



econgress

IEC 2012
50th INTERNATIONAL
EUCHARISTIC
CONGRESS

Issue 2 / September 2010



Fr. Kevin Doran
Secretary General

Welcome to the second issue of e-Congress, in which we invite you to set out with us on the journey of spiritual and practical preparation for the 50th International Eucharistic Congress. One of the central mysteries of our faith is the Incarnation. We believe that “The Word was made Flesh and lived among us.” The Son of God took on our human nature and lived our human reality, including our experience of suffering and death. This means, among other things, that the Eucharist is not something removed from daily life. The Eucharist has something to say to us about every truly human experience and, in some sense, our reflection on human experience can help to deepen our understanding of the Eucharist.

Archbishop Martin has approved the Eucharistic Congress Prayer. We invite you to support the Congress by praying this prayer with us, on a daily basis if possible.

Eucharistic Congress Prayer

*Lord Jesus,
You were sent by the Father
to gather together those who are scattered.
You came among us, doing good and bringing healing,
announcing the Word of salvation
and giving the Bread which lasts forever.
Be our companion on life's pilgrim way.
May your Holy Spirit inflame our hearts,
enliven our hope and open our minds,
so that together with our sisters and brothers in faith
we may recognise you in the Scriptures and in the
breaking of bread.
May your Holy Spirit transform us into one body
and lead us to walk humbly on the earth,
in justice and love,
as witnesses of your resurrection.
In communion with Mary,
whom you gave to us as our Mother at the foot of the
cross, through you
may all praise, honour and blessing be to the Father
in the Holy Spirit and in the Church,
Now and forever.
Amen*

The prayer draws its inspiration from the Gospel story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk. 24) and from the words of the prophet Micah where we read:

“This and only this is what the Lord God asks of you: to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).

The Congress office will shortly arrange for the prayer to be printed and made available to those who wish to have it.

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Presentation of the Pastoral Preparation Programme – The Journey Begins
3. Preparations begin countrywide
4. Meet the Team
5. Report from the Pastoral Committee – what's going on behind the scenes
6. Report from Volunteers Committee

Procession With A Difference

From time to time I have the privilege of celebrating Mass in a hospital for people with Alzheimer's disease. While some of the patients have more or less lost touch with their world, they greet one another like old friends as we gather in the chapel.

It is a reasonably well known fact that people suffering from this condition often continue to have good long term memory, even while their short term memory has deteriorated very significantly. They also tend to be less socially inhibited, which lends a certain spontaneity to our liturgy. By contrast with some parish congregations, they participate very fully in the prayers and the singing, though not always in a predictable way. Not all the "hymns" would be found in a standard hymn book.

After Mass, I usually accompany those patients and staff who have to return to the building on the opposite side of the garden, as I take communion to those who are unable to come to Mass. On one such occasion recently, as we slowly walked along the path, the image came to mind of a Blessed Sacrament Procession. What had begun at

the altar was now being carried out from there to those who, both physically and emotionally, live "on the other side". I walked along with the Eucharist in one hand, while I linked one of the elderly ladies with my other arm.

This assembly may not be sophisticated but it is truly authentic as an expression of what the Church is called to be. Like every congregation, it is nourished with the word and with the bread of life and then sent out to bring the love of Jesus to those who live "on the other side." In keeping with best liturgical practice, the communion for the sick is taken from the altar at which the sacrifice of Jesus has been offered. The procession flows from the assembly and, in so far as there is adoration, it is reverence for Jesus both in the Blessed Sacrament and in the sick who are His "broken Body." It is a constant reminder to me that the fruit of the Eucharistic assembly brings together both Martha and Mary. It is apostolic as well as contemplative. It calls us to service as well as to adoration.

Fr. Kevin Doran



The Journey Begins

The Pastoral Preparation Programme and the itinerary it presents is intended to explore, over the next two years, the celebration of the Eucharist and the lifestyle it inspires - Eucharistic lives, rooted in the Gospel, or in other words, Communion with Christ and with one another. The Programme resources are for everyone, for each one's personal enrichment, as well as for group reflection. You are invited and encouraged to use them creatively. 'One size' does not fit all, so tailor them to suit your journey.

Each stage corresponds to one of the rites of the celebration of Eucharist: Stage One (Autumn/Winter 2010) focuses on the Introductory Rite; Stage 2 (Spring/Summer 2011) on Liturgy of the Word; Stage 3 (Autumn/Winter 2011) on the Liturgy of the Eucharist and Stage 4 (Spring/Summer 2011) on the Concluding Rite and the implications for our lives.

Each Stage is divided into "Movements" designed to facilitate reflection on our gathering as a Eucharistic Community. This catechetical resource suggests the language of journey for the Movements, taking its inspiration from the Emmaus story in the Gospel of Luke which over arches the entire Stage. The vision is that these Movements serve the participants, as pastoral moments, rather than simply providing a structure for the programme. Some groups may decide that the Movements be separate sessions, while others may discern that Movements could be combined. The progression from one Movement to the next should be natural and occur when the group is ready. It may be helpful for group leaders and indeed individuals to prepare the way before setting off, ensuring that participants are given ample time to reflect, discuss and pray, while being attentive to their readiness to move on.

[Stage 1 overview](#) 

[Stage 1 full text and resources](#) 

Four Stages of Preparation

Stage One

Autumn/Winter 2010:

Christ gathers us a Eucharistic Community.

Stage Two

Spring/Summer 2011:

Christ gathers us to listen, to hear, to be nourished and to be formed into community by God's word.

Stage Three

Autumn/Winter 2011:

Christ gathers us to be nourished by the Bread of Life.

Stage Four

Spring 2012:

Christ gathers and strengthens us for Mission by the Word and the Bread of Life.

**CONGRESS DATES:
10th - 17th June 2012**





Countrywide

Each diocese in Ireland has appointed a local representative for the Congress. The National Eucharistic Committee has been meeting now for over a year and local steering groups are being set up in each diocese. Many dioceses across the country have already begun their preparations and we are pleased to be able to present a flavour of what has been happening:

Diocese of Derry

On the Feast of Corpus Christi in June 2010, approximately 500 people took part in the first Derry City Eucharistic Procession for many years. The procession went from the Long Tower Church to the Cathedral through the bogside. The Derry Diocesan Committee has designed and manufactured some attractive Congress banners, which will hang in the Cathedral until the Congress.

Diocese of Meath

The Meath Diocesan Congress Committee mailed out all resources available for Congress in March and April. All 69 parishes and the 108 Adoration Centres in the diocese received the materials. Two major follow-up meetings involving the priests and lay representatives of each parish as well as one lay person from each Adoration Centre in the diocese took place in Navan and Mullingar in late Spring. The meetings were very well attended, 57 of the 69 parishes were well represented.

Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois

The diocese has launched the preparation for the International Eucharistic Congress following an information meeting in Longford with Fr. Kevin Doran.


Diocese of Cloyne

On the 29th May a Day of Renewal and Prayer was held in Mallow for all involved in Eucharistic Adoration in the diocese. Approximately 100 people took part in the day. The theme for the day was, The Eucharist, Communion with Christ. The day began with Mass. Fr. Winkle directed the first half of the day on how the Eucharist draws us into Communion with Christ. Fr. Kevin Doran came and gave an overview of the Eucharistic Congress and spent some time reflecting on the Emmaus Story from the Gospel of Luke, with particular reference to 'Gathering'.

[Full countrywide updates](#) 



Banners made by Deirdre Keenan, Diocese of Derry

For the full list of dioceses and to see who is your local diocesan representative click here 

In the near future Information, Posters, Prayer Cards and a DVD will be available through your local diocesan representative.

Meet Our Team

Fr. Kevin Doran
Secretary General



Anne Griffin
General Manager



Sheena Darcy
Office Manager



Ian Callanan
Volunteer Services Manager



Gerard Brennan
Pastoral Assistant for Ministry to Youth



Colette Furlong
Pastoral Development Officer

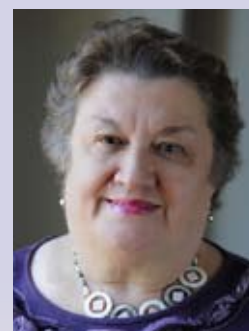


Laura Phelan
Services and Logistics Co-ordinator



Eithne Merrins
PA to the Secretary General

Eithne, after 32 years service with Diocese of Dublin will retire this November. We would like to thank her for her work and wish her a happy retirement.





What's Going on Behind the Scenes

Welcome to the Pastoral Committee update on plans for the Eucharistic Congress. It is great, at this stage, to hear stories of how people are beginning to plan the welcome for those who will come to Ireland for the 50th International Eucharistic Congress 2012. This phase of preparation is an opportunity for all of us to get involved. The Pastoral Committee has been busy, preparing its Pastoral Vision and in turn the work of the sub-committees has commenced. This e-Congress will give you a flavour of plans that are underway already with news for Parishes, Update on Schools, Youth ministry, The Eucharistic Congress Bell, Adoration, Liturgy and Music committee.

In Autumn time, many parishes commence a programme of planning important pastoral initiatives and activities over the coming months. As part of the Pastoral Preparation Programme for the 50th International Eucharistic Congress our Pastoral Committee has developed a series of resources to help people to explore and to respond to the Congress theme *The Eucharist: Communion With Christ And With One Another*. As proposed in the May e-Congress, four distinct stages of preparation will take place. Stage One which commences now (Autumn/Winter 2010) will explore the theme: Christ gathers us as a Eucharistic Community. It is broken into a number of areas, is adaptable and is intended to invite groups to gather and reflect about that action of gathering together, ultimately as a Liturgical Assembly. It is hoped that parishes, communities of

faith, groups, and even individuals can use, adapt and learn using this programme. It is envisioned that people in a variety of pastoral situations will incorporate and use the Movements to their own unique context.

It is hoped that all parishes throughout Ireland and beyond will engage in a rigorous programme of renewal, that will supplement and enhance our understanding of Eucharist and reflect on the question of why we gather as a Christian community. Resources are now available to support preparation using this e-Congress and also on the www.iec2012.ie website. These are accompanied with templates for preparing prayers and liturgical occasions that can be incorporated in a parish context.

The 50th International Eucharistic Congress 2012 provides an opportunity for every one of us to reflect on how we gather as a Eucharistic community. Each of us has a role to play in celebrating and living the Eucharist. Preparation is important. The challenge is to reach a new appreciation of the vitally important role that we – both as lay faithful and clergy – have to play within the Eucharistic celebration. Our celebration of Eucharist will improve with a fuller appreciation and understanding. The Congress is an opportunity and an invitation to renew our understanding and commitment to creating parishes and pastoral occasions where Communion with Christ and one another is real, and has a real potential to renew the community of faith that gathers.



Gerard Gallagher - IEC 2012 Pastoral and Liturgy Committee, Fr. Julian Green - IEC 2012 National Delegate for England and Wales, Anne Griffin - IEC 2012 General Manager.

Pastoral Tools

A number of quite different pastoral tools that everyone is invited to use – individually or collectively – are taking shape and will hopefully enhance a greater understanding of “gathering” together for the Eucharistic Congress:


Eucharistic Congress Bell

Bells have been associated with prayer and gathering in community for thousands of years. In Ireland we have many old bells, reminiscent of important moments of gathering, both religious and social. The Pastoral Committee has identified a bell as one of the key symbols of the Congress. The Congress Bell will be a reminder of the call to faith and the call to prayer in ancient times and in more recent times; the invitation to gather as a Christian community. Our Eucharistic Congress Bell has been donated for this purpose by the Dominican Sisters in Cabra. The Bell – in the near future to be housed in a special housing or vehicle – will be carried and pushed all around Ireland. It will be offered to dioceses, parish communities, festivals of faith and places of pilgrimage. We hope it will be carried by many volunteers, parish to parish, community to community. Resources are being devised to accompany the Bell so that, as it is rung, it will be heard by many people as a form of invitation. They may ask “what is it?” They may go further and ask, as the rich young

man in the Gospel asked, “Good master what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Prayers and ceremonies will be created for prayer occasions. It is envisaged that every diocese, cathedral, community and hopefully many religious sites as well as the schools and other institutions will get involved in this project. A steering committee will soon be established in order to co-ordinate this task. If you would like more information about the Bell and the possibility of booking it for your community you can email pastoral@iec2012.ie for more information.

Parish Based Pastoral Preparation for the IEC 2012

Parish Pastoral Councils that wish to commence preparation for the Congress can begin by taking the following steps:

- Contact your local diocesan representative and see if there is already a pastoral plan for the 50th International Eucharistic Congress in your diocese.
[Click Here for list of Diocesan Representatives](#) 
- Parish Pastoral Councils are invited to put the Congress on their regular agenda – to ensure that Pastoral Preparation happens locally.
- Parishes are invited to place a link to the Congress on their parish website. Contact us for a web-button
admin@iec2012.ie
- Access the pastoral resources – including the full text of Stage One – now available for parishes to commence using.

[Stage 1 full text and resources](#) 





Pastoral Sub-Committees

A number of sub-committees are now in place to commence a number of areas of work. Many of these volunteers are working hard at producing resources and ideas that will hopefully assist many people to engage in advance of the IEC 2012.

- Adoration and the Eucharistic Congress
- Schools and the Eucharistic Congress
- Youth Ministry and the Eucharistic Congress

Sub-Committees

Programming for the IEC 2012

A Group has now been established to draft ideas for the Programme and content of the Eucharistic Congress during June 2012. More information will follow, however if you have ideas around potential workshops, presenters, animators, music groups and so forth suggestions are welcome to

info@iec2012.ie

National & European Ploughing Championships

Each year the National & European Ploughing Championships take place in the Autumn in various parts of Ireland. This year it took place in Athy, Co. Kildare. As this is in the Archdiocese of Dublin, the diocese collaborated with the local Church of Ireland to host a special trade-stand. This stand had a prayer area which focused on the aspect of prayer in our lives. We were invited by the

Office of Evangelisation in Dublin to allow the Eucharistic Congress Bell to be part of the Ecumenical stand. For further information about the visit of the Bell to the Ploughing Championships see

www.yearofevangelisation.ie

Invitation to hear about IEC 2012

If you would like to find out more about the Congress or would like to receive a presentation on the Congress and the Pastoral Programme – you can email Colette Furlong to arrange this.

pastoral@iec2012.ie

Volunteering for the IEC 2012

Between two and three thousand volunteers will be required to assist in organising the IEC 2012. Volunteers are needed in a wide range of roles. Initially volunteers are required to help plan and organise the programme while others will be needed to recruit, train and manage the volunteer workforce.

Why would you want to volunteer? One young person who volunteered at a similar event recently said: "The person who asked me was someone who had given me a lot in my life and I wanted to say Yes." Another said: "Well, I came here to be with all these people as an expression of my faith in Jesus. If I'm here as a volunteer, it's because I believe that service is an essential part of being a disciple."

[Read more...](#) 

Are you interested in supporting the Eucharistic Congress 2012 in Dublin, Sponsorship options, Professional help, Volunteer? Let us know what you can do - get in touch info@iec2012.ie

50th International Eucharistic Congress 2012

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This e-congress has been prepared by the Pastoral Planning Committee of the Eucharistic Congress.
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