

# Ministry Update



A newsletter for clergy, parish sisters and staff,  
and all involved in ministry in the parish,  
from Kildare and Leighlin Faith Development Services



May 2021



## Bishop Denis welcomes the resumption of public worship across Kildare and Leighlin

In a video released ahead of May 10<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Denis spoke of the great joy in all our hearts as our churches resume public worship. He went on to thank especially 'our priests and our volunteers in every parish who have done huge work to ensure that public worship can happen safely and securely in Kildare and Leighlin.' [Click here for message from Bishop Denis](#)

## An Invitation from the Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation

Bishop Denis and the Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation are encouraging people across the diocese to mark the time between Ascension and Pentecost in three ways:

- + To recite a prayer from the diocese (next page)
- + To decorate the door of your home ahead of Pentecost
- + To wear an item of red clothing on Pentecost Sunday

Today, in many ways, we find ourselves in a very similar situation to the early followers of Jesus. In these past months we have lived in uncertain and fearful times. But these early Church members knew that the risen Lord was with them and that he had promised them the gift of the Holy Spirit to give them courage and wisdom to do God's will and to live as his followers.

Today, the Church is each one of us who have been baptised. And the call we hear in the Gospel reading on the Feast of the Ascension is addressed to every baptised person. *'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News'*.

**An Invitation**  
Three Actions from Ascension to Pentecost

**Recite**  
the prayer from the diocese

**Decorate**  
the door of your home with red ribbons, image of the Holy Spirit or wind-chimes

**Wear**  
an item of red clothing on Pentecost Sunday

**'Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News'**

Send pictures of your pentecost decorations to our Kandle Facebook Account or tag us in your social media posts.

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*The basic rule of a crisis is that you don't come out of it the same. If you get through it, you come out better or worse, but never the same...This is a moment to dream big, to rethink our priorities – what we value, what we want, what we seek – and to commit to act in our daily life on what we have dreamed of.*

From Pope Francis 'Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future' 2020



## Bishops seek submissions ahead of Consultation Phase of National Synod Assembly

On 10 March 2021, the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference announced a new Synodal Pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland leading to the holding of a National Synodal Assembly within the next five years.

### Initial Submissions Easter to Pentecost 2021

Before embarking on the Synodal Pathway consultation, between Easter (5 April) and Pentecost (23 May), 2021, bishops are inviting submissions to reflect on what methods/models to

adopt in these coming two years of conversations. For example: focus groups, questionnaires, deep-listening sessions; written submissions; family-focused gatherings; summary of findings of assemblies that have already taken place across dioceses; and/or conferences.

These submissions, in not more than 300 words, are not yet about the themes for the Synod but rather *how to go about* this phase of setting up the initial conversations.

**Question: What would be your preferred option for engagement in a conversation process about the Synod?**

You can give your response, in not more than 300 words, at the following link: <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/synod/submissions/>



## The Risen Lord is with Us - Working alongside Us

*From the Gospel for the Feast of the Ascension: '...And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up unto heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them...'*

## TRÓCAIRE

Working for a Just World

Your Lenten donations are needed more urgently than ever this year. If you have a Trócaire box and have not returned it yet, simply count or estimate what is in your box and donate now in one of these four easy ways:

-  Online at [trocaire.org](http://trocaire.org)
-  Over the phone at 1850 408 408 (ROI) or 0800 912 1200 (NI)
-  By post to Trócaire, Freepost, Maynooth, Co. Kildare
-  Check with your local parish if it is possible to arrange a safe drop-off.

*If you were unable to get a Trócaire box this year, you can make your Lenten donation to their life-saving work by donating online.*

### A Prayer for Ascension to Pentecost

Come, Holy Spirit, come and speak through a new generation of men and women as you spoke through the prophets of old.  
Grant us new prophets who will announce God's truth, love, mercy and justice.


Come, Holy Spirit, who descended on Mary as she conceived the Son of God in her womb. Descend on us and form us into the image of Jesus.

Come, Holy Spirit, who filled the unborn John the Baptist with joy in the womb of his mother, Elizabeth. Fill all the baptised with the joy of our calling and a new desire to witness in the world.

Come, Holy Spirit, who descended on Mary and the apostles at the first Pentecost, enlivening the Church in its infancy.

Descend on us anew, filling us with new life. Pour out your gifts and miracles upon us as you once did in the Upper Room.

Come, Holy Spirit, free us from fear and fill us with a holy courage as you did for the infant Church so that your Church may proclaim the Good News to the men and women of today to the ends of the Earth. Amen.



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## Diocesan Pastoral Council Deanery Meetings

On the evenings of May 10, 11 & 13 a series of zoom meetings were held in each of our three deaneries, K&L North, K&L West and K&L South. They were attended by clergy and lay people, along with Bishop Denis and members of the DPC. The results of a recent survey exploring- the experience of parishes in this past year and the emerging priorities- was shared at the meetings. The discussions that followed were very positive and hopeful despite the tremendous challenges faced by parishes at this time.

The flexibility and adaptability of parish communities in the past year was very evident while there was a keen awareness of the isolation that both clergy and lay people have felt in the pandemic, as well as a stark awareness of the age profile of our clergy.

Some key priorities that emerged include the need to continue the good use of technology to reach out to people while balancing this with the fundamental need to be physically together as a community, as Church. The smaller, simpler celebrations of the sacraments as well as preparation for them are key areas of exploration, as well as the continual invitation to all members of the parish to recognise the role we each have in making our parishes welcoming, inclusive, gospel centred and flourishing communities. The DPC will continue to respond to the findings of the survey in the coming months.

## Stories from the coalface: Kill Parish Mental Health Initiative



The **Parish Pastoral Council of Kill, Ardclough and Johnstown** have undertaken an initiative to reach out to people in our parish who may be finding it difficult to cope and are suffering mental health problems due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid 19 pandemic. We know that mental health experts are experiencing an increase in the number of people seeking their services and that this is expected to get worse when the Government financial supports are removed and the real toll of the effects of the pandemic on peoples' lives unfolds.

The HSE has produced a wallet sized card that contains contact details of various organisations such as Pieta House, the Samaritans, Aware etc., and other services in the Kildare and West Wicklow area. The Parish Pastoral Council have undertaken a mail drop into every house in our parish which contains this wallet card and a covering letter from the Chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council, encouraging people to reach out to any of the organisations listed on the card that they feel may help them to cope if they are struggling. We explained that the services are free, confidential and professional.



In the letter we also told people that they are welcome to visit the church for a quiet prayer at any time and as well we let them know that we are planting a Tree of Hope in the Church Park this Autumn.

We got pupils in the TY class in our local secondary schools involved in the venture too. They put the stickers on the envelopes and placed the letter and card inside each of the 2500 envelopes. It was our hope in doing this to inform them of the help that is available if they should find themselves in need of it.

In all of this, our aim was to show that we, the Parish Pastoral Council and by extension the Church, care very much about our parishioners' well-being.

***Thanks for sharing this story with us. If your Parish Pastoral Council or other parish group would like to share the story of an initiative or an event with us please send an account (and even better if you have photos!) to [julie.kavanagh@kandle.ie](mailto:julie.kavanagh@kandle.ie)***



## Pope Francis urges Catholics to pray in May for end to Covid-19 pandemic

The Pope has dedicated the month of May to a 'marathon' of prayer, to ask for the end of the pandemic, which has afflicted the world for more than a year now, and to ask for the resumption of social and work activities. Each day a different shrine across the world has been chosen to lead the praying of the Rosary. The Shrine of Our Lady of Knock had the honour on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Click here for the broadcast of the [Prayer from Knock](#)

O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.  
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross,  
were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith.

"Protectress of the Roman people", you know our needs,  
and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee,  
joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father  
and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering,  
and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross,  
to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.



We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God;  
Do not despise our petitions in our necessities,  
but deliver us always from every danger,  
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.



## Pope Francis and the expansion of ministry in the Church

In recent months Pope Francis has issued two significant letters that underscore the understanding that ministry in the Church is a facet of the life of the baptised and not just reserved to the ordained.

On **January 11**, Pope Francis changed Church law officially to recognise female ministry and allow women to be *instituted* into roles previously reserved to men, namely those of lectors and acolytes, which are both public ministries. The role of lector includes reading the scriptures during Mass while an acolyte assists a priest as an altar server. In many ways this was simply Church law catching up with the reality of pastoral practice on the ground. Explaining the changes, the Pope said he was following the reforms of the Second Vatican Council which saw "an urgent need" to "rediscover the co-responsibility of all the baptised in the Church...certain ministries instituted by the Church are based on the common condition of being baptised".

As recently as **May 11** the Pope issued a letter, "Antiquum Ministerium", instituting the ministry of catechist. Notwithstanding the bishop's role as primary catechist in the diocese, the Pope stated that 'recognition should be given to those lay men and women who feel called by virtue of their baptism to cooperate in the work of catechesis.' He went on to say that 'The role played by catechists is one specific form of service among others within the Christian community.'

*Note: Instituted ministries are typically characterised by training and formation, stability, public recognition and the mandate of the bishop, arising out of a gift/charism of the baptised person.*

For further information on any of the content of this newsletter please contact:

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