Friends,

Peace be with you all. My name is Jim Deeds, and I am facilitating a process designed to help us all think, talk and pray about the future in Kildare and Leighlin Diocese. Unfortunately, I have taken a fall here in my home in Belfast and have broken my back. This injury will heal in time, but it has taken me off the road.

Accordingly, I invite you to an in-person meeting with fellow lay people and clergy in your pastoral area (the group of parishes in your geographical area). I will join you by Zoom and help facilitate our dialogue with members of your Diocesan Pastoral Council being present in the room to facilitate as well.

We will begin by hearing from Bishop Denis set out the call for the Diocese to **‘Put Out Into Deep Water’**. I will then lead us in prayer with the beautiful text that Bishop Denis has encouraged us to see as the guide text for this new time – Luke 5:1-7. Following on, and flowing out, from that time in prayer I will invite you to begin to explore how we feel about this mission – our hopes, our concern and the prompts of the Holy Spirit.

We might set out some principles that we can gather round together to help us make decisions as we ‘put out into the deep’.

We will finish by considering if there are some action points, we could set ourselves for the coming months.

The proposal is that we would meet again in September to further our dialogue and take stock of our progress.

I look forward to seeing you.

Jim

**Dates for Pastoral Area Meetings: (Summer)**

*Each meeting will be from 7.30pm to 9.30pm with tea & coffee available from 7pm in each venue.*

Monday 22nd May – Kildare Pastoral Area - Aras Bhride Parish Centre, Kildare Town

Tuesday 23rd May – Portlaoise Pastoral Area - Portlaoise Parish Centre

Tuesday 30th May – Carlow Pastoral Area - Askea Parish Centre

Wednesday 31st May – Borris Pastoral Area - Leighlin Parish Centre

Thursday 8th June – Tullow Pastoral Area - Tullow Parish Centre

Thursday 22nd June – Portarlington Pastoral Area - Mount St Annes

Monday 26th June – Naas Pastoral Area – Church of Irish Martyrs, Ballycane, Naas