

# Sharing the Good News

NEWSLETTER OF THE IRISH CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

## “What a cruel time the pandemic has been for the dying and the bereaved” – Archbishop Eamon Martin

On Sunday 14 November, Archbishop Eamon Martin concelebrated the Mass of Remembrance for those who died during the pandemic in the Basilica of Our Lady of Knock, Co Mayo, in the Archdiocese of Tuam, with bishops and clergy from across Ireland.

During his homily, the Primate of All Ireland said, “We are gathering today to remember all those who died during the Covid-19 pandemic. What a cruel time it has been for the dying and the bereaved.

“Sadly, in many cases during the Covid pandemic, those precious, final moments saw increased heartbreak. At a time when physical closeness is so important, and our caring instinct is to hug someone, or hold their hand, it was distressing that often the final words of love and prayer had to be spoken over a telephone, or from behind windows and screens, or masks or visors.”

Drawing attention to the frontline workers fighting Covid, the Archbishop continued, “In a special way today in Knock we remember, with deep gratitude and prayer, the ‘heroes’ who kept our health, emergency, chaplaincy and other essential services going during the pandemic, often denying themselves in the cause of compassion, charity and love. And they are still doing it, today and every day. “Let society never forget them, and always ensure that our carers and health workers are appreciated, fully resourced and rewarded for their goodness.”

You can read Archbishop Martin's homily in full and view more images from the Mass on [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie).



# Pope Francis appoints Bishop Francis Duffy as Archbishop of Tuam

Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Francis Duffy, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois, as the new Archbishop of Tuam. Following the announcement on 10 November, Archbishop-elect Duffy concelebrated Mass in the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Tuam, with His Excellency Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo, Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland; and Archbishop Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam.



Photos: Ray Ryan

Speaking after the announcement, Archbishop-elect Duffy said, "I am certainly surprised and humbled to be appointed to this Archdiocese and naturally I am a little sad at leaving my own diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois. This archdiocese is renowned for the International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine at Knock and for Croagh Patrick and also for Ballintubber Abbey and Máméán. I look forward to engaging with the deep spiritual traditions and culture of this area." You can read more about the appointment on [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie).



## Trócaire launches life-changing Christmas Gifts of Love to support communities devastated by Climate Change

Trócaire has launched a range of life-changing Christmas Gifts which will help vulnerable communities combat the devastating impacts of climate change, Covid-19 and conflict.

The new Gifts of Love collection includes water filters (€40) and emergency water supply (€20) to support communities in developing countries hit by ongoing drought. The broad range of gifts also include dignity packs to help young girls out of period poverty (€10) and mental health support for women and children traumatised by the ongoing conflict in Gaza (€50). See [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org) for more on the range of gifts.





# Catholic schools are valued across the world - Archbishop Dermot Farrell at Mass for opening of DCU Academic Year

"In his homily at Mass for the opening of the academic year at Dublin City University, on 10 November, Archbishop Dermot Farrell of Dublin said, "Catholic schools are valued across the world. Why? Because of, and not despite, their Catholic ethos, Catholic schools embrace a variety of young people of various cultural identities and nationalities, and the plurality of their religious and other belief systems. In responding to the action of the Spirit, who brings these young people to our doors, Catholic schools—primary or post-primary—have shown respect, generosity and hospitality while still upholding their Mission Statements and Ethos Policies."



The Archbishop went on to say that one of the great strengths of faith-based schools has been their rootedness in local communities. You can read his homily in full on [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie).

## Dr Nicola Brady recognised by the Irish Council of Churches and by the Irish Inter-Church Meeting



Dr Nicola Brady has been recognised for her services as general secretary of the Irish Council of Churches and as general secretary of Irish Inter-Church Meeting. Dr Brady is soon to take up the post of general secretary of the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

Speaking at a gathering in the SMA Dromantine Retreat Centre, Newry, on 12 November, Bishop Brendan Leahy, Co-Chair of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting said, "As an intelligent and astute observer of socio-cultural developments, Nicola has enabled the Irish Inter-Church

Meeting to engage meaningfully with significant initiatives and projects that furthered our mission of promoting good relations among churches as we looked together outwards towards the wider society. We will certainly miss her gentle but clear sense of purpose and direction". For more see [www.catholicnews.ie](http://www.catholicnews.ie).

## Deadline extended for first phase of the synodal process

In order to "provide a greater opportunity for the people of God to have an authentic experience of listening and dialogue" during the recently launched synodal process, the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops has decided to extend the deadline of the first phase to 15 August 2022. For more updates see [www.synod.va](http://www.synod.va).

# Bishop Martin Hayes supports statement by Catholic organisations on COP26



Following his attendance at the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow, Bishop Martin Hayes, the coordinating bishop for Laudato Si', has signed a statement which is being supported by Catholic organisations from around the world. The statement highlights ongoing concerns for our common home and asked leaders to follow Pope Francis' leadership in reaching a prophetic final agreement.

"The science is clear: an extractive, unsustainable economy, fuelled by fossil fuels, is causing the climate crisis that's destroying God's creation and harming the most vulnerable among us the most, those who have done little to cause the crisis.", the statement said.

Pope Francis' encyclical letter entitled, Laudato Si' on care for our common home, was published in 2015 and become a worldwide best seller. The encyclical is developed around the concept of integral ecology, as a paradigm able to articulate the fundamental relationships of the person: with God, with one's self, with other human beings, with creation.

The statement is available on [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie).

## Bishops' online interactive Advent Calendar going live on Sunday 28 November

The Bishops' online interactive Advent Calendar is going live on Sunday 28 November, the first Sunday of Advent 2021. Now in its eighth year, the popular Advent Calendar will be offering resources for the parish, school and the home which are available behind a virtual door each day during the Season of Advent. This year's content is aimed at assisting people to pray and to reflect on how best we can keep Christ at the centre of our Christmas preparations during this special liturgical season. Be part of our Advent journey this year by following the daily online resource on [www.catholicbishops.ie/adventcalendar](http://www.catholicbishops.ie/adventcalendar).

