

Bishop warns pupils of rise in cocaine addiction

By DAVID LOOBY

The Bishop of Ossory told parents of children making their Confirmation in Rosbercon on Thursday of the risks of cocaine and other addictions, inviting the pupils to pledge an oath not to use drugs before they turn 18.

Bishop Niall Coll gave a lengthy sermon to St Canice's, New Ross and Listerin Sixth

Class pupils and their parents and guardians - in a packed Church of the Assumption in Rosbercon - highlighting the challenges facing parents these days, particularly with the prevalence of technology in our lives.

The Donegal man - who was appointed the role of Bishop of Ossory by Pope Francis in October, 2022, said the pupils

seated before him were part of the iGen (as in iPad, iPhone) or Gen Z. He said parents are having to contend with many challenges raising their children in a healthy way, urging the forty or so pupils making their Confirmation to look after their body, mind and spiritual wellbeing.

Bishop Coll said the challenge of addiction to not only

alcohol, but also cocaine and other drugs, looms large, adding that Ireland has the highest incidence of cocaine addiction in Europe and the second highest MDMA (ecstasy) usage rates.

Quoting research from the European Drug Report 2023 - which found that cocaine use has jumped from 2.9pc in 2016 to 4.8pc in 2022 - Bishop Coll invited pupils to not only take

a pledge not to drink alcohol before they turn 18, but added a separate invitation regarding drug use. He said he understood if some of the children gathered would opt not to make the alcohol pledge, but cautioned them about the health dangers of drug use.

Fr Dan Cavanagh, PP of Rosbercon parish, also commented on the challenges facing par-

ents, saying it is the duty of parents to oversee the health of their children, adding that schools can only do so much.

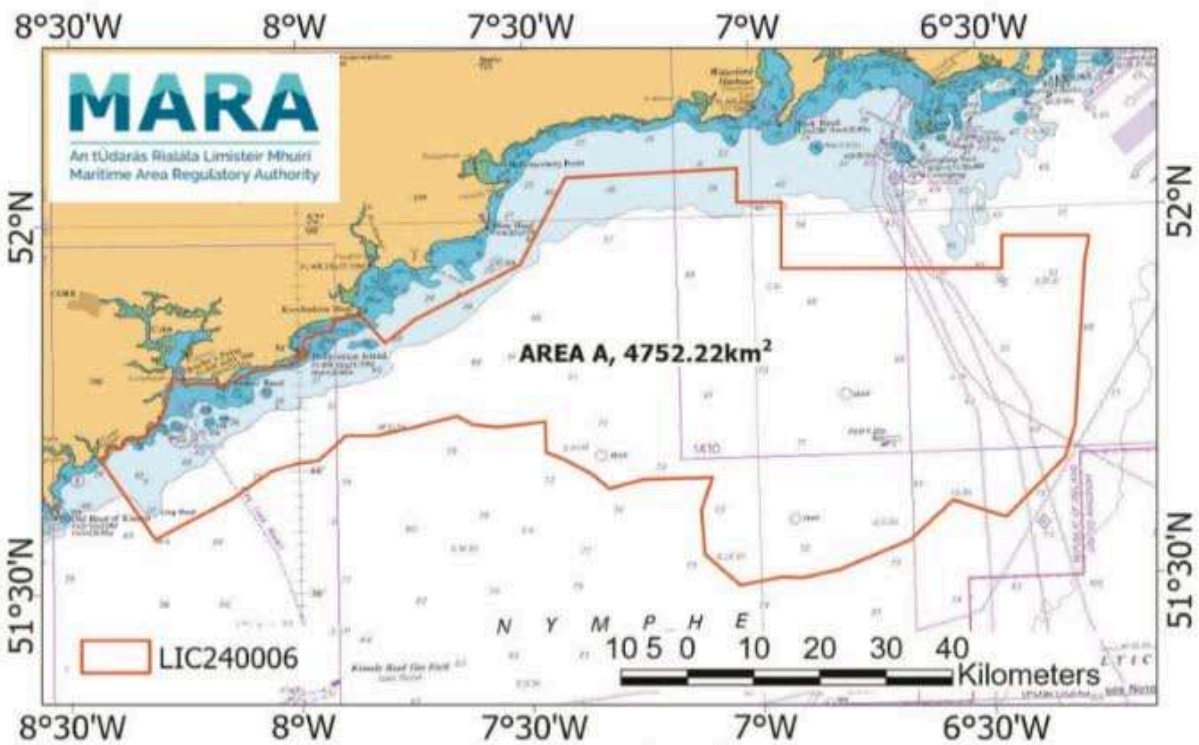
Both Fr Cavanagh and Bishop Coll acknowledged the many challenges facing children growing up in the 2020s, from depression and rising anxiety levels, recalling simpler, happier times in previous generations.



An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011
Invitation for public submissions on an application for a maritime usage licence and an appropriate assessment



PUBLIC NOTICE - Proposed Maritime Usage Licence LIC240006

The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) has applied to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority ("MARA") for a maritime usage licence under section 117 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 to undertake marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation in the proposed south coast DMAP (Designated Maritime Area Plan) located off the coast of Counties Cork, Waterford and Wexford, to inform future offshore renewable energy development. The surveys will include geophysical surveys using multibeam echosounder, sub bottom profiler, surface towed sparker, mini-air-gun and hydrophones. The surface towed sparker system will be the primary sound source used, with the mini-air-gun utilized when inadequate sub surface penetration is achieved due to local geological conditions. Other surveys will include Day Grab or Hammon Grab, drop camera and side scan sonar. The licence application is for a period of 12 months and the survey is expected to take place over a maximum duration of 52 days.

A related Natura impact statement has been submitted with the above licence application. The licence application and the Natura impact statement are available for inspection on MARA's website <https://www.maritimeregulator.ie/applications/lic240006/> and at the following address by appointment - Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35 RF29.

Members of the public who wish to make a submission in writing to MARA on the Licence application and the Natura impact statement may do so quoting ref: LIC240006 DECC to the following e-mail address - licence@mara.gov.ie or by post to the following address - Licence Unit, Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35 RF29.

The closing date and time for a written submission to be received by MARA is 17.30 on 7 June.

MARA will then, as soon as practicable, carry out the appropriate assessment determination in accordance with regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. After the determination, MARA will either grant, part grant or refuse the Licence application.

Dated this 8th day of May 2024

Representative of the Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications