

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Monthly newsletter for Dioceses and Parishes Issue 6 - April 2014
Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference
Columba Centre, Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare

ST JOHN PAUL II & ST JOHN XXIII

Two new
booklets
available
from veritas.ie



Spring 2014 General Meeting of the Irish Bishops' Conference

Bishops concluded their three-day Spring meeting in Maynooth on 12 March having discussed: the Synod of Bishops on the Family; the first year of the Pontificate of Pope Francis; National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland; Lent and preparation for Holy Week and Easter; the Solemnity of Saint Patrick; Trócaire; Migration and the plight of children in Syria and Direct Provision; Canonisations of Blessed Pope John XXIII and Blessed Pope John Paul II; 1,400th anniversary of Saint Columban; welcoming Bishop Donal McKeown as the new Bishop of Derry, and on the golden jubilees of their ordination to the priesthood of Cardinal Brady and Archbishop Clifford. Read the statement on www.catholicbishops.ie.

Bishops sent their warm wishes to Pope Francis on the first anniversary of his election: "We wish Pope Francis health and happiness for his future ministry. May the Holy Spirit pour out upon him in abundance and bless him with all the gifts needed to shepherd the flock of the Church, and to strengthen all your brothers and sisters in the faith and to be an inspiration to all people of goodwill throughout the world."



Online Lenten Calendar

An online Lenten Calendar is available on the Catholic Bishops' website offering daily Lenten prayers, video reflections, scripture readings and excerpts from Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium - The Joy of the Gospel*. Access the calendar on our website: catholicbishops.ie/lenten-calendar.

Canonisation of two Popes

On Sunday 27 April Pope Francis will canonise Blessed John XXIII and Blessed John Paul II in Rome. Writing in *Intercom Magazine* Bishop Brendan Leahy and Bishop Donal Murray offer their reflections on the lives of these soon-to-be-saints. See catholicbishops.ie.

The Easter Triduum Video Series

In a new video series Bishop Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin reflects on the Easter Triduum: from the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, through Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and ending on Easter Sunday. Click on catholicbishops.ie/Triduum to view these videos.

Synod on the Family

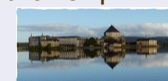
Bishops thanked the thousands of people who responded to the recent questionnaire on the *Pastoral Challenges to the Family in the Context of Evangelisation*. Responses will inform the October meeting of the Synod of Bishops in Rome. See survey overview on catholicbishops.ie

NEWS SNIPPETS

- The Irish Church Music Association Summer School takes place in Maynooth from 3 - 6 July 2014 on the theme 'The Joy of the Gospel'. See website for more information: churchmusicassociation.com.
- Make a 'Sacred Space' in your day during Lent with the help of scripture chosen every day and on-screen guidance on www.sacredspace.ie.
- Friday Penance during Lent:
 - (i) Make a special effort at family prayer
 - (ii) Make the Stations of the Cross
 - (iii) Do something to help the poor, sick or lonely
 - (iv) Make a special effort to avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - (v) Abstain from meat or some other food.
- Scan this smartphone QR code to watch a video of Bishop Crean, Chairman of Trócaire reflecting on his meeting with Enestina, the young person from Malawi on this year's Trócaire box.



- For details of the 2014 Lough Derg pilgrimage season please see www.loughderg.org.



Produced by the Catholic Communications Office. For further information and contact details see www.catholicbishops.ie

Also on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Audioboo.



Pope Francis' Tweet of the Month: Our deepest joy comes from Christ: remaining with him, walking with him, being his disciples. Follow Pope Francis @Pontifex