



econgress

IEC 2012
50th INTERNATIONAL
EUCHARISTIC
CONGRESS

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Welcome to the Congress



Archbishop Diarmuid Martin
President of Congress

It is almost two years now since Pope Benedict XVI announced that the 50th International Eucharistic Congress would take place in Ireland in 2012. The main events of the Congress will take place in Dublin, but I hope that the preparation for the Congress and its fruitfulness will touch every diocese and every parish community in Ireland.

I am very conscious that these are difficult, painful times for our Church and for our society. Our first reaction might be one of anger, quickly followed by disillusionment and the temptation to walk away from it all. Similar feelings led the some of the disciples of Jesus, after the events of Good Friday, to put as much distance as possible between themselves and Jerusalem. It was while they were making their way, in great sadness, to Emmaus, that they encountered Jesus on the road. He listened to them, opened the Scriptures to them, and came in and broke bread with them.

My prayer for all of us, especially for all who have suffered through the failures of the Church or of our social structures, is that we may encounter Jesus on the road of our lives during this next two years, and that, like the disciples, we will experience His presence with us as a source of healing and encouragement.

I want to thank all those who have already contributed to the preparations for the Congress and to encourage each and everyone of you, in your own local community to join us on this journey of faith.

+ *Diarmuid Martin*

[archbishop.pdf](#)



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Welcome to e-Congress



Fr. Kevin Doran
General Secretary

The Congress, Vision, Theme and Plans

In thinking about our preparation for the Eucharistic Congress, all of us who have been involved in the planning process were agreed that the journey of preparation would be just as important as the event itself. e-Congress will be a kind of GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) for your journey. We hope that you will find it helpful in plotting your course, but that you will also have the initiative and the imagination to use it selectively, as one has to do with any GPS, and even to go beyond it. In so far as possible, all the Congress resources will be made available in electronic format and, for the sake of the environment, we encourage you only to print what you need.

The theme of our Congress is **The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and with one another**. The word Communion tends to be associated with the host and the chalice, but there is more to it than that. Communion really means an intimate relationship in which we give of ourselves and receive the gift that is another person. Communion between one person and another, or within a community of persons, tends to be expressed and experienced on a variety of different levels; physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual.

The Last Supper was a moment of great intimacy between Jesus and his disciples; a defining moment in their relationship. There was talking and listening; eating and drinking and even washing of feet. In all of that Jesus gave himself to his disciples, and his gift of

self evoked in them a desire to respond and to give of themselves in return. The Supper lasted only one evening, but that Eucharistic moment gave rise to a bond of Communion with Christ and with one another, which was to radically transform the lives of the disciples. They became, in a very real sense, the body of Christ, broken and given for others.

There is a lot of good in our world, but there is also more than a little thirst for profit and power, which tends to undermine communion. The challenge of the Congress for us, is to allow ourselves to be transformed from simple "receivers" into a body of Christ which is given for others, even when that sometimes involves being broken.

Already in the process of preparing for the Congress, we are forming relationships of Communion, in which people are giving generously of their time, their energy and their skills. Many of you, in these difficult and challenging times, have contributed financially to the Congress. It will take many committed volunteers to ensure that the Congress, as well as being a spiritually enriching event, is also safe and enjoyable for all who participate in it. In October 2010, we will be inviting people to offer their services as volunteers for the Congress. Please consider that possibility and watch this space.

[doran.pdf](#)





Anne Griffin has joined the team at the 50th IEC as Programme Manager. She is a Dublin woman with Kilkenny roots, who has extensive professional and volunteer experience in conference and event management. Anne was a Project manager at the Special Olympics in 2003 and Event Manager at the 10th European Heart and Lung Transplant Games in 2004. She has worked for the past six years as manager of Abbey Conference and Corporate, providing planning and support services for business tourism into Ireland.



Pastoral Planning - Four Stages of Preparation

The theme of the Congress is: Communion with Christ and with one another. Over the course of the next two years (2010-2012) this theme will be explored in four distinct Stages of preparation. These Stages will occur seasonally.

Resources for Pastoral Preparation:

A series of resources have been “gathered” in order to assist parishes, groups and people who wish to commence pastoral preparation for the Congress. You can use the links below as means to broaden or confirm the options of liturgy groups and others preparing parish gatherings to celebrate Corpus Christi and the beginnings of the journey towards the 2012 Eucharistic Congress.

These resources are not a definitive collection, but a place to start. They are merely suggestions, and those who use them should feel free to adapt them to their circumstances and preferences. Indeed the users are encouraged to see these as a type of tool box, the content of which they can use to strengthen traditions, dismantle whatever no longer works and assemble new traditions that just might serve the needs of their local community now. Over the coming months, these resources will be expanded and updated.

Overview of Pastoral Plan: [visionintro.pdf](#)



Four Stages of Preparation

Stage One

[stage1.pdf](#)



Autumn/Winter 2010:

Christ gathers us a Eucharistic Community.

Stage Two

[stage2.pdf](#)



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

[stage3.pdf](#)



Autumn/Winter 2011:

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

Stage Four

[stage4.pdf](#)



Spring 2012:

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

As the Feast of Corpus Christi (2010) will be the first event on the horizon in preparation for the Congress it is hoped that the resources provided will help parishes engage with the theme of the First Stage.





Pastoral Resources

Thinking About Gathering

There is a very deeply rooted human need to gather; to talk and to listen, to eat together and to make music. We gather when we have something to celebrate, and when we are sad or feeling particularly vulnerable. The presence of other people with whom we have something in common, gives us strength. The Book of Genesis puts it very simply: "it is not good for man to be alone" (Gen. 2:12). Gathering is so central to our humanity that, quite a lot of the time, we don't notice it at all. We tend to be more sensitive to the absence of gathering.

We offer some suggestions as to how a parish community or other group might reflect on the nature and quality of their gathering, as human beings and as Christians, in the light of the Emmaus story

Some Reflections on Gathering

There was no Powerpoint in the first century, but a simple Powerpoint presentation can help to unpack for us today the same good news that Jesus brought to the disciples on the road to Emmaus

Reflections on Gathering: [gathering.pdf](#)



PowerPoint Presentation: [gathering.pptx](#)



For a voice recording of the Emmaus Gospel (Lk. 24) [emmaus.wma](#)



Many famous artists have taken the Emmaus journey as a subject for their work (Caravaggio, Rembrandt; Titian and Veronese to mention but a few) [emmausart.pdf](#)





Liturgical Resources

Gathering for a Holy Hour

There is an abundance of material on the origins and purpose of Eucharistic devotions outside of the celebration of Eucharist, so here is offered just a thought on the dynamic of a Holy Hour and a suggestion as to how one might conduct it.

[holyhour.pdf](#)



The format is generally

- Eucharistic Hymn
- Exposition
- Adoration
- Benediction*
- Reposition

Pilgrims and Processions – Some Ideas to keep in mind as you prepare to make pilgrimages or processions – [pilgrims.pdf](#)



Lourdes; Santiago; Jerusalem; Rome The dynamic of pilgrimage is a familiar one – a taking time to journey, to reflect on one's own journey through life and finally a taking time to reflect on the company of God, recognised often in the more significant events in life – both the joyful and sorrowful events. When the community embraces the mindset of the pilgrim, then 'procession' makes sense.

Any procession is a journey from point 'a' to point 'b', be it from the church door to altar, or from one parish church to a neighbouring one or other sacred place. The model for pilgrimage and procession being proposed this year is the event on the road to Emmaus, and the resulting journey of the two disciples back into the community as bearers of good news.

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Corpus Christi - Resources

Every parish and Diocese is invited to commence a pastoral programme of preparation for the Eucharist Congress in 2010. Parish and Diocesan Liturgical and Music Groups are invited to plan and prepare events for people to renew not just an adoration of the Blessed Eucharist, but also to commence a programme of deepening and nurturing our understanding of Eucharist. There are traditional ways that people participate in Corpus Christi. We are also challenged, however, to create new paths to celebrate Eucharist and outreach to the wider community of faith.

Homily Notes and Intercessions for Corpus Christi

[homily.pdf](#)



[intercessions.pdf](#)



Fr. Christy Fitzgerald, Director of Liturgy of the Diocese of Cork and Ross has prepared homily notes and Prayers of Intercession for Corpus Christi.

Deepening and Nurturing our Understanding of Eucharist

We gather to celebrate the ancient tradition of the Corpus Christi procession. We gather to renew our appreciation of the gift of Christ's presence in the Eucharist and in our lives, walking with us as our companion through good times and bad. We gather also to renew our commitment to follow in his footsteps. We gather to support each other as we do our best to represent Christ in our service to each other, in our care for each other until He comes again. Today we begin our journey to the 2012 Eucharistic Congress, once again to be held in Ireland.

Thoughts for the Journey

[readings.pdf](#)



Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all the things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?"

Continued





Corpus Christi - Resources *Continued*

Praying the Rosary – On the Way

Pope John Paul II encouraged meditation on particular significant events in the public ministry of Jesus and, to support this, he introduced some new mysteries called the mysteries of light. These mysteries are drawn from the Gospels and describe significant events in the public life of Jesus – the Light of the World.

[rosary.pdf](#)



Suggested Reflections for a contemporary Corpus Christi walk or Procession

Jesus, when I take matters into my own hands, consciously or not, you remind me, that you are always alongside me, ready to walk with me and steer me to safety....

Like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, who were quitting scenes of despair and intense heartbreak after your crucifixion, I am sometimes blind. Blind to Your presence in me and to the fact that I cannot do without You. So You, the Good Shepherd have to seek me out whenever I run from You and Your people.

[reflections.pdf](#)



Prayers at Benediction

[benediction.pdf](#)



A Selection of Hymns

[hymns.pdf](#)



Litanies and Prayers; Poetry and Prose on Eucharist, Communion and Community

Over the course of the past year, people from all over Ireland have suggested their favourite prayers, poetry and extracts from literature, to be included in a selection which would help to nourish our faith and our understanding. This is just the beginning, there must be more....

[prayer.pdf](#)



New Eucharistic Music CD

Fr. Pat O Donoghue, Director of Liturgy in Dublin Archdiocese has launched a new CD of Music – on the theme of Eucharist – this is not just a welcome resource but an opportunity to improve and create a new standard of music that can enhance all our Eucharistic celebrations. To order a copy of the CD email: litsec@dublindiocese.ie





Planning for the Congress

In the course of the past year, the various committees and working groups of the Congress have been established. The main planning committee is chaired by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, and consists of some twenty women and men from diverse professional backgrounds, whose role is to assist Fr. Kevin Doran (General Secretary) and Ms. Anne Griffin (Programme Manager) in the preparation of the Congress. The planning committee has six working groups, dealing with:

- Pastoral and Liturgical Planning
- Communications and Media
- Volunteer Management
- Services and Logistics
- Finance and Administration
- Special Events

A National Eucharistic Committee has been appointed, with one delegate from each diocese, in order to ensure that there is an opportunity for people in every parish in Ireland to be involved both in the pastoral preparation and in the events of the Congress.

The Theological Commission is made up of men and women (clergy, religious and lay) from all four provinces. They have been quite busy since last September, preparing the foundational document for the Congress.

A National Finance Committee has been established to provide the kind of external financial control which is appropriate to an event of this magnitude. This committee is chaired by Bishop John Fleming.

Continued





Planning for the Congress *Continued*



The Congress Logo

The Congress Logo, entitled People in Communion, was designed on behalf of the committee by Martin Barlow of Portadown, Co. Armagh.

The design concept is based on the idea of people "from every nation, race, tribe and language" (Rev.7:9) being drawn together in Communion as "One Body" formed by faith in the person of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, and the sacrifice he made upon the cross.

Our sense of community, belonging, celebration and acceptance is captured in the design by the graphic representation of the people with both arms outstretched. Two separate sources form the inspiration for the design:

- Paragraph 7 of **Lumen Gentium**, which reads: "Really partaking of the body and blood of the Lord in the breaking of the Eucharistic bread, we are taken up into communion with Him and with one another. Because the bread is one, we though many, are one body, all of us who partake of the one bread."

- Paragraph 3 of the Encyclical Letter **Ecclesia de Eucharistia** of Pope John Paul II, which sums up the design, reads: The Church was born of the paschal mystery. For this very reason the Eucharist, which is in an outstanding way the sacrament of the paschal mystery, stands at the centre of the Church's life....

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 anne@iec2012.ie

The Venues

The principal events during the week of the Congress will take place at the RDS, which is a wonderfully versatile venue. The closing ceremony will take place in Croke Park.

Of its nature, the Eucharistic Congress is always hosted by a diocese, but it is intended to involve the Church of the host country. It is the hope of the committee that events associated with the Congress would take place in every diocese in the country.

It may be that, in advance of the Congress, a parish or a diocese in Ireland might decide to host a parish or diocesan group travelling from overseas for the Congress, in much the same way as athletes were hosted for the special Olympics. Something similar usually happens for the World Youth Day. The Planning Committee and the national Eucharistic committee would gladly support such a programme.



Thanks to the Dublin Diocesan Liturgical Office for some of the Liturgical Resources which have been adapted for general use.

Eucharistic Congress - 50th International Eucharistic Congress 2012,
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