



SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Monthly newsletter for dioceses & parishes. Issue 23 - November 2015

Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

Columba Centre, Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare



NEWS SNIPPETS

Pope Francis' words concluding Synod of Bishops on Family



Pope Francis delivered his closing address to the Synod of Bishops on the Family on Sunday 24 October saying: "Certainly, the Synod was not about settling all the issues having to do with the family, but rather attempting to see them in the light of the Gospel and the Church's tradition and two-thousand-year history, bringing the joy

of hope without falling into a facile repetition of what is obvious or has already been said. It was about urging everyone to appreciate the importance of the institution of the family and of marriage between a man and a woman, based on unity and indissolubility, and valuing it as the fundamental basis of society and human life. It was about listening to and making heard the voices of the families and the Church's pastors, who came to Rome bearing on their shoulders the burdens and the hopes, the riches and the challenges of families throughout the world." Archbishop Eamon Martin and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin attended the Synod.

Irish bishops visit European institutions in Brussels

Bishops and support staff took part in an information visit to the European Commission, and Parliament, in Brussels in November. The group held meetings with the Commissioner for Agriculture & Rural Development Mr Phil Hogan as well as with senior officials from the Commission and with members of the diplomatic service of Ireland, and the Northern Ireland



Executive Office in Brussels. The group also met with Irish MEPs, North and South, and two European Parliament Vice-Presidents, Ms Mairead McGuinness and Mr Antonio Tajani. The visit included a meeting with COMECE, the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community.

40th anniversary of the Catholic Communications Office



To mark forty years of service to the Irish Bishops' Conference, the CCO co-hosted a conference with Saint Patrick's College Maynooth on 5 November. Archbishop Eamon Martin opened the event, whilst Monsignor Paul Tighe, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, gave the keynote address on 'The Church in a Digital World – Sharing Good News'. Father Tom Casey SJ discussed the positive but also the creative and

destructive power of words. The conference was chaired by RTÉ and BBC broadcaster Audrey Carville. See catholicbishops.ie for audio and texts.

- Our 2015 online Advent Calendar will go live on Sunday 29 November - the first Sunday of Advent - on www.catholicbishops.ie/advent-calendar.
- The Jubilee of Mercy will begin on 8 December 2015. Resources for dioceses and parishes are available on www.catholicbishops.ie.
- Congratulations to the Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas who will mark their 30th anniversary on 1 December with a conference in Dublin. To find out more about their work see www.icpo.ie
- A number of dioceses have come together to produce a new video promoting the priesthood. You can view the video on vocations.ie



Produced by the Catholic Communications Office.

See catholicbishops.ie. Also on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and Audioboom.

Pope Francis Tweet of the Month:

"As Christians, we are called to imitate the Good Shepherd and to help families experiencing difficulties." Follow Pope Francis on Twitter @Pontifex and @news_va.

