

A vertical strip of a stained glass window on the left side of the page. It features a central red cross on a yellow background, with various colored panes in red, yellow, orange, and green.

CEIST

Catholic Education

in times of

Change, Challenge & Choice



29th & 30th September 2022

HODSON BAY HOTEL, ATHLONE



## The Calling

God of Love,  
We thank You for the gift entrusted to us by our Founding Congregations.  
We heed Your calling

- To Serve
- To Be Just
- To Be Responsible
- To seek Excellence in all we do
- To be Curious, Compassionate, Consoling, Courageous
- To build Community in an atmosphere of Care, Love and Joy
- To treasure the Spiritual
- To honour and value the Person
- To honour and value our World
- To include all, celebrate all and embrace all
- To model Respect.
- All to give glory to You.

May our CEIST schools be places and spaces of Hope,  
of Kindness, of Welcome and Discovery  
as we give witness to Your unending love for us.

May our CEIST communities experience and exude  
Gratitude and Forgiveness in equal measure  
as we give witness to Your unending love for us.

May our Words give witness to Your unending love for us.  
May our Actions give witness to Your unending love for us.

May Christ be encountered in every Word, in every Action, in  
every School, by every Person - every day.

God of Peace – Hear our Prayer  
God of Wisdom – Hear our Prayer  
God of Grace – Hear our Prayer  
God of Love– Hear our Prayer

Include as  
appropriate

St. Vincent de Paul – Pray for us  
St. Louise de Marillac - Pray for us  
Fr. Jules Chevalier – Pray for us  
Venerable Catherine McAuley- Pray for us  
Venerable Nano Nagle- Pray for us



# CEO Welcome

It is with the greatest pleasure that I extend a Céad Mile Fáilte to all attending our 2022 Conference. In particular I welcome those of you who are attending their first conference.

It is no coincidence that our Conference theme - **Change, Challenge and Choice** follows the unprecedented era of Covid which we have endured since March 2020.



We are delighted, after an absence of two years, to be able to gather together and offer a forum to meet, share ideas, inspire, support each other and connect through conversation.

The significant challenges presented by Covid-19 were embraced in CEIST schools with resilience, compassion and determination and so we have no fear of what Challenges the future holds, knowing how capably we can adapt and manage. Challenges bring opportunities, Covid has shown that our School Leaders are more than ready to meet whatever challenges and welcome whatever opportunities the future brings.

Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher, is quoted as saying "*change is the only constant in life.*" Over the past few years so much about our working and daily lives has changed it is hard at times to recall what 'normal' was but again, we are strong enough and determined enough to embrace the new normal and find ways of moving forward, all the while maintaining our rooted beliefs and ethos where respect for each other and care of the individual continue to be at the centre of all we do.

Great credit is due to all members of our school communities who, under the new normal, chose to adapt and transform, to give witness to the best of the human spirit, in an environment wrought with challenges and emerged overwhelmingly positive. We acknowledge the commitment and expertise brought by our leaders and staff to the many challenges which are encountered in the day to day running of our schools and we are indebted to all members of our CEIST community for their extraordinary work in meeting the challenges, maintaining our mission and vision, and ensuring that our students remain at the centre of all that we do.

The future is unknown, but I have no doubt that together we will move forward positively and emerge a stronger, more focused community. All of us in the CEIST office look forward to sharing this journey with you.

Bain taitneamh as an gcomhdháil!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerry McGill'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gerry McGill  
CEO



Thank you to Allianz for their generous sponsorship of the conference.

# Chairperson's Welcome

It is truly wonderful to be able to gather together, in person, again as we celebrate 15 Years of CEIST. In the years since our first inaugural conference in 2007 we have considered, reflected on and discussed a wide variety of topic and concerns in the educational arena. This year our theme is '**Challenge, Change and Choice.**' We believe that this theme offers us the opportunity to explore together the current context in which we are called to be Catholic schools. These are certainly challenging times and we may encounter some obstacles on the road ahead but, there is much to be proud of in what we have achieved together over the past fifteen years and we give thanks that we can come together under one roof to celebrate and plan for the future.



So much has happened since our last conference in September 2019. All of us have faced unprecedented challenges, both personally and professionally. The impact of COVID 19 on our sector was significant and we are still dealing with the consequences. But, we also saw in very real and tangible ways the beauty that came from adversity, the generosity of spirit, the care for each other and the power of resilience. To watch our CEIST community come together in such powerful ways — helping so many others while also supporting one another — was nothing short of extraordinary.

We are grateful to Bishop Paul Dempsey, Diocese of Achroiny, who will celebrate Mass with us to open the CEIST Conference enabling us to lay a solid foundation of prayer to our time together. As the Church in Ireland considers the best way to walk together in faith we look forward to our youngest bishop offering some insight into a time of '**Challenge, Change and Choice.**'

We are delighted to welcome Prof. Daire Keogh as our keynote speaker this year. Prof. Keogh, President of DCU, is a passionate educator and educational leader. He will speak about the challenges for Catholic schools attempting to articulate their particular vision with confidence in changing times and the 'special character' which offers choice to both parents and students.

We are looking forward to welcoming Josepha Madigan, Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion to address the conference. She is uniquely placed to offer an informed perspective on the many challenges facing education over the coming years.

Most importantly we are looking forward to meeting you, the leaders of our schools, to our annual gathering where we will have the opportunity to interact, exchange views and connect once again.



Maeve Mahon, Chairperson

# CEIST EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2022



DAY 1

*Thursday, 29th September 2022*



## **BISHOP PAUL DEMPSEY**

*Bishop of Achonry*

Born in Carlow 1971. Ordained priest in 1997 for Kildare and Leighlin Diocese following studies in the Milltown Institute, St. Patrick's College, Carlow and All Hallows College, Dublin. Worked in the parishes of Clane, Kildare, Naas, and Newbridge. Youth Director and Vocations Director in K&L from 2004-2008. Also worked in local media, writing for the Leinster Leader Newspaper and broadcasting a Religious and Social Affairs programme on Kildare FM for five years. Completed an M.A. in "Faith and Culture" in the Milltown Institute 2008-2009.

Appointed Bishop of Achonry 27th January 2020. Ordained Bishop 30th August 2020. Serves as Chair of the Irish Episcopal Conference, Council for Emigrants.



## **PROFESSOR DAIRE KEOGH**

*President of DCU*

Professor Keogh, a Dubliner, is a distinguished historian who served as President of St Patrick's College Drumcondra, and as Deputy President of DCU after its Incorporation (2016). He has published extensively, on the history of popular politics, religion and education in Ireland. He is a Fellow at the University Design Institute at Arizona State University, and a founding member of the European Quality Assurance Register Committee. He is a Chartered Director (IoD) and is a member of a number of boards, including the non-partisan Women for Election. A passionate educator, he plays a leadership role across the sector. He is a member of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust, Chair of the Board of Marley Grange National School in Rathfarnham and a member of the Board of Management of Clongowes Wood College.

He served as a Council member of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, and as a member of the Board of the Centre for Cross Border Studies (2012-17).

# CEIST EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2022



DAY 2

*Friday 30th September 2022*



## **JOHN DARCY**

### **CEO, EDUCENA**

John will address the Conference on the role of The EDUCENA Foundation, the relationship with **CEIST** and the development of the property portfolio.

## **JOSEPHA MADIGAN**

### **Minister of State with responsibility for Special Education and Inclusion**

Josepha Madigan was appointed Minister of State with responsibility for Special Education and Inclusion on July 2nd, 2020. She previously served as Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on 30 November, 2017, and served until 27 June, 2020.

Following her election to the Dáil for the first time in 2016, Josepha was appointed to the Fine Gael Government Formation negotiation team by former-Taoiseach Enda Kenny.

Prior to her appointment as Minister, Josepha served on the Oireachtas Public Accounts Committee, the Future of Healthcare Committee, and was the Chairperson of the Budgetary Oversight Committee.



Promoting Spiritual and Human Development  
Achieving Quality in Teaching and Learning  
Showing Respect for Every Person  
Creating Community  
Being Just and Responsible

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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## Day 1

- 11:00 – 12:30 **REGISTRATION AND MEET & GREET**  
Location: FOYER AND CONSERVATORY
- 12:30 – 14:00 **LUNCH & EXHIBITORS**
- 14:15 – 14:30 **GATHERING PRAYER & LIGHTING OF THE CEIST CANDLE**
- 14:30 – 15:30 **MASS**  
Celebrant: Bishop Paul Dempsey  
Choir from Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew, Galway.
- 15:30 – 16:00 **BREAK & EXHIBITORS**
- 16:00 – 16:15 **WELCOME AND OPENING ADDRESS**  
Gerry McGuill, CEO
- 16:15 – 16:45 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**  
Prof. Daire Keogh, President, DCU
- 16:45 – 17:00 **CHAIRPERSON'S RESPONSE & OPEN FORUM**  
Maeve Mahon, Chairperson
- 19:00 – 19:30 **RECEPTION**
- 19:30 – 22:00 **DINNER & EVENING GATHERING**
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*We encourage participants to use every opportunity to Connect & Chat*

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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## Day 2

09:30 – 10:40	<b>WORKSHOPS (AS FOLLOWS)</b>
10:40 – 11:00	<b>BREAK &amp; EXHIBITORS</b>
11:00 – 11:45	<b>CONFERENCE ADDRESS - JOSEPHA MADIGAN</b> Minister of State with responsibility for Special Education and Inclusion
11:45 – 12:00	<b>LAUNCH OF CEIST STRATEGIC PLAN</b>
12:00 – 12:15	<b>EDUCENA CEO'S ADDRESS</b>
12:15 – 13:30	<b>SCATTERING PRAYER &amp; LUNCH</b> Music Group from St. Joseph's Secondary School, Rush

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### WORKSHOPS

*Delegates choose one workshop from the undermentioned. Allocated on a first come, first served basis.*

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#### **OPTION 1 RSE - AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD CHANGE, TO MAKE RELEVANT CHOICES AND ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE MOVING FORWARD. - PRESENTED BY VIVEK DE SILVA, DCU**

This workshop recognises the tension that exists for Catholic schools to provide sensitive pastoral care while remaining true to Catholic teaching in their daily interaction with students. It is imperative that Catholic Schools have a clarity about their understanding of human anthropology as it determines the schools engagement with all students and subsequently the preferred approach to RSE.

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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## **OPTION 2 MIDDLE LEADERSHIP - THE ENGINE ROOM OF THE SCHOOL** **- PRESENTED BY MARY NIHILL, CSL**

This workshop will examine:

- The factors that empower or disempower the sharing of leadership in schools
  - The challenges faced by middle leaders in Irish schools
  - The key skills and capacities that middle leaders need to be effective in the role
  - Some tools that Principals and Deputies can use in schools to continue to motivate and empower potential and serving middle leaders
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## **OPTION 3 LEADERSHIP AND ETHOS** **- PRESENTED BY MARK DOWLING, PRINCIPAL, ST. MARY'S NAAS**

This workshop will explore the process of promoting an active focus on the importance of ethos as a driving force in the delivery of leadership roles in schools.

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## **OPTION 4 LEADING THE RESPONSE TO A CRITICAL INCIDENT** **- PRESENTED BY SHARON MCGRATH, CEIST**

The workshop will cover the following:

- Prevention
  - Preparation and Planning – Critical Incident Management Team
  - Intervention
  - Suicide – suspected suicide
  - Responding to Major Traffic Accidents and Violent Death
  - Dealing with the Media
  - Critical Incidents during State Examinations
  - Self Care for Staff when dealing with a Critical Incident
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## **OPTION 5 SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AND THE CHAIRPERSON** **- PRESENTED BY GERRY MCCAUL**

The seminar will explore how the Chairperson can facilitate the Board of Management to challenge, support and contribute to the strategic leadership and management of the school.

CEIST

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