

Sharing the Good News

NEWSLETTER OF THE IRISH CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

Bishop Tom Deenihan to open Catholic Schools Week 2022 with livestream Mass

Catholic Schools Week 2022 will be celebrated in parishes across the island from Sunday 23 to Sunday 30 January on the theme: 'Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full'.

To formally open Catholic Schools Week, Bishop Tom Deenihan of Meath, Chair of the Catholic Education Service and a member of the Bishops' Council for Education, will celebrate Mass on Sunday 23 January from 11.00am. The liturgy will include musicians from Schola Cantorum at Saint Finian's Diocesan College. There will also be participation in the Mass from the Loreto Secondary School and Coláiste Mhuire, Mullingar.



Speaking ahead of the Mass, Bishop Deenihan said, "Every year, Catholic Schools Week assumes a greater importance for our local school community and parish. Our Catholic schools prepare their students for this world but also try to convey a sense of the Kingdom of God and the world to come. Catholic schools are renowned for the academic education that they offer their students. Equally, such schools contribute to society by encouraging the full development of their student's talents."

Resources for Catholic Schools Week are available on www.catholicbishops.ie.

Webinar to launch *Credible Catholic* RE Programme



As part of Catholic Schools Week 2022, Bishop Brendan Leahy, Chair of the Bishops' Council for Catechetics, will launch *Credible Catholic*, a new religious education programme for Catholic Voluntary Secondary Schools in Ireland. The launch will take place as part of a Webinar on Zoom on Wednesday 26 January at 7.00pm. Registration for the webinar is open now. All are welcome. For more details including how to register, see www.catholicbishops.ie.

Archbishop Francis Duffy installed as Archbishop of Tuam

Archbishop Francis Duffy was formally installed as Archbishop of Tuam on Sunday 9 January in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Tuam, during the celebration of Mass. He succeeds Archbishop Michael Neary had been appointed Archbishop of Tuam on 17 January 1995.

The ceremony was a joyous and historic occasion for the people of the Archdiocese of Tuam and for Archbishop Francis himself. In his homily, the newly installed Archbishop Francis Duffy said, "Today I assume my responsibilities as Archbishop of Tuam. I come here knowing very few and so I really look forward to getting to know the priests, religious and parishioners as I move around and meet a great variety of people. I follow in the footsteps of a true shepherd who has led this diocese with great wisdom, sensitivity, and faithfulness for 27 years as Archbishop. The more I learn about Tuam and the more I know Archbishop Michael's work, the more I appreciate the breadth and depth of his shepherding and leadership." You can read Archbishop Duffy's homily in full on www.catholicbishops.ie.

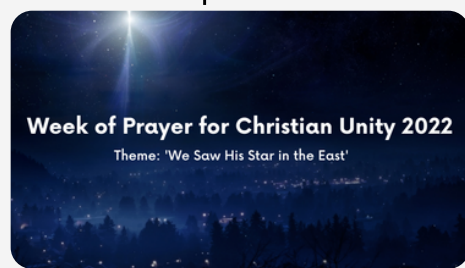


Photos: Ray Ryan



Archbishops of Armagh release video message for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

"The Catholic and Church of Ireland Archbishops of Armagh, Archbishop Eamon Martin and Archbishop John McDowell, have released a video message reflecting on the theme of Christian unity as part of this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which is taking place from 18 - 25 January. The video is available on www.catholicbishops.ie.



Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan's invitation to #Pray4Vocations to priesthood

Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan, chair of the Bishops' Council for Vocations is asking people to pause and pray a short prayer for vocations each day at 4.00pm during 2022. Bishop Cullinan said, "You might say an 'Our Father', a 'Hail Mary' or a 'Glory Be'. You might have a preferred prayer of your own. Whatever prayer you decide on, I am asking you to pause and #Pray4Vocations at 4.00pm each day."

For more on this initiative including suggested prayers please see www.vocations.ie.



Ashling Murphy RIP laid to rest in her home parish

The Funeral Mass for the late Ashling Murphy RIP took place in the parish Church of Saint Brigid, Mount Bolus, Co Offaly, in the Diocese of Meath on 18 January. Father Michael Meade, PP, was the chief celebrant at the Mass which was attended by family and close friends. In his homily Father Meade said, "Together we



grieve, we pray, we hurt – this is the heavy price we pay for love – we gather as a family of faith, to be with, to support by our prayer and our presence, those whose darkness is deep, whose pain is raw and fierce."

In an address before the Final Commendation, Bishop Tom Deenihan emphasised the importance of respecting the dignity of every person, saying, "No individual should die like Ashling and no family should suffer like Ashling's. Respect is an old-fashioned word but it is an important one. Respect was missing last Wednesday but it has re-emerged here all the stronger. Let us respect each other."

For more see www.catholicbishops.ie.

Archbishop Farrell prays for peace and highlights the need for vaccine equity in homily for World Day of Peace 2022

In his homily for the World Day of Prayer for Peace on 1 January, Archbishop Dermot Farrell of Dublin prayed for peace and highlighted the need for vaccine equity as we continue to deal with the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. You can read his homily in full on www.dublindiocese.ie.



New synod.ie website and social media presence launched to support the Synodal Pathway

A new website synod.ie has been launched to support engagement with the national synodal pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland.

The website provides information about the synodal pathway and the timeline for the work, as well as making available a variety of resources to support engagement.

Dr Nicola Brady, Chair of the Steering Committee said: “The initial response to the announcement of the synodal pathway by the Irish bishops has been very encouraging. Many people have expressed a desire to learn more about the concept of synodality and how this might work in practice in our context. We hope that this website will be a helpful resource to those who wish to engage with the process as it develops.”



Welcoming the publication of the website and resources Archbishop Eamon Martin said: “This website builds on the important work that has begun at diocesan and national levels, as well as in a variety of other settings, to take up the invitation from Pope Francis to think about what it means to be a synodal church. I encourage everyone to use the resources provided to make bring their perspective to this important work. Bishops are grateful to all those who have contributed thus far to raising awareness of the synodal pathway and helping us to take the first steps on this journey.”

You can also follow updates on the Synodal Pathway on Twitter @synodalpathway and on Facebook: Synodal Pathway - Ireland.

Catholic Education Partnership seeks new Chief Executive Officer

The Catholic Education Partnership (CEP) Board of Directors invites applications for the post of Chief Executive Officer. The CEO will be responsible for the delivery of the CEP mandate to provide a unified and authoritative voice for Catholic education in the public forum and to enhance cohesion and foster connectivity in the Catholic education sector. For job description and application form please email mgriffin@catholiceducation.ie. Closing date: 4 February 2022.

