

Ministry Update

A newsletter for all involved in parish ministry from
Kildare and Leighlin Faith Development Services

www.kandle.ie

October 2025

In November We Remember

*Remembering our Dead
and Praying for the Bereaved*



In November

This leaflet is offered by the Kildare and Leighlin Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation. It contains the following three sets of prayers for families and friends to remember their dead and pray for those who mourn:

- + A prayer in the church
- + A prayer by the graveside
- + A prayer before bedtime

The prayers can be easily adapted if being prayed by more than one person.

There are many websites that offer support and advice to the bereaved. A small sample include:

- www.bethany.ie
- www.hospicefoundation.ie/our-supports-services/bereavement-loss-hub/
- www.pietat.ie/how-we-can-help/bereavement-support/
- www.anamcara.ie (Support for parents in bereavement)
- www.rainbowsireland.ie (Support for children in bereavement)

Kildare and Leighlin Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation

Prayer Resource for November

The Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation is very happy to share with people across the diocese a specially prepared leaflet for use in November.

In November, we traditionally remember and pray for our dead. The November leaflet offers a prayer ritual for people to use when visiting a church, at the graveside of loved ones, and before bedtime. It also offers a short list of available supports for those going through bereavement.

Daily Companion in November

Follow and like Kandle on X and Facebook to receive a thought for each day for the month of November - sharing what the Church tells us about death, as well as some prayers to accompany us through the month.

Evening of Reflection for Parish Funeral Ministry Teams

Parish Funeral Ministry Teams across the diocese are invited to book their places on an evening of reflection with Fr Paddy Byrne. It will take place on Thursday, 13 November, from 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm in the Parish Centre, Newbridge. Tea/coffee from 7:10 pm.

Email numbers attending from the parish funeral ministry team to Christine at fds@kandle.ie by Wednesday, 12 November.

A time for prayer, reflection and mutual support in this special ministry.

In This Issue:

Page One...

- Prayer resource for November
- Daily companion in November
- Evening of Reflection for Parish Funeral Ministry Teams

Page Two...

- K&L Liturgy Conference
- Looking Ahead to Advent

Page Three...

- The Synodal Pathway in Ireland takes a step forward

Page Four...

- Bishop Denis launches 'Why Sunday Matters'
- K&L Lay Pastoral Ministry Studies begin



Members of Graiguecullen and Killeslin Parish Funeral Ministry Team after their commissioning at Sunday Mass.

K&L LITURGY CONFERENCE



We are delighted to share with you some photos from our Liturgy Conference that took place on 20 September.

It was a wonderful day of prayer, learning and companionship. Thank you to all our speakers, workshop presenters, volunteers and participants.

Look out for the keynote talks soon on www.kandle.ie



Looking Ahead to Advent

The Season of Advent is a wonderful gift to us to help us truly welcome the person of Christ into our lives. As a new Church year begins, it can also be a time of new beginnings - no matter where we find ourselves in life. This year why not embrace all the richness of the season and take the time for prayer in order to ready yourself for the coming of Christ.

The Advent scriptures are a wonderful starting point. They remind us of how, in God, all things can be transformed for the good. Once more Faith Development Services will be offering the **Advent Scripture Sharing** resources. Look out for a group in your parish - and if there isn't one, why not gather a group of fellow parishioners to explore the Sunday readings together in a spirit of prayer. *The resources will be available on kandle.ie or ring Christine on 059 9164084 to receive a copy by email.*

On the First Sunday of Advent we begin our Year A Cycle of Sunday readings. In the psalm of that Sunday, we hear the psalmist sing out '**Peace be to your homes! Peace upon you!**' The hope and prayer for God's peace reverberates throughout our world. This Advent may we all be agents of God's peace.

The Synodal Pathway in Ireland takes a step forward...

Over 250 delegates and Bishops from across the country met in a daylong assembly in Kilkenny on 18 October. Representing dioceses, ecclesial bodies and movements, they spent the day exploring the discernment from the Spring listening sessions and looking to next steps towards a national assembly in 2026.

Seven priorities were presented by the National Synodal Team for discussion amongst delegates:

Belonging: fostering a Church of welcome, inclusion, and safety where each person finds a home in community and in Christ.

Co-responsibility and Lay Ministry: empowering all the baptised, women and men, to share responsibility for leadership and mission through new models of ministry and decision-making.

Family: supporting the domestic Church as the primary place of faith transmission and belonging, and strengthening its connection with parishes and schools.

Formation and Catechesis: deepening faith through lifelong formation that is Christ-centred, experiential, and equips the baptised for discipleship in today's world, rooted not only in learning but also in liturgy and sacramental life, so that prayer and worship become living sources of faith, understanding, and mission.

Healing: acknowledging wounds, especially those caused by abuse; committing to accountability, justice, and reconciliation; and ensuring safe spaces for survivors and all who carry pain.

Women: recognising and including women's gifts, leadership, and co-responsibility at every level of Church life, as a matter of justice and credibility.

Youth: engaging young people with authenticity, offering them meaningful roles in leadership and mission, and listening to their hopes and challenges.

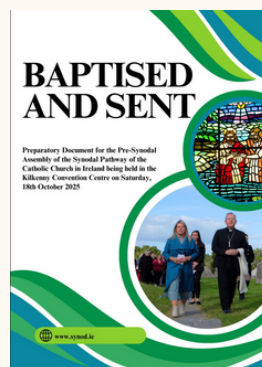
Within our own diocese, baptism, belonging and faith formation, emerged as priorities. Diocesan bodies and parishes will work together in responding to the local and national findings, as together we grow in being a synodal Church - walking together as followers of Christ.



Scan Me



Scan Me



Kildare and Leighlin Delegates



BISHOP DENIS LAUNCHES 'WHY SUNDAY MATTERS'

Speaking in the Cathedral on Sunday, 31 August, Bishop Denis said: "On behalf of the Bishops, I invite you to reflect on your keeping of Sunday as the Lord's Day. Today I launch a Pastoral message titled 'Why Sunday Matters'. Sunday Mass offers us the rhythm for the week that follows. From the very beginning of our Christian faith, Sunday has been central to the life of the Church and remains the heart of Christian practice.

If perhaps your practice has slipped and other things have taken priority; if perhaps you have become accustomed to the webcam; if perhaps since the Covid pandemic you have simply 'gotten out of the habit', I encourage you to return. Know that you are missed and know that you will be welcome."



Why Sunday Matters

An invitation to reflect on Sunday Mass

As we journey through this Jubilee Year of Hope, we, the Irish Bishops, warmly invite all Catholics to reflect on the immense significance of Sunday Mass and, for those who have not yet done so, to return with renewed joy to the celebration of the Eucharist.

Sunday has always been the day of the Lord: the day of resurrection, the day of rest, the day of Eucharist. From the very beginning of our Christian faith, Sunday has been central to the life of the Church and remains the heart of Christian practice. It is on this day that we gather as a community, united in our love for Christ, to encounter the risen Lord and be nourished in body and soul.

The Mass is not just a ritual, it is the source and summit of our faith. It is where we encounter Christ in His living presence, and it is through the Eucharist that we are strengthened to live as true disciples. Attending Mass on Sundays, or its vigil on Saturday evening, is not just an obligation; it is a profound privilege and a chance to experience God's love in a deeply personal way. As we come to this sacred celebration let us do so with hearts full of gratitude for the precious gift of Christ's presence among us.

How can you enrich your experience of Mass and make it a central part of your life?

How can young people best engage in our Sunday celebration?

Our invitation to reflect on Sunday Mass is presented through the lens of Synodality – Communion, Participation, and Mission – reminding us that the Eucharist is not just a personal encounter with Christ but also a communal experience that unites us all as the People of God. For deeper reflection, we have also provided thoughtful questions at the end of this message to guide your prayers and meditations.



The four page, easy to read publication is available to read on kandle.ie or via the qr code below. It offers people an important tool for considering the importance of Sunday in our lives. Individuals, families and parish groups are strongly encouraged to read it and reflect on the questions it offers.

'Why Sunday Matters' is further supported by a series of four videos exploring the Mass on theway.ie that are presented by Julie Kavanagh and Fr David Vard of this diocese. In the year ahead, parishes might think about ways in how to explore further how we keep Sunday and how we celebrate Sunday Mass.

K&L Lay Pastoral Ministry Studies begin...

26 students have begun their studies and formation to be commissioned as lay pastoral ministers in the diocese. Over the next two years they will undertake modules led by St Patrick's College, Maynooth and placements in local parishes and pastoral areas. The diocese thanks them for their generosity and courage in stepping onto this new pathway. And we invite people across the diocese to offer them their prayers and support in the time ahead.



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

Julie Kavanagh,
K&L Faith Development Services
059 9164084/
julie.kavanagh@kandle.ie

