócaire is the official overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland. The organisation was established by the Irish Catholic Bishops in 1973 to support the world's poorest and most oppressed people. Trócaire works in partnership with the Church, missionaries and local non-government organisations across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

In the financial year 2007/2008, Trócaire funded 127 programmes that tackle poverty and injustice and respond to emergencies to the value of €54.7 million.

Building sustainable livelihoods forms a core part of Trócaire's work and last year the organisation spent €10,752,363 helping poor people get access to food, shelter, healthcare, education, land and good working conditions, while helping them cope with the devastating effects of climate change.

It is crucial that people living in poverty understand their rights and can challenge governments to be accountable. Last year Trócaire spent €13,562,727 supporting people to defend their human rights, hold governments accountable and demand a voice in local and national planning.

Last year Trócaire's emergency response provided emergency aid, developed post-disaster recovery projects and helped communities prepare for potential future emergencies to the value of €14,191,418. Trócaire responded to cyclones in Bangladesh, an earthquake in Peru, political unrest in Kenya, floods in Uganda, India and Indonesia and the conflict in Darfur.

The HIV and AIDS crisis is devastating poor families in developing countries. In sub-Saharan Africa alone 22.5 million people are living with the virus. Last year Trócaire committed €2,582,213 to fund home-based care for the sick,

support for orphaned children and affected families and programmes to prevent the further spread of HIV.

Worldwide, 70 per cent of those living in poverty are women. Trócaire spent €2,582,213 in the last financial year supporting women in their struggle for economic and social rights, concentrating on rights to land, inheritance rights and preventing violence against women.

In Ireland, Trócaire works with the public to encourage them to take action against global poverty. Last year the organisation campaigned publicly for peace in Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territories to end the use of cluster bombs, for action on climate change and for fairer global trade rules. Education projects with schools included a human rights programme for secondary and primary schools, a summer school for secondary students and a learning visit to Malawi for teachers leading Trócaire programmes in their schools.

Trócaire's 2007 Lenten campaign raised awareness of gender inequality worldwide and pressed the Irish government to develop an action plan to support a UN resolution to protect women from violence and ensure their participation in decision-making processes. The government is now advancing the UN resolution through its overseas development programmes.

Trócaire's work is made possible by the goodwill and generosity of the Irish public, which is greatly appreciated.

Trócaire
Maynooth, Co Kildare
Callsave: 1850 408 408 (Republic of Ireland)
Freephone: 0800 912 1200 (Northern Ireland)
www.trocaire.org

Episcopal Commission for Missions



Bishop Colm O'Reilly, Chairman of the Episcopal Commission for Missions and Fr Eamon Aylward, Secretary of the National Mission Council

The Episcopal Commission for Missions through the National Mission Council co-ordinates the activities of all national missionary bodies and acts as a forum for discussion on matters related to national mission policy.

IMU, St Paul's Retreat, Mount Argus,
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Catholic Communications Office



Bishop Joseph Duffy, Chairman of the Communications Commission and Mr Martin Long, Director of the Catholic Communications Office.



The mission of the Catholic Communications Office (CCO) is to provide, on behalf of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference and its agencies and commissions, a professional communications and public relations service and to liaise with laity, media, national and international Church organisations, other faiths and the voluntary, public and private sectors so as to help convey the Christian message of the Catholic Church.

The CCO also assists Bishops, Diocesan Communications Officers and seminarians with the promotion of their pastoral work through the mass and online media.

The staff of the CCO are: Martin Long, Director of Communications; Brenda Drumm, Communications Officer; Kathy Tynan, Communications Officer; Francis Cousins, Editor of *Intercom*; and Marie Purcell, Communications Assistant.

2007 was the busiest year to date for the Catholic Communications Office. On behalf of the Bishops' Conference, its agencies, commissions and individual bishops, the office published 154 press releases and opinion articles, as well as organising numerous media events and press conferences during the year.

Appointments by Pope Benedict during 2007:

The Pope announced the following appointments: Archbishop Seán Brady, Archbishop of Armagh, as Cardinal (17 October); Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto, Titular Archbishop of Numana, as Apostolic Nuncio to Australia (22 December); Monsignor Séamus Freeman SAC as Bishop-elect of the Diocese of Ossory, succeeding Bishop Laurence Forristal (14 September); Monsignor Brendan Kelly as Bishop-elect of the Diocese of Achonry, succeeding Bishop Thomas Flynn (20 November); and the Director of the Office for Public Affairs in the Archdiocese of Dublin, Mgr

Paul Tighe, as Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications (30 November).

During 2007, preparation and planning was invested into a media training programme for bishops and their nominees. Groundwork was also put in place for the construction of a new comprehensive multi-media website for the Bishops' Conference, its agencies and commissions.

Amongst the significant media events and news stories in 2007 involving the CCO included:

- **Consistory:** On 24 November, Archbishop Seán Brady was created a Cardinal by the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, who assigned the new Cardinal the Titular Church in Rome of St Cyricus and Julitta, who were martyrs. After the ceremony, Cardinal Brady addressed a press conference in the Irish College, Rome, consisting of Irish and international media.
- **The first bilateral meeting between representatives of the Catholic Church and the Government** as part of the new structured dialogue between the Government and the Churches, philosophical and non-confessional organisations. The delegation included Archbishop Seán Brady, Archbishop of Armagh and President of the Irish Bishops' Conference, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin and Vice-President of the Irish Bishops' Conference and Bishop Leo O'Reilly, Bishop of Kilmore and Chairman of the Bishops' Commission on Education.
- **Education:** On 2 October, Bishop Leo O'Reilly, Chairman of the Commission for Education, launched *Catholic Primary Schools: A Policy for Provision into the Future*. On 13 December, Archbishop Martin and Bishop O'Reilly welcomed the announcement by the Minister for Education and Science, Ms Mary Hanafin, of a new State model of community national school, under the patronage of County Dublin Vocational Education Committee. On 14 September, Bishop O'Reilly published a statement on the enrolment policies of faith schools.
- **Pastoral Letters Published:** *Alcohol: The Challenge of Moderation* on 16 February and *Day for Life* on 5 October, *Blessed is the Fruit of your Womb*.

Catholic Communications Office
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Council for Research & Development



Archbishop Dermot Clifford, Chairman and Mr Eoin O'Mahony, Social Researcher with the Research and Development Office

The Council for Research & Development is the advisory body to the Research & Development office, which is based in the Columba Centre in Maynooth. The Council's membership is composed of two Bishops' Conference members and five lay people and it meets four times per year. The research office undertakes specific projects requested by the members and other agencies of the Bishops' Conference, and acts as an information resource for the Conference, clergy and religious, media personnel and the general public.

Research projects are rarely carried out in isolation so the office works with others inside and outside the Bishops' Conference to chart social change in Ireland and how this relates to the Church in Ireland.

One of the key tasks during the year is to generate statistical information regarding vocations to religious life and other data on clergy and religious in Ireland. In July, the Council published the data from the Annual Vocation and Personnel Survey 2006. The data showed that 76 per cent of the Diocesan priests in Ireland are working in Diocese with smaller percentages retired and studying. The report also showed that forty-eight men applied to join the priesthood, with a further thirteen applying to enter religious and brothers' orders. Nine women had applications accepted to become religious sisters. The report also outlined a number of other key features of the body of professed and ordained personnel available to the Church in Ireland. The results of this annual survey are sought most often by members of the public and the mass media and are the most requested data produced by the Council. Changes occurring within the Church will continue to be reflected within the survey.

The office also provides summaries of recent research in the study of religion to members of the Bishops' Conference. In doing this, summaries of the 2006 socio-economic Census data are made available to the Conference members. The continued online availability of European Social Survey data allows the office to track changes in Church attendance amongst Catholics living in Ireland and elsewhere in Europe. While weekly Mass attendance is falling, regular prayer remains central in the lives of Catholics. With high proportions of people designating themselves Catholics in Irish Censuses but much smaller proportions regularly attending Mass, what does this mean for the Church in Ireland? Many members of the Conference are aware that the age profile of Diocesan priests is getting older, and a report made available in October demonstrated that the average age of the Diocesan priest in Ireland is higher than it is for males in the country as a whole. This has clear implications for future planning within and between Dioceses. The Council's contribution to the Government's *Active Citizenship* project was published in March.

An important part of the work of the office is to liaise with other agencies and commissions of the Bishops' Conference and provide them with research support whenever possible. During 2007, the office was involved in an analysis of a survey for the Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin, conducted an online survey for the Family Ministry, provided support to the Year of Vocation initiative, worked with the priests of the Diocese of Ardagh & Clonmacnoise on issues around their retirement and, most significantly, deployed a nationally representative sample questionnaire for the Commission for Education on parental school choice. The report of this survey, the first of its kind in Ireland, is available on www.catholicbishops.ie.

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Veritas Communications



Bishop Joseph Duffy, Chairman, Communications Commission and Ms Maura Hyland, Director of Veritas Communications

Veritas Communications is an agency of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. It is a not-for-profit organisation, established as a limited company. Our mission is to support the Bishops' Conference in its work of evangelisation, education and communication. Veritas consists of a publishing company, Veritas Publications, a retail operation – we have eight retail outlets situated around the country – and a distribution centre, located in Rosemount Industrial Estate in Blanchardstown, from which we distribute our own books as well as publications from a number of American and UK publishers. On behalf of the Bishops' Commission on Communications, Veritas publishes *Intercom*, a pastoral and liturgical resource magazine for people in ministry.

Veritas Publications had a successful year in 2007, seeing the publication of almost fifty books, including a number of religious education text books. Our general titles ranged in subject from theology, prayer and spirituality to counselling, social issues and children's illustrated books.

In the catechetical area we published *Know the Way*, by Orla Walsh, a text for Junior Cycle students, combining the content of the NCCA Syllabus for Religious Education with a strong element of faith formation, thereby being equally suited to students taking the subject for the Junior Certificate examination and those not. We also published *Into the Deep*, by Tom Gunning, the second book in the series for Senior Cycle students who are not taking religious education as an examination subject.

We regard as valuable our retailing presence throughout the country. However, in difficult trading times and with increased costs and competition from large, specialised competitors,

there is a need to constantly monitor sales performance in all of our outlets. Sales were poor in January, February and March 2007. In response, we decided to carry out some market research to ascertain the level of public awareness of Veritas. Based on the results of the survey, which indicated that 64 per cent of those surveyed had never heard of Veritas, it was decided to undertake a marketing campaign on national radio for the Christmas season. The aim of the campaign was twofold: to increase sales and to raise awareness of Veritas and of the range of goods carried. The campaign was successful. Much media debate was stimulated by the fact that we were requested to omit the word 'crib' from the advertisement. This in turn helped to raise the profile of Veritas in the public arena. There was a significant increase in sales over the Christmas period compared to the same period in the previous year.

In 2007 Veritas attended the annual Religious Education Congress in Anaheim, Columbus, Ohio, the national conference of catechetical leaders in the United States. The first Irish National Religious Education Congress was organised in October 2007. Veritas staff were heavily involved in the organisation and administration of the event, as well as being present at a number of in-service events organised for teachers in various locations throughout the country.

In order to source religious art and other religious objects for our retail outlets, we attended trade fairs in the RDS, Birmingham and Milan.

Due to a more focused and concerted effort in terms of sales and advertising, as well as the continued quality in the titles published and goods supplied, all in all 2007 was a busy and successful year for Veritas.

Veritas Publications
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www.veritas.ie

Episcopal Commission for Catechetics



Bishop Martin Drennan, Chairman and Mr Brendan O'Reilly, Executive Secretary

The Episcopal Commission for Catechetics is one of seven commissions which together constitute the Department of Catholic Education and Formation. The other six commissions in this Department are: Clergy/Seminaries/Permanent Diaconate; Doctrine; Ecumenism; Education; Religious and Theology.

The Episcopal Commission for Catechetics articulates policy and vision for the catechetical needs of Ireland, north and south, on behalf of the Episcopal Conference. It liaises with the Episcopal Commission for Education, other Commissions of the Bishops' Conference and a variety of other national and international agencies in the area of catechesis and religious education. To further this work, a National Catechetical Office, headed by the National Director for Catechetics, has been established.

During the calendar year of 2007, the members of the Episcopal Commission for Catechetics were: Most Rev. Martin Drennan, Bishop of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora (Chairman); Most Rev. William Murphy, Bishop of Kerry; and Most Rev. Denis Brennan, Bishop of Ferns. Mr Brendan O'Reilly continued as the Executive Secretary of the Commission and as the National Director for Catechetics. As an aid to the work of the Commission, members of an Advisory Board attend the meetings of the Commission.

The major projects engaged by the Commission during 2007 were as follows:

- *National Directory for Catechesis*. Ten submissions to the Revised Draft of the National Directory for Catechesis, *Be Good News*, were received by the beginning of 2007. In the light of these submissions, a re-worked version, called the Second Revised Draft, was prepared and considered by a group of bishops from the Doctrine

Commission. This group issued more recommendations, and in the light of these a Third Revised Draft of the directory was prepared. This draft was presented at the December meeting of the Episcopal Conference.

- *The New Primary RE Syllabus*. Work continued on the new RE Syllabus for Primary Schools. This new syllabus is being re-written with reference to the four sections of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the six fundamental tasks of catechesis as found in the *General Directory for Catechesis*. By the end of 2007 almost half of the new syllabus was completed.
- *Education in Faith Sunday*. This was celebrated on 4 February, 2007, and the Encyclical Letter *Deus Caritas Est* was the focus of the celebration. Materials were provided online for homes, schools and parishes via the catechetics website at www.catechetics.ie. Posters marking the 2007 celebration were sent to every parish in the country. The theme of the 2007 celebration was *Put Out Into The Deep* and the event received coverage from twenty Irish diocesan websites, newspapers, local radio stations and magazines. During the days surrounding the celebration, the catechetics website received 15,000 hits.

In addition to the above major projects, the National Catechetical Office was active in the following areas:

- Guidelines for faith formation were sent to every second level school.
- Guidelines for the formulation of an ethos statement were published in *Solas*.
- The National Director attended and addressed conferences in Anaheim (CA), Columbus (OH), Exeter and Rome.
- The National Director coordinated the first ever National RE Congress, which was held in October 2007.
- The National Director was involved with in-service for teachers, worked on the manual for classroom visitation and worked in Mater Dei and St Patrick's, Maynooth.

National Catechetical Office,
Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare
Tel: 01 505 3000
Email: brendan.oreilly@iecon.ie
www.catechetics.ie

Episcopal Commission for Education



Bishop Leo O'Reilly, Chairman and Monsignor James Cassin, Executive Secretary of the Commission for Education

The Episcopal Commission for Education articulates policy and vision for Catholic Education in Ireland, north and south, on behalf of the Episcopal Conference. It has responsibility for the forward planning necessary to ensure the best provision for Catholic Education in the country. It liaises with other Catholic Education Offices, the Department of Education and Science (DES) and the Department of Education, Northern Ireland. The Commission advises the Conference on all Government legislation as applied to education. It responds and speaks for the Conference on issues related to the work of education. It seeks also to develop long-term strategies in education for the Episcopal Conference.

The Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education has specific responsibility for Catholic Education in Northern Ireland and was set up as an *ad hoc* body in relation to developments in the jurisdiction.

The Episcopal Commission for Education provides services for the Irish Episcopal Conference and its members, Dioceses and Catholic primary and secondary schools.

The Governing Body of the Commission is the Irish Episcopal Conference. The Commission reports to the Bishops' Conference through the Department of Catholic Education and Formation. The Chairman of the Commission is Bishop Leo O'Reilly. The staff of the Commission are Monsignor James Cassin, Executive Secretary and Ms Bernadette Martin, PA to the Executive Secretary. The administration of the Commission is resident in the Columba Centre, Maynooth as part of the central administration of the Irish Bishops' Conference and has available to it the general

services of the Bishops' Conference Secretariat.

The Commission reports to and is given its mandate by the Irish Episcopal Conference.

The Episcopal Commission for Education is represented on and relates to the following groups:

- Catholic Primary School Management Association (CPSMA)
- Association of Management of Catholic Secondary Schools (AMCSS)
- Catholic Education an Irish Schools Trust (CEIST)
- Association of Trustees of Catholic Schools (ATCS)

The Commission relates directly with the Department of Education and Science on matters related to Catholic Education. The Commission is also party to representative groups of Catholic Education in their engagement with the Department.

Five-year plan

- Establishment of a Catholic Education Service.
- Articulation of a vision for Catholic schools and achievement of buy in for the vision.
- Development of a plan for Catholic primary school provision into the future.
- Achievement of a clear and coherent rationale for denominational education and its contribution to education provision in the country.
- Establishment of clear lines of communication with all the stakeholders in education.
- Development of an all-Ireland approach to plan for Catholic Education while recognising the diversity represented in the two jurisdictions.
- Secure adequate funding to support Catholic education.

Mgr James Cassin, Executive Secretary
 Episcopal Commission for Education
 Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare
 Tel: +353 (0)1 505 3014
 Email: education@iecon.ie

Episcopal Commission for Doctrine



The Episcopal Commission for Doctrine and Theology works in close association with the Bishops' Conference on matters relating to faith and morals.

Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare
Tel: 01 505 3000
Email: info@catholicbishops.ie

Archbishop Michael Neary, Chairman and Bishop Donal Murray, Secretary

Episcopal Commission on Ecumenism



The Episcopal Commission on Ecumenism and its Advisory Committee advises the Bishops' Conference on ecumenical affairs in Ireland and maintains contact with the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity in Rome. The committee has a membership of approximately thirty-five, including the Episcopal members, a priest representative from each diocese, and people chosen for their competence and experience in the ecumenical field.

Fr Brendan Leahy, Focolare Centre,
Prosperous, Co Kildare
Email: brendan.leahy@may.ie

Bishop Anthony Farquhar, Chairman and Fr Brendan Leahy, Secretary

ACCORD Catholic Marriage Care Service



Bishop Willie Walsh, President and Ms Ruth Barror, National Director, ACCORD

ACCORD has fifty-eight centres located throughout the twenty-six dioceses in the island of Ireland. ACCORD's ministry is primarily concerned with supporting the sacrament of marriage by helping couples as they prepare for marriage and offers support to them in their marriage relationship.

ACCORD's aim is to promote a better understanding of Christian marriage and to help couples initiate, sustain and enrich their commitment to one another and to family life.

ACCORD's core services include

- Marriage preparation;
- Marriage and relationship counselling;
- Fertility awareness and well being;
- Marital sexual therapy;
- Marriage enrichment;
- Schools programmes.

ACCORD, formerly known as CMAC, was established in Ireland in the early sixties and expanded to become a nationwide service. ACCORD is a predominantly lay organisation, which works closely with bishops and priests at a diocesan and parish level.

Currently there are 800 counsellors and facilitators working throughout the fifty-nine centres, the majority of whom work on a voluntary basis. Counsellors and facilitators are selected for their warmth, openness and non-judgemental qualities. Importantly, for the benefit of clients, lay personnel draw on their own marriages and relationships and this lived experience also informs ACCORD's professional service.

In addition to comprehensive initial training and continuous professional development of personnel, ACCORD maintains a programme of quality assurance and clinical supervision that

guarantees a first-class service to clients.

In 2007 ACCORD personnel provided over 31,700 hours of counselling to 5,380 cases and worked with over 9,600 couples preparing for married life. ACCORD services are open to all who need them, regardless of denomination, race, creed, geographical location or ability to pay.

Major initiatives in 2007 included the launch of a report on the first seven years of marriage called *Married Life – The First Seven Years*, and the publication of an information leaflet for couples on civil and Church requirements for the north and south of Ireland called *Planning Your Wedding Day*. These publications are available on www.accord.ie and www.gettingmarried.ie.

ACCORD is funded by both the Family Support Agency and the Irish Episcopal Conference.

ACCORD Marriage Care Services
 Columba Centre
 Maynooth, Co Kildare
 Tel: 01-5053112
 Fax: 01-6016410
 Email: admin@accord.ie
www.accord.ie
www.gettingmarried.ie

CURA: Crisis Pregnancy Services



Bishop John Fleming, President and Ms Louise Graham, National Co-ordinator of CURA

A crisis pregnancy is a pregnancy that is neither planned nor desired by a woman and which presents a crisis for her. CURA was established by the Irish Bishops' Conference in 1977 as a caring service for all women who are unhappily pregnant. It upholds the right of every child to be born and to receive from society its consequent human rights.

Crisis pregnancy affects women of all ages. Research shows that over one quarter (28 per cent) of women will experience a crisis pregnancy at some stage in her life.

Crisis pregnancy counselling enables the woman to make an informed decision through offering necessary support, information and counselling.

CURA provides a range of supports and services to women dealing with an unplanned pregnancy. CURA also provides counselling and support services for the baby's father and other family members. CURA provides non-directive counselling, which means the counsellor will not judge or make decisions for the client.

Based on our ethos, CURA does not regard abortion as an acceptable option to a crisis pregnancy, nor does it find itself able to assist in any arrangement to facilitate abortion. There are now sixteen centres and one outreach service throughout the country.

In 2007 the CURA Centre in Wexford opened an outreach service in Gorey. CURA Kerry will be opening an outreach service in Dingle in 2008.

Services provided

- Free pregnancy testing;
- Crisis pregnancy counselling;
- Support;
- Information on social welfare and other rights and entitlements;

- Linking clients in with other support services as required;
- Making links with agencies providing accommodation and other support services as required;
- Post-abortion counselling.

Other services include

- Crisis pregnancy counselling to baby's father and other family members;
- Schools Awareness Programme;
- Post-abortion counselling and support for baby's father and other family members.

All CURA services are free and confidential.

Services are provided by over 300 volunteers and supported by the CURA National Office team:

- Louise Graham, National Co-ordinator
- Christine Fitzpatrick, National Office Administrator
- Anne Martens, National Office Secretary
- Eithne Kellegher and Claire Barry, Regional Co-ordinators
- Noreen Keane and Charlotte Keery, PROs

Service provision in 2007

Client contacts:

We have 7,500 client contacts, including crisis pregnancy counselling and post-abortion clients.

Hours of counselling provided:

Face-to-face crisis pregnancy counselling: 1,125

Telephone counselling: 616

Post-abortion counselling: 212

Schools Visited as part of Schools Awareness Programme: 283

The CURA Annual Conference, 'CURA Crisis Pregnancy Services: Professionalism in a Voluntary Organisation', was hosted in Thurles and over 200 volunteer counsellors attended.

Contact details:
 CURA National Office
 Columba Centre
 Maynooth, Co Kildare
 Tel: 01 505 3040/1
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 National Helpline Number: 1850 622 626
 www.cura.ie

The Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants



Bishop Séamus Hegarty, Chairman and Ms Caroline Navagh, Administrator for the Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants

The Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants (IECE), previously known as the Irish Episcopal Commission for Emigrants, was founded in 1957 and is the response by the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference to the needs of Irish emigrants prior to and following departure. The Council is particularly committed to the needs of the vulnerable involuntary emigrant. It is a significant voice on behalf of emigrants, condemning involuntary emigration and seeking rights and adequate services for them.

Today there are no less than 1.2 million Irish people living abroad. Many Irish families have an immediate relative or close friend who is an emigrant.

In 1957, the IECE set up the Irish Chaplaincy Scheme to provide services for our emigrants. Today there are chaplaincies in the USA, Europe and Australia, caring for the personal, social and family needs of Irish emigrants. This pastoral outreach is in accordance with the recommendations from the fifth World Congress on the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees in Rome (17–22 November, 2003):

- 'The care of migrants and refugees in the first years of the new Millennium is an essential part of the new Evangelisation.' (Para. 1)
- 'Pastoral care is, first of all, the responsibility of the Church in the receiving country.' (Para. 10)
- 'The duty of the Church of origin includes, as far as possible, accompanying migrants and refugees by priests, religious and lay pastoral agents and preferably of their own language and rites.' (Para.11)

In 2004 the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People issued a valuable document *Erga Migrantes Caritas Christi*, which provides norms and structures

enabling Conferences of Bishops to focus on important spiritual, pastoral and humanitarian aspects of outreach to migrants.

In March 2007, Bishop Séamus Hegarty, Chairman, launched the final *Supporting Irish Abroad* (SIA) awareness campaign newsletter to thank all those who have supported the Bishops' campaign over the three years. Each year the SIA campaign focused on pastorally supporting Irish emigrants in different ways. The campaign was successful in highlighting the vulnerability of migrants and keeping the issue on the public policy agenda. It raised €1,581,716.76 and this funding is used to identify and assist worthwhile projects.

Bishop Hegarty launched the updated Irish Apostolate website www.usairish.org in March 2007, which is dedicated to helping the 'undocumented Irish' currently based in the United States.

Former Director of the Bishops' Commission for Emigrants, Fr Alan Hilliard, attended and spoke at the Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform organised rally in Washington DC on 7 March.

A major IECE conference on migration which marked the fiftieth anniversary of the setting up of the Irish Chaplaincy in Britain, took place in Dunboyne on 21–23 November, 2007. Its purpose was to open a dialogue on the emerging issues facing migrants who come to our shore. The panel of international speakers included Cardinal-elect Archbishop Seán Brady.

The Conference title, *From Pastoral Care to Public Policy – Journeying with the Migrant*, addressed the needs of immigrants from both a policy and pastoral perspective.

The role of the Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants and the newly established Irish Episcopal Council for Immigrants will play a significant part in that journey.

Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants (IECE)
Columba Centre
Maynooth
Co. Kildare

Tel: + 353 (0)1 505 3055/3155
Fax: + 353 (0)1 601 6401

The Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants (IECE) reports to the Irish Episcopal Commission for the Care of Migrants (IECCM) and the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference's Department of Pastoral Care.

Commission for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development



Bishop Jim Moriarty, Chairman and Sr Anne Codd, Resource Person with the Commission for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development

The purpose of the Commission for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development, together with its Advisory Board, is to support diocesan initiatives in pastoral renewal and adult faith development, to highlight evolving needs and to promote creative responses. To fulfil this purpose, the Commission aims to maintain and develop communication between the Bishops' Conference and the dioceses in relation to key areas of pastoral development – parish life, youth ministry, lay people in the Church and faith development in family life.

Membership and Staff

The members of the Commission are Bishop Jim Moriarty (Chair), Bishop Bill Murphy, Bishop Frank Lagan, Bishop Donal McKeown and Bishop Séamus Freeman.

The Advisory Board, first established in Spring 2005 for a term of three years, comprises representatives of the dioceses grouped into four provincial regions, as well as the National Director for Catechetics and representatives of CORI, IMU and the Knights of St Columbanus.

The Commission and Advisory Board have the services of a resource person, Sr Anne Codd pbvm and administrative secretary, Ms Bernie Martin.

Significant Activities in 2007

- In January and February 2007, meetings of diocesan personnel took place in each provincial region, convened and facilitated by Sr Anne Codd. The annual convention took place in Maynooth in May. The purpose of these meetings is primarily to enable ongoing good communication and consultation.
- The convention marked the closing stages of a process begun in 2005 on parish pastoral councils. The Commission published the resulting document, *Parish Pastoral Councils, a Framework for Developing Diocesan Norms*

and *Parish Guidelines*, and it was launched by Cardinal Seán Brady and Bishop Jim Moriarty on 2 October. It is available on www.catholicbishops.ie.

- A consultation process relating to youth ministry in Ireland was launched at the convention. Fr Michael Kelleher CSsR undertook to facilitate this process, with a view to producing an agreed framework document for youth ministry in Ireland. This work is due to reach completion in 2008.
- The terms of reference of the Commission include liaison with lay Catholic organisations. This task is ongoing and will be the focus of the Annual Conference in 2008.
- Through its resource person, the Commission is actively involved with the Commission on the Family and Welfare of Children in ongoing discussions regarding support for family ministry at all levels.
- One of the main projects of the year was the Workshop on Ministry, including the Permanent Diaconate, which was organised in conjunction with the Commission for Clergy, Seminaries and Permanent Diaconate. This event, which took place on 31 May and 1 June, was designed to explore theological and practical underpinnings of ministry, and to support those who will be responsible for catechesis on the permanent diaconate in dioceses where it is introduced.
- Given the close connection between its brief and that of the Catechetics Commission, Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development gave its full support to the RE Congress, which was held in October 2007.
- Towards the end of 2007, on strength of a dedicated donation that was received, Mr Domhnall O'Neill was contracted to research programmes and structures for parish-oriented adult faith development in national and international contexts. This work is ongoing.

In its processes, in its relations with the other Bishops' Commissions and Agencies and in its engagement with diocesan personnel, the Commission and Advisory Board aim to model a spirituality of communion in fulfilment of the Church's mission.

Commission for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development
Resource Person: Sr Anne Codd pbvm
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Administrative Secretary: Bernie Martin
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www.renewal.ie

National Centre for Liturgy



Bishop John Magee, Chairman and Fr Patrick Jones, Secretary of the Episcopal Commission for Liturgy

Thirty-five years ago, the Bishops' Conference established a National Secretariat for Liturgy to help with the task of liturgical renewal after the Second Vatican Council, appointing the late Mgr Seán Swayne as secretary. The Secretariat, based at the National Centre for Liturgy at St Patrick's College, Maynooth since August 1996, continues that task today, working with the Episcopal Commission for Liturgy – Bishop John Magee, Bishop Fiachra Ó Ceallaigh, Bishop John McAreevey, Bishop Martin Drennan, Rev. Patrick Jones, Secretary – in the coordination of activities of their four agencies: :

- Irish Commission for Liturgy, which meets with the Episcopal Commission for Liturgy four times a year;
- Advisory Committee on Sacred Art and Architecture. Chairperson: Mr Alexander M. White; Secretary: Rev. Patrick Jones;
- Advisory Committee on Church Music. Chairperson: Dr Gerard Gillen; Secretary: Sr Moira Bergin, rsm;
- An Coiste Comhairleach um an Liotúirge i nGaeilge. Cathaoirleach: an Mgr Pádraig Ó Fiannachta; Rúnaí: an Canónach Seán Terry.

The current major project is the provision of a new edition of the *Roman Missal*, involving the translation of the third Latin edition (2002) into Irish and English. The English translation is undertaken by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL), an agency of the Irish Episcopal Conference and ten other Conferences in the English-speaking world. The review of its draft translations, issued in twelve segments, was completed in the past year. The Irish translation, a revision of *An Leabhar Aifreann* in the light of the new Latin edition, is being undertaken by the Coiste Comhairleach um an Liotúirge i nGaeilge.

The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* for the dioceses of Ireland was published in March 2005, and a team from the National Centre for Liturgy prepared *Celebrating the Mystery of Faith, a Guide to the Mass* to help priests and parish teams, etc. These publications are by Irish Liturgical Publications, an imprint of Veritas with the Columba Press, who will publish the new edition of the *Roman Missal*.

Since many of our churches are a significant part of the architectural and artistic heritage of the country, working with new planning and heritage regulations has been part of the ongoing work of the Advisory Committee on Sacred Art and Architecture. This involves consultation with the statutory bodies and the other Churches. The establishment of diocesan or inter-diocesan Historic Churches Advisory Committees is an essential element in meeting the new regulations.

From its establishment in 1973, the National Secretariat, with these agencies, has engaged in liturgical formation through courses and programmes and contact with people involved in liturgy, Right of Christian Initiation of Adults, liturgical music, church building and reordering and the Historic Churches Advisory Committees throughout the country.

The National Centre for Liturgy continues the one-year course in liturgy, which began at Mount St Anne's in 1974, where students can receive, from the Pontifical University of St Patrick's College, the Diploma and Higher Diploma in Pastoral Liturgy and, in a two-year programme, the Masters in Theology, specialising in liturgy. The first MTh liturgy students were conferred in 2002. Some students have undertaken doctoral studies in liturgy.

The Centre publishes *New Liturgy* as a quarterly bulletin and contributes to *Intercom*. It also provides a website: www.liturgy-ireland.ie.

Staff members of the Centre: Rev. Patrick Jones, Sr Moira Bergin, rsm and the Rev. Prof Liam Treacy.

National Centre for Liturgy
St Patrick's College
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www.liturgy-ireland.ie

Vocations Commission



Bishop Donal McKeown, Chairman and Fr Paddy Rushe, National Co-ordinator for Vocations

The Vocations Commission exists to support the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and to act as a liaison between the Diocesan Vocation Directors and the Episcopal Conference. The commission consists of two members: The Episcopal Representative for Vocations, Bishop Donal McKeown, and the National Co-ordinator for Diocesan Vocation Directors, Fr Patrick Rushe.

The Vocations Commission will foster vocations to the priesthood by:

- educating the public and particularly the Catholic community on the meaning and value of religious life and the priesthood;
- inviting the faithful to commit themselves to pray daily for an increase in vocations;
- encouraging Diocesan Vocation Directors to reach out to young people individually and collectively and to make opportunities for discernment available to them;
- resourcing those working at Diocesan level with the latest documentation, guidelines and directives regarding vocations, and encouraging 'best practice' among all dioceses in the procedures for accepting applications from candidates.

Work over the past twelve months

The over-arching project for the Vocations Commission was the 'Year of Vocation' (YOV) initiative. Much of 2007 was centred around the advance planning for the project, and involved much consultation and collaboration with other parties. Although the YOV initiative had a broad scope for its vocation message, the Vocations Commission has encouraged Vocation Directors to use the initiative as a 'backdrop' for specific promotion of priesthood throughout the year, and as an opportunity to inject new impetus into their

own vocations work. The implementation of the YOV programme will continue to form a substantial part of the work of the Commission over the next twelve months.

The Commission (through the National Co-ordinator) oversaw a conference in Sligo, Co Donegal, and a follow-up meeting in Maynooth for Diocesan vocation directors. In these meetings, Vocation Directors reviewed some useful input about the state of vocations in Europe, as typified by the experience of the Belgian Church. They noted the growth of the propaedeutic formation given by The Royal English College, Valladolid, and received some guidance about the use of psychological evaluations for those applying to priesthood.

The Commission continues to keep the various documents relevant to the development of candidates for the priesthood under review. The Commission is regularly briefed about changes to these documents via the link between the National Co-ordinator and Fr Francis Bonnici, Director of the Vatican's Pontifical Work for Priestly Vocations.

The Commission constantly seeks and takes advantage of opportunities to promote vocations via the use of advertising, articles through various media (print, radio and television), as well as on the internet.

A major project for the next year is to expand the membership of the Commission, so that others can share in and give support to the development of a co-ordinated approach to vocations ministry around the country.

Episcopal Representative for Vocations:
Bishop Donal McKeown

National Co-ordinator for Diocesan Vocations:
Fr Patrick J. Rushe CC

Contact Information:
Holy Redeemer Parochial House
Ard Easmuinn, Dundalk, Co Louth

www.vocations.ie
www.yourvocation.ie

Bishops' Bioethics Consultative Group



Bishop Donal Murray, Chairman of the Bishops' Bioethics Consultative Group and Fr Kevin Doran, Contact Person

The Bioethics Consultative Group is a forum for the exploration of current issues in the ethics of healthcare and of biomedical research. It seeks to develop and promote an understanding of these issues which is consistent with the Gospel, the teaching of the magisterium and the best available scientific knowledge.

History of the Committee

A Committee for Bioethics was established in 1996 as a sub-committee of the Joint Healthcare Commission. It subsequently became an independent commission of the Episcopal Conference, under the umbrella of the Department of Catholic Education and Formation. In 2005 it developed into a Bioethics Consultative Group. The *modus operandi* of the group is to draw on the expertise of a large interdisciplinary panel of consultants, drawn from the various healthcare professions, the natural sciences, philosophy and theology.

Episcopal members of the Committee

Most Rev. Donal Murray, Bishop of Limerick (Chairman).

Work of the Bioethics Consultative Group

The Bioethics consultative Group:

- prepares guidelines for the Irish Episcopal Conference on bioethical issues;
- prepares materials which will communicate the Church's teaching on bioethical issues to various categories of people – Catholic professionals, other Christians, lay Catholics, the general public;
- suggests areas in the bioethical field or in related spheres for research and study by the

Catholic Bishops' Joint Committee on Bio-Ethical Issues (Ireland, Scotland, England & Wales);

- promotes circulation of documents published by the Joint Committee on these issues.

A number of documents have been prepared by the Bioethics Consultative Group for the Irish Bishops' Conference on End of Life Care and Artificial Human Reproduction. The group has also acted as an advisory body to the Episcopal Conference on aspects of biomedical research, including pharmaceutical trials and stem cell research.

The Bioethics Consultative Group responds to requests from the media *via* the Catholic Communications Office of the Irish Bishops' Conference.

Contact person:
Fr Kevin Doran
Tel: +353 (0)404 45140
Email: info@healthcare-ethics.ie
www.healthcare-ethics.ie

PART III

DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS OF THE IRISH BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

Archdioceses

The twenty-six dioceses on the island of Ireland are divided into four archdioceses or provinces: Armagh, Dublin, Cashel and Tuam.

Archdiocese of Armagh

His Eminence Cardinal Seán Brady Archbishop of Armagh

Born 16 August 1939; ordained priest 22 February 1964; ordained Coadjutor Archbishop 19 February 1995; installed as Archbishop of Armagh 3 November 1996; created Cardinal 24 November 2007.

President of the Irish Bishops' Conference, a Member of the Department of Planning and Communications and a Trustee of Trócaire.

Ara Coeli, Armagh, BT61 7QY

Tel: +44 (0)28 37522045

Fax: +44 (0)28 37526182

Email: admin@aracoeli.com

Website:

www.archdioceseofarmagh.com

Diocesan Communications Officer:

Mr Martin Long, Director of Communications, Catholic Communications Office

Most Rev. Gerard Clifford Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh

Born 24 June 1941; ordained priest 18 June 1967; ordained bishop 21 April 1991.

Member of the Department of Catholic Education and Formation, member of the Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs, member of the Refugee and Migrant Project and a member of the Commission on Ecumenism.

Tel + 353 (0)86 1727678

Parishes: 61

Catholic Population: 215,912

Catholic Churches: 147

Patrons of the Archdiocese: St Patrick, St Malachy and St Oliver Plunkett

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Armagh: 1 Tavanagh Avenue, Portadown, Co Armagh BT62 3AJ

Tel: +44 (0)28 3833 4781

Drogheda: 'Verona', Cross Lane, Drogheda, Co Louth

Tel: +353 (0)41 984 3860

Dundalk: Roden Place, Dundalk, Co Louth

Tel: +353 (0)42 933 1731

CURA

CURA Office, 17 Jocelyn Street, Dundalk, Co Louth

Tel: +353 (0)42 933 7533

Annaskeagh, Ravensdale, Dundalk, Co Louth

Tel: 042 9371012

Fax: 042 9371013

Email: gcliffrd@indigo.ie



Archdiocese of Dublin

Most Rev. Diarmuid Martin **Archbishop of Dublin**

Born 8 April 1945; ordained priest 25 May 1969; Episcopal Ordination 6 January 1999; elevated to dignity of Archbishop and Apostolic Nuncio March 2001; appointed Coadjutor Archbishop of Dublin 3 May 2003; succeeded as Archbishop of Dublin on 26 April 2004.

Vice-President of the Irish Bishops' Conference, Chairman of the Department of Social Issues and International Affairs, Chairman of the Commission on Europe and a Trustee of Trócaire.

Archbishop's House, Drumcondra, Dublin 9

Tel: 01 8373732

Fax: 01 8369796

Website: www.dublindiocese.ie

Director of Communications:

Ms Annette O'Donnell

Tel: 01 8360723

Email:

communications@dublindiocese.ie

Parishes: 200

Catholic Population: 1,087,285

Catholic Churches: 238

Patrons of the Archdiocese: St Kevin and St Laurence O'Toole



Most Rev. Éamonn Walsh **Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin**

Born 1 September 1944; ordained priest 13 April 1969; appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin 22 April 1990; Apostolic Administrator of Ferns 6 April 2002–23 April 2006.

Member of the Department of Planning and Communications, Member of the IBC's Commission on Communications, Member of the Child Protection Committee, Member of the Department of Pastoral Planning, represents the IBC on the Board of the

Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative and is the Liaison Bishop on behalf of the IBC with the National Prison Chaplain and Prison Service and relevant sections of the Department of Justice and Law Reform.

Naomh Brid, Blessington Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24

Tel: 01 4598032

Fax: 01 4598034

Email: elmham@eircom.net



Most Rev. Fiachra Ó Ceallaigh **OFM** **Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin**

Born 18 August 1933; ordained priest 2 July 1961; ordained Titular Bishop of Tre Taverne and Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin on 17 September 1994.

Member of the Department of Worship, Pastoral Renewal and Faith

Development, Chairman of the Irish Language Commission, Member of the IBC's Commission on Pastoral Liturgy and a Member of the IBC's Commission for Religious.

19 St Anthony's, Rialto, Dublin 8

Tel: 01 4537495

Fax: 01 4544933

Email: diarmisneach@eircom.net



Most Rev. Raymond Field
Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin

Born 24 May 1944; ordained priest 17 May 1970; ordained Titular Bishop of Ard Mor and Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin 21 September 1997.

Member of the Department of Social Issues and International Affairs, Chairman of the Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs, President, Pax Christi Ireland, Member of the

Catholic Healthcare Commission, Member of the National Executive of ACCORD and a Member of the Commission on Healthcare.

3 Castleknock Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

Tel/Fax: 01 8209191

Email: rf6275@eircom.net



Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese
ACCORD

ACCORD Central Office: Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare
Tel: 01 505 3112

Balbriggan: First Floor, Dunston House, Balrothery, Co Dublin
Tel: 01 4593467

Ballymun: Unit 23, Ballymun Shopping Centre, Ballymun, Dublin 11
Tel: 01 8621508

Blanchardstown: ACCORD House, Church Avenue, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15
Tel: 01 8201044

Bray: The Old Presbytery, Herbert Rd, Bray
Tel: 01 2867712

Clondalkin: 'St Kevin's', Monastery Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22
Tel: 01 4593467

Dun Laoghaire: Suite 2, No 93 Upper George's St, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin
Tel: 01 2801682

Harcourt Street: 39 Harcourt St, Dublin 2
Tel: 01 4784400

Marino: 71 Griffith Avenue, Marino, Co Dublin
Tel: 01 8338631

Phibsborough: 15 Dalymount, Phibsborough, Dublin 7
Tel: 01 8680028

Swords: Seatown Road, Swords, Co Dublin
Tel: 01 8404550

Tallaght: Level 3, The Square, Tallaght, Dublin 24
Tel: 01 4590337

Templeogue: 265 Templeogue Road, Templeogue, Dublin 6W
Tel: 01 4908739

CURA

CURA Office, 30 South Anne St, Dublin 2
Tel: 01 6710598

Trócaire

Trócaire, Maynooth, Co Kildare
Tel: 1850 408 408

Trócaire, 12 Cathedral Street, Dublin 1
Tel: 1850 408 408

Veritas

Veritas, 7-8 Lower Abbey St, Dublin 1
Tel: 01 878 8177

Veritas, Unit 309, Blanchardstown Centre, Dublin 15
Tel: 01 886 4030

Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly

Most Rev. Dermot Clifford **Archbishop of Cashel and Emly**

Born 25 January 1939; ordained priest 22 February 1964; ordained Coadjutor Archbishop 9 March 1986; installed Archbishop of Cashel and Emly 12 September 1988.

Chairman of the Department of Planning and Communications, Chairman of the Council for Research and Development, a Member of the St Patrick's College Maynooth Development Committee and a Trustee of Trócaire.

Archbishop's House, Thurles,
Co Tipperary

Tel: 0504 21512

Fax: 0504 22680

Email: office@cashel-emly.ie

Website: www.cashel-emly.ie

Diocesan Communications Officer:
Fr Nicholas Irwin

Email: nicholasjirwin@eircom.net

Parishes: 46

Catholic Population: 79,921

Catholic Churches: 87

Patron of the Archdiocese: St Ailbe

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Thurles: Cathedral St, Thurles, Co Tipperary

Tel: 0504 22279

Tipperary Town: Community Services Centre, St Michael's St, Tipperary

Tel: 062 33330

CURA

CURA Office, 20A Liberty Square, Thurles, Co Tipperary

Tel: 0504 26226



Archdiocese of Tuam

Most Rev. Michael Neary **Archbishop of Tuam**

Born 15 April 1946; ordained priest 20 June 1971; ordained bishop 13 September 1992; installed Archbishop of Tuam 5 March 1995.

Member of the Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Chairman of the Doctrine Commission, a Member of the Commission for Emigrants, a Trustee of Trócaire and a Member of the Liaison Committee of the Irish, English and Scottish Bishops.

Archbishop's House, Tuam,
Co Galway

Tel: 093 24166

Fax: 093 28070

Email: archdiocesetuam@eircom.net

Diocesan Communications Officer:
Fr Fintan Monaghan

Parishes: 56

Catholic Population: 120,324

Catholic Churches: 131

Patron of the Archdiocese: St Jarlath

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Castlebar: 34B Moneen, Castlebar,
Co Mayo

Tel: 094 9022214

Tuam: 5 St Jarlath's Place, Tuam,
Co Galway

Tel: 093 24900

CURA

CURA Office, The Family Centre,
Chapel St, Castlebar, Co Mayo

Tel: 094 9024866



Dioceses

ACHONRY

Most Rev. Brendan Kelly

Born 20 May 1946; ordained priest 20 June 1971; ordained Bishop of Achonry 27 January 2008.

Member of the Department of Catholic Education and Formation and a Member of the Commission on Education.

Oifig an Easpaig, Edmondstown, Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon

Tel: 094 9860021

Fax: 094 9860921

Email: bishop@achonrydiocese.org

Website: www.achonrydiocese.org

Diocesan Communications Officer:

Fr Vincent Sherlock

Email: vsherlock@achonrydiocese.org

Parishes: 23

Catholic Population: 35,224

Catholic Churches: 47

Patrons of the diocese: St Nathy and St Attracta

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Charlestown: Pastoral Centre,

Charlestown, Co Mayo

Tel: 094 9254944



ARDAGH AND CLONMACNOIS

Most Rev. Colm O'Reilly Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois

Born 11 January 1935; ordained priest 19 June 1960; ordained Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois 10 April 1983.

Member of the Department of Social Issues and International Affairs, Chairman of the Commission for the Missions, a Member of the Commission for the Family/Welfare of Children, Member of the Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs and a member of the Executive of Trócaire.

St Michael's, Longford.

Tel: 043 46432

Fax: 043 46833

Email: ardaghdi@iol.ie

Website: www.ardaghdiocese.org

Diocesan Communications Officer:

Fr Pat Murphy

Email: mostrimparish@imagine.ie

Parishes: 41

Catholic Population: 73,300

Catholic Churches: 80

Patron of the diocese: St Mel

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Athlone: 'Alverna', Northgate Street, Athlone, Co Westmeath

Tel: 0906 475491

Longford: 'Tealloch Iosa', St Mel's Road, Longford

Tel: 043 47222

Tullamore: St Brigid's Place, Tullamore, Co Offaly

Tel: 057 9341831

CURA

CURA Office, 'Shalom', St Mary's Place, Athlone

Tel: 090 6474272



CLOGHER

Most Rev. Joseph Duffy Bishop of Clogher

Born 3 February 1934; ordained priest 22 June 1958; ordained Bishop of Clogher 2 September 1979.

Member of the Department of Planning and Communications and Chairman of the Commission on Communications.

Oifig an Easpaig, Monaghan

Tel: 047 81019

Fax: 047 84773

Email:

diocesanoffice@clogherdiocese.ie

Website: www.clogherdiocese.ie

Diocesan Communications Officer:

Mgr Liam S. MacDaid

Parishes: 37

Catholic Population: 86,047

Catholic Churches: 86

Patron of the diocese: St Macartan

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Enniskillen: Ros Erne House, 8 Darling St, Enniskillen BT74 7EJ

Tel: +44 (0)28 663 25696

Monaghan: St Macartan's College, Monaghan

Tel: +353 (0)47 83359

CURA

CURA Office, 8 The Grange, Plantation Walk, Monaghan

Tel: +353 (0)47 83600

Veritas

Veritas, 16–18 Park Street, Monaghan,

Tel: +353 (0)47 84077



CLONFERT

Most Rev. John Kirby Bishop of Clonfert

Born October 1938; ordained priest 23 June 1963; ordained Bishop of Clonfert 9 April 1988.

Member of the Department of Social Issues and International Affairs, Chairman of Trócaire and a Member of the Commission for Justice and Social Affairs.

Coorheen, Loughrea, Co Galway

Tel: 091 841560

Fax: 091 841818

Email: clonfert@iol.ie

Website:

<http://homepage.eircom.net/~clonfert>

Diocesan Communications Officer:

Fr Cathal Geraghty

St Brendan's Cathedral, Barrack Street, Loughrea, Co Galway

Tel: 091 841212

Email: frcgeraghty@eircom.net

Parishes: 24

Catholic Population: 34,800

Catholic Churches: 47

Patron of the diocese: St Brendan

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Ballinasloe: Family Centre, Brackenragh, Ballinasloe, Co Galway

Tel: 090 9643573



CLOYNE

Most Rev. John Magee Bishop of Cloyne

Born 24 September 1936; ordained priest 17 March 1962; ordained Bishop of Cloyne 17 March 1987.

A Member of the Department of Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development, Chairman of the Commission on the Liturgy and a Member of the Commission for the Missions.

Cloyne Diocesan Centre, Cobh,
Co Cork

Tel: 021 4811430

Fax: 021 4811026

Email: cloyne@indigo.ie

Website: www.cloynediocese.ie

Diocesan Communications Officer:
Fr James Killeen

Email: jimkilleen@eircom.net

Parishes: 46

Catholic Population: 164,344

Catholic Churches: 107

Patron of the diocese: St Colman

Services and agencies of the Bishops'
Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Cloyne: Monument Hill, Fermoy,
Co Cork

Tel: 025 31899



CORK AND ROSS

Most Rev. John Buckley Bishop of Cork and Ross

Born 1 November 1939; ordained priest 1965; ordained Titular Bishop of Leptis Magna on 29 April 1984; installed as Bishop of Cork and Ross on 6 February 1998.

Member of the Department of Pastoral Care, Chairman of the Commission on Healthcare and member of the Strategic Task Group on Education.

Oifig an Easpaig,
Diocese of Cork and Ross Offices,
Redemption Road, Cork

Tel: 021 4301717

Fax: 021 4301557

Email: secretary@corkandross.org

Website: www.corkandross.org

Diocesan Communications Officer:
Fr Tom Deenihan

Email: secretary@corkandross.org

Parishes: 68

Catholic Population: 215,500

Catholic Churches: 124

Patron of the diocese of Cork:
St Finbarr

Patron of the diocese of Ross:
St Fachtna

Services and agencies of the Bishops'
Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Bantry: 5 Main St, Bantry, Co Cork
Tel: 027 50272

CURA

CURA Office, 34 Paul St, Cork
Tel: 021 4277544

Trócaire

Trócaire, 9 Cook Street, Cork
Tel: 1850 408 408



DERRY

Most Rev. Séamus Hegarty Bishop of Derry

Born 26 January 1940; ordained priest 19 June 1966; ordained Bishop of Raphoe 28 March 1982; appointed Bishop of Derry 1 October 1994; installed 6 November 1994.

Member of the Department of Pastoral Care, Chairman of the Council for Emigrants and ICPO, member of the Irish Language Commission and the Commission on Europe.

PO Box 227, Bishop's House, St

Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, BT48 9YG

Tel: +44 (0)28 71262302

Fax: +44 (0)28 71371960

Email: office@derrydiocese.org

Diocesan Communications Officer:
Fr Michael Canny

Email: steugenes@btconnect.com

Parishes: 51

Catholic Population: 240,977

Catholic Churches: 104

Patrons of the diocese: St Eugene and
St Columba



Most Rev. Francis Lagan Auxiliary Bishop of Derry

Born 31 October 1934; ordained priest 19 June 1960; ordained Bishop 20 March 1988.

Member of the Department of Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development, Member of the Commission for Pastoral Renewal and Chairman of the Sub-group on the Laity, Member of the CURA Executive.

9 Glen Road, Strabane, Co Tyrone
BT82 8BX

Tel: +44 (0)28 71884533

Fax: +44 (0)28 71884551

Email: fblagan@gotadsl.co.uk

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese ACCORD

Derry: Diocesan Pastoral Centre,
164 Bishop St, Derry BT48 6UJ
Tel: +44 (0)28 7136 2475

Omagh Centre: Mount St Columba
Pastoral Centre, 48 Brook St, Omagh,
Co Tyrone BT78 5HD
Tel: +44 (0)28 8224 2439

Maghera Centre: Pastoral Centre,
159 Glen Road, Maghera
Tel: +44 (0)28 79642983

Inishowen Centre: Pastoral Centre,
Church Road, Carndonagh, Co
Donegal
Tel: +353 (0)74 9374103



DOWN AND CONNOR

Most Rev. Noel Treanor Bishop of Down and Connor

Born 25 December 1950; ordained priest 13 June 1976; ordained Bishop of Down and Connor 29 June 2008.

Lisbreen, 73 Somerton Road, Belfast,
Co Antrim BT15 4DE

Tel: +44 (0)28 90776185

Fax: +44 (0)28 90779377

Email: nt@downandconnor.org

Website: www.downandconnor.org

Diocesan Communications Officer:
Fr John Mc Manus

Email: dcpres@downandconnor.org

Parishes: 88

Catholic Population: 317,622

Catholic Churches: 151

Patrons of the diocese: St Malachy and
St MacNissi



**Most Rev. Anthony Farquhar
Auxiliary Bishop of Down and
Connor**

Born 6 September 1940; ordained priest 13 March 1965; ordained Bishop 15 May 1983.

Member of the Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Chairman of the Commission on Ecumenism, Co-Chairman of World Alliance of

Reformed Churches/Roman Catholic Dialogue, Member of International Anglican/Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Missions and a Member of Irish Inter-Church Committee.

73 Somerton Road, Belfast BT15 4DE
Tel: +44 (0)28 90776185
Fax: +44 (0)28 90779377
Email: ajf@downandconnor.org



**Most Rev. Donal Mc Keown
Auxiliary Bishop of Down and
Connor**

Born 12 April 1950; ordained priest 3 July 1977; ordained Bishop 29 April 2001.

Member of the Department of Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development, Chairman of the Commission on Vocations and Pastoral Outreach to Youth and Third level Students and a Member of the Commission on Education.

73 Somerton Road, Belfast BT15 4DE
Tel: +44 (0)28 90776185
Fax: +44 (0)28 90779377
Email: dmck@downandconnor.org

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

NI Regional Office: 'Cana House', 56 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6AF
Tel: +44 (0)28 9023 3002

Belfast: Curran House, Twin Spires, Northumberland St, Belfast BT13 2JF
Tel +44 (0)28 9033 9944

Ballymena: 'Kenbaan', 13 Broughshane Road, Ballymena, Co Antrim BT43 7DX
Tel: +44 (0)28 25644072



DROMORE

**Most Rev. John Mc Areavey
Bishop of Dromore**

Born 2 February 1949; ordained priest 10 June 1973; ordained Bishop of Dromore 19 September 1999.

Member of the Child Protection Committee, Member of the Commission on Ecumenism and a Member of the Commission on Pastoral Liturgy. Also the Bishops' representative on the International

Commission for English in the Liturgy.

Bishop's House, 44 Armagh Road, Newry, Co Down BT35 6PN

Tel: 028 30262444
Fax: 028 30260496

Email: bishopofdromore@btinternet.com
Website: www.dromorediocese.org
Parishes: 23

Catholic Population: 63,200
Catholic Churches: 48

Patrons of the diocese: St Patrick and St Colman

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Downpatrick: 32 English Street, Downpatrick BT30 6AB
Tel: +353 (0)28 4461 3435

Newry: Cathedral Presbytery, Newry
Tel: +353 (0)28 3026 2586



ELPHIN

Most Rev. Christopher Jones Bishop of Elphin

Born 3 March 1936; ordained priest 3 June 1962; ordained Bishop of Elphin 15 August 1994.

Chairman of the Department of Pastoral Care, Chairman of the Commission for Family/Welfare of Children and a Member of the Commission for Justice and Social Affairs.

St Mary's, Sligo

Tel: 071 9162670

Fax: 071 9162414

Email: elphindo@eircom.net

Website: www.elphindiocese.ie

Diocesan Communications Officer:

Mr Justice Harkin

Email pdo@elphindiocese.ie

Parishes: 38

Catholic Population: 68,000

Catholic Churches: 90

Patrons of the diocese: St Asicus and Immaculate Conception

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Roscommon: St Coman's Club, Abbey Street

Tel: 0906 626619

Sligo: 1st Floor, Social Services Centre, Charles St, Sligo

Tel: 071 9145641

Veritas

Veritas, Adelaide Street, Sligo

Tel: 071 916 1800



FERNS

Most Rev. Denis Brennan Bishop of Ferns

Born 20 June 1945; ordained priest 31 May 1970; appointed Bishop of Ferns 1 March 2006; consecrated 23 April 2006.

Member of the Department of Pastoral Care and the Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Member of Commission on Healthcare and a Member of the Commission for Clergy/Seminaries/Permanent Diaconate.

Bishop's House, Summerhill, Wexford

Tel: 053 22177

Fax 053 23436

Email: adm@ferns.ie

Website: www.ferns.ie

Diocesan Communications Officer:

Fr John Carroll

Email: jc@ferns.ie

Parishes: 49

Catholic Population: 99,726

Catholic Churches: 101

Patron of the diocese: St Aidan

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Wexford: St Brigid's Centre, 12 Roches Road, Wexford

Tel: 053 23086

CURA

CURA Office, St Brigid's Centre, Roches Road, Wexford

Tel: 053 9122255



GALWAY, KILMACDUAGH AND KILFENORA

Most Rev. Martin Drennan Bishop of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Apostolic Administrator of Kilfenora

Born 2 January 1944; ordained priest 16 June 1968; ordained Titular Bishop of Acque Regie and Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin on 21 September 1997; appointed Bishop of Galway 23 May 2005; installed 3 July 2005.

Member of the Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Chairman of the Commission on Catechetics and a Member of the Commission on Religious.

Oifig an Easpaig, Mount Saint Mary's, Taylor's Hill, Galway

Tel: 091 563566

Fax: 091 528536

Email galwaydiocese@eircom.net

Website: www.galwaydiocese.com

Diocesan Communications Officer:
Fr Sean McHugh

Email: frseanmch@eircom.net

Parishes: 38

Catholic Population: 105,406

Catholic Churches: 72

Patrons of the diocese:

Galway: Our Lady Assumed into Heaven and St Nicholas

Kilmacduagh: St Colman

Kilfenora: St Fachanan

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Ballinasloe: Family Centre, Brackernagh, Ballinasloe, Co Galway
Tel: 090 9643573

Galway: Pastoral Centre, Áras de Brún, Newtownsmith, Galway
Tel: 091 562331

CURA

CURA Office, Áras de Brún, Newtownsmith, Galway
Tel: 091 562558



KERRY

Most Rev. William Murphy Bishop of Kerry

Born 6 June 1936; ordained priest 18 June 1961; ordained Bishop 10 September 1995.

Member of the Department of Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development, Member of the Commission for Pastoral Renewal, Chairman of Sub-group on Faith Development and Family Life, and a Member of the Commission on Catechetics.

Bishop's House, Killarney, Co Kerry

Tel: 064 31168

Fax: 064 31364

Email: bishopshouse@eircom.net

Website: www.dioceseofkerry.ie

Diocesan Communications Officer:
Ms Mary Fagan

Email: info@kerrydco.com

Parishes: 54

Catholic Population: 128,850

Catholic Churches: 105

Patron of the diocese: St Brendan

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Killarney: Pastoral Centre, Rock Road, Killarney, Co Kerry
Tel: 064 32644

Tralee: St John's Parish Centre, Castle Street, Tralee, Co Kerry
Tel: 066 7120194

CURA

CURA Office, St John's Centre, Castle Street, Tralee, Co Kerry
Tel: 066 7127355



KILDARE AND LEIGHLIN

Most Rev. James Moriarty Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin

Born 1936; ordained priest 1961; ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin 22 September 1991; appointed Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin 4 June 2002; installed 31 August 2002.

Member of the Department of Worship, Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development, Chairman of the Commission for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development.

Bishop's House, Carlow

Tel: 059 9176725

Fax: 059 9176850

Email: bishop@kandle.ie

Website: www.kandle.ie

Diocesan Communications Officer:

Fr Mícheál Murphy

Email: communications@kandle.ie

Parishes: 56

Catholic Population: 210,000

Catholic Churches: 117

Patrons of the diocese: St Brigid, St Conleth and St Lazerian

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Carlow: The Presbytery, Dublin Road, Carlow

Tel: 059 9131227

Portlaoise: ACCORD Parish Office, Portlaoise, Co Laois

Tel: 045 431394

Newbridge: St Conleth's, Newbridge, Co Kildare

Tel: 045 431741



KILLALA

Most Rev. John Fleming Bishop of Killala

Born 16 February 1948; ordained priest 18 June 1972; appointed Bishop of Killala on 19 February 2002; ordained Bishop of Killala 7 April 2002.

Member of the Department of Pastoral Care, President of CURA, Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the delegate for the Day for Life Committee of Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales.

Bishop's House, Ballina, Co Mayo

Tel: 096 21518

Fax: 096 70344

Email: deocilala@eircom.net

Diocesan Communications Officer:
vacant

Parishes: 22

Catholic Population: 37,628

Catholic Churches: 48

Patron of the diocese: St Muredach

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

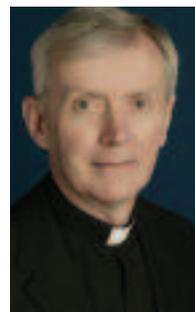
Ballina: Pastoral Centre, Cathedral Grounds, Ballina, Co Mayo

Tel: 096 21478

CURA

CURA Office, Social Services Centre, Charles Street, Sligo

Tel: 071 9143659



KILLALOE

Most Rev. William Walsh Bishop of Killaloe

Born 16 January 1935; ordained priest 21 February 1959; ordained Bishop 2 October 1994.

Member of the Department of Pastoral Care, President of ACCORD and a Member of the Bishops' Education Commission.

Westbourne, Ennis, Co Clare

Tel: 065 6828638

Fax: 065 6842538

Email: cildalua@iol.ie

Website: www.killaloediocese.ie

Diocesan Communications Officer:

Fr Gerry Kenny

Email: gerkenny.ennis@eircom.net

Parishes: 58

Catholic Population: 113,067

Catholic Churches: 133

Patron of the diocese: St Flannan

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Nenagh: ACCORD Centre, Loreto House, Kenyon St, Nenagh, Co Tipperary

Tel: 067 31272

Ennis: ACCORD Centre, c/o Clarecare, Harmony Row, Ennis, Co Clare

Tel: 1850 585000

Veritas

Veritas, 83 O'Connell Street, Ennis, Co Clare

Tel: 065 6828696



KILMORE

Most Rev. Leo O'Reilly Bishop of Kilmore

Born 10 April 1944; ordained priest 15 June 1969; ordained Bishop 2 February 1997; installed as Bishop of Kilmore 15 November 1998.

Member of the Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Chairman of the Education Commission and Co-chair of the Strategic Task Group on Education.

Bishop's House, Cullies, Co Cavan

Tel: 049 4331496

Fax: 049 4361796

Email: bishop@kilmorediocese.ie

Website: www.kilmorediocese.ie

Diocesan Communications Officer:

Fr Paul Casey

Email:

diocesansecretary@kilmorediocese.ie

Parishes: 36

Catholic Population: 54,500

Catholic Churches: 95

Patron of the diocese: St Felim

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Cavan: Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Cullies, Cavan

Tel: 049 4375004



LIMERICK

Most Rev. Donal Murray Bishop of Limerick

Born 29 May 1940; ordained priest 22 May 1966; appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin 4 March 1982; ordained Bishop 18 April 1982; appointed Bishop of Limerick 10 February 1996.

Chairman of the Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Chairman of the Commission on Bioethics, Member of the Doctrine Commission, a Member of the Commission on Europe, a Member of the Commission for Faith and Culture, Member of the Child Protection Liaison Committee, the Strategic Task Group on Education and a Trustee of Trócaire.

Diocesan Office, Social Service Centre, Henry Street, Limerick

Tel: 061 315856

Fax: 061 310186

Email: office@ldo.ie

Website: www.limerickdiocese.org

Diocesan Communications Officer:

Vacant pending appointment

Contact person: Fr Paul Finnerty

Email: paul@ldo.ie

Parishes: 60

Catholic Population: 160,000

Catholic Churches: 94

Patron of the diocese: St Munchin and St Ita

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Limerick City: St Munchin's College, Corbally, Limerick

Tel: 061 343000

West Limerick Centre: Parish Centre, Newcastle West, Co Limerick

Tel: 069 61000

CURA

CURA Office, Social Services Centre, Henry Street Limerick

Tel: 061 318207



MEATH

Most Rev. Michael Smith Bishop of Meath

Born 6 June 1940; ordained priest 1963; ordained bishop 29 January 1984; Coadjutor Bishop of Meath 10 October 1988; succeeded 16 May 1990.

Member of the Department of Planning and Communications, member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and St Patrick's College Maynooth Development Committee.

Bishop's House, Dublin Road, Mullingar, Co Westmeath

Tel: 044 9348841/42038

Fax: 044 9343020

Email: bishop@dioceseofmeath.ie

Website: www.dioceseofmeath.ie

Diocesan Communications Officer:

Fr Paul Crosbie

Email: paul@dioceseofmeath.ie

Parishes: 69

Catholic Population: 223,200

Catholic Churches: 149

Patron of the diocese: St Finian

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Mullingar: Social Services Centre, Bishopsgate St, Mullingar

Co Westmeath

Tel: 044 9348707

Navan: St Anne's Community Resource Centre, Railway Street, Navan, Co Meath

Tel: 046 9023146

Tullamore: Tullamore Parish Centre, Benburb Street, Co Offaly



OSSORY

Most Rev. Séamus Freeman SCA Bishop of Ossory

Born 23 February 1944; ordained priest 12 June 1971; ordained Bishop of Ossory 25 November 2007.

Member of the Department of Worship, Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development.

Sion House, Kilkenny

Tel: 056 7762448

Fax: 056 7763753

Email: bishop@ossory.ie

Website: www.ossory.ie

Diocesan Communications Officer:

Fr Dan Carroll

Email: dancarroll@ossory.ie

Parishes: 42

Catholic Population: 78,273

Catholic Churches: 89

Patron of the diocese: St Kieran

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Kilkenny: St Mary's Centre,
James Street, Kilkenny

Tel: 056 7722674

CURA

CURA Office, St Mary's Centre,
James St, Kilkenny

Tel: 056 7722739



RAPHOE

Most Rev. Philip Boyce OCD Bishop of Raphoe

Born 25 January 1940; ordained priest 17 April 1966; ordained Bishop 1 October 1995.

Member of the Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Chairman of the Commission for Religious, Member of the Doctrine Commission and a Member of the Commission for Clergy/Seminaries and Permanent Diaconate.

Ard Adhamhnáin, Letterkenny,
Co Donegal

Tel: 074 9121208

Fax: 074 9124872

Email: raphoediocese@eircom.net

Website: www.raphoediocese.com

Diocesan Communications Officer:

Fr Michael Mc Keever

Email: raphoediocese@eircom.net

Parishes: 33

Catholic Population: 81,100

Catholic Churches: 71

Patron of the diocese: St Eunan

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Donegal Town: ACCORD Marriage
Care, The Diamond, Donegal

Tel: 074 9723944

Letterkenny: Diocesan Pastoral Centre,
Monastery Ave, Letterkenny

Co Donegal

Tel: 074 9122218

CURA

CURA Office,
Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Letterkenny

Tel: 074 9123037

Veritas

Veritas, 13 Lower Main Street,
Letterkenny, Co Donegal

Tel: 074 9124814



WATERFORD AND LISMORE

Most Rev. William Lee Bishop of Waterford and Lismore

Born 2 December 1941; ordained priest 19 June 1966; ordained bishop 25 July 1993.

Episcopal Secretary of the Irish Bishops' Conference and a Member of the Department of Planning and Communications.

Bishop's House, John's Hill, Waterford

Tel: 051 874463

Fax: 051 852703

Email waterfordlismore@eircom.net

Website: www.waterfordlismore.com

Diocesan Communications Officer:

Fr Liam Power

Email: carchurch1@eircom.net

Parishes: 45

Catholic Population: 136,029

Catholic Churches: 85

Patrons of the diocese: St Otteran, St Carthage and St Declan

Services and agencies of the Bishops' Conference based in the diocese

ACCORD

Clonmel: St Mary's Pastoral Centre, Irishtown, Clonmel, Co Tipperary

Tel: 052 24144

Waterford: St John's Pastoral Centre, John's Hill, Waterford

Tel: 051 878333

CURA

CURA Office,

St John's Pastoral Centre, John's Hill, Waterford

Tel: 051 876452



PART IV

STATISTICS AND APPENDIX

Statistics

The Catholic Church in Ireland is part of the Universal Church and is organised as a single ecclesiastical unit across the island.

In 2007, there were estimated to be 5,857,280 people living on the island, of whom 4,392,571 were baptised Catholics. This represents 75% of the population of the island, north and south. This was composed of 3.64 million Catholics in the Republic (constituting 87% of the total population) and about 680,000 Catholics in the north (constituting 40% of that population). The remaining 25% of the island's population was composed of a variety of other Christian faiths, as well as smaller proportions of non-Christian faiths. In this summary, we examine a profile of the population of Ireland and an overview of religious personnel of the Church in Ireland.

As can be seen from Table 1, the population of the island was largely composed of self-declared Catholics. In the six years since the last Northern Ireland Census in 2001, the overall population figure has undoubtedly increased, although it remains to be seen what proportion of this figure will be Catholic in the 2011 Census.

Ireland has a number of other Christian and non-Christian faiths, most notably a significant proportion of those from the Church of Ireland and Presbyterian traditions. If we exclude those people who have stated 'no religion' or where there is 'no religion stated', the proportions are slightly different, as indicated in the graph below.

Ireland's population is now considerably more diverse than it was twenty years ago and this is seen amongst the nationalities now resident here. Graph 1 shows the Catholic population of the Republic broken down by nationality for 2006 (no similar data for Northern Ireland is available). In all, about 51% (or 213,412 people) of those whose nationality is not Irish are Catholic. About 12% of non-Irish nationals in Ireland are from other Christian faiths.

As can be seen, 27% of non-Irish Catholics are from the UK, with a further 39% from the remaining twenty-three countries of the EU. Smaller percentages of Catholic people with nationalities other than these are nationals of the countries of Asia, the Americas and Africa.

We can also see a distinct difference between the Irish national and non-Irish national populations of the Republic in terms of their religious composition. 74% of people in Church of Ireland

tradition are Irish nationals, and the remaining 26% are non-Irish nationals. This compares with 31% of people in the Muslim tradition being Irish nationals, with 69% being non-Irish nationals. These data are summarised in Graph 2.

There is a greater proportion of non-Irish national Muslims than Church of Ireland non-Irish nationals.

According to annual diocesan returns for 2007, there are 4,392,571 Catholics in the twenty-six dioceses of Ireland. The uneven distribution of people on the island of Ireland is mirrored in these data with 1,159,000 (or 26.4% of the total) Catholics living in the Archdiocese of Dublin. The next six most populous dioceses make up 33% of the total (or 1,469,219 Catholics) – Down & Connor, Meath, Derry, Cork & Ross, Armagh and Kildare & Leighlin. The next eight most populous make up almost 24% of the total and the remaining eleven dioceses make up 16.6% of the total population of Ireland. These data are represented in the alphabetical table below.

Diocese	Baptised Catholic Population 2007
Dublin	1,159,000
Down and Connor	326,499
Meath	241,000
Derry	237,747
Cork and Ross	230,000
Armagh	225,473
Kildare and Leighlin	208,500
Limerick	169,000
Cloyne	150,923
Waterford and Lismore	141,209
Kerry	131,000
Tuam	121,200
Killaloe	114,525
Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora	105,707
Ferns	101,244
Clogher	86,483
Dromore	86,000
Ossory	84,133
Raphoe	81,250
Cashel and Emly	80,219
Ardagh and Clonmacnoise	76,920
Elphin	69,500
Kilmore	57,024
Killala	38,715
Clonfert	34,800
Achonry	34,500

The Council for Research & Development also compiles an annual report of the ordained and professed personnel of the Church in Ireland. This report outlines the trends in the numbers of Diocesan priests, sisters, brothers and those in clerical religious orders. Reflecting the changing profile of the Church in Ireland, these reports have charted a fall in the number of those ordained and professed. From Graphs 4 and 5, we see a selection of data from the period 2001 to 2006.

Over this time, we note the decrease in the recorded numbers of religious sisters in particular. In 2001 there were 10,059 sisters in Ireland, and by 2006 this had declined to 8,873 women (see Table 2). This is an 11.8% decrease in their numbers over the six years. Table 2 shows the trends in percentage composition and change in religious and ordained personnel from 2001 to 2006.

The numbers of vocations to the professed and ordained life is also recorded on an annual basis. In the table overleaf we can note the trends in the

numbers choosing the religious life for the period 2001 to 2006. Graph 5 shows the numbers of those accepted to study for the religious life in the period under review.

The data for diocesan priesthood has seen considerable variance over time and this period is no exception. In 2001, thirty-two men were accepted by the dioceses to study for the diocesan priesthood. This dipped to nineteen in 2003 but three years later had again risen to thirty men. The data for the other categories of people shows a steady downward trend with just four men having been accepted by Brothers' Orders over this time.

The data for 2007 will be available in next year's annual report.

Further data and information on religious personnel, trends on religious practice and Census data is available from the Council for Research & Development: 01 5053024 or ecoin.omahony@iecon.ie.

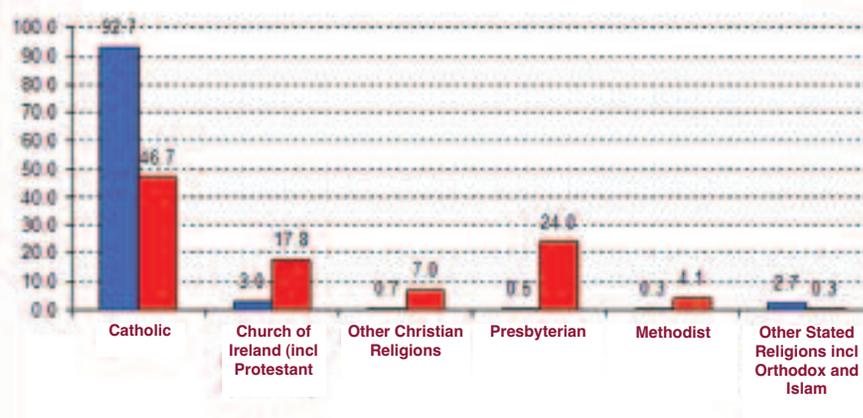
TABLE 1

	RoI - 2006	Percentage of total	NI - 2001	Percentage of total
Total Residents	4,172,013	100.0	1,685,267	100.0
Catholic	3,644,965	87.4	678,462	40.3
Church of Ireland	118,948	2.9	257,788	15.3
Other Christian Religions	28,028	0.7	102,221	6.1
Presbyterian	21,496	0.5	348,742	20.7
Muslim (Islamic)	31,779	0.8	--	--
Orthodox	19,994	0.5	--	--
Methodist	10,768	0.3	59,173	3.5
Other Stated Religions	54,033	1.3	5,028	0.3
No Religion or None Stated	242,002	5.8	233,853	13.9

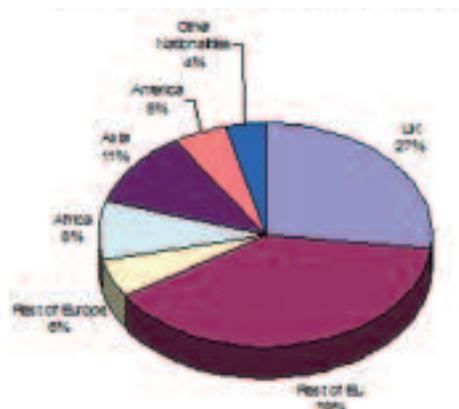
TABLE 2: Percentage composition of religious and ordained personnel 2001–2006

	Sisters	Brothers	Clerical Religious Orders Brothers	Priests	Diocesan Priests	Total
2001	56.2	4.5	2.0	18.5	18.8	100.0
2002	56.7	4.3	1.5	18.5	18.9	100.0
2003	57.4	4.6	1.5	17.9	18.7	100.0
2004	57.0	4.5	1.4	18.2	18.9	100.0
2005	57.2	4.3	2.1	16.6	19.8	100.0
2006	55.7	4.4	1.4	19.2	19.3	100.0
Percentage change 2001–2006	-11.8	-13.0	-37.7	-7.8	-8.7	

GRAPH 1 Ireland's population classified by religion excluding those with 'no religion' or 'none stated'

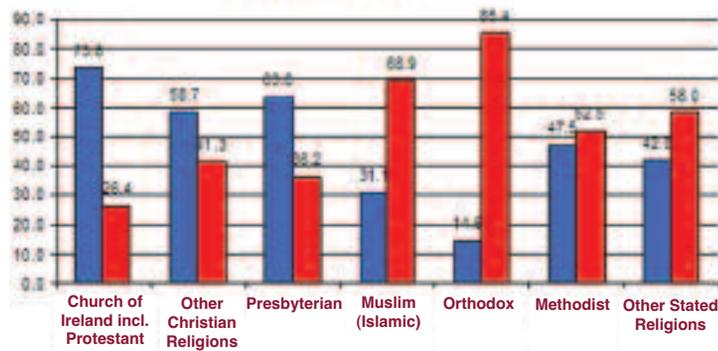


GRAPH 2 Nationalities of non-Irish Catholics resident in ROI



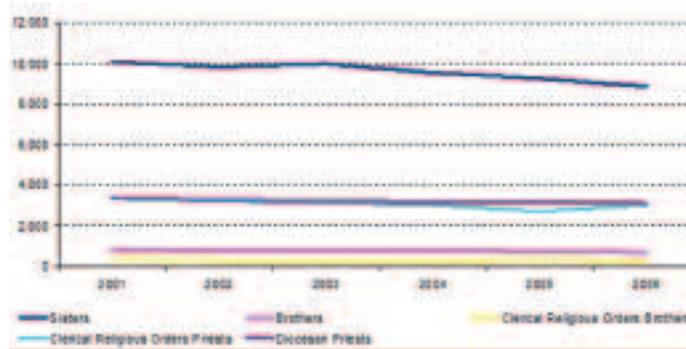
GRAPH 3

Non-Catholic religious communities classified by Irish or non-Irish nationality, RoI 2006.



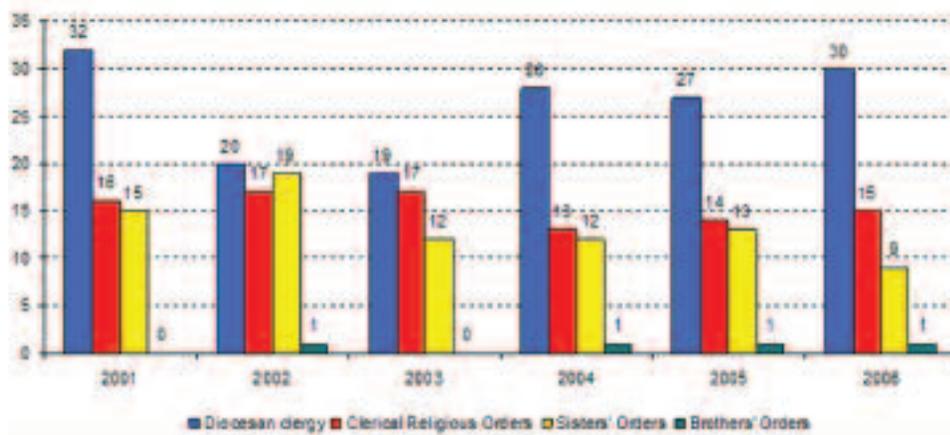
GRAPH 4

Numbers of ordained and professed personnel 2001–2006



GRAPH 5

Numbers accepted to study for the religious life 2001–2006



Appendix

Liturgical Calendar for Ireland 2009

Holydays of Obligation

All Sundays

Christmas – Thursday, 25 December 2008

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Saturday, 15 August 2009

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Tuesday, 8 December 2009

Christmas – Friday, 25 December 2009

The thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time is replaced by the Solemnity of All Saints (1 November)

The Holy Family, Baptism of the Lord, Ascension, Trinity, Body and Blood of Christ, Christ the King are celebrated on Sundays.

Days of Prayer for 2009

World Day of Peace	Thursday, 1 January 2009
World Day for Migrants and Refugees	Sunday, 18 January 2009
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	begins Sunday, 18 January 2009
Catholic Education Week	begins Monday, 26 January 2009
World Day of Consecrated Life	Monday, 2 February 2009
World Day for the Sick	Wednesday, 11 February 2009
Day of Prayer for Temperance	Sunday, 22 February 2009
Day of Prayer for Vocations	Sunday, 3 May 2009
World Communications Day	Sunday, 24 May 2009
Day for Life	Sunday, 4 October 2009
Day of Prayer for Emigrants	Sunday, 11 October 2009
Mission Sunday	Sunday, 18 October 2009
Restorative Justice Week	begins Sunday, 15 November 2009

Notes for 2009

Lectionary

Sunday: Cycle B

Weekday: Cycle I

Weeks in Ordinary Time

Before Lent: 7 weeks – ending 24 February

After Eastertime beginning 1 June – 9th Week

Notes

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Cartographer Michael D. Gleeson.

Published by



7/8 Lower Abbey Street
Dublin 1

Email publications@veritas.ie
www.veritas.ie

Printed in Ireland by Walsh Colour Print, Kerry.

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