



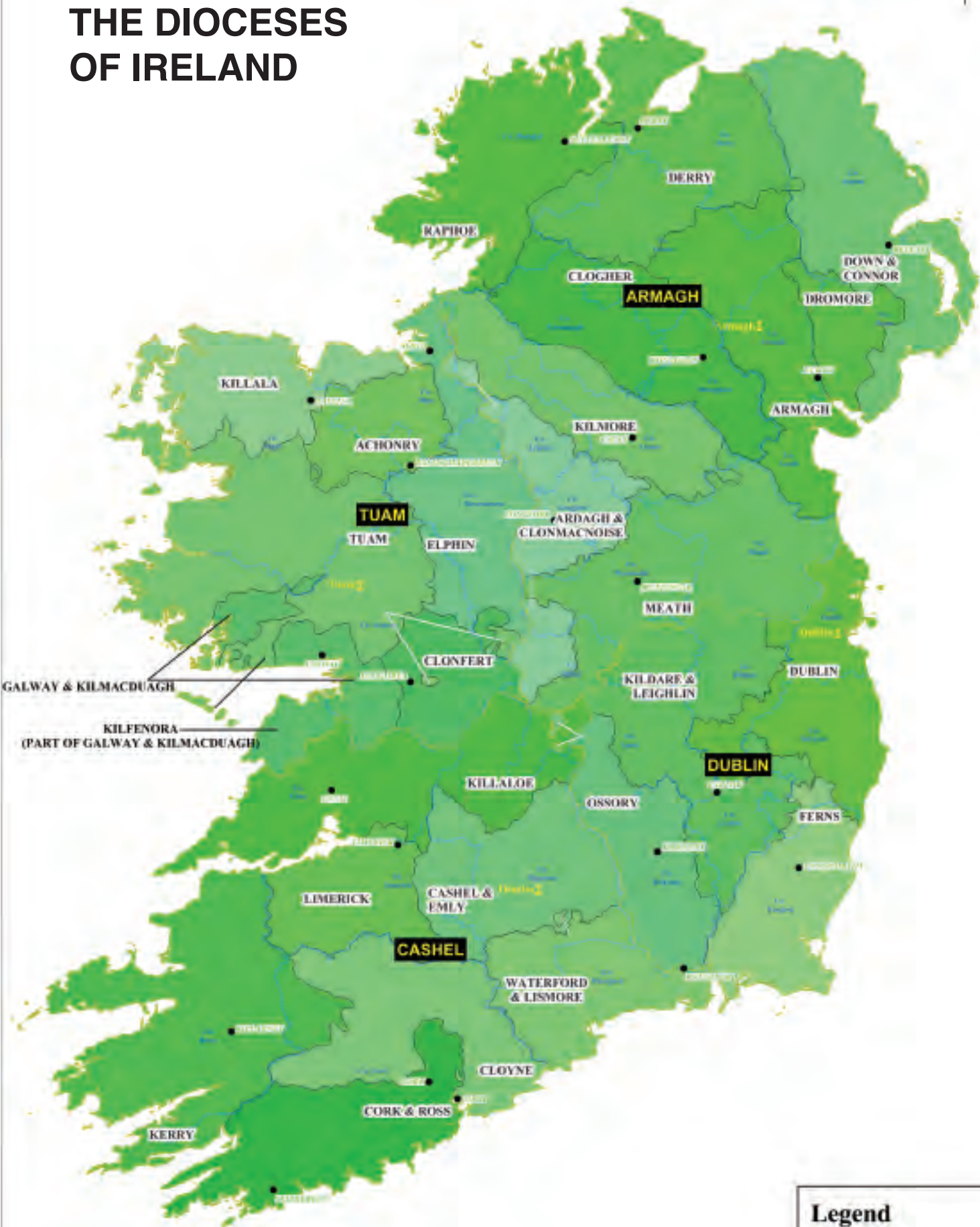
IRISH CATHOLIC
BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

COMHDHÁIL EASPAG CAITLICEACH ÉIREANN




Annual Report 2008 & Directory



THE DIOCESES OF IRELAND



Legend

-  Provincial Boundary
-  Diocesan Boundary
-  County Boundary

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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 and Faith Development.

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, Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Irish Bishops' Conference, 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 2008

January

The theme of Pope Benedict XVI's message for the World Day of Prayer for Peace on 1 January was The Human Family, A Community of Peace.

Cardinal Seán Brady, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, led a delegation to Israel as part of an international Catholic group called 'The Coordination of Episcopal Conferences in Support of the Church of the Holy Land and the Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land'. The group travelled between 11 and 15 January and met with the Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land and Archbishop Antonio Franco, the Apostolic Delegate; Mr Tom Philips CMG, British Ambassador to Israel; Mr Richard Makepeace, British Consul General in Jerusalem; and staff and students at Bethlehem University.

Speaking in advance of taking possession of his titular Church of Saints Cyricus and Julitta in Rome on 16 January, Cardinal Brady said: 'The proximity of this church to the Irish College brings to mind the beautiful gift of vocation. Happily, in 2008, the Church in Ireland will focus, in a special way, on the vocation of all Christians. For the 12 months between Vocations Sunday on 13 April next to Vocations Sunday on 3 May 2009, various projects and initiatives will be organised to highlight the special dignity of each of the specific vocations: married and family life; ordained priesthood; religious life; and the single life.'

On 27 January the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-elect Brendan Kelly as Bishop of Achonry took place in the Cathedral of the Annunciation and St Nathy in Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon. In his address, Bishop Kelly said: 'I look forward to working with you and supporting Christian Education and is *tráthúil* that you are here to celebrate my ordination with me today, as this is Education in Faith Sunday.'

February

On 1 February Bishop Éamonn Walsh, Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin and Vice Chair of the Irish Bishops' Conference Drugs and Alcohol Initiative, hosted a discussion with young people on alcohol issues in Veritas Head Office in Dublin. Facilitated by broadcaster Joe Duffy, this event followed the 2007 launch of the Bishops' pastoral letter, *Alcohol: The Challenge of Moderation*, and the production of a DVD for senior cycle secondary pupils, *Find the Balance: Dare to Dream*. Speaking at the event, Bishop Walsh said: 'As we approach the beginning of Lent ... I believe that at a macro level something should also be done to radically shift alcohol away

from the mainstream cultural position that it currently occupies in Irish society. A good starting point would be to break, once and for all, the link between sport and advertising alcohol.'

On 4 February a State reception, hosted by the then Taoiseach Mr Bertie Ahern TD, was held in Dublin Castle to honour Cardinal Seán Brady's elevation to the College of Cardinals. Cardinal Brady said: 'Taoiseach, I am very grateful to you for this reception at which we can manifest our unity as a people and our gladness at the honour Pope Benedict bestowed on our country in the unprecedented appointment of a third Irish Cardinal.'

The Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs (ICJSA), a commission of the Bishops' Conference, hosted a major conference in Dublin on 18 February themed 'Who is my neighbour?', based on Pope Benedict XVI's first encyclical letter, *Deus Caritas Est (God is Love)*. Cardinal Brady opened the conference, which was chaired by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin and Vice President of the Bishops' Conference.

On 22 February Pope Benedict XVI appointed Archbishop Giuseppe Leanza, Titular Archbishop of Lilybaeum, as Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland. His Excellency Archbishop Leanza had served as Apostolic Nuncio in Bulgaria since 22 February 2003. Also on this date Pope Benedict appointed Monsignor Noel Treanor to succeed Bishop Patrick Walsh as Bishop of the Diocese of Down and Connor. Monsignor Treanor, from the Diocese of Clogher, was based in Brussels working as Secretary General of COMECE.

March

On 11 March the Bishops' Conference published a statement on keeping Sunday morning as a sacred time. In their statement, the Bishops said: 'Ever since the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Sunday has held a special place in the weekly lives of His followers. Irish Christians named the day itself after Him: *An Domhnach*, the Lord's Day. It is a day different in character to the other six days of the week, a day when we set aside all non-essential work so as to be free to devote time to family, to religious practices, visiting the sick and the elderly and to leisure and recreational pastimes. Until recent times we maintained a good balance between these elements of Sunday life. One of the essential ways by which this balance was maintained was the tradition whereby sporting and leisure activities for young people on Sundays did not begin until early afternoon. This enabled families to attend Mass and other religious services

together and to regularly share the Sunday meal as a family unit. Now, however, there seems to be an ever-increasing frequency in the scheduling of under-age training sessions and competitive games for Sunday mornings. We wish to draw the attention of all parents and guardians to the conflict of interests this scheduling can cause for children and teenagers. We wish also to bring this conflict of interests to the attention of officials and coaches, whom we recognise as persons of generosity and goodwill . . . We appeal, therefore, to all people of goodwill, to respect the spiritual needs of children and adolescents, particularly as these relate to family life and religious practice on Sundays, and to refrain from organising events that clash with Sunday morning religious services.'

A press conference on 12 March at the conclusion of the Bishops' Spring General Meeting addressed the topics: preparation for Easter; keeping Sunday morning as a sacred time; Year of Vocation; the Solemnity of St Patrick; migrants living in our communities; Lenten pastoral on alcohol; the Treaty of Lisbon; Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill 2008; Bishops' Commission for Migrants; Trócaire's Lenten Campaign for 2008 – Climate Change; and Prison Chaplain's Report 2006–2007.

From 29–30 March Bishop Donal Murray, Bishop of Limerick, visited the troops of the 37th Infantry Group in Kosovo. The lead unit of this Irish group is from Sarsfield Barracks in Limerick – including Colonel Matt Murray who commands the group and Fr Seamus Madigan, the Chaplain. The Bishop was accompanied by Monsignor Eoin Thynne, Head Chaplain to the Forces.

April

On 8 April the Bishops' Council for Research and Development published a survey of the attitudes of parents of children attending Catholic primary schools in Ireland entitled *Factors Determining School Choice*. Launching the report, Bishop Leo O'Reilly, Bishop of Kilmore and Chair of the Bishops' Commission for Education, said: 'This is a timely report which explores a crucial issue for the future of education provision, namely factors determining school choice. Some of the key findings of this survey were: 98.3% of respondents stated that they were aware when applying to enrol their child that the school choice was a Catholic school; 95.1% of respondents stated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their decision to send their child to the school they currently attend; and 94% answered that education is a shared responsibility between parents and the school.'

On 11 April Bishop John Kirby, Bishop of Clonfert and Chairman of Trócaire, expressed his deepest concern over the situation in Zimbabwe: 'The unnecessarily slow release of election results over

the past week has fuelled anxiety and tension among the already long-suffering people of Zimbabwe. The government clampdown of the last few days and general atmosphere of insecurity has increased fears that any presidential election run-off will be marred by the violence, retribution and repression that characterised the well-documented election periods of 2000, 2002 and 2005.'

Sunday, 13 April saw the official launch of the Year of Vocation by Archbishop Martin in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral in Dublin. In his homily, Archbishop Martin said: 'Vocations do not spring out of a void. They come from the depth of the faith of Christian communities. I ask all of you to renew your prayer for vocations. At the same time, I ask you to renew your own commitment to live out the message of Jesus and his love to the full. It is through encountering your witness that young people will be moved to ask about Jesus, to discern in their lives what his message means, and to open their hearts to that freedom and life which comes from him alone.'

On 27 April over 1,200 members of Parish Pastoral Councils attended a diocesan gathering and celebration of the Eucharist in the Church of Saint Laurence O'Toole, Kilmacud, Dublin. In his address to the gathering, which was the first major assembly of Parish Pastoral Council members in the Archdiocese of Dublin, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin said: 'As a Church community we should be attentive to anyone who feels that they have been wounded or hurt or abandoned by the Church in any way. We only learn to heal when we first repent and change from our insensitivities and arrogance. In a society which is changing we have to address new realities. Our parish boundaries do not always reflect the current demographic reality of the diocese. There is a new sense of mobility that already exists in the lives of people.' The event, one of the largest of its kind in the diocese in recent years, included a report on a major assessment of the work of the pastoral councils, which began in late 2007.

The leaders of Ireland's four main Churches visited the Holy Land from 29 April until 2 May 2008 to express a desire for peace in the area and to offer Christian hope in a situation where continuing hostilities are causing increased hardship for ordinary people. Cardinal Seán Brady, Archbishop Alan Harper, Church of Ireland Primate, along with Rev. Roy Cooper, President of the Methodist Church, and Dr John Finlay, Presbyterian Moderator, were responding to the urgent need for solidarity with local Christians and brought a message of peace from the Churches in Ireland. The leaders' visit focussed mainly on Bethlehem and Jerusalem where they met with local Church leaders and representatives from the Palestinian Authority and Israeli Government and they saw at first hand the relief and development work that is

being undertaken by partners of Christian Aid and Trócaire.

May

On 3 May Archbishop Dermot Clifford, Archbishop of Cashel and Emlly, addressed the Annual Conference of the Irish Postmasters' Union in Mullingar. In his address Archbishop Clifford highlighted 'the vital need for society to use the services offered by post offices to a much greater extent as closures mainly affect the vulnerable and disadvantaged. Post offices have an existence value which symbolises the continued well-being of the local community and surveys on the role of post offices have overwhelmingly found that they play an important community role in facilitating local enterprise, networking, obtaining knowledge, information and advice'.

On 7 May Bishop Christopher Jones, Bishop of Elphin, presided at the Annual 1916 Commemoration Mass at Arbour Hill, Dublin. Bishop Jones said during his homily: 'I believe that people like Pearse and Plunkett would be disappointed to see how materialism has possessed so many hearts and minds and pushed God from the centre to the sidelines.'

On 10 May the Liturgical reception for Archbishop Giuseppe Leanza was held in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral in Dublin. In his homily, Archbishop Leanza said: 'The Holy Father holds this country in high esteem and very close to his heart. It is a country whose history has been marked by over sixteen centuries of Catholic faith and tradition that has forged the spirit of the Irish people and shaped their cultural, moral and religious identity. For that very reason, he invites you to look to the future with confidence and, as John Paul II expressed it in his Apostolic Letter *Novo Millennio ineunte* (6 January 2001), to start out from Christ again, fixing your gaze on his face, which bears the mark of suffering yet also of glory. Allow me to say how particularly honoured I feel to have been appointed the Holy Father's representative in Ireland. I am well aware, indeed, of the great responsibility that goes with this office and would therefore ask for the ongoing support of your prayers, so that I may be able to carry out faithfully the mission entrusted to me, in a spirit of humble service to the Church and this country.'

On 12 May Bishop Leo O'Reilly launched a pastoral letter to the media on behalf of the Irish Bishops' Conference: *Vision 08 – A Vision for Catholic Education in Ireland*. The launch took place at St Patrick's National School in Drumcondra in Dublin. The pastoral letter addressed the valuable contribution and unique character of Catholic schools in Irish society, invited the public to make submissions on the future of Catholic education and to announce the

establishment, by the Bishops' Conference, in cooperation with religious trustees, of a national 'Catholic Education Service'.

On 19 May Bishop Joseph Duffy, Bishop of Clogher and Chair of the Communications Commission of the Irish Bishops' Conference, welcomed Pope Benedict XVI's message for the 42nd World Communications Day on the theme 'The Media: At the Crossroads between Self-Promotion and Service. Searching for the Truth in Order to Share it with Others'.

On 22 May Broadcaster Frank Mitchell launched the Year of Vocation School Prayer Card in St Joseph's College, Ravenhill Road, Belfast. The school prayer card comprised a special prayer for guidance and was aimed at secondary school students, especially those sitting exams.

On 29 May Archbishop Martin, along with Bishop Michael Smith, Bishop of Meath, and Rev. Dr Eoin Cassidy, Head of the Department of Philosophy, School of Humanities, Mater Dei Institute, published the Bishops' Conference pastoral reflection on the Lisbon Treaty, *Fostering a Community of Values*, at a press conference in Dublin. *Fostering a Community of Values* addressed: promoting active citizenship; Europe: a community of values; Europe's Christian heritage; what kind of Europe do we want for our children?; and Edith Stein (St Theresa Benedicta of the Cross): Co-Patroness of Europe.

June

On 5 June Archbishop Martin, along with Bishop Raymond Field, Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin and ICJSA Chairman, launched the ICJSA publication *Violence in Irish Society – Towards an Ecology of Peace* at St Paul's Church in Smithfield, Dublin. St Imelda Wickham, National Coordinator of Prison Chaplains, also addressed this media launch. Bishop Field said: 'We cannot underestimate the seriousness of the challenge of countering the rise of a violent culture in Ireland today. There are far too many people living amongst us whose lives have been blighted by the terrible effects of violence, the consequences of which are long term both at a personal level and for society. Today's short position ... is written as an invitation to dialogue and to raise consciousness of the complexity of the issues involved. The demands of a commitment to the common good ask nothing less.'

The Summer General Meeting of the Irish Bishops' Conference concluded in Maynooth on 11 June by addressing the topics: prayers for the victims and survivors of the recent cyclone in Myanmar (Burma) and the earthquake in China; the four Church leaders' pilgrimage to the Holy Land; the Dóchas Centre and the Central Mental Hospital;

right to family reunification and the Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill 2008; human trafficking; permanent diaconate; *Vision 08 – A Vision for Catholic Education in Ireland*; Year of Vocation initiatives; the 49th International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec city; the Day for Life for October; and the appointment of Fr Eamon Martin as the new Executive Secretary to the Irish Bishops' Conference.

On 16 June the Bishops issued a statement on the Christian theology of marriage: 'In view of the current debate in our society about the nature of marriage, sometimes promoted by individuals or institutions who claim support from Christian ideals, the Bishops reiterated that marriage presupposes the mutuality and complementarity of the sexes. Christian tradition holds that sexual differentiation is intrinsic to our understanding of the sacrament of marriage. Marriage has a meaning that is not reducible to individuals' intentions and society's laws. Marriage is not perceived as just any kind of relationship, but as a quite specific kind of relationship, with certain core characteristics. The Church affirms that marriage involves more than the commitment of two people to each other. It is oriented towards the sharing of their lives and the support they will give each other, and also towards the creation of new human beings as the fruit of their love. It is for the sake of these two objectives that the loving marital relationship between a woman and a man needs to be one that is faithful, exclusive and lasting.'

On 22 June Pope Benedict XVI announced that Dublin will host the 50th International Eucharistic Congress in 2012. Pope Benedict's announcement was broadcast live from Rome as part of his homily during the final Mass of the 49th International Eucharistic Congress, the final event in a week-long Church celebration in Quebec city. Attending the Congress in Quebec city were Cardinal Brady and Archbishop Martin, who welcomed the news: 'On behalf of the Catholic faithful of Ireland, we are honoured and humbled that the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has chosen Dublin to host the 50th International Eucharistic Congress in 2012. While the theme for the next Congress has yet to be finalised, we are deeply conscious that 2012 also marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council.'

On 27 June Archbishop Martin and Bishop Leo O'Reilly addressed the Department of Education and Science Conference, 'The Governance Challenge for Future Primary School Needs', at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin.

On 29 June the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-elect Noel Treanor took place in St Peter's Cathedral in Belfast. Speaking at the ceremony, Bishop Treanor said: 'As I follow in the footsteps of Bishop Patrick Walsh, I am aware of setting forth in this ministry on the Feast of Saints Peter

and Paul, on the first day of the Year of St Paul, and also in the first quarter of the Year of Vocation here in Ireland. In the context of the Year of Vocation ... I am deeply aware of the quiet and unsung heroism which the clergy of this diocese demonstrated as they served their people throughout the years of the Troubles. So too I am deeply aware of the same quiet and unsung heroism and forgiveness shown by people who had themselves suffered so much during those same years.'

July

10 July saw the last of the Irish pilgrims departing for World Youth Day (WYD) in Sydney, Australia. More than 800 young Irish Catholics led by 8 Bishops, including Cardinal Brady and Archbishop Martin, attended the events in Sydney. The theme of WYD 2008 was 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses' (Acts 1:8).

On 20 July Bishop Colm O'Reilly, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise, led the 2008 Pioneer Total Abstinence Association/Matt Talbot Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine. In his homily, Bishop O'Reilly said: 'The great founders of the Temperance Movements whose vision is still alive in the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association came to believe that the problem of abuse of alcohol would be best addressed by taking a positive approach. Father Theobald Mathew and Father James Cullen were convinced that something other than condemnation or legislation was needed. They invested their best effort in motivating people, an approach which has proved, in fact, to be the better way. I was very pleased when I was asked to be celebrant and preacher today to concentrate on the spirituality of the Association. So I gladly leave aside the social analysis which throws light on the problems of excess. Instead I want to reinforce the conviction that you surely share that temperance and total abstinence are choices based on Christian conviction.'

On Sunday, 27 July, for the first time, the annual Reek Sunday pilgrimage and Mass on the summit of Croagh Patrick in Co. Mayo were televised live on RTÉ 1. The pilgrimage was led by Archbishop Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam. In keeping with the specially dedicated 'Year of Vocation' for the Catholic Church in Ireland, the theme for the 2008 Croagh Patrick pilgrimage was 'Vocation'. During his homily, Archbishop Neary said: 'This is a holy mountain, made more holy by the men and women who have walked and prayed their way to the top one generation after another. On these slopes we discover our need of the support of others, the encouraging word and the outstretched hand to those with aching limbs and flagging spirit. This mountain is a parable on life itself and the great lesson from this pilgrim mountain is that, in

the Church we all stand in need of each other for we are all struggling sinners who stand in need of each other's forgiveness. This year has been designated as a year when we reflect upon and pray about the call or vocation we have received. Vocation is a call to witness, service and love. It is not so much about what we do but about who we are and how we live our lives. In years gone by this would have focussed solely on the call to religious life or priesthood but now we realise that through our baptism, we are all called to live out our lives in whatever vocation or ministry we find ourselves. Like the climbers on the mountain this day we are conscious of how much we depend on each other. On the day of baptism we were all given the mission of taking part in the endless work of Christ. We all have our unique call in our families, in our work, in our monasteries, convents, presbyteries and communities. Some receive a call to marriage, others to single life, to religious life or priesthood.'

August

On 13 August Bishop Leo O'Reilly addressed the Parnell Summer School on the theme 'Educating Ireland: its development; role of religious schooling; impact of the "New Irish" and the politics of education'. The summer school was held at Avondale House, Co. Wicklow.

On 24 August St Patrick's College, Maynooth, welcomed 20 new seminarians for the beginning of their formation for the priesthood at the National Seminary. At the conclusion of the introductory programme at the end of September, four of the new seminarians from northern dioceses continued their studies at St Malachy's College in Belfast. Welcoming the new candidates, their families and friends to Maynooth, the President of the College, Monsignor Hugh Connolly, said: 'Today as our thoughts and prayers accompany these 20 men, who have taken the first step along the road to ordained ministry and to placing their lives at the service of Christ and of his people, we recall Pope Benedict's words to seminarians attending this year's World Youth Day celebrations: "You are a sign of hope and renewal for God's people; and yours will be the task of building up the Lord's house in the coming generation."'

On 24 August Cardinal Brady delivered the Bishop Stock Address at the Humbert Summer School in Ballina, Co. Mayo on the relationship between Ireland and the European Union. In his address, Cardinal Brady said: 'Ireland owes a lot to the European Union. It is difficult to believe we would enjoy the political stability in the North or the economic progress in the South we do today without it. This should give us pause for thought when we reflect on Ireland's place within the EU and our responsibility towards it.'

September

The largest ever pilgrimage from the Archdiocese of Dublin to the Marian Shrine in Lourdes began on 7 September. The first of over 3,000 people left Dublin airport on two separate chartered flights. These flights largely catered for the 180 sick people, many of whom were in wheelchairs, and their helpers. Hundreds of other pilgrims and helpers, all of whom made the trip at their own expense, travelled separately. Amongst those who travelled to Lourdes were 8 doctors, 55 nurses and 700 helpers. Fifteen secondary schools were represented by pupils and teachers. The pilgrimage was led by Archbishop Martin and Cardinal Desmond Connell, Archbishop Emeritus of Dublin, and 50 priests from the Archdiocese.

On 10 September Cardinal Brady paid tribute to the late Fr Michael Melvin SVD: 'It was with great sadness and regret that I heard of the untimely death last night in St Vincent's Hospital, Dublin, of Fr Michael Melvin SVD (61), Director of Kairos Communications in Maynooth, the television production and media training company which the late Fr Melvin founded in 1972. The high standard in the area of religious broadcasting set by Fr Melvin is his undoubted legacy to all of us.'

The second National Grandparents Pilgrimage took place on 14 September in the Basilica at Knock Shrine, Co. Mayo. The pilgrimage was led by Bishop John Fleming, Bishop of Killala. A special 'Prayer for Grandparents', which was written by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, was presented for the first time at the pilgrimage by Ms Catherine Wiley, the coordinator of the pilgrimage. Fr Liam Lawton, guest singer at the event, performed a special song that was dedicated to grandparents. The pilgrimage's keynote address was delivered by Mr David Quinn, Director of the Iona Institute.

On 22 September Cardinal Brady launched the new website for the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference: www.catholicbishops.ie. The launch took place in Maynooth on the first day of the Autumn General Meeting of the Irish Bishops' Conference. Cardinal Brady said: 'I am delighted to launch this new user-friendly website, which contains a mine of information on the Bishops of Ireland, detailed information on dioceses, as well as on the people and organisations who make up the agencies, commissions, councils and other bodies of the Irish Bishops' Conference. Daily Mass readings will be available on the new site, in English and Irish. Catholicbishops.ie also contains the first online map of the dioceses of Ireland and will offer users the option to subscribe to news releases issued by the Bishops' Conference via an RSS feed. The site also contains a bank of audio and video content from the Conference and will have regular feature articles focussed on the mission and work of the Church in Ireland. We hope to build on the site's

content over time and develop new features in line with the needs of users.’

The Autumn General Meeting of the Irish Bishops’ Conference also discussed the following issues: September general prayer intention of Pope Benedict XVI; Civil Partnership Bill 2008; recent downturn in the economy; Northern Ireland; alternative locations to prison; Broadcasting Bill 2008 and restrictions on religious advertising; Year of Vocation – Priesthood Sunday on 28 September 2008; United Nations Annual General Assembly; Irish peacekeeping troops; Synod of Bishops in Rome: 5–26 October 2008; Day for Life on 5 October 2008; National Day of Prayer for Children on 10 October; Mission Sunday on 19 October; Eucharistic Congress in Dublin in 2012; new appointments: Ms Eileen Flynn as the new General Secretary of the Catholic Primary School Managers’ Association and Ms Ruth Barror as the new National Director for ACCORD, the Catholic Marriage Care Service.

Priesthood Sunday was celebrated for the first time in Ireland on 28 September as an opportunity to highlight and promote in particular the vocation to the priesthood. It was a day to reflect upon and affirm the role of the priest in the life of the Church. Bishop Willie Walsh, Bishop of Killaloe, issued a pastoral letter to mark Priesthood Sunday. In his pastoral letter, Bishop Walsh said: ‘A vocation is the life God calls us to live. The Year of Vocation is an invitation to each one of us to reflect on our own vocation as young or old, married or single, layperson, priest or religious. Priesthood is one of God’s unique gifts to the world and it is offered not only to young people but also to older people. I look back on almost fifty years of priesthood as a very fulfilling time for me. Yes, there have been times of pain and struggle, but what life is spared pain or struggle? I can honestly say that I have experienced great joy as well and thankfully joy is also something common to all lives. I have no hesitation in recommending this way of life to anyone who is discerning their life’s direction. I invite parents to encourage such generosity. I ask all of you to pray that more will respond to God’s call.’

October

On 4 October the Irish Bishops’ Drugs Initiative (IBDI) hosted its first national conference in Maynooth. The theme of the conference, ‘Alcohol/Drugs – Parishes Respond’, was addressed by Bishop Noel Treanor, Bishop of Down and Connor. Bishop Treanor officially launched a report at the conference which explores best practice in drug prevention based on feedback from pilot parish projects around the country. One hundred and sixty delegates, representing ten pilot parish projects, were welcomed to the conference

by Bishop Éamonn Walsh, vice-chair of the IBDI. Bishop Walsh said: ‘There are many ways in which parishes can contribute to the prevention of drug and alcohol problems. For example, if parish schools are already teaching the Social Personal and Health Education Programme, then they are already strengthening young people in their response to drugs.’

Cardinal Brady and Archbishop Martin attended the 12th Ordinary General Assembly of Bishops in Rome from 5–26 October. The theme of the Synod was ‘The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church’. Cardinal Brady and Archbishop Martin both delivered interventions during the Synod.

The Catholic Church in Ireland marked the ‘Day for Life’ on Sunday, 5 October at Masses throughout the country with a pastoral letter promoting mental health, addressing this important aspect of healthcare. The pastoral, jointly published by the Catholic Bishops of Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales, was distributed throughout the country and is available on www.catholicbishops.ie. Speaking on the theme, Bishop John Fleming said: ‘The Church’s annual Day for Life message seeks to highlight the value and sacredness of human life and the care which everyone in society should show for one another. Feedback from the 2004 Day for Life, ‘Life is for Living – A Reflection on Suicide’, clearly indicated the need for a more widespread awareness of the importance of mental health in society as a whole. Accordingly, the Irish, Scottish, English and Welsh Bishops have chosen the theme of mental health this year.’

On 8 October the Bishops of the west of Ireland expressed their concern that the Western Development Commission may be subsumed into another State agency: ‘The review and possible rationalisation of State agencies is understandable in the current economic climate. However, such a review should also include the regional significance of each agency. It would defy logic and is contrary to public policy in its true sense, if the existence and functions of the Western Development Commission were to be undermined by such a review. The western Bishops began the process which led to the establishment of the Western Development Commission. It was founded on the basis of research into the regional reasons for the economic depression and depopulation in the west. For the Commission now to face possible integration into a larger, State-wide agency would be a retrograde step of incalculable economic and social proportions for the people and communities of the west of Ireland. Its strategic regional contribution, through its Research and Investment Fund, is vital. We appeal to the government not to thwart the successful work of the Western Development Commission by changing its status now. The economic and social progress experienced

over the last decade by the western counties, including Donegal and Clare, is in no small part due to the role of the Commission. We call on all public representatives from the west, at local, national and European Parliament level, to support our request and seek a commitment from government not to diminish the existence and independent operation of the Western Development Commission. With the economy now in recession and a banking crisis undermining the global financial markets, the community of the west of Ireland needs the Western Development Commission today more than ever.’

On 20 October the leaders of the four main Churches in Ireland asked all Westminster MPs to vote against a proposed amendment to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill due to be debated in the British Parliament that week with a view to extending the 1967 Abortion Act to Northern Ireland. Cardinal Brady, Archbishop Harper, Presbyterian Moderator Dr Donald Patton and Methodist President Rev. Aidan Ferguson wrote to the MPs indicating their support for the leaders of the local political parties in asserting that the law on abortion in Northern Ireland should be a matter for the Northern Ireland Assembly.

On 22 October Archbishop Clifford opened the inaugural conference, ‘Researching in the Church in Ireland’, in Maynooth. The conference was organised by the Bishops’ Council for Research and Development. In his address, Archbishop Clifford said: ‘As far as I am aware, this is the first time a gathering like this has been brought together by the Council for Research and Development. As such, it is a step toward building a stronger, all-island network of those who carry out, and those interested in, research as a process.’

On 28 October Archbishop Clifford, a member of the governing body of University College Cork (UCC), issued a statement concerning the decision taken by the UCC Board of Governors regarding facilitating research on embryonic stem cells. Archbishop Clifford reiterated that human life is sacred from the moment of conception until natural death and it is wrong to conduct research on embryonic stem cells and that such research should be prohibited by law. He said: ‘This research is contrary to the ethical and moral teaching of the Catholic Church because it is contrary to the common good.’

November

On 4 November Cardinal Brady addressed the Céifin Conference in Ennis, Co. Clare, on the theme ‘The Family as the Foundation of Society’. In his address, Cardinal Brady said: ‘There are few institutions more important to the future of our society than the family. There are few that have been subject to such rapid and fundamental change

in our lifetime.’ Cardinal Brady set out the basis for the Church’s conviction that marriage, the family and the general good of society are so interdependent that one cannot flourish without the other. Cardinal Brady examined some of the recent trends associated with marriage and the family, and argued that legislation and policies that promote commitment in marriage are, in fact, more socially progressive and beneficial to society than those which endorse, simply because they have become more widespread, attitudes and trends which undermine that commitment. Cardinal Brady also commented on the question of a proposed equivalence between cohabitation and marriage as well as same-sex unions and marriage.

On 5 November Cardinal Brady addressed the Oireachtas Sub-Committee on Ireland’s Future in the European Union. In his address, Cardinal Brady said: ‘I am mindful here of the particular contribution of Irish Christianity to the tradition and ideal of the EU. Robert Schuman famously described our own Columbanus as “a patron saint for all involved in the construction of a unified Europe”. I believe Ireland still has something important to offer the social dimension of Europe today. Our Christian heritage, shared by the different Christian traditions on this island, contributed immensely to the values upon which the EU was founded. A rediscovery of these values, giving renewed priority to the question of a “Europe of Values” may help to reconnect some citizens with the broader project of the EU itself. I want to acknowledge today that much progress has been made in these areas. I acknowledge in particular that Ireland was among the first countries in Europe to initiate the “structured dialogue” now proposed in the Lisbon Treaty. Concerns around the right of Churches to organise themselves in conformity with their proper convictions as well as some ethical positions at the EU level continue to exist. Greater assurance around these may alleviate some of the legitimate concerns that exist about the future intentions of the EU in this regard. It may also provide a stronger basis on which to challenge those who might chose to misrepresent the EU position on these issues as part of a broader anti-EU approach. If I may conclude in the words of Pope Benedict: “The European Home, as we readily refer to the community of this continent, will be a good place to live for everyone, only if it is built on a solid cultural and moral foundation of common values drawn from our history and our traditions. Europe cannot and must not deny her Christian roots. These represent a dynamic component of our civilisation as we move forward into the third millennium.”’

On 12 November members of the Bishops’ Commission on Education met with the Minister for Education and Science, Mr Batt O’Keefe TD. The meeting took place in Government Buildings

and addressed the issue of the provision of religious education for Catholic children in Community National Schools. Bishops confirmed again their desire to see the additional model of patronage in Community National Schools succeed. Bishops emphasised their wish to be able to assure Catholic parents of pupils in Community National Schools that their children would follow the same religious education programme as in a Catholic school. After the meeting, Bishop Leo O'Reilly, said: 'We welcome the Minister's reaffirmation of the policy on religious education provision originally announced and we look forward to it being implemented accordingly. Once again we welcome this additional model of patronage and wish it well.'

The Winter General Meeting of the Bishops' Conference concluded on 25 November with a press conference in the Columba Centre, Maynooth. The following issues were discussed during the Bishops' meeting: Pope Benedict XVI's general prayer intentions for December; meeting in Maynooth between members of the Irish Bishops' Conference and Mr Hans-Gert Pöttering, President of the European Parliament; recent violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Advent and the Sacrament of Reconciliation; Report on the 12th Synod of Bishops; Year of St Paul; Christian values and the world economy; Northern Ireland; Eucharistic Congress in Dublin in 2012; Civil Partnership Bill 2008; Year of Vocation; Annual Report 2007 and Directory of the Irish Bishops' Conference; Trócaire's 'Global Gift' campaign for 2008; and the 2009 dates for the Standing and General Meetings of the Bishops' Conference.

On 28 November Bishop Gerard Clifford, Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh, presided at Mass in the Cathedral of St Bavo, Ghent, to mark the ordination of St Oliver Plunkett as Archbishop of Armagh 339 years ago. During his homily, Bishop Clifford said: 'I am delighted today to join you here for your Sunday liturgy. Today 70 people have come from Ireland, from the Archdiocese of Armagh, to remember that some 339 years ago one of the great Archbishops of Armagh, St Oliver Plunkett, was ordained here by the Bishop of Ghent. Today we will unveil a plaque here in the Cathedral to commemorate that event. We come on the first day of the new liturgical year, the first Sunday of Advent. The message in our liturgy is to "stay awake". The first Sunday of Advent has two clear messages for all of us. It calls us to prepare spiritually for Christ's coming at Christmas. It also has a more lasting message. It calls us to think seriously about the great issues of life, about the meaning of life, about our relationship with God, the role of faith in our own lives and the duty to hand on that faith to the next generation.'

December

On 4 December Veritas, the Bishops' publishing agency, issued a statement referring to its disappointment that it had been essentially blocked by the Broadcasting Commission of Ireland from broadcasting a radio advert on RTÉ that would allow the store to advertise its presence and sell its products on the Christmas market. Veritas booked the advertising space last August and had been endeavouring to secure approval for an advert since early November. The Veritas statement said: 'The BCI is in our view taking an extremely narrow view of current legislation and is unfairly applying somewhat different standards to Veritas than to other bodies.'

To mark the launch by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith of *Dignitas Personae: Instruction on Certain Bioethical Questions*, on 12 December, a special video feature was launched on www.catholicbishops.ie and explanatory articles were written for newspapers and publications. In the web recordings, Bishop Donal Murray, Bishop of Limerick and Chair of the Bishops' Bioethics Consultative Group, and Dr Phil Boyle, a fertility specialist based at the Galway Clinic, discuss issues addressed by *Dignitas Personae*. Also available as part of the web feature is the text of *Dignitas Personae*, the publication *What is a Person?* by Bishop Donal Murray, as well as related links and useful information.

On 30 December Archbishop Harper and Cardinal Brady issued the following statement: 'As pilgrims together for peace, earlier this year we visited the land of the Holy One. It is, therefore, with distress and deepening concern for all innocent victims that we have followed the unfolding tragedy of Gaza. We call upon the authorities in both Israel and Gaza immediately to disengage and cease all hostilities to enable a permanent ceasefire to be negotiated. Only when violence has ceased will it be possible to begin to negotiate a peace that will last. We call upon all people of faith to pray for all caught up in the conflict. We also call upon the international community and particularly the United States and the European Union to bring maximum influence to bear to end all violence immediately and to create conditions that will lead to a just peace for Palestinians and Israelis alike.'

Please see the website of the Irish Bishops' Conference, www.catholicbishops.ie, for greater detail on all the foregoing, as well as other initiatives and statements.

Photo Gallery



16 January 2008: Cardinal Seán Brady pictured with Monsignor Liam Bergin, Rector of the Pontifical Irish College Rome and XXXXXXXXXX on the occasion of his first Mass in his titular Church of Saints Cyricus and Julitta in Rome.



27 January 2008: Bishop Brendan Kelly pictured with Cardinal Seán Brady at the Cathedral of the Annunciation and St Nathy in Ballaghaderreen on the occasion of the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Kelly.



4 February 2008: Mr Martin McGuinness, Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, Cardinal Seán Brady and the then Taoiseach Bertie Ahern TD at the State Reception for Cardinal Brady in honour of his elevation to the College of Cardinals on 24 November 2007.



11 February 2008: Bishop Gerard Clifford, Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh, pictured with Ms Lynn Fitzgerald, Lucan, and her fiancé, Mr Neville Rhatigan, Sandycove, in Whitefriar Street Church, Dublin, on the occasion of the launch of a new ACCORD publication, *Planning Your Wedding Day*.



18 February 2008: Mr Conor Gearty, London School of Economics, Ms Lucy Fallon-Byrne, Director NCCP, Mr Rotimi Adebari, Mayor of Portlaoise, and Cardinal Seán Brady at a conference hosted by the Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs entitled 'Who is my neighbour?', which was based on the social encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*. The Conference was held in Croke Park, Dublin.



23 February 2008: Ms Claire Barry, CURA Regional Coordinator, Bishop John Fleming, President of CURA, Ms Katharine Bulbulia, Chairperson of Crisis Pregnancy Agency, Most Rev. Christopher Jones, Bishop of Elphin, Ms Caroline Spillane, Director of Crisis Pregnancy Agency and the Most Rev. Colm O'Reilly, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise at the CURA Annual Conference in Wexford.

Photo Gallery



7 March 2008: Ms Anne Coleman, ACCORD and Mr David Coleman, clinical psychologist, broadcaster and author, who was one of the guest speakers at the ACCORD Annual Conference which was held in Ballybrit, Co. Galway from 8–9 March 2008.



10 March 2009: Mgr Hugh Connolly, President, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Ms Niamh Garvey (Trócaire), Fr Seán MacDonagh SSC, Minister Eamon Ryan, Justin Kilcullen, Director of Trócaire, Bishop John Kirby, Chairman of Trócaire, Sorcha Fennell, Trócaire, at the Trócaire Annual Lecture in association with St Patrick's College, Maynooth.



3 April 2008: Lt. Col. Matt Murray and Bishop Donal Murray, Bishop of Limerick, inspecting a Guard of Honour at Camp Clarke, Lipljan, during Bishop Murray's pastoral visit to Irish personnel serving in Kosovo.



8 April 2008: Archbishop Dermot Clifford, Archbishop of Cashel and Emlly, Ms Breda Landy-Horgan (parent), Mr Eoin O'Mahony, Social Researcher with the Council for Research and Development (CRD), and Bishop Leo O'Reilly, Chair of the Bishops' Education Commission, at the launch of the results of a survey, Factors Determining School Choice, commissioned by the Education Commission and carried out by the CRD.



29 April 2008: Archbishop Alan Harper, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh, Cardinal Seán Brady, Rev. Roy Cooper, President of the Methodist Church, and Dr John Finlay, Presbyterian Moderator, pictured during the visit of the four Church leaders to the Holy Land from 29 April–2 May 2008.



10 May 2008: Archbishop Giuseppe Leanza, Titular Archbishop of Lilybaeum and Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland, with Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin, at the liturgical reception in honour of Archbishop Leanza in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Dublin.

Photo Gallery



12 May 2008: Bishop Anthony Farquhar, Auxiliary Bishop of Down and Connor, Sr Elizabeth Maxwell, President of CORI, and Bishop Leo O'Reilly, Chair of the Bishops' Commission for Education, at the launch of *Vision 08 – A Vision for Catholic Education in Ireland*, a pastoral letter on Catholic Education, which was launched in St Patrick's National School, Drumcondra, Dublin.



29 May 2008: Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin and Vice-President of the Irish Bishops' Conference, pictured at the launch of the Bishops' pastoral reflection on the Lisbon Treaty, *Fostering a Community of Values*, which was launched at a press conference in Mater Dei Institute of Education, Dublin.



5 June 2008: Rev. Dr Eoin Cassidy, ICJSA member, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin, Ms Nicola Rooney, ICJSA Research Coordinator, and Bishop Raymond Field, Chairman of the ICJSA, at the launch of *Violence in Irish Society: Towards an Ecology of Peace*, a new ICJSA position paper on violence. The launch took place in St Paul's Church in Smithfield, Dublin.



29 June 2008: Bishop Noel Treanor is pictured in the St Peter's Cathedral in Belfast following his Episcopal Ordination as Bishop of Down and Connor.



July 2008: Fiona Murphy, Fr Paul Dempsey, Danika Percival, Bishop Jim Moriarty and Eilis Fox from the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin prepare to join thousands of World Youth Day pilgrims from all over the world in Sydney, Australia for the celebration of World Youth Day with the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI.



27 July 2008: Archbishop Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam, is pictured during the celebration of Mass on the summit of Croagh Patrick on Reek Sunday. The Mass was the first ever televised Mass from the summit and the theme of the pilgrimage and the homily of the televised Mass was vocation.

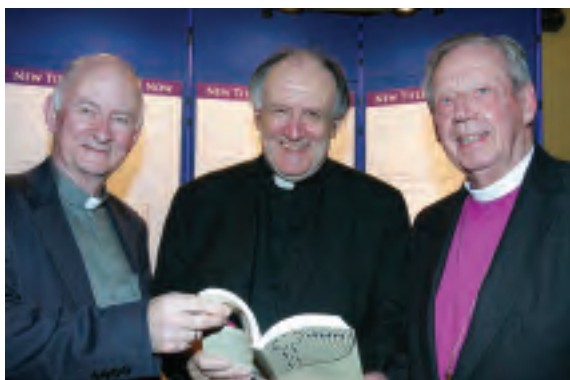
Photo Gallery



14 September 2008: 'Dana' Rosemary Scallan, Bishop John Fleming, Bishop of Killala, Ms Marie Hogan, President of St Joseph's Young Priests Society, and Fr Liam Lawton at the 2nd National Grandparents Pilgrimage in Our Lady of Knock Shrine, Knock, Co. Mayo.



22 September 2008: Ms Kathy Tynan, Catholic Communications Office, and Cardinal Seán Brady at the launch of the new Irish Bishops' Conference website (www.catholicbishops.ie) in Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.



22 September 2008: Bishop Donal Murray, Bishop of Limerick, Bishop Anthony Farquhar, Auxiliary Bishop of Down and Connor, and Bishop Sam Poyntz, former Church of Ireland Bishop of Connor, at the launch, in Maynooth, Co. Kildare, of *Inter-Church Relations: Developments and Perspectives*, which was published by Veritas to celebrate the silver jubilee of Bishop Farquhar's episcopate and his contribution to inter-church relations.



4 October 2008: Bishop Éamonn Walsh, Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin and Vice-Chair of the Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative (IBDI), speaking to media at the first IBDI national conference, in Maynooth, Co. Kildare, on the theme 'Alcohol Drugs – Parishes Respond'.



22 October 2008: Mr Eoin O'Mahony, Council for Research and Development (CRD), Ms Nicola Rooney (ICJSA), Ms Brenda Drumm (CCO) and Archbishop Dermot Clifford, Archbishop of Cashel and Emlly and Chair of the CRD, at the inaugural conference organised by the CRD on 'Researching in the Church in Ireland', in St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.



24 November 2008: Mgr Hugh Connolly, President of St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Bishop Noel Treanor, Bishop of Down and Connor, Cardinal Seán Brady, Mr Hans-Gert Pöttering, President of the European Parliament, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and Bishop William Lee, Secretary of the Irish Bishops' Conference, pictured at St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, on the occasion of the visit of Mr Pöttering to the Winter General Meeting of the Irish Bishops' Conference.

Year of Vocation in Ireland 2008–2009



13 April 2008: Emma Tobin (11) from Newbridge, Co. Kildare, with Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin, at the launch and opening Mass for the Year of Vocation in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Dublin, which took place on Vocation Sunday.



17 May 2008: Ms Brenda Drumm, Year of Vocation Project Manager, Ms Patricia Bourke D'Souza, soloist, and Sr Marie Dunne CHF, composer of the Year of Vocation song, 'You Will Be My Witnesses', at its launch in the St John of God Hospital, Stillorgan, Dublin.



22 May 2008: Bishop Donal McKeown, Auxiliary Bishop of Down and Connor and Chairman of the Bishops' Commission on Vocations, with Broadcaster, Frank Mitchell, and students from St Joseph's College, Ravenhill Road, Belfast, at the launch of the Year of Vocation School Prayer Card.



28 September 2008: Ms Marie Hogan, President of St Joseph's Young Priest's Society, Cardinal Seán Brady, Archbishop of Armagh, and Fr Paddy Rushe, National Coordinator of Diocesan Vocations, at the celebration of Priesthood Sunday in Ballapusta, Co. Louth.



13 February 2009: Mr John Waters, Journalist and Columnist, Ms Frances Dignan, Director of Vocations Ireland, and Fr Anthony Gittins CSSp, Professor of Mission and Culture, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, at the Year of Vocation Conference on Religious Life and Call on the theme 'Disturbed by the Spirit – Called to be Sent', which was held in the Stillorgan Park Hotel, Dublin.



3 May 2009: Members of the Year of Vocation Committee pictured on Vocations Sunday with Cardinal Seán Brady and Bishop Donal McKeown in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, where the closing Mass for the Year of Vocation and the new vocations DVD for Ireland, *You Will Be My Witnesses*, was launched.

Apostolic Nunciature in Ireland

A **Papal Nuncio** (officially known as an **Apostolic Nuncio**) is a permanent diplomatic representative (head of diplomatic mission) of the Holy See to a state or international organisation, having the rank of an ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, usually with the ecclesiastical rank of titular archbishop. The Nuncio serves as the liaison between the Holy See and the Roman Catholic diocesan episcopate in the nation or region to which he is assigned.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Benedict XVI, was born at Marktl am Inn, Diocese of Passau (Germany), on 16 April 1927. He spent his childhood and adolescence in Traunstein, a small village near the Austrian border. From 1946 to 1951 he studied philosophy and theology in the Higher School of Philosophy and Theology of Freising and at the University of Munich. He received his priestly ordination on 29 June 1951. On 25 March 1977 Pope Paul VI named him Archbishop of Munich and Freising and he received his Episcopal Ordination on 28 May 1977. Pope Paul VI made him a Cardinal during the consistory of 27 June 1977. Pope John Paul II made him Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and President of the Pontifical Biblical Commission and of the International Theological Commission on 25 November 1981. He was elected Pope on 19 April 2005, taking the name Pope Benedict XVI. He was inaugurated on 24 April 2005 as the 265th Pope.



Pope Benedict XVI

On 22 June 2008 Pope Benedict XVI announced that Dublin is to host the Eucharistic Congress in 2012. Pope Benedict made the announcement live from Rome as part of his homily during the final Mass of the 49th Eucharistic Congress, which was held in Quebec, Canada.

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 and 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 Rev. Dr
Giuseppe Leanza,
Apostolic Nuncio
to Ireland

Rev. Juan Antonio Cruz Serano was born in María, in the province of Almería, Spain, 29 September 1976.

Philosophical and Theological Studies at the Diocesan Seminary, Almería.

Ordained a priest, 15 September 2001.

Degree in Canon Law, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome (2000–2002).

Doctorate in Canon Law, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome (2002–2004).

Diploma at the Diplomatic Pontifical Academy, Rome (2002–2004).

Entered the Diplomatic Service of the Holy See in 2004 and served in Apostolic Nunciature, Zimbabwe, 2004–2007.

Appointed Secretary at the Apostolic Nunciature to Ireland on 29 June 2007.



Rev. Juan Antonio
Cruz Serrano,
Counsellor

Apostolic Nunciature in Ireland:
Apostolic Nuncio: Most Rev. Dr Giuseppe Leanza,
Titular Archbishop of Lilybaeum
Counsellor: Rev. Juan Antonio Cruz Serrano
The Apostolic Nunciature,
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National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland



Ian Elliott, CEO, Teresa Devlin and Sr Colette Stephenson

Church in Ireland, the safeguarding of children so that they may grow and develop in a healthy and nurturing environment. The Board carries forward this objective by providing advice on best practice, by supporting the development of high quality services and by monitoring the policies, procedures and their implementation in practice.

Creating safe environments for Children has become a significant priority for all parts of the Catholic Church in Ireland. In recognising past failings, Church leadership has made a strong commitment to establishing structures, supported by robust policies and procedures, which will ensure the safety and well-being of children and young people in the Church.

Following the launch of *Our Children, Our Church* in December 2005, the Irish Episcopal Conference, the Conference of Religious of Ireland (CORI) and the Irish Missionary Union (IMU) collaborated to establish a National Board for Child Protection, appointing Mr Justice Anthony Hederman as its first chairman. The Board chose to adopt a different title to reflect more accurately the wider view of its remit. It adopted the title National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland early in 2008. It is now legally incorporated under the name *Coimirce*, which translates as ‘Safeguard’.

Safeguarding is a term which incorporates practices that prevent abuse happening in the first place, creates environments that are safe for children and develops appropriate responses if there are concerns that a child has been abused. To reflect this comprehensive approach, the National Board believes that if it is to appropriately assist all parts of the Church that this wider term should become the language and practice commonly used in the Church.

The National Board is of the view, which is supported by the sponsoring bodies – the Irish Episcopal Conference, CORI and IMU – that the responsibility for ensuring the implementation of Church policies lies with the Bishops and religious leaders themselves, aided by ‘best practice’ advice from the Board and its National Office. The main objective of the Board, therefore, is to promote, on behalf of the Catholic

In May 2007 the Board appointed a Chief Executive Officer, Ian Elliott, and established a National Office. During 2008 a staff compliment of four was achieved. The work of the CEO and his staff is guided by the objectives of the Board.

In November 2007 Judge Hederman retired from his position as Chair of the Board and was replaced by Aidan Canavan. The Board operates a sub-committee structure to assist with carrying out its obligations.

During 2008 the Board produced *Safeguarding Children – Standards and Guidance for the Catholic Church in Ireland*. This guidance document sets out for the Church the expected standards of policy and practice required to safeguard children.

The Board is guided by the vision and example given by Jesus Christ Himself, who showed a constant care for the vulnerable. In Matthew 25 Jesus tells us that wherever we assist and show concern and compassion for the least in our community, we show it to Him. He extended such care in a tender and urgent way to children (Mt 19:14) and He uttered a grave warning about anyone who would lead little ones astray (Mt 18:6).

The National Board’s first report is available from New House, St Patrick’s College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare or at www.safeguarding.ie.

National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland
New House, St Patrick’s College,
Maynooth, Co. Kildare
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Email: admin@safeguarding.ie
www.safeguarding.ie

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 Coordinator of the Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs

The ICJSA, established by the Irish Episcopal Conference in 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, and the Research Coordinator is Ms Nicola Rooney. The Commission advises the Irish Episcopal Conference on issues of social justice, national and international. Its mission statement is: ‘To promote the social dimension of the Gospel with a view to building a civilisation of love.’

Summary of the key activities of the ICJSA

On Monday, 18 February the ICJSA hosted a major conference at Croke Park, Dublin, on the theme ‘Who is my neighbour?’, based on Pope Benedict XVI’s first encyclical letter, *Deus Caritas Est*. The conference was opened by Cardinal Seán Brady and was attended by more than 250 people, a positive indication of the wide-ranging interest in the practical application of Catholic social teaching. A book based on the conference proceedings, *Who is my Neighbour?*, is available from Veritas.

The ICJSA, in collaboration with Trócaire, released a statement in advance of the combined presidential, parliamentary, senatorial and local council elections held in March 2008 in Zimbabwe. The statement highlighted a number of key concerns surrounding the conduct of the elections and concluded by recommending ways in which the Irish Government could support the people of Zimbabwe, both in the period leading up to the elections and in the long term.

In May 2008, on the eve of the Dublin Diplomatic Conference on the international Cluster Munitions treaty, the ICJSA, together with Trócaire, issued a statement calling for a complete ban on cluster munitions.

On 5 June 2008 Archbishop Diarmuid Martin launched the ICJSA position paper, *Violence in Irish Society: Towards an Ecology of Peace*, in St Paul’s Church, Arran Quay, Dublin. Archbishop Martin stated that the document ‘has the merit of drawing attention to and challenging all of us to address the problem of violence in contemporary Irish society in a more organic way than is often the case. It addresses many aspects of violence and reminds us that violence must be addressed at its roots.’

On 8 November 2008 Bishop William Murphy and the Kerry Diocesan Justice, Peace and Creation Committee, with the support of the ICJSA, hosted a very successful seminar based on the *Violence in Irish Society* paper, ‘The Challenge of Violence’. This event brought together representatives of various organisations working in relevant fields to review responses to the problem of violence in Kerry.

On Saturday, 29 November 2008, the ICJSA and Trócaire jointly hosted a workshop entitled *Working for Justice and Peace in your Diocese* in the Trócaire offices, Maynooth. The workshop was intended to provide an opportunity for the sharing of information and ideas, facilitating networking between existing Justice and Peace groups and individuals who might be interested in establishing new groups. Representatives of existing Diocesan Justice and Peace groups spoke about their work and Bishop Raymond Field, ICJSA Chairman, and Justin Kilcullen, Director of Trócaire, addressed the group, outlining the support both organisations can offer.

On 14 December 2008 the ICJSA launched a statement, *Violence Against Women in War – We Cannot Remain Silent*, in the Daughters of Charity Community Services Centre, Henrietta St, Dublin. The statement condemned the use of sexual violence against women as a weapon of war in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs
Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co. Kildare
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www.catholicbishops.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 toward the end of the last millennium, the March 1999 meeting of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference (IBC) made the decision to initiate the Refugee Project.

The Refugee Project was established:

- 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 society 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, refugee and related issues.

Although set up under the aegis of three Commissions, including the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace (ICJP), the Project was to be located so that it could operate on a day-to-day basis within the ICJP (now the Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs). With the subsequent establishment of departments within the IBC, the Project was assigned to the Department of Social Issues and International Affairs, and its brief expanded to include migrants whose presence in Ireland had grown significantly.

The Project initiated the Churches' Asylum Network (CAN), which meets six times annually and brings together members of Christian Churches/communities around the country, including delegates of Catholic dioceses, working

with and on behalf of refugees and migrants. Representatives of CAN meet quarterly with the Reception and Integration Agency of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform on issues of concern, including those relating to separated children (unaccompanied minors) and to families and individuals seeking asylum and living in Direct Provision centres around the country.

Sanctuary, a bi-monthly newsletter, covers asylum, refugee and migrant matters, nationally and internationally, from a religious perspective. Also published by the Project, *Who's Who?* 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 the rights of people seeking asylum, refugees and migrants. The Project is a member of Act to Prevent Trafficking and participates in APT's Working Group on Legislation and Policy.

Involved in several inter-Church bodies nationally, the Refugee and Migrant Project cooperates in initiatives to promote the integration of newcomers to the country, to address racial justice issues and to build relationships with minority ethnic Churches. As part of the All-Ireland Churches' Consultative Meeting on Racism, the Project has collaborated in the preparation of resource materials, including *Unity in Diversity in our Churches*, *Directory of Migrant-led Churches in Ireland* and the revised *What the Bible Says About the Stranger*.

The Project Director represents the Irish Inter-Church Meeting in the Racial Justice Network of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and serves on its Organising Committee.

At European level, the project is actively involved in the Migration Working Groups of the Commission of Bishops' Conferences of the European Union, Commission of Bishops' Conferences of Europe, Caritas Europa and has links with the International Catholic Migration Commission and the Conference of European Churches.

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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 Church, missionary and local non-government organisations across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. In the last financial year Trócaire funded 124 programmes that tackle poverty and respond to emergencies to the value of €60.2 million.

Building Sustainable Livelihoods

In 2008 Trócaire supported 29 livelihood programmes. Much of its work in 2008 helped communities to make their livelihoods more resilient to disasters, in particular to the impacts of climate change. This included incorporating drought-tolerant crops, diversifying into small animals, vegetable plots and fruit trees, soil and water conservation, improved agriculture and irrigation.

Governance and Human Rights

In 2008 Trócaire promoted respect for human rights, better governance and peace in 29 countries. Trócaire supported its partners in promoting transparent governance, developing free and independent media and advocating for freedom of information legislation and mechanisms.

Preparing for and Responding to Emergencies

Trócaire responded to major crises, including the massive displacement after post-election violence that swept through Kenya in January and the huge suffering after Cyclone Nargis in Burma, which killed over 130,000 people in May 2008. In the Horn and East Africa, malnutrition rates soared. Trócaire supported food for work, supplementary feeding for livestock and improving water supply. They also intervened during emergencies in Central America and South Asia. Trócaire works with communities towards long-term rehabilitation after disasters.

Addressing the HIV and AIDS Crisis

Trócaire's HIV programmes provided prevention, care and treatment services. Global Gifts were an important source of income for carers and people on antiretroviral therapy in East Africa, Central America and Cambodia. Links with national AIDS bodies and local authorities improved the quality of Trócaire's response. For example, in Cambodia partners worked with the government on treatment and child protection, and in Mozambique joint home-based care visits by government and partners improved the quality of care.

Promoting Gender Equality

Trócaire's Gender Policy was finalised and new gender equality programmes will be developed in 2009. Gender-based violence work was conducted in Kenya, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone. For example, in Kenya partners provided a range of services for survivors of gender-based violence in the postelection crisis and ensured that perpetrators did not enjoy amnesty. Trócaire was involved in a major conference on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR) in November and engaged with the Conflict Resolution Unit in Ireland and in Timor regarding an action plan.

Demanding Environmental Justice

Trócaire began its two-year advocacy strategy on climate change to ensure that developing countries have better access to predictable and sustainable livelihoods and can adapt to the impact of climate change. Work in this area contributed to a strong statement made by the Minister for the Environment in December 2008, in which he spoke for the first time extensively on adaptation financing for the world's poorest countries.

In addition to its long-term development projects, Trócaire is also mandated to inform the Irish public about the root causes of poverty and to mobilise people to bring about global change. Trócaire is fulfilling this mandate through development education, campaigns and advocacy with Irish and International governments on issues such as peace-building, human rights, development aid and climate change.

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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 Irish Episcopal Conference established the Episcopal Commission for Missions in response to the Apostolic Letter of Pope Paul VI, *Ecclesiae Sanctae* (published 6 August 1966 in line with *Ad Gentes* 38 of the Second Vatican Council) to 'foster evangelisation *ad gentes*, missionary animation and cooperation in their various forms, and to maintain relations with the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples and with the Episcopal Conference, in order to guarantee unity of action'.

Work of the Episcopal Commission for Missions

- To develop missionary awareness in local dioceses.
- To promote the Pontifical Mission Societies in every diocese and safeguard the universal and missionary character of the Pontifical Mission Societies.
- To ensure a fair distribution of aid to the Young Churches.
- To see that all initiatives of missionary cooperation are promoted and harmoniously integrated.
- To support mission institutions in their proposing to young people a missionary vocation.
- To direct the work of the National Mission Council on behalf of the Episcopal Conference.

National Mission Council (NMC)

The National Mission Council plans, directs and reviews the main activities of missionary cooperation at the national level. The Council also acts as a forum for discussion on matters related to national mission policy.

Pontifical Mission Societies

The Pontifical Mission Societies is the official Church institution to promote mission awareness and assist the missionary activity of the Church

by prayer, offering of suffering and financial help. They seek to assist all the missions of the world, especially those in greatest need. Their main objective is the support of evangelisation in the strict sense. In Ireland, the Pontifical Mission Societies are administered from a national office in Dublin. The Pontifical Mission Societies team is led by National Director, Fr Edward Grimes CSSp. The office is located at 64 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 6.

Irish Missionary Union

The Irish Missionary Union (IMU) was founded in 1970, incorporating the members of the former Missionary Service Centre. The organisation was founded to promote cooperation between missionary, mission-sending and mission-aid organisations, thereby helping them to make better and most efficient use of their personnel and other resources. The IMU works in close collaboration with the Bishops in the task of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It acts as liaison between missionary bodies and national or international organisations involved in evangelisation and development. Its core work includes: highlighting issues of injustice in the developing world; assisting returned missionaries to reintegrate into Ireland; highlighting the Mission Month of October as well as promoting mission awareness throughout Ireland. It also runs a training programme to form future religious leaders from the developing world as well as offering a three/six-month course of renewal for missionaries.

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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

Background

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 service 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 assists clergy and seminarians with their pastoral work in the mass and online media. In 2008 CCO published 130 press releases and opinion articles, as well as organising numerous media events and press conferences throughout the year. CCO staff are: Martin Long, Brenda Drumm, Kathy Tynan, Francis Cousins and Marie Purcell.

Appointments by Pope Benedict XVI

On 22 February the Holy Father appointed Archbishop Giuseppe Leanza as Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland. Also on 22 February Mgr Noel Treanor was appointed as the new Bishop for the Diocese of Down and Connor.

Intercom

In 2008 ten issues of *Intercom*, the pastoral and liturgical resource of the Bishops' Conference, were published by Veritas. Article series through the year included the Year of Vocation in Ireland, Ministering to Migrants and the Year of St Paul. The June *Intercom* hosted a Preaching Seminar, which explored the homily through a scriptural, liturgical, theological, performative and pastoral lens.

Activities in 2008

In September Cardinal Brady launched a new website for the Bishops' Conference, its agencies and commissions: www.catholicbishops.ie. Media training for Bishops and diocesan

representatives continued in 2008. Other highlights of 2008 included:

- **Year of Vocation for Ireland** Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin, launched the Year of Vocation on 13 April which ran until 3 May 2009.
- **Four main Church leaders visit the Holy Land** The leaders of Ireland's four main Churches visited the Holy Land from 29 April until 2 May.
- **Eucharistic Congress** On 22 June Pope Benedict announced via satellite link to the 2008 host city, Quebec, that Dublin has been chosen to host the 50th Eucharistic Congress in 2012. Cardinal Brady, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and other Irish supporters were present to hear the news.
- **World Youth Day** Nearly 1,000 young Irish Catholics supported by 8 Bishops were in Sydney in July to greet Pope Benedict XVI.
- **Croagh Patrick** Archbishop Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam, celebrated the annual Reek Sunday Mass from the summit, televised for the first time on 25 July.
- **Lourdes** On 7 September 3,000 pilgrims, the largest ever pilgrimage from the Archdiocese of Dublin, travelled to Lourdes. 2008 was the Jubilee year, the 150th anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady to St Bernadette in 1858.
- **Synod of Bishops** This took place in Rome between 5 and 26 October. The theme was 'The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church'. Cardinal Brady and Archbishop Martin attended and represented the Irish Bishops' Conference.
- **Publications** The Bishops published pastoral letters *Life is for Living – A Reflection on Suicide* on 10 September and *Day for Life* on 2 October on the theme of mental health. On 12 December the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith published *Dignitas Personae – Instruction on Certain Bioethical Issues*. Bishop Donal Murray, Bishop of Limerick, and Dr Phil Boyle, fertility specialist at the Galway Clinic, promoted the publication in video interviews on www.catholicbishops.ie.

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Council for Research and Development



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

The Council is the advisory body for a social researcher who works from the Columba Centre in Maynooth. Its membership is composed of two Bishops' Conference members and five lay people and it meets four times per year. The researcher undertakes specific projects requested by the members and other agencies of the Bishops' Conference. The office also acts as an information resource for the agencies and commissions of the Bishops' Conference, clergy and religious, media personnel and the general public. Research projects are rarely carried out in isolation so we work 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 tasks during the year is to generate statistical information regarding vocations to religious life and other data on clergy and religious in Ireland. The results of this annual survey are sought most often by members of the public and the mass media. While the 2008 data are not yet to hand, the institutional Church's personnel continues to age. There is a stabilising of the numbers entering the priesthood and the orders and congregations, although this is part of a longer term trend.

In October 2008 the Council co-hosted a conference entitled *Researching in the Church in Ireland*. This conference, in conjunction with the Department of Sociology, NUI, Maynooth, aimed to facilitate a dialogue that is taking place about the role that research can play in a changing Church and build confidence and capacity to participate in good quality research and evaluation. It was held in Renehan Hall, St Patrick's College, Maynooth. Approximately 40 people attended on the day with representatives from religious communities, dioceses and

parishes present. One of the key messages emerging from this conference was the need for a network of researchers with an interest in research in and about the Church in Ireland.

The office also acts as an information and research resource to the members of the Bishops' Conference. In 2008 the Council undertook the first digital mapping of Catholic Diocesan boundaries on the island of Ireland. Following ten weeks of rigorous and technically complex work by Mr Omar Sarhan of NUI Maynooth, a digital map of Ireland's Catholic dioceses and parish boundaries for selected dioceses was produced. As a resource of the Irish Bishops' Conference, it can be used across projects in the coming years.

An important part of the work carried out by the social researcher is to liaise with other agencies and commissions of the Bishops' Conference and provide them with research support whenever possible. During 2008 the office compiled an analysis of the demography of the Diocese of Killala; conducted a survey of the readership of *Intercom* magazine; provided technical support to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin's 'Reach Out' project; supported the ICPO post-release survey; provided training to ACCORD personnel in data management; and hosted a meeting of the Irish Social Policy Network. In late 2008 the Council was asked to undertake a project on the possible amalgamation of two Dublin schools. The report for this project will be available from www.catholicbishops.ie.

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Veritas Communications



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

In 2007 the management team in Veritas, with the encouragement of the Executive Committee, initiated a process of strategic planning. A strategic plan was developed with a five-year horizon. In June 2008 the plan was finalised and presented to the Executive. It provided objectives and targets towards which the company would work over the next five years. Because of the changing business climate in 2008, it was decided to adopt the plan for an initial six-month period, after which its relevance would be reviewed in the light of trading conditions. The principal objectives being pursued in the plan are:

- To open up a market for our catechetical materials in the US, as a way of supporting the production of catechetical materials for Ireland.
- To increase online sales from our new website, www.veritas.ie.
- To promote Veritas Publications to the agencies of the Conference, to dioceses and to other religious organisations, such as schools trusts, as a service provider in the area of publishing.
- To establish new ways of retailing our products without incurring the heavy overheads of a retail establishment, for example, by negotiating designated retail space in existing reputable shops, while at the same time taking such steps as can be taken to achieve at least break even results in our shops, for example, by adjusting opening hours.
- To position ourselves to take advantage of developments in the area of online learning.
- It is essential that new sources of business be established and exploited in order to sustain the business and allow income from one aspect of the business to support any area of the business where our presence is necessary

to fulfill our purpose, even if it is not fully self-financing.

Veritas had a difficult year financially in 2008. In the second half of the year all of our retail outlets were adversely affected by the economic downturn. A full review of costs was initiated. The objective was to reduce costs in a way that would not compromise sales and would leave the company strong and ready to take advantage of the upswing when it comes. A saving of €50,000 was achieved and this should enable savings of approximately €236,000 in 2009. These savings have been achieved by staff foregoing bonuses, working shorter hours and achieving greater efficiency.

In December we moved our Derry premises from Butcher Street to Shipquay Street. When we first opened our Derry shop it was hoped that the Calgagh Centre, where our shop was located, would become a thriving business and culture centre. However, this did not materialise and our shop became isolated. This left us with the decision either to close the shop and move out of Derry or to relocate to a better trading position. In mid-December, with the approval of the Executive, we moved to Shipquay Street. The new shop was officially opened by Bishop Hegarty on 5 February.

Veritas staff attended the annual Religious Education Congress in Anaheim, California, and the National Conference of Catechetical Leaders in Houston, Texas, where we promoted Veritas as a publisher of religious education resources. We also attended the Religious Book Trade Exhibition in Chicago, where we made contact with US publishers whose books we distribute in Ireland, and the Trade Fairs in Birmingham and Milan, where cribs and religious gifts were sourced for our shops.

There were no new Veritas catechetical publications in 2008. However, we commenced work in cooperation with Mater Dei on a new online resource in religious education for senior second-level students.

We published a wide range of general titles, many of which received favourable reviews in general, as well as in the religious media.

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Episcopal Commission for Catechetics



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

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 2008 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; 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, an Advisory Board of approx. ten people attend the meetings of the Commission.

The major projects engaged by the Commission during 2008 were as follows:

National Directory for Catechesis A fourth revised draft of *Be Good News* was produced and amended at the beginning of 2008. This amended fourth revised draft was then presented to the September 2008 meeting of the Episcopal Conference. The September meeting of the Conference approved this draft of the National Directory for Catechesis, *Be Good News*, and it was brought to Rome and presented to the Congregation of the Clergy on 16 October 2008.

The New Primary RE Syllabus Work on the first draft of the new RE Syllabus for Primary Schools was completed during 2008. This draft was written in the light of 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*. In November 2008 this pilot draft was sent to Bishops, focus

groups, national bodies and individuals for their observations and comments.

Education in Faith Sunday This was celebrated on 27 January 2008 and led into Catholic Education Week (in the North of Ireland). The joint celebration finished on Temperance Sunday. The theme of the week was 'Living Faith Fully'. The National Catechetical Office sent posters to every parish in the country and provided online resources while the CGCE provided resources for schools. Fifteen Irish diocesan websites and approx. fifty other websites mentioned the celebration. Over the course of the two weeks the catechetics website received 49,224 hits. It was decided during the year that the celebration of Education in Faith Sunday should be discontinued and replaced by a celebration of Catholic Schools Week countrywide.

The Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults

During 2008 the Episcopal Conference decided to proceed with efforts to adopt the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* (USCCA) for use in Ireland. Cardinal Brady wrote to Cardinal George requesting permission for such an adaptation and approval was subsequently given by the North American Conference. Under the guidance of the Catechetics Commission, preliminary work began on the adaptation and practical help and advice was forthcoming from the Office of the Catechism in North America.

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

Guidelines In conjunction with the Liturgy Commission, work continued on drawing up 'Draft Guidelines' for the celebration of First Communion. Preliminary work began on a set of guidelines, which would be of use to interview boards when appointing teachers to Catholic schools. Work also continued on the guidelines for school retreats.

Conferences The National Director attended and addressed conferences in Durban (South Africa), Los Angeles, Houston and Rome. Work on the National RE Congress '09 was begun in 2008.

The National Director in-serviced teachers, visited/contacted all the Colleges of Education to update the data on teacher qualifications in RE and worked in Mater Dei and St Patrick's, Maynooth.

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Episcopal Commission for Education



Bishop Leo O'Reilly, Chairman, and Mgr 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 and the Department of Education, Northern Ireland. The Commission advises the Conference on all government legislation as applied to education. It responds and acts as spokesperson 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 (NICCE) 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 National Advisory Council on Education (NACE) supports the role of the Education Commission and shares responsibility for the forward planning necessary to ensure the best provision for Catholic Education in the country.

The Chairman of the Commission is Bishop Leo O'Reilly. The staff of the Commission are Mgr James Cassin, Executive Secretary, and Ms Bernadette Martin, PA to the Executive Secretary.

Vision 08 – A Vision for Catholic Education in Ireland

Bishop Leo O'Reilly, Chair of the Education Commission of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, launched the Irish Bishops' Conference pastoral letter, *Vision 08 – A Vision for Catholic Education in Ireland*, on 12 May 2008.

Catholic Education Service

A Constitution and Strategic Plan for an all-Ireland Catholic Education Service (CES) was

approved by the Irish Bishops' Conference in 2008. It will support a vibrant Catholic Education sector in response to changing social economic and political conditions in Ireland.

Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education (NICCE) dealt with the following issues in 2008:

- Catholic Trustee Support Body
- Academic selection
- Area-based planning
- The Post-Primary Review
- Work and membership of Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education (NICCE)
- The Northern Bishops published a statement on 25 June to clarify their position on various issues.

Factors Determining School Choice

The Council for Research and Development of the Irish Bishops' Conference published *Factors Determining School Choice* in April 2008 – a report on a survey of the attitudes of parents of children attending Catholic primary schools in Ireland.

CPSMA

Ms Eileen Flynn was appointed General Secretary of the CPSMA in succession to Mgr Dan O'Connor. Also appointed to CPSMA were: Ms Margaret Gorman, Assistant General Secretary, and Ms Linda Gorman, Office Manager.

CEIST

In June 2008 Catholic Education – an Irish Schools Trust (CEIST Ltd.) and EDUCENA Ltd were accorded public juridic status by the Irish Episcopal Conference.

Community Primary Schools

Two Community primary schools (Scoil Ghráinne and Scoil Choilm) run by the State opened in Ireland in September 2008. The Department of Education and Science proposed that the schools would be multi-denominational schools.

The Minister for Education and Science hosted a conference entitled 'Governance Challenge for Future Primary School Needs' in June 2008.

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Episcopal Commission for Doctrine



Archbishop Michael Neary, Chairman, and Bishop Donal Murray, Secretary

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

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Episcopal Commission for Ecumenism



Bishop Anthony Farquhar, Chairman of the Episcopal Commission for Ecumenism, and Fr Brendan Leahy, Secretary of the Advisory Committee on Ecumenism

The Episcopal Commission for 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 35, including the Episcopal members, a priest representative from each diocese and people chosen for their competence and experience in the ecumenical field.

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Permanent Diaconate



Bishop Philip Boyce, Chairman of the Commission for Clergy/Seminaries/Permanent Diaconate, and Mgr Dermot Farrell, National Director of the Permanent Diaconate

In 2001 the Irish Episcopal Conference received permission from the Holy See to proceed with the restoration of the Permanent Diaconate in Ireland. In 2005 approval was received for the document, *The Permanent Diaconate: National Directory and Norms for Ireland*, and this document was subsequently published by the Irish Bishops. This document will guide the introduction of Permanent Diaconate in Ireland and give some understanding of this ecclesial ministry. In December 2006 the Bishops issued a leaflet *Among You As One Who Serves – A Short Guide to the Permanent Diaconate*. This leaflet was re-issued in 2009 in order to support catechetical efforts in dioceses.

Vatican II mandated the introduction of the Permanent Diaconate throughout the Church and permanent deacons are present in many countries since the early 1970s. The deacon is understood to have three aspects to his ministry: service of the word; service at the altar; and service of charity. In practical terms, deacons often serve in specific ministries to the poor and underprivileged as well as exercising liturgical roles such as preaching, administering some sacraments and working in the pastoral life of the Church.

The introduction of the Permanent Diaconate is a new departure for the Catholic Church in Ireland. It provides new and fresh opportunities for service in the name of the Church. However, the place of the deacon is intended to complement and enhance the roles played by so many others in the faith community – lay and ordained. Yet since the diaconate forms part of Holy Orders, the deacon must in a particular way be an icon of Christ the Servant, the one who washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper. The deacon sacramentally represents the service of Christ.

The National Director of the Permanent Diaconate is Mgr Dermot Farrell. In June 2008 the Irish Episcopal Conference appointed Fr Gearóid Dullea as Coordinator of the Formation Programme for the Permanent Diaconate. The Bishops have advanced the introduction of the Permanent Diaconate by ensuring that all necessary steps are taken to ensure that its introduction will be of benefit to the Irish Church. They also appointed a consultative group on the formation of permanent deacons. The Commission for Clergy/Seminaries/Permanent Diaconate is responsible for dealing with matters related to the diaconate.

The Archdiocese of Dublin and the Diocese of Elphin have jointly run an introductory (propaedeutic) year for prospective candidates in their dioceses and hope to begin formation in autumn 2009. Other dioceses are at various stages of preparation.

The Coordinator of the Formation Programme liaises with diocesan directors of the Permanent Diaconate throughout the country to assist them in preparing for its introduction in their dioceses. While individual dioceses are responsible for accepting men for the diaconate, the Coordinator will ensure that adequate structures are in place for dioceses to form their aspirants and candidates for ordination as deacons. He will convene national and regional gatherings of the diocesan directors. He also serves as Secretary of the National Training Authority for the Permanent Diaconate, which approves programmes of formation for the diaconate.

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ACCORD Catholic Marriage Care Service



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

ACCORD is Ireland's leading nationwide agency supporting marriage and relationships through its 58 centres and over 800 professionally trained counsellors and facilitators. ACCORD is a predominantly lay organisation working in cooperation with, and under the direction of, the Catholic Hierarchy in Ireland.

Our core services are Marriage and Relationship Counselling and Marriage Preparation. We also offer Marriage Enrichment, Fertility Management, Marital Sexual Therapy and Schools programmes.

ACCORD (Catholic Marriage Care Service), formerly known as CMAC, was established in Ireland in the early '60s and expanded to become a nationwide service. Their personnel are selected for their warmth, openness and non-judgemental qualities. Also important is their experience in their day-to-day living of their own relationships and marriage in particular.

ACCORD services are open to all who need them regardless of denomination, race, creed or ability to pay.

In 2008 ACCORD personnel provided over 64,500 direct contact hours, an increase of 10% on the previous year. The services were provided as follows:

- 61% Marriage and Relationship Counselling;
- 33% Marriage Preparation;
- 6% through our Schools Programme.

This included the provision of marriage preparation for 10,200 couples, more than 36,000 marriage counselling sessions and reached more than 29,000 children through the expanding schools programme.

ACCORD Initiatives in 2008

Discerning the Spiritual Strengths and Needs of ACCORD

In the course of the year, the national process of discerning the spiritual strengths and needs of ACCORD was initiated by the National Director, working closely with the National Chaplain. The launch of the initiative at the annual conference was followed by the circulation of spirituality reflectionnaires. By close of year the number of reflectionnaires returned indicated a very high level of response, which will be a great help in terms of forward planning in the service of our members.

Marriage Preparation Review Group

A report of this group, which was set up to review marriage preparation within ACCORD, was presented at Assembly in 2008. Many of the conclusions and recommendations of this group are being implemented, including the setting up of a further group to update material in four modules. This group hopes to complete its work by the end of 2009.

Continuous Quality Improvement in Service to the Client

Client Pathway (a process approach to client care focussing on the tasks and interventions that must occur in a timely fashion to offer an effective and efficient service to the client) was piloted successfully in four ACCORD centres in 2008. A report is before the NEC with a view to embedding the Client Pathway Audit throughout the organisation. This ensures that Central Office continues to guarantee the highest quality of national standards and training for the clients of 58 ACCORD centres.

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CURA: Crisis Pregnancy Services



Bishop John Fleming, President, and Ms Louise Graham, National Coordinator of CURA

A crisis pregnancy is a pregnancy that is neither planned nor desired by the 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 informed decisions 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 arrangements to facilitate abortion.

There are now sixteen CURA centres and two outreach centres around the country providing the following services:

- 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 with agencies
- Post-abortion counselling

- Crisis Pregnancy counselling to a baby's father and other family members
- Schools Awareness Programme.

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 Coordinator
- Christine Fitzpatrick, National Office Administrator
- Ann Martens, National Office Secretary
- Claire Barry and Eithne Kellegher, Regional Coordinators
- Noreen Keane and Charlotte Keery, National PROs.

In 2008 CURA provided services to over 5,500 clients which included crisis pregnancy counselling and post-abortion counselling.

CURA Annual Conference 2008

The 31st CURA Annual Conference, *CURA Crisis Pregnancy Counselling: Engaging with Challenge*, was hosted by the Wexford CURA centre and over 200 delegates attended. Keynote speakers included Most Rev. John Fleming DD, Bishop of Killala and President of CURA, Katharine Bulbulia, Chairperson of Crisis Pregnancy Agency, and Gus Murray, Director of the Counselling and Psychotherapy Programme, Cork Institute of Technology.

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National Helpline Number: 1850 622 626

The Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants



Bishop Séamus Hegarty, Chairman, and Brian Hanley, Emigrant Officer 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 of the Irish Episcopal Conference to the needs of emigrants. The IECE shows the caring face of the Church and 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. Working in conjunction with the host Church, the IECE seeks to respond to the needs of the Irish as an immigrant community.

Today there are no less than 1.2 million Irish people living abroad. Most 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 outreach services for Irish 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 5th 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)
- ‘It should be led by the principle that no one, be they migrants, refugees or members of the local population, should be looked upon as a “stranger”, but rather as a “gift”, in parishes and other ecclesial communities. This is an authentic expression of the “catholicity” of the Church.’ (Para. 9)
- ‘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 the 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.

As a consequence of the current economic downturn, increasing numbers of Irish men and women are again leaving our shores in the hope of making a new life for themselves and their families. This new pattern of migration brings with it many challenges for the IECE and its various apostolates. While the traditional destinations such as Britain and the United States continue to receive many of our emigrants, a significant percentage of this new generation of emigrants are instead travelling to Canada, New Zealand and Australia. The challenge for the IECE will be to maintain the same level of pastoral outreach to this new wave of Irish emigrants.

During the Supporting Irish Abroad (SIA) campaigns of 2004, 2005 and 2006, the donations made by so many Irish people provided funding for various front-line outreach services. The IECE is particularly concerned for those emigrants whose journey has been a difficult one and is especially mindful of the elderly Irish emigrant community, the undocumented Irish in the United States and Irish prisoners overseas. Funding has been primarily focussed on these most vulnerable categories of Irish emigrants. The Irish Apostolate USA (IAUSA) continues to lobby on behalf of the undocumented in the USA and currently is actively involved with the efforts of the US Bishops’ Conference Justice for Immigrants campaign, as well as the Interfaith Immigration Coalition. There is cautious hope that the Obama administration and Congress will work on comprehensive immigration reform in late 2009 and early 2010. The generosity of parishioners throughout Ireland has helped sustain the work of the IECE today, as it continues to highlight the problems facing generations of Irish emigrants.

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Tel: + 353 (0)1 505 3055/3155
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www.catholicbishops.ie/migrants

The Irish Episcopal Council for Immigrants



Bishop Eamonn Walsh, Chairman, and Ms Helen Young, Administrator for the Irish Episcopal Council for Immigrants

There are currently over 500,000 non-Irish nationals living on the island of Ireland. Concern for the reception and treatment of immigrants and on the related question of pastoral care prompted the formation of the Irish Episcopal Council for Immigrants in September 2008. Its mission is to welcome, support and empower immigrants who have come to Ireland.

The Council serves as the centre of a network of diocesan and parish personnel who minister to various ethnic groups and people on the move throughout the country. It is tasked with increasing pastoral awareness, cultural sensitivity, and the dynamics of outreach, welcome and support throughout its network. Inherent in its mission is the promotion and development of mutual respect and incorporation of the gifts and talents offered by diverse cultures into our parish lives. To fulfil this mission, the Council aims to develop and foster initiatives between the Bishops' Conference and the dioceses and parishes in relation to the pastoral care of immigrants.

Membership

The Council is chaired by Most Rev. Eamonn Walsh, Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin, and its members are: Fr Brian McLaughlin CSSp, Fr Jaroslaw Maszkiewicz, Sr Kay Mulhall, Sr Louise O'Connell and Mr Brendan Schütte.

2008 Priorities and Objectives

The Council's priority for 2008 was the establishment of an up-to-date database that provides details of personnel working in dioceses throughout Ireland who are tasked with the pastoral care of immigrants. It also conducted exploratory primary research to establish current immigrant pastoral care work undertaken across the dioceses. This research formed the basis of an innovative pilot immigrant scheme to be launched at the end of 2009. From this foundation, the core

objectives and mission of the newly formed Council were outlined and are listed as follows:

- The provision of English language classes. This is viewed as a key priority as it affects immigrants in many areas of their lives, such as employment prospects and accessing legal and social networks.
- The empowering of immigrant communities to become active participants in the life of the parish by encouraging them to contribute to parish liturgies, take on roles of service (e.g. Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist, membership of parish pastoral councils, altar servers); making available parish resources where immigrants can meet to share concerns or meet for their own distinctive events; develop programmes that would bring immigrant and host communities together (e.g. World Migrant Day).
- The inclusion of migrant chaplaincies in parish communities and fostering cooperation and collaboration between them to provide pastoral care and support to immigrants.
- The provision of welcome and information leaflets on the location of Churches and Mass times.
- The organisation of immigration awareness and sensitisation programmes in parishes.
- The provision of general information to facilitate early integration into the civic realm (e.g. how to access healthcare, social services, legal services, etc.).
- Befriending schemes and the accompanying of immigrants by lay people, religious and priests to advocate as interpreters in dealings with statutory and non-statutory authorities.
- A recognition that to achieve effective pastoral care services for immigrants, there is a need to work with government and local authorities, as well as ecumenically with other Christian denominations, people of other faiths and the non-government organisations sector.

Through these objectives and in accordance with the Pontifical Council's Instruction, *Erga migrantes caritas Christi* (2004), the Council aims to strengthen and augment the excellent work currently being carried out in the pastoral care of immigrants across the island of Ireland.

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The Irish Episcopal Council for Prisoners Overseas



Bishop Séamus Hegarty, Chairman, and Brian Hanley, Coordinator of the ICPO

The Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas (ICPO) was established by the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference in 1985 in response to serious concerns regarding the number of Irish men and women in UK prisons.

The ICPO works for all Irish prisoners wherever they are; it makes no distinction in terms of religious faith, the nature of the prison conviction or of a prisoner's status.

The objectives of the ICPO are to:

- Identify and respond to the needs of Irish prisoners abroad, and their families;
- Research and provide relevant information to prisoners on issues such as deportation, repatriation and transfer;
- Focus public attention on issues affecting Irish prisoners (ill-treatment, racist abuse, etc.);
- Engage in practical work in aid of justice and human rights for Irish migrants, refugees and prisoners at an international level.

In December 2008 the ICPO had 420 open cases and over the course of the year dealt with in excess of 500 different Irish people imprisoned overseas. The ICPO has approximately 350 clients in Britain, with significant numbers spread throughout mainland Europe, the United States and Australia. The ICPO also assists prisoners in South and Central America, South East Asia and Africa. On behalf of the ICPO, Irish missionaries have undertaken the care and companionship of Irish prisoners who are particularly isolated and vulnerable.

In addition to the financial burden that family members of Irish prisoners overseas face, they also experience a lot of additional worry and frustration due to the language and other cultural differences which can compound the bureaucratic challenges presented by prison, policing and justice systems overseas.

The ICPO produces a bi-annual newsletter *ICPO News*, which is sent to prisoners, their families and other interested parties. The ICPO also operates a pen friend scheme, which is much appreciated by those in custody. Approximately 85 volunteers are currently corresponding with prisoners overseas. ICPO also hosts a Family Day each year with guest speakers and a chance for family members to meet and share their experiences with others in similar situations.

The Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas is funded by the Irish Episcopal Conference and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). The DFA provides financial support to the ICPO's Hardship Fund. The Hardship Fund allows ICPO to assist prisoners in situations where they have limited access to proper food and clean water and where there are difficulties accessing appropriate medical and dental treatment.

The ICPO was a significant contributor to the *Report on Irish Prisoners Abroad*, prepared by former government minister Mr Chris Flood in 2007. This report provides an accurate synopsis of the many difficulties faced by Irish prisoners and their families. Considerable progress has been made in terms of implementing the report's recommendations. The ICPO is committed to securing their full implementation and will continue to work with the Department of Foreign Affairs and others to achieve this.

<p>ICPO Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co. Kildare Tel: +353 (0)1 505 3156 Fax: +353 (0)1 6016401 Email: icpo@iecon.ie www.catholicbishops.ie/prisoners-overseas</p>	<p>ICPO London Office 50-752 Camden Street, London, NW1 9XB Tel: + 44 (0) 207 4824148 Fax: + 44(0) 207 4824815</p>
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The Irish Episcopal Commission for the Care of Migrants (IECCM) comprises the Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants (which has the Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas as a sub-section) and the Irish Episcopal Council for Immigrants and aims to support migrants arriving to and departing from Ireland. The Chairperson of IECCM is Bishop Christopher Jones, Bishop of Elphin.



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www.catholicbishops.ie

The Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative



Bishop Éamonn Walsh, Chairman, and John Taaffe, National Coordinator of the IBDI

History

The Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative (IBDI) was established by the Irish Episcopal Conference in 1997 to allow the Church to play her part in responding to alcohol and drug misuse.

Vision

For parishes to make a significant contribution to the prevention of drugs and alcohol problems, while reaching out with a pastoral approach to those affected by drug and alcohol misuse.

Aim

The Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative aims to enable parishes to use a pastoral response, in partnership with other service providers, to contribute to primary and secondary prevention of drug/alcohol problems in parish communities.

Objectives

- To support and mobilise parishes in a strategic approach to the prevention of drug/alcohol problems in parish communities.
- To provide training in good practices in drug prevention/group development to the parish committee.
- To empower parish core groups with new skills to mobilise and respond to local alcohol/drug issues in collaboration with other service providers.
- To provide parishes with the facilities to promote drug/alcohol awareness and prevention.
- To help parish projects promote the implementation of Walk Tall and SPHE programmes in local schools, along with substance use policies.
- To provide training for parishes on creating a response to drugs and alcohol.
- To develop partnerships with other service providers.
- To ensure that members of the Irish Bishops' Conference, local clergy and parishes are kept

updated on current, relevant and evidence-based responses in drug prevention at both diocesan and national level.

The Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative has registered over 50 parishes that are currently playing their part in preventing drug and alcohol problems, whether through accommodating self-help groups like AA or with parish schools teaching the Walk Tall programme or SPHE. These parishes are already strengthening young people in their response to drugs or alcohol misuse. The new IBDI initiative combines the spiritual as well as the practical, so that responses will address the whole person, i.e. body, mind and spirit. Following the success of the pilot programme, the IBDI has planned to develop the initiative nationally, beginning with seminars in four dioceses. This will be expanded over the following year to include the training of parish representatives in a further six dioceses.

In addition to this pilot programme in parishes, the IBDI also provides the following services:

- Support in creating a parish response to drug and alcohol problems.
- Information and awareness through the provision of a prevention resource pack (posters and leaflets, etc.)
- A handbook for parishes on facilitating parish responses to drug and alcohol problems.
- Training for communities to deliver a Confirmation 'Healthy Life Skills' Programme.
- Training and educational programmes for parents and young people in partnership with other service providers.
- Encouragement to parishes in the development of youth facilities as alternatives to alcohol and drug use.
- An educational DVD is also available.

The IBDI is based in Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Bishop Éamonn Walsh is the Episcopal Representative on the IBDI. Mr John Taaffe is the National Coordinator of the IBDI and Mr Darren Butler is the Development Worker.

Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative
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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

Purpose and Objectives

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'.¹ To fulfil this purpose, the Commission aims to maintain and develop communication between the Irish Episcopal 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 Seamus Freeman.

The Advisory Board comprises representatives of the dioceses nominated by four provincial regional groups, as well as the National Director for Catechetics and representatives of CORI, IMU and the Knights of St Columbanus. The Advisory Board meets three times each year.

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 2008

- In Spring 2008 the annual regional meetings were open to all, at both diocesan and parish level, with responsibility/interest in parish-oriented adult faith development. Domhnall O'Neill presented a wide array of programmes as researched internationally.
- In the consultations that followed, priorities for action were identified as: a web-based communication /networking system; investment in personnel and training at every level; appropriate structures for support and development; and materials and programmes

that are 'localised' to the Irish context.

- A report was made to the June meetings of the Department and Episcopal Conference. Approval was received to engage Domhnall O'Neill for a further term, with the specific task of developing an intranet system for diocesan directors/coordinators of parish-oriented adult faith development.
- In the autumn term, Domhnall surveyed the needs and interests of diocesan personnel and is continuing with his task, which is due for launch in June 2009.
- The consultation process relating to youth ministry progressed during the year and is due to reach completion early in 2009, with the publication of a framework document for youth ministry in Ireland. This work, which was undertaken in partnership with the National Committee of Diocesan Youth Directors, is facilitated by Fr Michael Kelleher CSsR.
- At the Annual Convention in May, regional representatives to the Advisory Board had completed their three-year term. Following review of the tasks of regional representatives, it was proposed that the scope of their role be enhanced. New nominees were appointed for three years by the Episcopal Conference at the June and September meetings.
- The pastoral conference in September 2008 explored dimensions of dialogue and collaboration in the Church, using the world café process (see www.theworldcafe.com). In particular, members of ecclesial movements and lay associations were invited together with pastoral leaders and workers from parishes, dioceses, religious congregations and other institutions. The event has provided a good foundation for further work at diocese and national level.
- The Commission was represented at a bicentennial colloquium, *Formation for the Future*, at Ushaw College, Durham, UK, at a conference hosted by the Pontifical Council for the Laity to mark the twentieth anniversary of the publication of *Mulieris dignitatem* at the International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec and at the study assembly of the European Laity Forum on diversity in Europe.

NOTE

¹ Terms of Reference of the Commission.

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Administrative Secretary: Bernie Martin
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Episcopal Commission for Liturgy



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

Thirty-six 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 McAreavey, Bishop Martin Drennan, Bishop Seamus Freeman and Rev. Patrick Jones, secretary) and coordinating the 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 Rúnai – 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 done 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, parish teams, etc.

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, the Rite 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, begun 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 are: Rev. Patrick Jones, Sr Moira Bergin RSM and the Rev. Prof. Liam Tracey OSM.

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www.liturgy-ireland.ie

Vocations Commission



Bishop Donal McKeown, Chairman, and Fr Paddy Rushe, National Coordinator for Vocations

The Vocations Commission was very active throughout 2008, not least with the major initiative which was the Year of Vocation (see p. 18 for highlights). While the Commission specifically promotes the vocation to the ordained ministry, that call comes from within the fundamental vocation of all Christians to be followers of Jesus Christ and is at the service of the whole people of God. Thus, the need to respond to our baptismal call was also acknowledged and promoted through the commission. This fundamental call (a call to communion with God and each other; a call to a life of service and sacrifice; a call to live lives of example to one another), expressed in so many ways, was the kernel of the Year of Vocation.

The Vocations Commission members – along with members of Vocations Ireland and diocesan vocations directors – seeks to make sure that the presence and promotion of the priesthood strengthened the universal call to holiness and to the living out of our baptismal consecration.

Each year the Vocations Commission has a number of key projects:

- **The Annual Celebration of Vocations Sunday**

The Commission coordinates the provision and distribution of resources for use at diocesan and parish level on this day.

- **The Annual Conference for Diocesan Vocation Directors**

The 2008 Conference was held in Killarney, Co. Kerry, and the theme was ‘I am the Vine, you are the Branches’ (John 15:5). Topics discussed at the conference were the ongoing formation by and for Vocation Directors and discernment. Directors also received updates about the Year of Vocation and the new Irish Vocations DVD.

- **Collaboration**

The Vocations Commission collaborates with the Vocations Services of Scotland, England and Wales, the European Vocations Service for Europe and the National Vocations Conference of the United States. This is achieved through regular sharing of resources and attending conferences throughout the year. These are invaluable.

- **Priesthood Sunday**

In 2008, as part of the Year of Vocation initiative, Ireland held its first annual ‘Priesthood Sunday’ celebration (on 28 September 2008) a special day set aside to honour and promote priesthood. It is a day to reflect upon and affirm the role of the priesthood in the life of the Church as a central one.

Other work regularly undertaken by the Vocations Commission is:

- Ongoing development and updating of the Vocations Commission website: www.vocations.ie;
- The preparation of interviews and articles on ‘vocation’ for print and broadcast media;
- Responding to and directing inquiries about vocation to the appropriate centre;
- Coordinating the release of statistical data about vocations, as compiled by the Council for Research and Development of the Irish Episcopal Conference.

- **Future Plans**

The Year for Priests and the catechesis leading up to the 2012 Eucharistic Congress in Dublin will all provide key opportunities to promote priesthood in modern Ireland.

- **Vocations Commission Members**

The members of the Vocations Commission are Bishop Donal McKeown (Chairman) and Fr Patrick Rushe (The National Coordinator for Diocesan Vocation Directors).

Episcopal Representative for Vocations
Bishop Donal McKeown

National Coordinator for Diocesan Vocations
Fr Patrick J. Rushe CC
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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 that will communicate the Church's teaching on bioethical issues to various categories of people – Catholic professionals, other Christians, lay Catholics and the general public;
- Suggests areas in the bioethical field or in related spheres for research and study by the Catholic Bishops' Joint Committee on Bioethical Issues (Ireland, Scotland, England and 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.

2008 Highlights

The Joint Bioethics Committee of the Episcopal Conferences of Ireland, England and Wales and Scotland was scheduled to meet in Dublin in October 2008. The members of the Bishops' Bioethics Consultative Group took the opportunity to join forces with our colleagues from Scotland, England and Wales to organise a one-day conference. The day was facilitated by Prof. Emmanuel Agius (Malta), who is a member of the European Group on Ethics, and Ms Katharina Schauer (Germany), a staff member of COMECE, the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community. The principle focus of the day was to explore the current bioethical 'terrain' in Europe, with a view to being better prepared to respond to important issues as they arise in the years ahead.

In December 2008 members of the Consultative Group assisted the Catholic Communications Office in presenting the instruction *Dignitas Personae*, published by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

In the final months of 2008, the members of the Consultative Group, in response to a Consultation Paper published by the Law Reform Commission, prepared a submission on Advance Care Directives. The submission explores the ethical challenges involved in making legal provision to facilitate those who have an input into decision-making about future medical treatment, which may be proposed at a time when they are no longer competent to make decisions or to express preferences.

Contact person
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www.healthcare-ethics.ie

PART III

DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS OF THE IRISH CATHOLIC 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

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Email: admin@aracoeli.com

www.archdioceseofarmagh.com

Diocesan Communications Officer:

Mr Martin Long, Director of

Communications, Catholic

Communications Office

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

Cathedral: St Patrick's Cathedral,

Armagh.

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.



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 and Refugees, member of the Advisory Committee on Ecumenism, member of the Standing

Committee on Mixed Marriages and a member of the National Executive Council of CURA. Bishop Clifford is also a member of CEIST (Education Trust).

Annaskeagh, Ravensdale, Dundalk,
Co. Louth

Tel: +353 (0)42 9371012

Fax: +353 (0)42 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

Parishes: 199

Catholic Population: 1,087,285

Catholic Churches: 238

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

Cathedral: St Mary's Pro-Cathedral,
Dublin.



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; appointed Apostolic Administrator of Ferns 6 April 2002.

Member of the Department of Planning and Communications, Member of the Commission on Communications, Chairman of the Irish Episcopal Council for Immigrants and Vice-Chair of the Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative.

Bishop Walsh is the Liaison Bishop on behalf of the Bishops' Conference 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. 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 Bishops' Conference 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 Commission on Healthcare/Disabilities/Drugs.

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: 01 459 3467/086 0403025
Email: balbriggan@dublin.accord.ie

Ballymun
Unit 23, Ballymun Shopping Centre,
Ballymun, Dublin 11
Tel: 01 8621508
Email: ballymun@dublin.accord.ie

Blanchardstown
ACCORD House, Church Avenue,
Blanchardstown, Dublin 15
Tel: 01 8201044
Email: blanchardstown@dublin.accord.ie

Bray
The Old Presbytery, Herbert Road,
Bray, Co. Wicklow
Tel: 01 2837712
Email: bray@dublin.accord.ie

Clondalkin
'St Kevin's', Monastery Road,
Clondalkin, Dublin 22
Tel: 01 4593467
Email: clondalkin@dublin.accord.ie

Dun Laoghaire
35 Upper George's Street,
Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
Tel: 01 2801682
Email: dunlaoghaire@dublin.accord.ie

Harcourt Street
39 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2
Tel: 01 4784400
Email: marriagepreparation@dublin.accord.ie

Marino
71 Griffith Avenue, Marino, Dublin 3
Tel: 01 8338631
Email: marino@dublin.accord.ie

Phibsborough
15 Dalymount, Phibsborough, Dublin 7
Tel: 01 8680028
Email: phibsborough@dublin.accord.ie

Swords
Seatown Road, Swords, Co. Dublin
Tel: 01 8404550
Email: swords@dublin.accord.ie

Tallaght
Unit E, Exchange Hall, Belgard Square
North, Tallaght, Dublin 24
Tel: 01 4590337
Email: tallaght@dublin.accord.ie

Templeogue
265 Templeogue Road, Templeogue,
Dublin 6W
Tel: 01 4908739
Email: templeogue@dublin.accord.ie

CURA

CURA Office, 30 South Anne Street,
Dublin 2
Tel: 01 671 0598

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 Street,
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; appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Cloyne 7 March 2009.

Member 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
www.cashel-emly.ie

Diocesan Communications Officer:
Fr Nicholas Irwin
Email: nicholasjirwin@eircom.net
Parishes: 46
Catholic Population: 82,578
Catholic Churches: 87
Patron of the Archdiocese: St Ailbe
Cathedral: Cathedral of the
Assumption, Thurles.

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

ACCORD

Thurles: Cathedral Street, Thurles,
Co. Tipperary
Tel: 0504 22279
Tipperary Town: Community Services
Centre, St Michael's Street, 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, Chairman of the Commission for Theology, a member of the Strategic Task Group on Education, 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: archdiocesetuum@gmail.com
www.tuamarchdiocese.org

Diocesan Communications Officer:
Fr Fintan Monaghan
Email: archdiocesetuum@eircom.net
Parishes: 56
Catholic Population: 120,324
Catholic Churches: 131
Patron of the Archdiocese: St Jarlath
Cathedral: Cathedral of the
Assumption, Tuam.

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

ACCORD

Castlebar: 34B Moneen, Castlebar,
Co. Mayo
Tel: 094 9022214
Tuam: 6 St Jarlath's Place, Tuam,
Co. Galway
Tel: 093 24900.

CURA

CURA Office, The Family Centre,
Chapel Street, 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

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

Cathedral: Cathedral of the Annunciation and St Nathy,

Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon.

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 3346432

Fax: 043 3346833

Email: ardaghdi@iol.ie

www.ardaghdiocese.org

Diocesan Communications Officer:

Fr Pat Murphy

Email: patcmrphy@hotmail.com

Parishes: 41

Catholic Population: 73,300

Catholic Churches: 80

Patron of the Diocese: St Mel

Cathedral: St Mel's Cathedral, Longford.

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.

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, Chairman of the Commission on Communications and a member of the Commission on Europe.

Bishop's House, Monaghan

Tel: 047 81019

Fax: 047 84773

Email:

diocesanoffice@clogherdiocese.ie

www.clogherdiocese.ie

Diocesan Communications Officer:

Mgr Liam S. MacDaid

Email:

diocesanoffice@clogherdiocese.ie

Parishes: 37

Catholic Population: 86,483

Catholic Churches: 86

Patron of the Diocese: St Macartan

Cathedral: St Macartan's Cathedral,
Monaghan.

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

ACCORD

Enniskillen: Ros Erne House,

8 Darling Street, Enniskillen BT74 7EJ

Tel: 028 663 25696

Monaghan: St Macartan's College,
Monaghan

Tel: 047 83359.

CURA

CURA Office, 8 The Grange,

Plantation Walk, Monaghan

Tel: 047 83600.

Veritas

Veritas, 16–18 Park Street, Monaghan,

Tel: 047 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

www.clonfertdiocese.ie

Diocesan Communications Officer:

Fr Cathal Geraghty

St Brendan's Cathedral, Barrack Street,

Loughrea, Co. Galway

Tel: 091 841212

Email: frgeraghty@eircom.net

Parishes: 24

Catholic Population: 34,800

Catholic Churches: 47

Patron of the Diocese: St Brendan

Cathedral: St Brendan's Cathedral,

Loughrea, Co. Galway.

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.

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

Cloyne Diocesan Centre, Cobh,
Co. Cork
Tel: 021 4811430
Fax: 021 4811026
Email: cloyne@indigo.ie
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
Cathedral: St Colman's Cathedral,
Cobh, Co. Cork.



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/Disabilities/Drugs and member of the Strategic Task Group on Education.

Cork and Ross Offices,
Redemption Road, Cork
Tel: 021 4301717
Fax: 021 4301557
Email: secretary@corkandross.org
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
Cathedral: Cathedral of St Mary and
St Anne, Cork.



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 Street, 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 Bishops' Council for Emigrants and the Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas, member of the Irish Language Commission, the Commission on Europe and a member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

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 IBC's Department of Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development, member of the IBC's 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: 028 71884533
Fax: 028 71884551
Email: fblagan@gotadsl.co.uk.

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: 028 90776185
Fax: 028 90779377
Email: nt@downandconnor.org
www.downandconnor.org

PO Box 227, Bishop's House,
St Eugene's Cathedral,
Derry BT48 9YG
Tel: 028 71262302
Fax: 028 71371960
Email: office@derrydiocese.org
Diocesan Communications Officer:
Fr Michael Canny
Email: office@derrydiocese.org

Parishes: 51
Catholic Population: 240,977
Catholic Churches: 104
Patrons of the Diocese: St Eugene and
St Columba
Cathedral: St Eugene's Cathedral,
Derry.

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

Derry: Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164
Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ
Tel: 028 713 62475
Email: derry@accordni.com
Omagh Centre: Mount St Columba
Pastoral Centre, 48 Brook Street,
Omagh, Co. Tyrone BT78 5HD
Tel: 028 8224 2439
Maghera Centre: Pastoral Centre,
159A Glen Road, Maghera,
Co. Derry BT46 5JN
Tel: 028 79642983
Email: maghera@accordni.com
Innishowen Centre: Pastoral Centre,
Church Road, Carndonagh, Co.
Donegal
Tel: 074 937 4103.



Diocesan Communications Officer:
Fr John Mc Manus
Email: dccuria@downandconnor.org
Parishes: 88
Catholic Population: 317,622
Catholic Churches: 151
Patrons of the Diocese: St Malachy and
St MacNissi
Cathedral: St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast.

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 the Standing Committee on Mixed Marriages, 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: 028 90776185
Fax: 028 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 Worship, Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development, member of the Commission for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development and Chairman of the sub-group on Youth, Chairman of the Commission on Vocations, Chairman of the National Committee of Diocesan Youth Directors, member of the Commission on Education, Chairman of the Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education and Chairman of the National Training Authority for the Permanent Diaconate.

73 Somerton Road, Belfast, BT15 4DE
Tel: 028 90776185
Fax: 028 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: 028 9023 3002

Belfast: Curran House, Twin Spires,
Northumberland Street, Belfast BT13 2JF
Tel: 028 9033 9944

Downpatrick: 32 English Street,
Downpatrick BT30 6AB
Tel: 028 446 13435

Email: downpatrick@accordni.com
Ballymena: 'Kenbaan', 13
Broughshane Road, Ballymena,
Co. Antrim BT43 7DX
Tel: 028 256 44072

Trócaire

Trócaire, 50 King Street,
Belfast BT1 6AD.



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 Bishops' Commission on Pastoral Liturgy and Episcopal Representative on ICEL (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
www.dromorediocese.org

Parishes: 23
Catholic Population: 63,200
Catholic Churches: 48
Patrons of the Diocese: St Patrick and St Colman
Cathedral: St Patrick and St Colman's Cathedral, Newry, Co. Down.

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

ACCORD

Newry: Cana Suite,
Newry Parish Centre, 39 The Mall,
Newry BT34 1AN
Tel: 028 30263577
Email: newry@accordni.com.



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
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
Cathedral: Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Sligo.

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 9161800.



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.

Bishop's House, Summerhill, Wexford
Tel: 053 9122177
Fax 053 9123436
Email: adm@ferns.ie
www.ferns.ie

Diocesan Communications Officer:
Fr John Carroll
Email: jc@ferns.ie
Parishes: 49

Catholic Population: 100,622
Catholic Churches: 101
Patron of the Diocese: St Aidan
Cathedral: St Aidan's Cathedral,
Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

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

ACCORD

Wexford: St Brigid's Centre,
12 Roches Road, Wexford
Tel: 053 9123086.

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.

Mount Saint Mary's, Taylor's Hill,
Galway
Tel: 091 563566
Fax: 091 528536
Email: galwaydiocese@eircom.net
www.galwaydiocese.com

Diocesan Communications Officer:
Fr Sean McHugh
Email: sean.mchugh@whb.ie
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
Cathedral: Cathedral of Our Lady
Assumed into Heaven and St Nicholas,
Galway.

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

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
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
Cathedral: St Mary's Cathedral, Kerry.

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.

Chairman of the Department of Worship, Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development, Chairman of the Commission for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development and Chairman of the sub-group on Renewal of Parish Life.

Bishop's House, Carlow
Tel: 059 9176725
Fax: 059 9176850
Email: bishop@kandle.ie
www.kandle.ie

Diocesan Communications Officer:
Fr Micheál Murphy
Email: communications@kandle.ie
Parishes: 56
Catholic Population: 237,750
Catholic Churches: 117
Patrons of the Diocese: St Brigid, St Conleth and St Lazerian
Cathedral: Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow.

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

ACCORD

Carlow: The Presbytery, Dublin Road, Carlow
Tel: 059 913 1227

Portlaoise: Parish Centre, St Peter's and Paul's Church, Portlaoise, Co. Laois
Tel: 057 8661581

Newbridge: Parish Centre, Station Road, Newbridge, Co. Kildare
Tel: 045 431695.



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 Bishops' Conference delegate for Day for Life.

Bishop's House, Ballina, Co. Mayo
Tel: 096 21518
Fax: 096 70344
Email: deocilala@eircom.net

Diocesan Communications Officers:
Rev. Muredach Tuffy,
Rev. Gerard O'Hora
The Newman Institute,
Cathedral Close, Ballina, Co. Mayo
Tel: 096 72066.

Parishes: 22
Catholic Population: 37,628
Catholic Churches: 48
Patron of the Diocese: St Muredach
Cathedral: St Muredach's Cathedral, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

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 Education Commission.

Westbourne, Ennis, Co. Clare

Tel: 065 6828638

Fax: 065 6842538

Email: office@killaloe-diocese.ie

www.killaloe-diocese.ie

Diocesan Communications Officer: Fr Brendan Quinlivan

Email: brendan.quinlivan@ireland.com

Parishes: 58

Catholic Population: 122,746

Catholic Churches: 133

Patron of the Diocese: St Flannan

Cathedral: Cathedral of SS Peter and Paul, Ennis, Co. Clare

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

ACCORD

Nenagh: ACCORD Centre, Loreto House, Kenyon Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary

Tel: 067 31272.

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

Tel: 1850 585 000.

Veritas

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

Tel: 065 6838696.



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 of the Bishops' Conference and CORI.

Bishop's House, Cullies, Co. Cavan

Tel: 049 4331496

Fax: 049 4361796

Email: bishop@kilmorediocese.ie

www.kilmorediocese.ie

Diocesan Communications Officer:

Fr Francis Duffy

Email:

diocesansecretary@kilmorediocese.ie

Parishes: 36

Catholic Population: 57,124

Catholic Churches: 95

Patron of the Diocese: St Felim

Cathedral: Cathedral of St Patrick and St Felim, Cavan.

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 IBC's Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Chairman of the IBC's Commission on Bioethics, member of the IBC's Doctrine Commission, a member of the IBC's Commission on Europe, a member of the IBC's 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

www.limerickdiocese.org

Diocesan Communications Officer:
awaiting appointment

Parishes: 60

Catholic Population: 184,000

Catholic Churches: 94

Patrons of the Diocese: St Munchin and St Ita

Cathedral; St John's Cathedral, Limerick.

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

ACCORD

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

Tel: 061 343 0000

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 9348841/9342038

Fax: 044 9343020

Email: bishop@dioceseofmeath.ie

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

Cathedral: Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

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

ACCORD

Mullingar: Social Services Centre, Bishopsgate Street, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

Tel: 044 934 8707

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

Tel: 046 902 3146

Tullamore: Tullamore Parish Centre, Benburb Street, Co. Offaly

Tel: 057 934 1831

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

Tel: 041 9843860.



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
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
Cathedral: St Mary's Cathedral,
Kilkenny.

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

ACCORD

Kilkenny: St Mary's Centre,
James Street, Kilkenny
Tel: 056 772 2674
Email: accord@ossory.ie.

CURA

CURA Office, St Mary's Centre,
James Street, Kilkenny
Tel: 056 7722739
Fax: 056 7770240.



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 Clergy/Seminaries
and Permanent Diaconate, Chairman of
the Commission for Religious and
member of the Doctrine Commission.

Ard Adhamhnáin, Letterkenny,
Co. Donegal
Tel: 074 9121208
Fax: 074 9124872
Email: raphoediocese@eircom.net
www.raphoediocese.com

Diocesan Communications Officer:
Fr Patrick Dunne
Email: dunnep@gmail.com

Parishes: 33
Catholic Population: 79,720
Catholic Churches: 71
Patron of the Diocese: St Eunan
Cathedral: St Eunan's Cathedral,
Letterkenny.

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

ACCORD

Donegal Town: ACCORD Marriage
Care, Main Street, Donegal
Tel: 074 972 3944.

Letterkenny: Diocesan Pastoral Centre,
Monastery Avenue, Letterkenny,
Co. Donegal
Tel: 074 912 2218.

CURA

CURA Office, Diocesan Pastoral
Centre, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
Tel: 074 912 3037.

Veritas

Veritas, 13 Lower Main Street,
Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
Tel: 074 912 4814.



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, member of the Department of Planning and Communications and Episcopal Conference Representative on the board of St Luke's Centre, Manchester.

Bishop's House, John's Hill, Waterford
Tel: 051 874463
Fax: 051 852703
Email: waterfordlismore@eircom.net
www.waterfordlismore.com

Diocesan Communications Officer:
Fr Liam Power
Email: carchurch1@eircom.net

Parishes: 45
Catholic Population: 146,206
Catholic Churches: 85
Patrons of the Diocese: St Otteran, St Carthage and St Declan
Cathedral: Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, Waterford.

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 graph 1.

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. Seventy-four per cent 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 and Connor, Meath, Derry, Cork and Ross, Armagh and Kildare and 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 Clonmacnois	76,920
Elphin	69,500
Kilmore	57,024
Killala	38,715
Clonfert	34,800
Achonry	34,500

The Council for Research and 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 Table 2 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 and Development: 01 5053024 or eoin.omahony@iecon.ie.

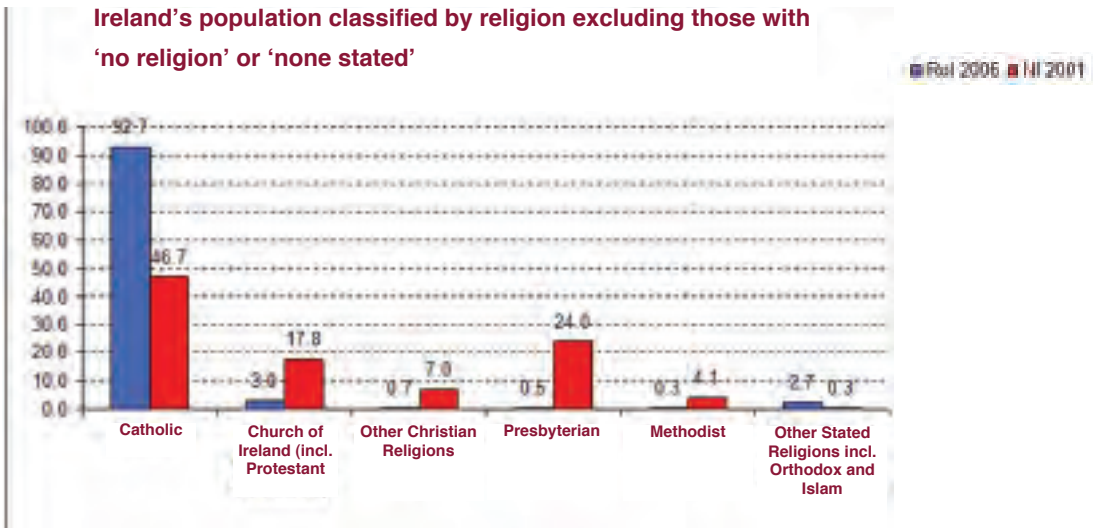
TABLE 1

	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

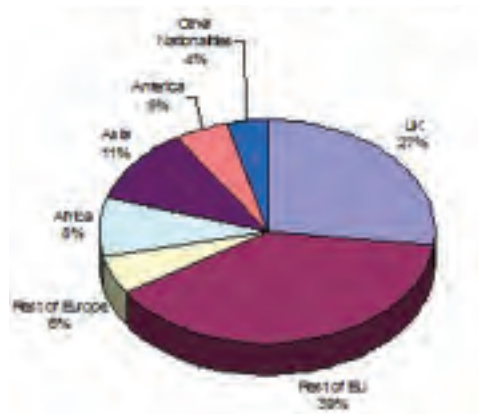
TABLE 2: Percentage composition of religious and ordained personnel 2001–2006

	Sisters	Brothers	Clerical Religious Orders		Diocesan Priests	Total
			Brothers	Priests		
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'

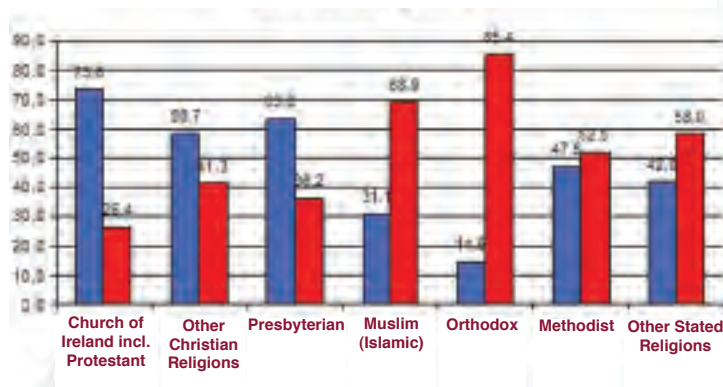


GRAPH 2 Nationalities of non-Irish Catholics resident in ROI



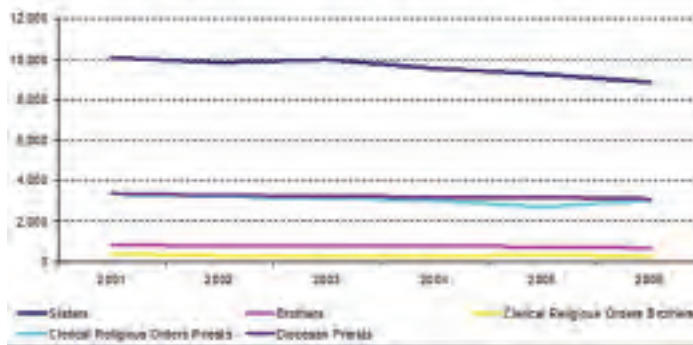
GRAPH 3

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



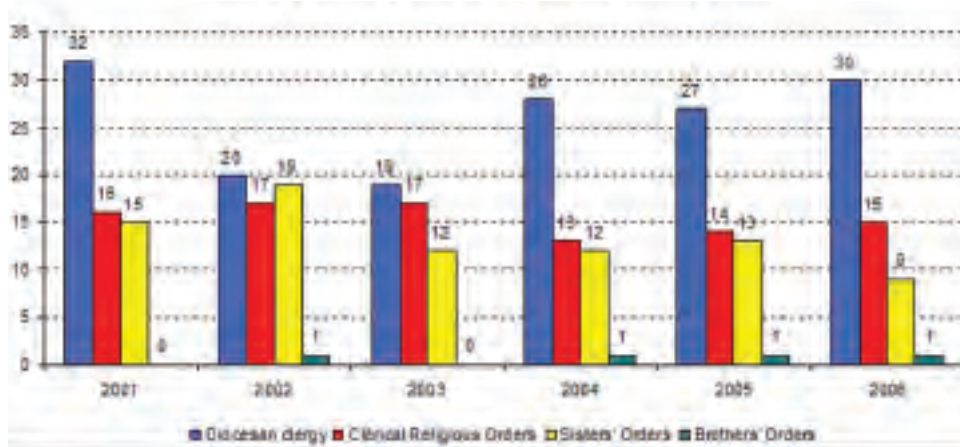
GRAPH 4

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 2010

Holydays of Obligation

All Sundays

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

Christmas – Friday, 25 December 2009

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Sunday, 15 August 2010

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Wednesday, 8 December 2010

Christmas – Saturday, 25 December 2010

(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 2010

World Day of Peace	Friday, 1 January 2010
World Day for Migrants and Refugees	Sunday, 17 January 2010
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	Begins Monday, 18 January 2010
Catholic Education Week	Begins Sunday, 31 January 2010
World Day of Consecrated Life	Tuesday, 2 February 2010
World Day for the Sick	Thursday, 11 February 2010
Day of Prayer for Temperance	Sunday, 14 February 2010
Day of Prayer for Vocations	Sunday, 25 April 2010
World Communications Day	Sunday, 16 May 2010
Day for Life	Sunday, 3 October 2010
Mission Sunday	Sunday, 24 October 2010
Restorative Justice Week	Begins Sunday, 21 November 2010

Notes for 2010

Lectionary

Sunday: Cycle C

Weekday: Cycle II

Weeks in Ordinary Time

Before Lent: 6 weeks – ending 16 February

After Eastertime beginning 24 May – 8th Week

Future Dates	Ash Wednesday	Easter Sunday	Pentecost
2010	17 February	4 April	23 May
2011	9 March	24 April	12 June
2012	22 February	8 April	27 May
2013	13 February	31 March	19 May
2014	5 March	20 April	8 June
2015	18 February	5 April	24 May
2016	10 February	27 March	15 May

Finance and General Purposes



Bishop John Fleming, Chairman, Finance Commission, and Mrs Anne Young, Financial Controller

Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2009

The Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference has approved and published the Financial Statement of the Bishops' Conference for the year ended 31 December 2008. In so doing, the Committee, and through it His Eminence Cardinal Brady, and the other members of the Bishops' Conference, wishes to acknowledge the immense gratitude which it owes to all the individuals and agencies that support the work of the Conference.

Voluntary donations, given by individuals, groups and by government, are the source of support for the work of the Conference and its agencies.

In particular, the annual budget of the Conference provides the resources for the Conference Secretariat, which oversees on a day-to-day basis the work of the Conference commissions, agencies, councils and other bodies. Support for these is grouped under five Department headings:

Catholic Education and Formation

Planning and Communications

Pastoral Care

Social Issues and International Affairs

Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development

In addition, assistance is also given to other Church related bodies, including the Chaplaincy for Deaf People, Dialogue Ireland, Irish School of Ecumenics, Diocesan Youth Directors, Schola Cantorum, Young Christian Workers Movement, and European bodies such as COMECE, CCEE and the Chaplaincy at the Irish College, Paris.

The Irish dioceses, on a per capita basis, are the main source of finance for the work of the Bishops' Conference. Some assistance is also

received from government agencies, which support the work of the Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative, the Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas and the Irish Council for Emigrants. Restricted grants are also received from a number of other bodies, which support the work of the Irish Commission for Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development, the Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative and the Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs.

Support for the larger agencies of the Conference – ACCORD, CURA, Trócaire – is received independently by these bodies and is not reflected in the income and expenditure figures below.

The work of the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church (NBSCCC) is funded separately by its sponsoring bodies, which comprise the Irish Bishops' Conference, the Conference of Religious of Ireland (CORI) and the Irish Missionary Union (IMU). During 2008, the Bishops' Conference contributed €349,870 towards the cost of the National Board for Safeguarding Children. This is separate from the contributions made by each diocese at diocesan level.

Twenty-seven people were employed directly by the Conference at the secretariat in the Columba Centre, Maynooth in 2008: fifteen women and twelve men. Total remuneration costs, including social welfare and pension contributions, amounted to €1,280,678, while total operational costs amounted to €1,866,622 of the Columba Centre in 2008.

Total Income for the year, including restricted income, amounted to €3,352,444 and total expenditure amounted to €3,147,300.

Once again the members of the Committee express their gratitude to those who, in a generous and often anonymous way, support the pastoral mission of the Irish Bishops' Conference.

✠ John Fleming, DD, DCL,
Chairman,

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference
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Maynooth
Co Kildare
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