



Archdiocesan Offices
Gillis Centre
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5th July 2011

Rev. and Dear Father,

50TH INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS, DUBLIN 2012

I write to you as the recently appointed Delegate of the Scottish Bishops' Conference for the pastoral preparations and celebration of the 50th International Eucharistic Congress which will be held in Dublin from 10-17 June 2012.

What precisely is an International Eucharistic Congress? It is a great universal gathering of people which aims to:

- Promote an awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Catholic Church
- Help improve our understanding and celebration of the liturgy
- Draw attention to the social dimension of the Eucharist.

An International Congress normally takes place somewhere in the world every four years. Next year in Ireland this international event with over 70 nations attending will be very close at hand. The daily celebration of the Eucharist is at the very heart of the Congress along with catechesis and Eucharistic processions and devotions which accompany it.

Next year's International Eucharistic Congress will take place in Dublin. Such world-wide Congresses have been celebrated regularly since the first one in Lille, France, in 1881. Each Congress has been for the host country a great source of renewal, reconciliation and deepening of Christian Life. This particular Congress will be celebrated at a time when Ireland, in the light of so much pain and hurt caused by the abuse of minors by some member of the clergy and mismanagement of the crisis often by members of the hierarchy of the Church, is in great need of renewal. As Scottish Catholics, we can help the process of healing and reconciliation as we ourselves seek to walk more closely in following the steps of our Eucharistic Lord.

This international Congress also coincides with the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of the Second Vatican Council. The theme of the Congress, drawn from *Lumen gentium*, 7 is: '*The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and with one another*'. Each day of the Congress there will be a themed celebration of the Eucharist affecting the heart of Church life.

On the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, at the opening of the Congress, the Mass will be celebrated by the Papal Legate. On the Monday, June 11th, the theme is 'Exploring

and celebrating our Communion through Baptism'. On Tuesday, June 12th, 'Marriage and the Family'; on Wednesday, June 13th, 'Ordained and Lay Ministry in the Communion of the Church'; on Thursday, June 14th, 'Restoring communion through Justice and Reconciliation'; on Friday, June 15th, 'Celebrating Communion through Healing' and on Saturday, June 16th, 'Our Lady as 'Hearer of the Word'. The closing Liturgy or '*Statio Orbis*' will be celebrated at Croke Park, Dublin, on Sunday June 17th. Though it hasn't been officially spoken of yet, there is a possibility that the Holy Father will be present for part of the Congress.

But there are lots of other experiences besides. Tours to the Irish Pilgrimage sites and to the City of Dublin are to be offered and there will be a variety of opportunities for young people - and old - to draw closer to God, but also to enjoy a period of relaxation in Ireland.

To this end, I shall be writing to you over the summer offering a number of Pilgrimage options for those who might wish to take part in the International Eucharistic Congress. Among the options will be: a National Youth Pilgrimage; an 8 day pilgrimage to Dublin for the Congress and a National Four day Pilgrimage to the Congress. Some dioceses are organizing diocesan pilgrimages for both youth and adults. The cost of the Pilgrimage will be all inclusive of accommodation and transport with a choice of B & B, Half Board and Full Board options depending on the numbers likely to be interested. Prices will be quoted at the time of advertisement. Advertising material and all contact numbers will be provided at that time.

It is also fortuitous that the launch of the new English Missal will be taking place later this year. Since we are already thinking, exploring and celebrating the centrality of the Holy Mass in the life of our Church, perhaps the celebration of the 50th Eucharistic Congress in Dublin and its preparation at home in Scotland, will help re-direct our focus on the Mass as 'source and summit of the Church's activity' where our Lord's Real Presence is celebrated and our Redemption is accomplished.

With every best wish

Stephen Robson

Monsignor Stephen Robson
Bishops Conference Delegate to the 50th International Eucharistic Congress, Dublin
2012

Resources and useful addresses:

1. International Eucharistic Congress 2012 website: www.iec2012.ie
- 2. Archdiocesan Website (after this week): www.archdiocese-edinburgh.com
- 3. Congress Support Services Limited: info@cssl.ie