

Sharing the Good News

Monthly newsletter for
dioceses and parishes
Issue 43 | July 2017

Produced by the Catholic Communications Office of the Irish
Catholic Bishops' Conference www.catholicbishops.ie



News Snippets

- ◆ The annual Reek Sunday pilgrimage will take place on Sunday 30 July. See westportparish.ie
- ◆ Pray for the Bishop-elect of Raphoe, Alan McGuckian SJ, who will be ordained on 6 August next.
- ◆ The National Novena to Our Lady of Knock will have family and life as its focus from 14 - 22 August. See www.knockshrine.ie
- ◆ Listen to our weekly faith podcast *Faithcast* on www.catholicnews.ie.
- ◆ To receive the free 'catholicnews.ie' news feed on your parish or diocesan website please email info@catholicbishops.ie.

Bishops announce collection in aid of east Africa hunger crisis

The Irish Catholic Bishops have announced that special collections will take place at Masses across Ireland on the weekend of 22 and 23 July to fund life-saving aid for people currently affected by the devastating hunger crisis in east-Africa. The money raised will be donated to Trócaire, the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland, which is delivering emergency food, water and health care to the 25 million people affected.

Severe drought, driven by climate change, is currently affecting Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia and this has resulted in failed harvests and the widespread death of livestock. The United Nations has described the situation in the drought-ravaged parts of Africa as the greatest humanitarian crisis since the Second World War.

Bishop William Crean, Bishop of Cloyne and chairperson of Trócaire, says the agency is already working on the ground saving lives and that with the support of parishioners here at home in the coming weeks, many tens of thousands more people will receive help. Bishop Crean said, "The world is distracted by the actions of a handful of powerful politicians, while in east Africa millions suffer in silence. It is unacceptable for so many to go hungry."

For information on how to donate to Trócaire's east Africa hunger crisis appeal see www.trocaire.org.

**"Ask Jesus what he
wants from you
and be brave!"
- Pope Francis**

Be alert and open to 'a new Pentecost in Ireland' - Archbishop Eamon Martin



Archbishop Eamon Martin has said that he longs for "a New Pentecost in Ireland", a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit to transform and renew the faith in Ireland. Archbishop Eamon was speaking at the Summit '17 Conference in Croke Park on Thursday 13 July. Addressing the large gathering of young people, Archbishop Eamon said "I am convinced that the Spirit is actively at work in Ireland today preparing us for a new springtime of growth and abundance in faith. But this will only flourish if we are alert and open to the Spirit's calling and gifting of many people for the service of the Gospel in this time and in this place. The mission and challenge that we share as lay faithful, religious and priests, is to speak faith, hope and love into a world that is darkened by violence, war, greed and despair; a world that is divided more than ever into those who have and those who have not. Into this world the Spirit anoints us, gifts us, sends us out to renew the face of Earth."

You can read the full text of Archbishop Eamon's homily on catholicbishops.ie.

"We are always on the side of life" - Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

Speaking at a Mass for the protection of life, which took place on 1 July in Dublin as thousands gathered for the annual Rally for Life march, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin said, "Being pro-life means that we are always on the side of life and life in its fullness. It means that we fight to avoid the emptiness of so many visions of our society and that we continually remember that we ourselves need conversion to Christ who is light and life. As believers in Jesus who is life and light, we must be in the forefront in doing what we can so that everyone can flourish in his or her own life. We are convinced of the value of every human life from the moment of conception until the moment of natural death." Read the full text of Archbishop Martin's homily on catholicbishops.ie.