

Sharing the Good News

NEWSLETTER OF THE IRISH CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

National Novena at Knock Shrine to host a 'Synod Tent'

The Church's Synodal Pathway, Which continues its work of renewal in Ireland, and throughout the world, will feature at this year's National Novena at Knock Shrine with the introduction of a 'Synod Tent', where members of the public will be invited to learn more about the Synod.



This year's Novena will take place from Sunday 14 - Monday 22 August, offering pilgrims nine days of reflection and prayer and a chance to connect with their faith in the unique and sacred space of Knock Shrine. This year's theme is 'A Journey in Hope'.

Commenting about the Novena, Fr Richard Gibbons, PP and Rector at the Shrine said, "The purpose of the Novena is to recognise the unique role that Knock, as an International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine, has to play in the life of the Irish Church and to honour Our Lady. So many of the people who joined us online over the course of the pandemic are now coming back to visit the Shrine which is great to see. The Novena is always a very special highlight of the year, and we are delighted to be able to proceed with it this year. We look to the future with the hope of renewal, for God's guidance and pray that this Novena will offer pilgrims the chance for thought-provoking reflection and discussion." For more on this year's Novena see www.knockshrine.ie

Photos from National Pre-Synodal Assembly



The official photos from the National Pre-Synodal Assembly which took place in Athlone and Clonmacnoise on Saturday 18 June are available to view now on www.catholicbishops.ie.



You can see a selection from the event on page 5.

Families take centre stage at the 10th World Meeting of Families in Rome

The 10th World Meeting of Families (WMOF2022) took place in Rome from 22-26 June with 2,400 delegates gathering to hear families and married couples sharing the joys and challenges of family life with other families from 120 countries across the world.



The Irish delegation to WMOF2022 was led by Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh and by Bishop Denis Nulty, Chair of the Council for Marriage and the Family. The delegation included priests, family groups, including the O'Sullivan family from Carlow (pictured above), and lay ecclesial associations working to support marriage

Speaking at WMOF2022, Pope Francis offered a mission to all families to: "Proclaim the beauty of being family with joy! Proclaim the grace of Christian marriage to children and young people."

The next World Meeting of Families will take place in 2028 and in the meantime there will be a Jubilee of Families in Rome during the Jubilee Year 2025.

Archbishop Dermot Farrell welcomes Apostolic Visitor for the Ukrainian Greek Catholic faithful in Ireland



On 6 July, Archbishop Dermot Farrell of Dublin welcomed Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family of London, to Archbishop's House, Dublin. Bishop Nowakowski has been appointed by Pope Francis as Apostolic Visitor for the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic faithful in Ireland. Speaking at the meeting Archbishop Farrell said, "In these difficult times for the people of Ukraine, we assure Bishop Kenneth of our prayers for his ministry and our welcome for his people."

"We will continue to advocate that both lives matter" - Archbishop Martin at Rally for Life 2022

Before attending this year's Rally for Life on Saturday 2 July, Archbishop Eamon Martin, celebrated Mass at Saint Saviour's Church and Dominican Priory, Dublin,

Addressing those in the pro-life cause during his homily, Archbishop Martin said, "Often you face setbacks, because the pro-life message is counter-cultural, and is falsely portrayed as negative, "anti-women", "anti-choice", or lacking in compassion. Sometimes, as in the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court on Roe v Wade, there are hopeful and encouraging signs that the context is shifting and that the rebuilding of a culture of life is possible. We know, of course, that the right to life is not given to us by any Constitution or by any law. All human beings have it 'as of right', whether we are wealthy or poor, healthy or sick, young or old, born or unborn."

Thousands of people from across Ireland attended this year's Rally for Life. Archbishop Martin is pictured below with some of those in attendance. You can read the archbishop's homily in full on www.catholicbishops.ie.



Season of Creation Resources now available

The Season of Creation is marked throughout the Christian world from 1 September to 4 October (Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment. It has a special significance for the Catholic Church, particularly since Pope Francis established 1 September as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Resources on this year's theme 'Listen to the Voice of Creation' are available on www.catholicbishops.ie.



Reek Sunday Pilgrimage to go ahead in traditional format

The annual Reek Sunday Pilgrimage on Croagh Patrick, Co Mayo, will return to its traditional format this year which will see pilgrims gathering in Murrisk, Co Mayo on Sunday 31 July to make the climb up to the summit of Ireland's holy mountain.

On the day of the pilgrimage Mass will be celebrated on the summit at 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.00am, 11.00am, 12 noon, 1.00pm, with the last Mass at 2.00pm.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available on the summit from 7.30am to 2.00pm. The 10.00am Mass will be *as Gaeilge*. Details of how to fulfil the spiritual requirements of the pilgrimage are available on www.westportparish.ie.

On Saturday 30 July, Archbishop Francis Duffy will celebrate the opening Mass for the pilgrimage at 6.30pm in Saint Mary's Church, Westport. All are welcome.

Those intending to climb Croagh Patrick are advised to wear suitable clothing and footwear and to follow all safety notices on the day.

Grandparents and the elderly need to know they are valued and cherished – Bishop Nulty



Bishop Denis Nulty is inviting parishes to reach out to grandparents and the elderly on Sunday 24 July, the second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Bishop Nulty said, "Grandparents and the elderly need to know they are valued and cherished by us – in our families, in our parishes and by the wider society. The World Day for

Grandparents and the Elderly offers us a new opportunity to celebrate them and to let them know how much they mean to us. We need them. They have much to offer us and we have much to learn from them."

Parishes across the country will celebrate grandparents and elders this coming weekend including at Knock Shrine where Archbishop Duffy will celebrate the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly and the National Grandparents' Pilgrimage. See www.catholicbishops.ie for resources.



Photo: Martin Long

National Pre-Synodal Assembly takes place in Athlone and Clonmacnoise

The National Pre- Synodal Assembly took place on Saturday 18 June 2022 in Athlone and Clonmacnoise. In attendance were delegates from the 26 dioceses on the island of Ireland; Religious Congregations; representatives from other Catholic groups and lay ecclesial associations; members of the clergy; members of the Synodal Pathway Steering Committee and Task Group. Below is a selection of photos from the day. For more see www.catholicbishops.ie.



Photos: John McElroy, Liam McArdle and Brenda Drumm

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