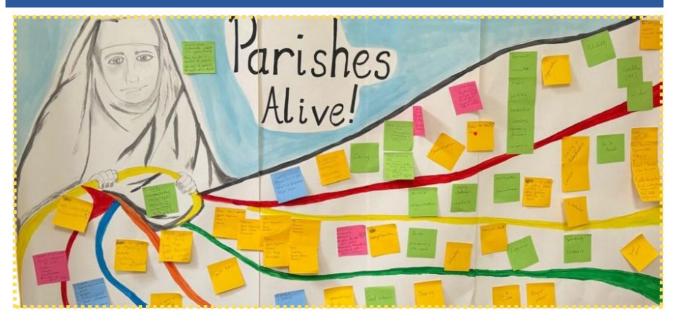
Parishes Alive!

Hosted by the Kildare and Leighlin Diocesan Pastoral Council



8 June, 2024



OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

Over 100 people from parishes across the diocese gathered in Mount St Anne's, Killenard, with Bishop Denis and members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council for the full day on 8 June 2024.

The purpose of the day was to share stories on the many ministries being carried out every day in the 56 parishes of our diocese and to acknowledge the many gifts and huge variety of activities that make our parishes alive with the presence of Christ. It was a day of encouragement, connection and opportunity for all engaged in different forms of parish leadership across Kildare and Leighlin.



Along the way, the facilitator, Jim Deeds, led attendees in exploring the call for all the baptised to share responsibility for the mission of their parish. He showed us ways to discern what needs to happen in the parish. To help make this a reality, the role of a parish pastoral council or similar leadership group was explored in particular.

The day was an opportunity for the new Director of Parish Development, Deacon Pat Roche, to begin to introduce himself to parishes.



Parishes Alive with Good News!

The following gives a snapshot of the good news stories that were prepared and shared on the day with participants.

FUNERAL MINISTRY

caroline and Sheila described how this ministry takes place in Clonaslee parish - supporting both families and their priest and answering the call to care for the bereaved

CHURCH OF SANCTUARY

Fr Paul told us how Clane and Rathcoffey parish has been designated a Church of Sanctuary, a place of welcome, support and hope through which a Syrian family have found a home and support

PARISH YOUTH MINISTRY

Cathriona outlined how Graigueculllen Killeshin parish connects with young people from preschool onwards, inviting them deeper into active parish ministry and involvement as they grow

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Hazel from Leighlin parish shared what happens on the Journey to Confirmation programme which, over three nights, explores with children and parents Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Margaret gave an overview of this ministry in the diocese, outlining its history and benefits, noting in particular that it keeps us focused on God and companionship with God

PASTORAL CARE

John told us about the Suaimhneas Centre in Clane parish where group centring prayer takes place during the week, as well as faith development programs in Lent and Advent, cultivating peace for parishioners through reflection

A STORY IN EVERY PARISH

These are just a selection of what is happening across the diocese - our parishes are alive with good news!

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Francis from Kill shared how the group works together on behalf of Kill, Ardclough and Johnstown while linking with Sallins, Two Mile House and Naas

PARISHES ALIVE WITH ACTIVITIES!

Having heard stories from the coalface of parish life, those gathered had their chance to share on some of what is happening in parishes across Kildare and Leighlin

Masses for November
Praying for local clubs
Working with schools
Funeral Team
Welcoming Ukrainians
& new comers
John Paul II awards
Fundraising to
redecorate the Church
St Brigid Walk
Eucharistic Adoration

Choirs
Lay led liturgies
children's liturgy/Sunday
School
Family programs
Festival of the Mountain
Lotto and GAA
Active Retired Group
Special Masses for
Communion &
Confirmation preparation
Diocesan events

Parishes Alive with Activities!

Some of what people shared

Parish Library Facebook page Food sharing for Lent **Baptism Group** St Vincent de Paul collection **Christmas Toy** Collection Daycare centre Pentecost multicultural celebration Sacramental Coordinators Volunteering Sundays **Prayer ministry** Meitheal team

Senior citizen Christmas
lunch
Hospitiality after Mass
Housing for the elderly
Community care - social &
spiritual
Graveyard masses
Walking Group
Muintearas caring for the
elderly
Eco Parish Group
Parish cluster cooperation

Remembrance Mass & Tree
Outdoors Stations of the Cross
Lenten Progams
Ministry training
Bible study
Jubilee Celebrations
Hospital & nursing
home ministries
Secondary school
relations

Parish Pastoral Council-

What, How and Why?





SOME THINGS WE LEARNT ALONG THE WAY...

What does it take to be a Christian Leader?

- •Care
- Listen
- •Empower
- Hold a vision
- Serve others
- Pray

From Pope Francis



How needed pastoral councils are! A bishop cannot guide a diocese without pastoral councils.

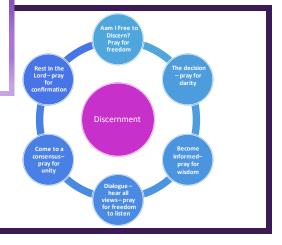
A parish priest cannot guide the parish without the parish council.

This is fundamental!

Cathedral of San Rufino, Assisi Friday, 4 October 2013







Bishop Denis brought the day to a close, welcoming the positivity of the day and reminding us that the sharing and companionship experienced on the day is very much part of what it means to be a synodal Church - walking together and with Christ.

The day, he said, was an affirmation that our parishes are very much alive, revealing the face of Christ.