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Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, in a gesture of solidarity with the people of New Zealand and the Islamic faith worldwide over the massacre of 50 people at two mosques in Christchurch, held a service of silence and prayerful reflection on Saint Patrick's Day ahead of the traditional Aifreann Lá le Pádraig in Saint Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Dublin. Archbishop Martin said, "To attack people of prayer just because they were of a different faith – is something that offends Christian culture; it offends our own Irish culture just as it offends the culture of New Zealand, a country known for its tolerance and welcome."

Archbishop Eamon Martin encourages the faithful to #LiveLent 2019

Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh has launched a special web resource, and a Twitter and Instagram #LiveLent initiative, for Lent 2019.

Archbishop Eamon said, "In his message for Lent 2019, Pope Francis is inviting the faithful to return to God with all their hearts and to observe the three pillars of the Lenten season: Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. The theme for the Pope's message for Lent 2019 is 'For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God (Rm 8:19)'.

"Appealing to the faithful to not allow this season of grace to pass in vain, Pope



Francis says that if, 'the Lent of the Son of God 'was an entry into the desert of creation to make it become again that garden of communion with God that it was before the original sin, Christians today are invited to embody the paschal mystery more deeply and concretely in their personal, family and social lives, above all by fasting, prayer and almsgiving.'

"I encourage the faithful to reflect during this Lenten season on how to grow closer to God by our daily actions, thoughts, words

and to consider what sacrifice might be made to achieve this. I also encourage the faithful to support this year's Trócaire Lenten campaign.

"I encourage everyone to take part in our digital media initiative which is offering short daily suggestions shared on Twitter and Instagram on how to best #LiveLent 2019. For more see catholicbishops.ie.

Parishes encouraged to champion the message of *Laudato Si'* - Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical on care for our common home

On 12 April next, the Bishops' Northern Ireland Catholic Council on Social Affairs, in collaboration with both its Council for Justice and Peace and the *Laudato Si'* Working Group of the Council for Catechetics, are hosting a day on transforming our

understanding of our faith with *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical on care for our common home. Dr Emer Croke, researcher with the Council for Justice & Peace, said, "The *Laudato Si'* working day in the



Dromantine Centre, Newry, is intended to assist parishioners and diocesan representatives from across the North who wish to explore how each individual's

potential to care for creation can be fully realised in the context of our Catholic faith. There will also be practical advice and examples given on the day as to how best to incorporate the message of *Laudato Si'* into the life of a parish. Our objective is that participants will 'take back' this message to share it with others and champion its importance in parish life."

There is no fee for the day but attendees must register in advance by email to the CJP on cjp@iecon.ie.

NEWSLETTER FOR PARISHES AND DIOCESES | WWW.CATHOLICBISHOPS.IE

Sharing the Good News

‘At the service of justice and peace’ - Archbishop Diarmuid Martin delivers annual Trócaire lecture for 2019

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin delivered the annual Trócaire lecture on the theme ‘At the service of justice and peace’ in Saint Patrick’s College, Maynooth on Tuesday 12 March. Archbishop Martin addressed the issue of migration and warned “the way we treat migrants and especially refugees is a barometer of our humanity”.

He also began and ended his lecture with a tribute to those killed in the Ethiopian Airlines crash on 10 March.

Archbishop Martin referred to the tragic loss of life, describing the Ethiopian flight as “in many ways, an aid workers’ flight.”



Archbishop Martin’s lecture offered a series of personal reflections, arising from his own experience, on the nature of Catholic social teaching, on its evolution in recent times and on how it can and should engage with the overall societal reflection on issues of justice and peace in an ever-changing world.

He said the social teaching of the Church must be in touch with reality. He stressed that it was not an ideology; nor was it a political or economic platform.

“The Gospels do not provide ready-made answers to the ongoing challenges of a complex world. To affirm otherwise would be fundamentalism. The Gospel message must be mediated within an ethical framework and become a challenge to people of good will to respond.”

You can read the full text of Archbishop Martin’s address on dublindiocese.ie

The annual event also saw the awarding of two prestigious honours to former Trócaire executive directors. Mr Justin Kilcullen, who served from 1993 to 2013, was conferred a Papal Knighthood of the



Equestrian Order of Saint Gregory the Great, while Mr Éamonn Meehan, who held the post between 2013 and 2018, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Theology from Saint Patrick’s College, Maynooth. The doctorate was accepted by Mr Meehan on behalf of Trócaire. The College said it was awarded to Trócaire, the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church, to honour the organisation’s work for human rights and justice in the developing world since 1973. Ms Caoimhe de Barra is the chief executive of Trócaire and Bishop William Crean, Bishop of Cloyne, is chairman.

Bishops express concern about ads for maternity hospital

At their Spring 2019 General Meeting in Maynooth, which concluded on Wednesday 13 March, bishops noted with regret the pre-conditions for applicants listed in the recent advertisement for a post of a Consultant in Obstetrics/Gynaecology and for a post of Consultant in Anaesthesia at the National Maternity Hospital on Holles Street in Dublin.

The bishops said, “One of the main preconditions for all applicants is a requirement to carry out elective abortions if appointed. Bishops consider that this precondition runs totally counter to a doctor’s constitutional and human right to freedom of conscience.

“A doctor who is eminently qualified to work as a consultant in these fields is denied employment in these roles because of his/her conscience. Doctors who are pro-life and who may have spent over a decade training in these areas and who may otherwise be the best candidate for these positions are now advised that, should they apply, they would not be eligible for consideration. This totally undermines the whole concept of freedom of conscience which was guaranteed in the recent legislation.”

“The consequence for the entire training and recruitment of doctors to work in these positions in hospitals in Ireland is greatly undermined by these advertisements.”

Archbishop Eamon Martin has asked for prayers following the tragic deaths of three Co Tyrone teenagers. Archbishop Eamon said, “Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of Lauren, Connor and Morgan, and with all of those who were caught up in the horror and distress of what happened, including those injured and traumatised, and the emergency services and staff who responded. Please join with me in praying for comfort and strength for all the bereaved and injured.”

NEWS SNIPPETS

Bishop Kevin Doran has been appointed Chairman of the newly established Council for Life of the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference. Father Dermot Meehan, Administrator of the Diocese of Achonry, has also been appointed as a member. The Council for Life appointments were announced at the conclusion of the Bishops’ Spring General Meeting.



The altar used by Pope Francis when he celebrated the WMOF2018 Closing Mass in the Phoenix Park in Dublin has found a permanent home in Bonnybrook Parish in Dublin. Parishioners will be worshipping at the altar used at the Papal Mass now that their newly refurbished parish church has reopened. The altar and ambo were created for the WMOF2018 Closing Mass by Specialist Joinery Group based in Maghera, Co. Derry.