

Sharing the Good News

NEWSLETTER OF THE IRISH CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

Rebrand of Pope's charity as 'Missio Ireland' ahead of World Mission Sunday

The Irish branch of the Pontifical Mission Societies, formerly known as World Missions Ireland, has been rebranded as 'Missio Ireland' at a media launch which took place in the Veritas headquarters in Dublin on 18 October. The rebranding of the Pope's official charity for overseas

mission took place ahead of the annual collection on World Mission Sunday (24 October) which helps to fund the work of missionaries abroad.



Photo: John McElroy

Chairman of Missio Ireland, Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly SMA, said, "World Mission Sunday, and the mission month of October, calls on every person, in every parish, in every corner of the world to stand together to share what they can, no matter how little. It also challenges the traditional idea that mission work is solely done by overseas missionaries. Mission is at the heart of every Christian's baptismal call. It invites each one of us to consider the part we can play in changing our own lives and the lives of others." See www.missio.ie for more.

Bishops call for climate action and support for the 'Healthy Planet, Healthy People' petition ahead of COP15 and COP26



Bishops are encouraging the public to support a global campaign 'Healthy Planet, Healthy People', which seeks to encourage political leaders to take strong action on climate change at COP 15 on Biodiversity from 11 – 24 October and at COP26 on Climate Change in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November.

The 'Healthy Planet, Healthy People' petition, which has been endorsed by the Vatican, calls for a joined up, just response to the Covid 19, climate and biodiversity crises. The petition can be accessed online at www.healthyplanetandpeople.org.

Special parish collection in November to support Trócaire in alleviating humanitarian crisis in East Africa

Bishops are asking parishes throughout Ireland to undertake a special Church collection on 6 and 7 November to invite the public to support Trócaire in its work to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in East Africa. Bishops made the request following discussions at their Autumn General Meeting which concluded in Maynooth on Wednesday 6 October.



Bishops noted with deep concern the increase in the number of people worldwide threatened by humanitarian crises, which are driven by the triple threat of the Covid-19 pandemic, conflict and climate change. Bishops expressed particular support for the people of East Africa, where up to 30 million people in Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are currently face life-threatening food shortages.

Trócaire, as the overseas development agency of the Bishops' Conference, is currently addressing this and many other crises worldwide. For more on their East Africa appeal see www.trocaire.org.

Nine new seminarians brings to 64 currently studying for the priesthood



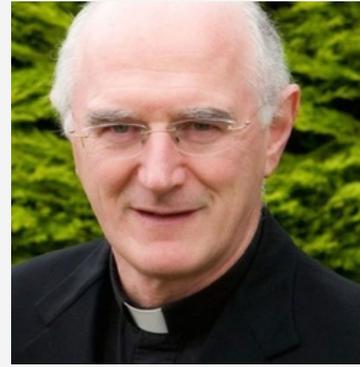
Nine new seminarians have begun their 2021-2022 academic programme and formation for Irish dioceses. These students are currently undertaking the propaedeutic programme in the Redemptoris Mater Seminary, Dundalk, Archdiocese of Armagh; Royal English College, Valladolid, Spain; and, Royal Scots College, Salamanca, Spain. This brings to 64 the total number studying for the priesthood.

Commenting on the 2021 – 2022 intake of seminarians, Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan, chair of the Bishops' Council for Vocations, said, "While we are all aware of the great challenges facing the Church and society at this time, we know also that God the all-powerful is always with us. These formation figures released today offer us a sign of hope."

Father Willie Purcell, National Coordinator for Diocesan Vocations said, "I take this opportunity to thank all the vocations directors for their work in accompanying those who are discerning a vocation to priesthood." For more see www.vocations.ie.

It would be a mistake to think that most parents are less interested in a school with a Catholic ethos than previous generations. - Archbishop Dermot Farrell

"People are mistaken who think that most parents are less interested in a school with a Catholic ethos than previous generations," Archbishop Dermot Farrell of Dublin has said. The archbishop was speaking at Mass for the Association of Patrons and Trustees of Catholic Schools (APTCS) in the Dominican retreat centre, in Tallaght, Dublin on 14 October. Archbishop Farrell went on to say, "We should not shy away from our ethos. We must put ourselves in the public square. If the Catholic school is to fulfill its mission properly, it cannot retreat into what it considers a safe space. A Catholic school that isolates itself becomes self-centered and self-referential,"



Those with responsibility for such schools "now need to consider seriously what it is we do, how we do it, and how we prepare these schools to continue to reflect the Catholic ethos for the families who wish to enrol their children in them," he said.

You can read his homily in full on www.catholicbishops.ie.

Bishops to undertake pilgrimage to Knock to offer Mass in memory of all who died during pandemic



The Bishops of Ireland will undertake a pilgrimage to the International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine in Knock, Co Mayo, in the Archdiocese of Tuam, on Sunday 14 November to pastorally support everyone who has suffered during the Covid-19 pandemic. In the context of November being the traditional time that we remember our dead, the bishops will concelebrate Mass at 3.00pm for all those who have died on the island, and for their families, during the pandemic. This Mass will be live-streamed on www.knockshrine.ie and broadcast on the RTÉ News Now digital television channel and online.

Pope John Paul I on the road to sainthood

Pope Francis has authorised the promulgation of a Decree advancing the cause for the beatification of Pope John Paul I, setting him on the road to sainthood. Albino Luciani was elected Pope on 26 August 1978 and served until his death 33 days later.



Update on Synodal Pathway in Ireland and Universal Synod

At their Autumn General Meeting in Maynooth bishops welcomed the publication of the Preparatory Document which indicates the guiding principles of the Synod on Synodality.

Bishops agreed that, as the Church in Ireland embarks on its own Synodal Pathway, we can also look forward to letting ourselves be inspired by these guiding principles. Bishops discussed this Preparatory Document, sharing in the goal of its listening process, namely, “not to produce documents, but to plant dreams, prophecies, and hopes.” The global questions being considered by the Universal Synod neatly complement the guiding question facing the Irish Synodal Pathway over the next five years, which is: “What does God want from the Church in Ireland at this time?”

Pope Francis launched the Universal Synod on 10 October and last weekend saw the launch of the synodal process in dioceses in Ireland and across the world. This phase of the Synod is seeking to raise awareness of the importance of engagement by the faithful at a local Church level. See synod.va for more.



Pics show the launch of the Synod in Armagh, Dublin and Clonfert



Archbishop Eamon calls for prayers for the Church 'Service of Reflection and Hope' in Armagh

Archbishop Eamon Martin and the other Church leaders in Ireland invite all people of goodwill to join them in prayer during the Service of Reflection and Hope which will be broadcast live from St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh on RTÉ and BBC television networks on Thursday, 21 October 2021 at 11am. The Church leaders see this service as a moment in a much longer journey towards reconciliation which will require the prayerful support and engagement of Christians across these islands.



Archbishop Eamon Martin at the graves of his predecessors in Armagh: Photograph: Janet Forbes