



30 August 2017

Dear Diocesan Advisor,

The National Religious Education Congress has now become an annual event. Its aim is to provide an opportunity for religious educators to come together to find inspiration for their work and to avail of the opportunity for personal renewal and growth.

The Congress, organised by a voluntary committee, is a not-for-profit event. This year the members of the committee are Vivek da Silva (Chairperson), Patricia O'Sullivan, Maura Hyland, Brendan O'Regan, Fr Turlough Baxter, Ciaran Coll, Anna Maloney, Pamela McLoughlin and Sr Patricia Lynott.

This year's Congress will take place on **Saturday, 7 October 2017 at St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.**

The theme for the Congress is **Voices that Challenge**. We live in a society that is increasingly pluralistic and diverse. It is diverse in its social values, religious beliefs, political affiliations and cultural ethnicity. It is in this context that there is, in Ireland today, a robust debate about the nature of Religious Education, and in particular about its place in schools.

We hear different voices expressing a variety of opinions and concerns but, amidst this cacophony of voices, we might not always hear the insistent, still, small voices within and among us.

Which voices should we listen to? How do we find our own voice? How do we encourage others to nurture their own voice?

We invite you to join us at this year's National Religious Education Congress as we explore how we can create space in our lives, our schools and our communities so that different voices can be expressed, listened to and heard.

This year's keynote speaker is Dr Leonardo Franchi from the University of Glasgow. He will address the topic ***Religious Education and Intercultural Dialogue in the Contemporary Church.***

There will be a number of workshops that will focus on the concerns of both primary and post-primary teachers. The workshop presenters are Dr Leonardo Franchi, Ms Kate Liffey, Ms Maura Hyland, Mr Steve Warner, Sr Bernadette Purcell, Dr Patricia Kieran, Ms Brenda Drumm and Br Richard Hendrick.

The enclosed brochure gives further information on the National Religious Education Congress 2017. You can also go to our website (www.recongress.ie) for more information.

Yours sincerely,

Vivek da Silva
Chairperson

C/O VERITAS,
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Web: www.recongress.ie

Congress Schedule

Saturday, 7 October 2017

08:30 Registration
Tea/coffee

09:30 Official Congress Opening & Prayer

10:00 **Keynote Address:**
*Religious and Intercultural
Dialogue in the Contemporary Church*
Dr Leonardo Franchi

11:15 Tea/coffee break

11:45 Workshops

13:00 Lunch in Pugin Hall

14:15 World Meeting of Families 2018
Launch of School Programme

15:15 Workshops

17:00 Closing Liturgy

Workshop Sessions

11:45–13:00

A1	Inter-belief Dialogue and Belief Circles in Catholic Schools – Patricia Kieran	A
A2	Voices that Challenge and Challenging Voices Online Brenda Drumm	A
A3	Challenges Facing Religious Education Kate Liffey	P
A4	Entering the Inner Sanctuary: Meditation & Mindfulness as Paths to Inner Wholeness and Resilience Br Richard Hendrick OFM Cap	A

15:15–16:30

B1	Opportunity to Further the Conversation Dr Leonardo Franchi	A
B2	The Grow in Love Series: Listening to Children's Voices Maura Hyland	P
B3	Challenges Facing Religious Education Kate Liffey	PP
B4	Dance Meditation: Dancing in Divine Rhythm Sr Bernadette Purcell PBVM	A
B5	Vocare: To Find the Voice of an Assembly Steve Warner	A

For further congress and workshop details see:
www.recongress.ie

KEY
P Primary **PP** Post-Primary **A** All

NATIONAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONGRESS



7 OCTOBER 2017

St Patrick's College, Maynooth,
Co. Kildare

GLÓRTHA LE DÚSHLÁN

7 Deireadh Fómhair 2017
Coláiste Phádraig, Maigh Nuad, Co. Chill Dara

www.recongress.ie

Please let us know if you have any special dietary or
mobility requirements:

Registration

Congress fee: €65

Early bird: €60 (before 15 September)

Student rate: €30 (student ID required)

Registration fee includes hot lunch

Cheques/postal orders should be made payable to:

RE Congress, c/o Veritas Company

Please complete and return to:

Vivek da Silva, Veritas House, 7-8 Lower Abbey Street,
Dublin 1. Tel. (01) 8788177

Name _____

Parish/school, etc. _____

Address _____

Tel. _____

Email _____

Please select your workshop by letter and number (i.e. A-1, B-2, etc.). Your workshop preference will be indicated on your ID badge.

Saturday, 7 October 2017

11:45-13:00

First Choice	A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Second Choice	A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Third Choice	A	<input type="checkbox"/>

15:15-16:30

First Choice	B	<input type="checkbox"/>
Second Choice	B	<input type="checkbox"/>
Third Choice	B	<input type="checkbox"/>

Early registration will ensure allocation of workshop preferences.

Please keep a record of your workshop choices.

Cancellation Policy

No refunds will be given for any cancellation. However, if you are unable to attend yourself, you are welcome to send someone in your name. Please notify the organisers of any change. In the unlikely event that the Congress does not take place, we will refund your payment.

VOICES THAT CHALLENGE

We live in a society that is increasingly secular, liberal and democratic. It is diverse in its social values, religious beliefs, political affiliations and cultural ethnicity. It is in this context that there is, in Ireland today, a robust debate about the nature of Religious Education, and in particular about its place in schools.

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Which voices should we listen to? How do we find our own voice? How do we encourage others to nurture their own voice? At this year's National Religious Education Congress we explore how we can create space in our lives, our schools and our communities so that different voices can be expressed, listened to and heard.



21-26 AUGUST 2018

World Meeting of Families 2018 – Launch of School Programme

The World Meeting of Families in August 2018 will be a hugely significant event for the Church and society in Ireland. What is the significance of this event for schools? What roles can our Catholic schools play in preparing for this event? What will this event have to say about the vital relationship between families and school? These questions will be explored at the Religious Education Congress 2017.

www.recongress.ie

NATIONAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONGRESS

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