



# DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL 2021-2022

The Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) has five meetings with Bishop Denis throughout the year, usually between September and May. In the past year it also held two extraordinary meetings, which included members of Faith Development Services, the Council of Priests' and the Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation. The DPC meetings act as an opportunity for the Bishop to seek the advice of this group of lay women and men, religious and clergy, on pastoral matters. The DPC, with Bishop Denis, has identified five pastoral themes of importance. These themes, together with the membership of the DPC, can be viewed on [www.kandle.ie/pastoral/Diocesanpastoralcouncil](http://www.kandle.ie/pastoral/Diocesanpastoralcouncil).

In response to some of these themes, a number of working groups from the DPC have been established. Membership of these working groups goes beyond the DPC itself. These groups have been active in the past year. One, under the theme of 'Reaching Out', took on board the listening process of the synod. Six members of the DPC were joined by a seventh person to lead the process in the diocese. Much of the fruits of their work can be seen on [www.kandle.ie/synod](http://www.kandle.ie/synod). The synodal process and their work, in partnership with many others, will continue. Under this same theme, a working group created a series of video resources on setting up and maintaining a parish Facebook page. These videos can be found on a dedicated social media resource page on the kandle website under 'Resources'. This group also produced a series of Advent video reflections and other social media tools during the year.

Another working group worked in response to the theme 'Future Parish Structures and Supports'. This group includes members of the DPC, the Priests' Council and the Diocesan Consultors. Much of the initial work was consulting particular clusters of parishes and reviewing work done to date by other bodies. A four-page working document was produced which has been the subject of clergy gatherings in the seven pastoral areas. This discussion is set to expand beyond clergy in the year ahead.

The theme 'Liturgies that lift up our hearts' is being addressed by the Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation while the remaining two themes, 'Getting to know Jesus' and 'Lifelong Faith Formation' will very much need to be part of the diocesan and parish response to the findings of the synod listening. Parishes are very welcome to use these five themes as areas of exploration for the work of their own PPC's.

As in the case of Parish Pastoral Councils, there are many challenges in working as a DPC. Adequately communicating what we are doing, drawing on the gifts of volunteers who are often busy people and trusting that we will recognise where God is leading us, are the realities we live in. Over these summer months please pray for the work of the DPC in the year ahead. You can contact the DPC through [Julie.Kavanagh@Kandle.ie](mailto:Julie.Kavanagh@Kandle.ie)