



# SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

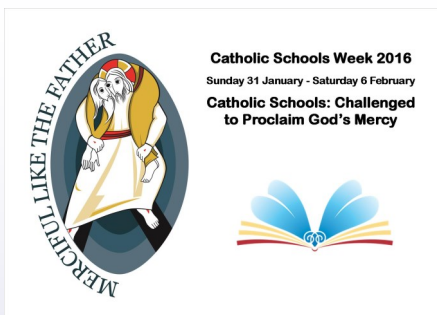
Monthly newsletter for dioceses & parishes. Issue 25 - January 2016  
Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference  
Columba Centre, Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare

## Catholic schools: 'Challenged to Proclaim God's Mercy'

Catholic Schools Week 2016 will take place from 31 January to 6 February 2016 on the theme "Catholic Schools: Challenged to Proclaim God's Mercy". This theme is drawn from the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy opened by Pope Francis on 8 December 2015 and which runs to 20 November 2016.

Catholic Schools Week is an all-Ireland annual event which invites Catholic schools to give expression in a special way to the ethos of Catholic education. It is a celebration throughout Ireland, North and South, which acknowledges the tremendous contribution that our primary and post-primary schools make not just to Irish society, but to the mission of the Church. Bishop Brendan Kelly of Achonry will preside at Mass for CSW which will be broadcast on RTÉ One television at 11am on Sunday 31 January.

To download this year's resources for use in the school, parish or home, please see [www.catholicschools.ie](http://www.catholicschools.ie) or [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie).



## Bishops' support to Christians of Holy Land: 'You are not forgotten'

Bishop John McAreevey of Dromore, along with the international group of bishops of the Holy Land Coordination, issued a statement following their recent visit to vulnerable Christians in the Holy Land reassuring them that they are not forgotten. Their words echo those of Pope Francis in his recent Encyclical Letter, *Laudato Si (Praise Be to You)*, when he asked us to remember our interdependence in an integrated world. The bishops said: "The ongoing violence makes it all the more urgent that we remember and assist all, especially those on the margins, who seek to live in justice and peace." See full statement on [catholicbishops.ie](http://catholicbishops.ie).



Altar servers before Mass in the Latin parish of Beit Jala.


## New Parish Resource Pack for Migrants and Refugees

In his message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis reminds us that the Gospel calls us to be neighbours to the smallest and abandoned and to give them hope. He also makes an appeal to parishes, in the context of the Year of Mercy, to express the concreteness of the Gospel and to welcome refugees. The Bishops' Council for Immigrants has made available a resource pack for parishes which has information as well as practical suggestions about making new arrivals to a parish feel welcome. This resource pack can be accessed on [catholicbishops.ie/immigrants](http://catholicbishops.ie/immigrants).



## NEWS SNIPPETS

- 26 pilgrims, representing 11 Irish dioceses, will travel to Cebu for the 51<sup>st</sup> International Eucharistic Congress from 24 – 31 January. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin will be principal celebrant for the main Congress Mass on 29 January in Cebu. Bishop Kevin Doran will be the main celebrant for the English language Mass on 27 January. These Masses will be streamed live on [www.iec2016.ph](http://www.iec2016.ph).
- Watch Archbishop Eamon Martin's interview urging against a false glorification of the 1916 Easter Rising and the Battle of the Somme and the on-going need not to forget victims of violence in a new video on [iCatholic.ie](http://iCatholic.ie).
- The Priests' Council of the Archdiocese of Dublin has published a report looking at future trends for many aspects of diocesan life and personnel numbers over the period 2014-2030. The report is available on [www.dublindiocese.ie](http://www.dublindiocese.ie).



**Pope Francis Tweet of the Month:** "Every Christian community should be an oasis of charity and warmth in the midst of a desert of solitude and indifference." Follow Pope Francis on Twitter @Pontifex and @news\_va.

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