

# Sharing the Good News

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Cardinal Kevin Farrell with the composer of the official hymn for WMOF2018, Mr Ephrem Feeley, and his wife Giovanna Feeley.

## Ireland prepares for WMOF2018 with international gathering

A special international conference was held on 1 June in DCU's The Helix, in preparation for the World Meeting of Families which will take place in Dublin in August 2018. Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life, and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin, President of World Meeting of Families 2018, were both speakers at this special event.



At the conference, Archbishop Martin said, "The World Meeting of Families will be a moment when we will speak of confidence, but also of realism stressing both the challenges and the joys of family life. The message of the World Meeting must be that the Church wishes to be close to families, especially those who experience challenge."

WMOF2018 has now launched its volunteer and host family programme. If you wish to register to become a WMOF2018 volunteer at [worldmeeting2018.ie/volunteer](http://worldmeeting2018.ie/volunteer). To host a family please email [volunteer@worldmeeting2018.ie](mailto:volunteer@worldmeeting2018.ie) and insert "Host a Family" in the subject field.

## News Snippets

- ◆ Watch the video for the newly launched official hymn for WMOF2018, *A Joy for All the Earth*, on [catholicbishops.ie](http://catholicbishops.ie).
- ◆ Ireland's four main Church leaders gathered together in Belgium on 7 June to participate in the centenary commemorations for the Battle of Messines, where they jointly called for a spirit of hope and continued peace-building in Northern Ireland.
- ◆ The Faithcast podcast can be subscribed to or downloaded from [www.catholicnews.ie](http://www.catholicnews.ie).
- ◆ To receive the free CatholicNews.ie news feed on your parish or diocesan website please email [info@catholicbishops.ie](mailto:info@catholicbishops.ie).



## Three Day Pilgrimage Season opens on Lough Derg



Father Owen McEneaney, Prior of Lough Derg, has offered a special invitation to the island for families, ahead of next year's World Meeting of Families. He said, "You are invited to come and walk in the spiritual footsteps of your family – parents, grandparents, relations – walk the same ground where they walked and prayed, reconnect with their prayer for their family and future family. Today you are that family; come and be touched by God's grace in Lough Derg."

The Lough Derg three day pilgrimage season for 2017 is now open. Pilgrims can begin their pilgrimage to the island any day up to and including 13 August. For pilgrimage information see [www.loughderg.org](http://www.loughderg.org).

## Pope Francis appoints Father Alan McGuckian as Bishop of Raphoe

Pope Francis has appointed Father Alan McGuckian SJ as the new Bishop of Raphoe, replacing Bishop Philip Boyce OCD who has retired. Father McGuckian will be the first bishop in Ireland to be appointed from the Society of Jesus. Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh said that Father McGuckian's background in education and communications, as well as his experience in pastoral planning and development with the Diocese of Down & Connor, reflect his rich experience and gifts. Archbishop Eamon also paid tribute to outgoing Bishop Philip Boyce acknowledging his supportive role and dedicated membership of the Irish Episcopal Conference since 1995. See [catholicbishops.ie](http://catholicbishops.ie) for more on the life and ministry of Bishop-elect McGuckian SJ.

