

Sharing the Good News

NEWSLETTER OF THE IRISH CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

"Make your voices heard" - Catholic Bishops of Northern Ireland

The Catholic Bishops of Northern Ireland have issued a pastoral reflection on the Northern Ireland Assembly Elections on 5 May, addressing: Importance of voting; Poverty in society; Rights and dignity of unborn children; Effectively responding to refugees fleeing war in Ukraine; Committing to safeguarding creation and sustaining our environment; Respect for religious freedom and faith in the public square including for Catholic and other faith-based schools; and, Political stability serving the common good.



In their statement the bishops said, 'Politics, lived with integrity, and in a true spirit of service to the common good, is a noble vocation. The freedom to vote is a hard won and precious freedom. For Christians it is also part of our call to shape society in accordance with God's plan for human dignity, freedom and happiness.'

This statement was published on behalf of Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh & Primate of All-Ireland and Apostolic Administrator of Dromore; Bishop Noel Treanor of Down and Connor; Bishop Donal McKeown of Derry; Bishop Larry Duffy of Clogher; and, Bishop Michael Router Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh. You can read it in full on www.catholicbishops.ie.

INTERCOM

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Dr Nicola Brady – Chair of the Steering Committee of the Irish Synodal Pathway

Dr Nicola Brady speaks to *Intercom* magazine

Dr Nicola Brady, chair of the Steering Committee of the Irish Synodal Pathway, will be interviewed in the June issue of *Intercom* magazine, the pastoral and liturgical resource of the Bishops' Conference. In the interview Dr Brady offers responses and reflections on some of the most frequently asked questions on the synodal process. The *Intercom* cover photo of Dr Brady was taken by Liam McArdle in Newry Cathedral. For more on the Synodal Pathway see www.synod.ie; @SynodalPathway on Twitter and Instagram and 'Synodal Pathway -Ireland' on Facebook. See intercommagazine.ie for subscription details.



Silence and Contemplation
Thomas Merton



Butterflies –
Nature's Flying
Flowers
Eamon de Linnia



Austin Flannery –
A Man for
All Seasons
John Brady

Special parish collection for Ukraine raises €3.2 million

Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh and Archbishop Dermot Farrell of Dublin, as President and Vice-President of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, have thanked parishes across Ireland for their extraordinary generosity in raising over €3.25 million (to date) in response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine since the outbreak of war.



The archbishops said, "As Christians, our Gospel imperative is to support the victims of this appalling humanitarian crisis. The large funds raised by Irish parishes will be channelled to assist those who are suffering such devastation to their lives and livelihoods. Parishes across Ireland have responded with enormous generosity and compassion and we are most grateful for that. The proceeds of this special parish collection are already being sent to the international Catholic Church agency, Caritas Internationalis, which is currently operating on the ground in Ukraine and its surrounding areas."

Bishop Denis Nulty endorses Aspal - a new app and digital platform which enables people to deepen their faith

Bishop Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin and Apostolic Administrator of Ossory Diocese, has endorsed Aspal, a new cutting edge digital platform for faith formation, which is now available for the benefit of people who wish to engage with and learn more about their Catholic faith. Aspal, which is the brainchild of the Adult Faith Development Group of the Diocese of Ossory in collaboration of Saint Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth, offers an app and digital platform to allow people to deepen their faith at a time of their convenience.



Launching the app Rev Dr Dermot Ryan, director of the Ossory Adult Faith Development Group, said, "This is but the first step on our digital journey to serve the Church across Ireland by providing the very best faith formation to users and to do so in a way that makes learning more accessible by deepening our knowledge and love of God."

Aspal, the word for 'Apostle' in the Irish language, is so called to remind all those who participate that they are, by virtue of their Baptism, called to be sent – sent to share with others their faith. Upcoming courses will include one for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and one on Synodality. All of this has been made possible by the collaboration of a very talented team and the invaluable support of the Benefact Trust which has grant-aided the development with over €50,000 of support. For more see www.Aspal.ie or download from the App Store or Google Play.

"Young people are beacons of hope in their parishes and communities" – Bishop Brendan Leahy



Speaking as he presented 50 John Paul II Awards to young people from across the Limerick diocese, Bishop Brendan Leahy said that the young people stepped up during the Covid-19 pandemic to support others and this was particularly encouraging. Bishop Leahy said, "I was delighted to be able to present these John Paul II Awards to such inspirational young people. The work they have been doing in their local areas is tremendous and brings such richness to their parishes, their local communities and to themselves. For many there is a realisation that young people have a significant role to play in the Church, this gives me great hope for the future."

The John Paul II medals were presented by Bishop Leahy at an award ceremony in Scoil Pól in Kilfinane, the first one since the outbreak of Covid-19. The award programme, which is sponsored by the Knights of Saint Columbanus, is coordinated by the pastoral outreach team in the Limerick Diocesan Centre.

Two month countdown to the World Meeting of Families 2022 in Rome



Friday 22 April marked the official two month countdown to the 10th World Meeting of Families which will take place in Rome from 22 – 26 June. Pope Francis is urging Catholics around the globe to take part in the 10th edition of the event. Families and parishes are being encouraged to say the official prayer which is inspired by the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the meeting: "Family love: a vocation and a path to holiness". The prayer is available on www.catholicbishops.ie along with a pastoral kit for use in dioceses and parishes.

Priests are at the frontline caring for the sick, the bereaved, and staying with their people during war - Bishop Cullinan

The chair of the Council for Vocations of the Irish Bishops' Conference, Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan, issued a message of appreciation to priests during Holy Week. He said, "During the holiest week of the Church year, I wish to express my admiration, on behalf of the Council for Vocations, for what priests do and have done, particularly over the past two years. Priests have formed part of the frontline who have cared for the sick, the bereaved, and the lonely, as well as carrying on numerous other duties.



Now, while for many in this part of the world life is returning to normal in the aftermath of the pandemic, the work of the priest continues, in season and out of season. Every day in Ukraine we see that priests are staying with their people in the dreadful conditions brought by war in that country."

Bishop Cullinan continued, "In spite of all that is going on and has gone on, priests have given inspirational witness. We pray that this witness will inspire young men to follow Jesus Christ in this particular vocation and that in caring for the spiritual lives of others."

Bishop Michael Duignan to be installed in Galway Diocese on Sunday 1 May



On Sunday 1 May, Bishop Michael Duignan will be installed as the next Bishop of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Apostolic Administrator of Kilfenora. Bishop Duignan will continue to minister as Bishop of Clonfert. The installation liturgy will take place during Mass for the Third Sunday of Easter. Bishop Duignan will be the principal celebrant and will also preach the homily.

His Excellency, Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo, Papal Nuncio to Ireland and Bishop Brendan Kelly will be the principal concelebrants. Bishop Martin Drennan, bishop emeritus, will be in attendance. Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop Michael Crotty, Papal Nuncio to Burkina Fasso and Niger (a classmate of Bishop Duignan in Rome), Bishops of the Western Province and members of the Irish hierarchy together with priests from both Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora and from Clonfert will also concelebrate. Cardinal Seán Cardinal Brady will be in attendance.

The installation ceremony will be streamed live on the diocesan website at www.galwaydiocese.ie/installation2022

News in Pictures



The Archdiocese of Dublin's annual pilgrimage to Knock Shrine took place on Saturday 23 April. The pilgrimage was led by Archbishop Dermot Farrell who is pictured here with one of the many families who travelled to the International Marian and Eucharistic Shrine in the Archdiocese of Tuam.

Members of the Hurling for Hope group were recently welcomed to the Apparition Chapel at Knock Shrine where they met with Father Richard Gibbons PP, Rector of the Shrine for a brief moment of prayer with lighting of candles. Hurling for Hope raises funds for Mayo and Roscommon Hospice and for Irish MND.



Archbishop Eamon Martin is pictured with priests, religious and lay faithful from Keady Parish who gathered to give thanks for the Sisters of Saint Clare who are leaving Keady after 150 years of service.

24 lay people have been commissioned to serve in the Diocese of Killaloe in the Ministries of Pastoral Care, and Catechetics/Faith Development. The commissioning took place on 13 April in the Cathedral of Saints Peter & Paul, Ennis, Co Clare, at the annual Mass of the Chrism.



If you have photos you would like featured in a future issue of *Sharing the Good News*, please email them with a brief caption to info@catholicbishops.ie