

Parish Catechists: “Go therefore and make disciples ...” **Matthew 28:19.** Are you being called to serve? Can you give a few hours each week to help our young people? Please join our parish catechists – no experience necessary. **For more information, please contact Meave Gilchrist, Chair, PPC, 07742820018**

Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Abuse. In Ireland, a Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse is marked each year on the Friday immediately following Ash Wednesday.

This year it will be marked across Ireland on **Friday 20th February 2026.**

This day is not only for victims and survivors who have been so severely injured inside our Church, but also for the families and communities affected by the pain and grief of their loved ones.

Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ will celebrate Mass in St Peter’s Cathedral on Friday 20th February 2026 at 6:00pm.

Bishop Alan also asks that the **Prayers of the Faithful during Masses over the weekend of 21st and 22nd February** should include and reflect this time of prayer at the beginning of Lent for survivors and victims and their journey of human and spiritual recovery.

“It is essential that we, as a Church, be able to acknowledge and condemn, with sorrow and shame, the atrocities perpetrated by consecrated persons, clerics, and all those entrusted with the mission of watching over and caring for those most vulnerable.

Let us beg forgiveness for our own sins and the sins of others. An awareness of sin helps us to acknowledge the errors, the crimes and the wounds caused in the past and allows us, in the present, to be more open and committed along journey of renewed conversion”.

Divine Mercy Conference Saturday 28th February 2026. The bus will leave St Paul’s Church, Falls Road at **7.30am** Returning approx. **10.45/11.00pm.** Yes, a long day but well worth it. Travel cost is £25 (bus price only) which must be paid when booking your seat. Failure to get 30 people the bus would have to be cancelled. Travel confirmation, 1 week before departure. Unfortunately, no refund can be given in cases of sickness etc. **Conference tickets** to be bought individually at the venue £35 or Euros. **Bring enough food for lunch and dinner** – there are tea and coffee stations where hot drinks and snacks can be purchased. **Telephone Tina McCrory – 07523824350 to book a seat on the bus.**

Discernment Retreat for Diocesan Priesthood 6th–8th March 2026

1. For young men who are open to the question: “Is God calling me to be a priest?”
2. A chance to step away from the noise and busyness of everyday life.
3. Time for prayer, silence, and honest conversation.
4. No pressure to decide anything — just space to listen and reflect.

For more information, contact Fr Conor McGrath C.mcgrath@downandconor.org

Spiritual Exercises: 5 Day Silent Ignatian Retreat for Men, led by Benedictine monks from St. Joseph Abbey, in France. Starts **Thursday 30th April (3pm).** Benburb Priory, Co. Tyrone. €450 (all meals & single room included).

Daily Mass - Ordinary Form (Latin & ad orientem). Discover the strength that only comes when you stop running and let God speak.

Book at: <https://soutenir.clairval.com/retreat-benburb-priory>.