

ARCHBISHOP EAMON COLUMBA MARTIN

Eamon Columba Martin was born in Derry in 1961; his parents, Catherine Crossan and the late John James Martin were both from Inishowen in Donegal and his grandparents came from Counties Donegal and Fermanagh. He has six sisters and five brothers.

Eamon went to St Patrick's Primary School and St Columb's College, Derry where he developed a great interest in singing and later playing the trombone! He proceeded to study for the priesthood at St Patrick's College, Maynooth during which time he took degrees in Mathematical Science and Theology. During his seminary training he was a senior cantor and leading member of the seminary choir - in his final year he was Acting Director of Sacred Music in Maynooth. His postgraduate studies were at Queen's University Belfast, the Institute of Education in London and the University of Cambridge.

After ordination on 28th June 1987, Fr Eamon was appointed to Templemore Parish in Derry City, serving as curate at St Eugene's Cathedral. In 1990 he went to teach Mathematics and Religion at his old school, St Columb's College. He became Head of Religious Education in 1997 and eventually President (Principal) of the College, a post he held for eight years.

After leaving St Columb's in 2008, Fr Eamon was appointed Executive Secretary of the Irish Bishops' Conference but he returned to his native diocese as Vicar General just over two years later. Upon the retirement of Bishop Séamus Hegarty, the now 'Monsignor' Eamon was elected as Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese of Derry.

On 18 January 2013 it was announced that His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI had appointed Monsignor Eamon as Coadjutor Archbishop of Armagh.