

Sharing the Good News

Monthly newsletter for
dioceses and parishes
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Caring for the sacred gift of
all human life, from
conception to death, is the
best way of preventing every
type of violence.
- Pope Francis

Happy Easter to all
our readers.

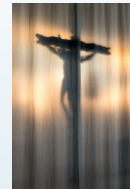
Archbishop Eamon Martin on faith in the public square

Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh, addressing the inaugural conference of the Iona Institute Northern Ireland, said that the Catholic Church has no desire to create a theocracy in Ireland, but wants respect for its beliefs and values. Archbishop Martin was the keynote speaker at the event which was organised to explore the theme of faith in the public square. Speaking to attendees at the gathering in Belfast, he said that the Catholic Church expected that "in a true pluralist democracy or republic, religion and faith will continue to have an important part to play in the national conversation".

Archbishop Eamon continued, "It would hugely impoverish our faith if we were to compartmentalise it or exclude it completely from our conversations and actions in the public square. But I believe that it would also impoverish society if the fundamental convictions of faith were not permitted to influence public debate; it would diminish the understanding of the human person and dilute the concept of the common good. That is why I am convinced of the importance for all of us of speaking out in the public square, and of doing so with compassion and with conviction."

He said that our challenge as baptised, confirmed, and in some cases, ordained Christians, is to be 'remarkable', to be a 'people set apart', known and recognised as people who are not afraid to witness to Christ.

Read the full text of Archbishop Eamon Martin's address on catholicbishops.ie.



Emigrant Information Pack 2017 is now available


The Council for Emigrants of the Irish Episcopal Conference has published the Emigrant Information Pack for 2017. The pack contains practical information to assist emigrants in making informed decisions and to support them while they are away. This year's pack also contains resources for parishes. It is available to download from catholicbishops.ie.



Bishop Francis Duffy asks parishioners to think actively about how to cope with fewer priests

Bishop Francis Duffy has asked parishioners in the Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois to think actively about how to cope with the reality of the reduction in the number of priests in the diocese. In a pastoral letter entitled *Sustaining our Faith Community in the Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois*, Bishop Duffy said, "Over the next 13 years, 28 of our 53 diocesan priests will reach the retirement age of 75 years. By the time children baptised this year reach Confirmation our diocese will be a very different place." Bishop Duffy predicts that by 2030 the diocese will have only 25 diocesan priests, less than half the number it has at present. He said, "This ongoing development will impact every parish in the diocese and will bring about considerable change in how the parishes are organised and also in the way the Good News of Jesus Christ is passed on to succeeding generations." Bishop Duffy has asked parishioners to make contact with him directly in order to offer their feedback. You can read the full text of the pastoral letter on catholicbishops.ie.

News Snippets

- ◆ Bishop Brendan Kelly of Achonry delivered the homily at the Requiem Mass of the late Bishop Eamonn Casey. You can read the homily on www.catholicbishops.ie.
- ◆ *The Cross of Addiction* is a new book offering thought-provoking meditations on each of the Stations of the Cross. The book is edited by Deacon Barry Matthews and includes reflections by Sister Consilio, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Father Peter McVerry, and Sister Stan Kennedy. For more information see veritas.ie.
- ◆ You can watch the official promotional video for World Meeting of Families 2018 on worldmeeting2018.ie.
- ◆ Many parish and diocesan websites have now installed the free CatholicNews.ie news feed. Please email info@catholicbishops.ie for details.
- ◆ You can download our new weekly faith podcast from catholicnews.ie. Faithcast is also available to subscribe to on iTunes.