

A ROOM AT THE INN?

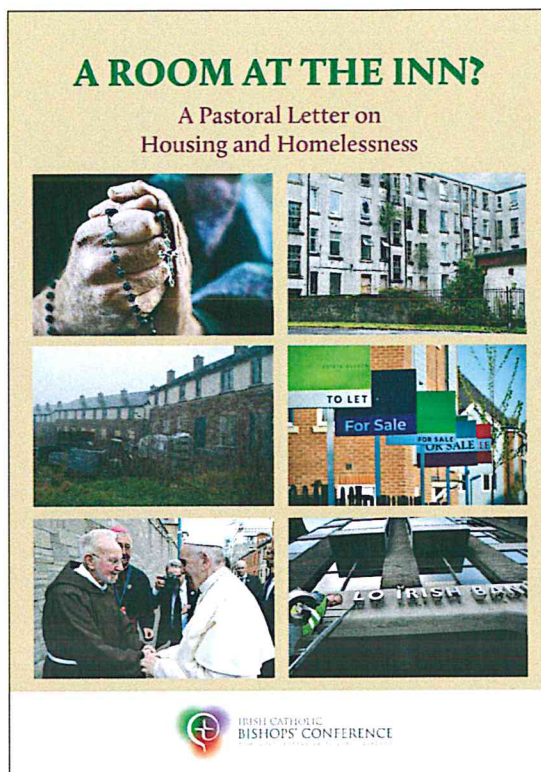
A Pastoral Letter on Housing and Homelessness

'Lack of housing is a grave problem in many parts of the world, both in rural areas and in large cities, since state budgets usually cover only a small portion of the demand. Not only the poor, but many other members of society as well, find it difficult to own a home. Having a home has much to do with a sense of personal dignity and the growth of families. This is a major issue for human ecology.'

Pope Francis, Laudato Si', 152

At a time of untold economic prosperity, it is difficult to understand why the homelessness crisis in Ireland is escalating and why so many people today grapple to find safe, affordable accommodation for themselves and for the family.

In this timely and urgent pastoral by the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, the core values of Catholic social teaching and the principle of the 'common good' are very much to the fore when it comes to offering a solution to this most egregious problem. By explaining why housing is not just another 'commodity' like any other and outlining a course of action when it comes to housing provision, this important document sheds light on the plight of all – from the Travelling community to asylum seekers and private renters – whose quality of life is severely compromised as a result of inadequate housing supply.



ISBN: 9781847308757
56 pages

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