

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress (Adoremus), Liverpool 7-9 September 2018 'I am the Bread of Life'

Preamble

- At the Spring Plenary meeting in 2016, the Bishops decided to explore the shape and format for the Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in 2018

Bishops Group

- Bishops Richard Moth, David McGough and Tom Williams were asked to support Bishop Robert Byrne in developing the scheme

Secretariat Support

- To support the Bishops, Fr Paul Gunter, Departmental Secretary for Christian Life and Worship, is providing assistance with liturgy, content, narrative and messaging
- Gerry Kehoe, Special Events Operations Director, is providing the event production and organisation that is necessary

Historical Context

- The last Eucharistic Congress in England was held in 1908. However, according to the historical narrative of that occasion, it was not possible to carry the Blessed Sacrament in public procession through the streets. So the procession was held but without the Blessed Sacrament. This Eucharistic Pilgrimage would bring to fruition the completion of the Congress of 1908

Evangelisation and Adoration

- Adoration, as a living and personal encounter with Christ, is an essential and primary form of evangelisation that reawakens in us the impulse for God instilled when God created us
- Out of that innermost desire, we are drawn to be missionary disciples

Aims

In the Praise and Witness to the Eucharistic Lord, the aims of Adoremus that can be adopted locally are:

- To rejuvenate Eucharistic Adoration in Parishes
- To encourage greater love for the mystery of the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar
- To engender a deeper understanding of the place of the Eucharist in the life of the church
- To provide practical resources for Eucharistic Adoration for Parishes and Schools
- To better form Extraordinary Ministers
- To better equip Parish catechists and Schools
- To confirm Parish ministry around the centrality of the Eucharist

Because Adoration of the Eucharist deepens our relationship with Christ, it enables us to be more effective disciples who will be better able to lead others to the life of the Church that has the Eucharist at its heart.

Location

- Liverpool emerged as the preferred location, given:
 - o Good transport links to enable most of the Country to get there and back for a six hour event in one (long)day
 - o Extensive redevelopment of the city centre
 - o Large Cathedral
 - o Universities
 - o Ecumenical possibilities
 - o Catholic tradition
 - o Large venue availability

Elements

- On Friday the plan is to offer a Theological Symposium and workshops for better forming Parish catechists (especially for First Holy Communion programs), RE teachers, Hospital and Prison Chaplains, Seminary Communities and Extraordinary Ministers. The focus for sessions will be:
 - Scripture
 - Ecclesiology
 - Eucharistic Language and Catechism
 - Workshop on the Rites and Music for Eucharistic Adoration
- On the Saturday to present a six hour stage led program, based in the new Echo Arena, for 10,000 Pilgrims to include:
 - Two Keynote speakers
 - Drama highlighting reverence and devotion
 - Music
 - Screen presentations on best practice
 - Adoration
- On Sunday, to focus on Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral for:
 - Pilgrimage Masses
 - Street Procession –open to all

Supporting Programme Including

- NOV Vocations Café
- Photographic Exhibition
- CSAS Presence
- Archive Exhibition
- Throughout the three days it is planned to open local churches focusing on specific Eucharistic aspects such as Reconciliation and continuous adoration. These would form the basis of a programme of evangelisation to the wider community and those not able to attend specific seminars

Truly National Supporting the Local

- It is felt that the opportunity must be truly national. This can be done in various ways:
 - Showcasing a Diocesan initiative of best practice
 - Contributing some aspect for the Congress from every Diocese
 - Integrating the new movements/communities
 - Including Religious orders
 - Producing a practical resource to be used locally
 - To visually represent the Dioceses in the arena to show the Church Gathered: Bishops, Priests and People
 - To enable remote participation, e.g. by the sick and housebound
 - Following the Congress, to facilitate a sharing of the experience of the Congress in parish and other communities after the event

Diocesan Representatives

- In order to animate interest and involvement across all Dioceses, each Diocesan Bishop has nominated a representative whose task is to disseminate information to parishes, groups, religious communities and movements in a way that will enthuse and inspire participation and attendance
- Reps will address the desire to integrate and support the church locally