

# Ministry Update

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

[www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)

February 2026

## Lent 2026

Lent begins on 18 February. This year we invite you to join us on the journey and take these 40 days to turn to God through your own acts of prayer, fasting and giving. Rediscover the wonderful gift of your baptism and what it means for you to say:

**'I am baptised'.**

*Look for our Lenten posts on our diocesan X and Facebook accounts on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays each week.*

### BAPTISED AND SENT IN LENT

Lenten Gospel Reflection Series  
for parishes, schools, groups and individuals

EACH OF THE FIVE SESSIONS OFFERS

- PRAYER
- REFLECTION
- SHARED LISTENING AND CONVERSATION
- SIMPLE, CONCRETE ACTIONS FLOWING FROM BAPTISM

Inspired by Baptised and Sent, the preparatory document from our 2025 National Pre-Synodal Assembly, these reflections explore themes of belonging, healing, renewal, and mission.

ACCESS MATERIAL AT: [SYNOD.IE/BAPTISED-AND-SENT-IN-LENT/](http://SYNOD.IE/BAPTISED-AND-SENT-IN-LENT/)

Rediscover your baptismal identity, dignity and mission

**KANDLE**



### Baptised and Sent in Lent

Come with us on the journey!

**KANDLE**

RENEWING OUR BAPTISM

PRAYING

GIVING

PENANCE &  
RECONCILIATION

FASTING

Turn back to God and to Jesus Christ, and discover anew the gift of your baptism

Lenten Posts on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays

Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin

## Baptised and Sent in Lent...

...is a Lenten programme offered by the National Synod Team for use locally. An information session has already taken place in the diocese and we look forward to people having the opportunity to take part in this series.

## How to take part...

See local parish newsletters for sessions near you. If you don't find one, you can join an online series (see below) or download the material at [www.synod.ie](http://www.synod.ie) and form a group of your own.

If you can't join a group in person, you are welcome to register for online sessions on the Thursdays of Lent at 7:30pm, beginning, 19 February, with guest leaders each week.

19 Feb – Julieann Moran  
26 Feb – Archbishop Eamon Martin  
5 Mar – Fr Declan Hurley  
12 Mar – Bishop Brendan Leahy  
19 Mar – Bishop Martin Hayes



### BAPTISED AND SENT IN LENT

Online Reflection Programme for Lent 2026



**Irish  
Synodal  
Pathway**

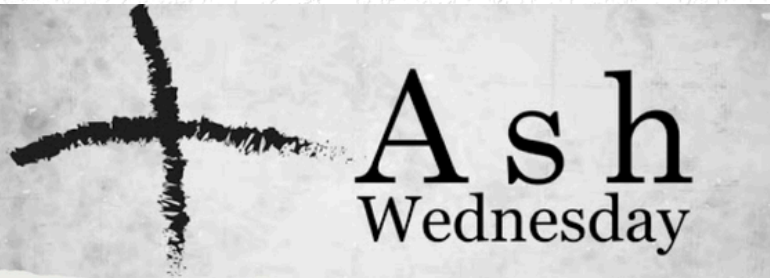
**Whether locally or online,  
let this Lent be a time  
to slow down, listen deeply  
and renew our baptismal calling.**

Scan to register  
for the zoom  
livestream






# LENT 2026



## Ash Wednesday

### A Prayer to Begin my Lenten Journey

Loving Jesus,  
As I receive on my forehead the sign of your saving cross  
you say to me, repent and believe in the Gospel.  
Walking into Lent my heart is set on you.  
May my **fasting** fill me with hunger for you,  
May my **prayer** draw me deeper into your presence.  
May my **acts of charity** bring your love to my home and community.  
Lord of life,  
grant that by turning back to you in these 40 days  
I will stir up once more the waters of my baptism  
and re-awaken in me the joy of my Easter faith;  
for you raise me up from fear and despair  
and call me to hope and trust in God who is with me always.  
With you, I will rise again. Amen.



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**Lent calls us to true conversion through deep listening and meaningful fasting, not only from food, but from hurtful words, judgment, and indifference, so that our lives may reflect mercy, peace, and genuine love for God and others.**

**MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIV FOR LENT 2026**  
*Listening and Fasting: Lent as a Time of Conversion*

## Did you know...

Last year, Trócaire worked with over 40,000 people in at-risk communities across Rwanda, helping vulnerable families build resilience against climate change by:

- Supporting over 2,500 women to receive training in sustainable resource management
- Providing over 20,000 families with fuel- efficient cookstoves to reduce firewood use
- Planting over 320,000 trees across the country

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**Pope Leo shared his message for Lent 2026 in recent days. Scan the QR code to read the message in full.**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Chrism Mass  
Monday,  
30 March 2026  
7:30pm  
Carlow Cathedral**

## LENT 2026

# TRÓCAIRE

Working for a Just World



The theme of the 2026 Trócaire Lenten campaign centres on the story of a multi-generational, female-led household in rural Rwanda.

At just 28 years old, Uwamahoro is carrying the weight of three generations on her shoulders. She supports her mother, Verediana, 68, who lives with a disability, her daughter Ineza, 7 and her niece Vanessa, 12. Earning just 60 cent per day working on the land, Uwamahoro is doing the best she can to feed her family and keep the children in school, but it's never enough. The next storm could destroy everything Uwamahoro has built. Their house is crumbling, the roof is leaking, they live in darkness with no electricity, and with each storm, they fear for their safety. This is not unusual for women across Rwanda, where severe storms are striking faster and more often, before families can recover from the last.

***We are asking the people of Ireland to help Uwamahoro rebuild her family's lives and restore their hopes for the future.***



# A Time to Pull in our Nets and Take Stock

Bishop Denis released a Pastoral Letter at the beginning of February to the priests and people of Kildare and Leighlin in which he invites the diocese to “pull in the nets” at the start of 2026 to reflect on progress and discern future direction.



The Pastoral Letter can be read and downloaded via the QR code or here:

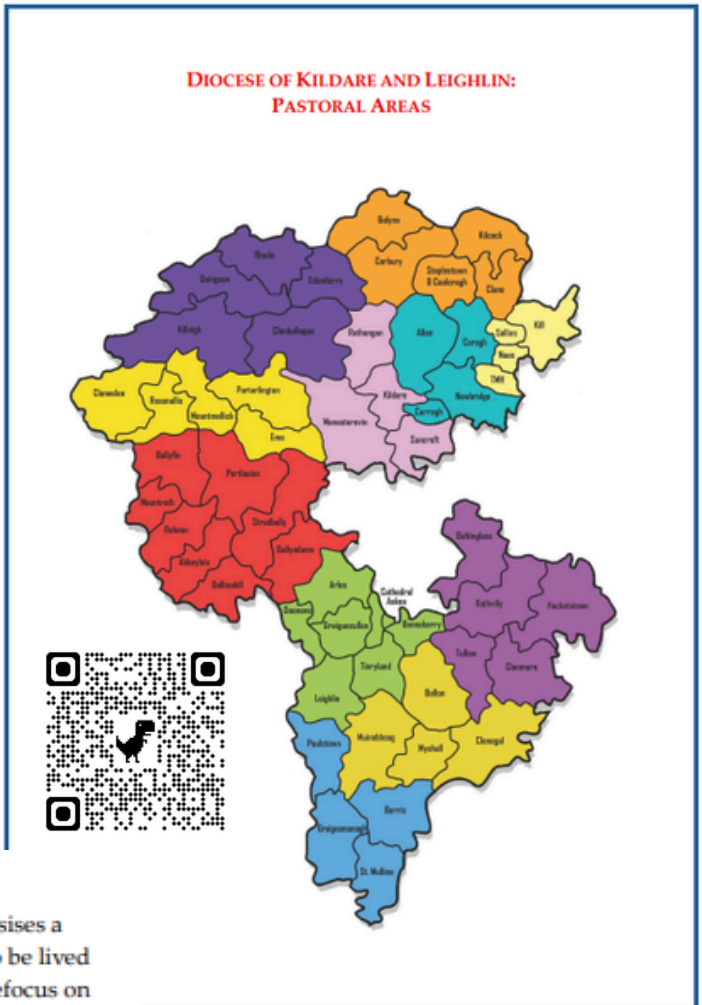
[www.kandle.ie/pastoral-letter-from-bishop-denis/](http://www.kandle.ie/pastoral-letter-from-bishop-denis/)

## An Excerpt from the Pastoral Letter...

### Letting our Nets down once again

The Final Document from the Universal Synod on Synodality emphasises a deeper understanding and appreciation of our baptism as a calling to be lived out fully and completely. As Church there will always be a need to refocus on our core mission, spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. For too long we have been overly attentive to the ‘maintenance’ responsibilities to the neglect of evangelisation, spreading the Word. It is clear that all the baptised have a role in this mission and we must do all we can to foster that sense of mission among all the faithful. All of us are called; all of us are chosen.

I see these as moments of transformation; with lay groups supporting the mission of the parish as clergy and laity work side by side, with an awareness of their baptismal calling. Out of this will emerge ministries to the bereaved and those in mourning; to our schools assisting in the sacramental programmes and to our parishes in the varied liturgical and pastoral ministries.



Keep up to date with news and resources for the Catholic Church in Ireland at [www.theway.ie](http://www.theway.ie) where you can also subscribe to a weekly ezine



WELCOME

NEWS

WATCH

LEARN

JOIN

SHOP



The Way is a media platform set up by the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference to help people to discover, live and pass on the Catholic faith.

In the very early Church, the first believers were known as followers of ‘the Way’ (e.g. Acts 9:2). In answer to the question ‘how can we know the way?’ (John 14:5) Jesus declared that ‘I am the Way, the Truth and Life.’

The logo affirms that Jesus Christ, Son of God and Saviour – ICHTHYS – is the Way and that the light of the Easter Dawn radiates hope for all seekers and followers of the Way.



# GATHERING OF DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM OSSORY, FERNS AND KILDARE AND LEIGHLIN



On 31 January, members of the Diocesan Pastoral Councils of Ferns, and Kildare and Leighlin, together with representatives of Ossory Diocese, gathered with Bishops Denis Nulty and Ger Nash for the day in Carlow College, St Patrick's. It was a chance to share stories and experience, and to receive two wonderful inputs on synodality in practice from Professor Michael Conway of St Patrick's College, Maynooth.



## SHARING FROM THE TABLE OF THE LORD - TRAINING AND FORMATION

The next training day will take place in Cathedral Parish Centre from 10am to 4pm on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026, with Julie Kavanagh and Fr Tom O'Byrne.  
Book your place through your local parish office.  
New and Existing Members Welcome  
Bring a packed lunch on the day.



*Extraordinary Ministers  
of Holy Communion*

## K&L Lay Pastoral Ministry News

We ask you to remember in your prayers our Lay Pastoral Ministry candidates who are beginning their parish placements around now across the diocese. We thank their co-operating parishes and contact people for supporting them in this important part of their formation.

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](mailto:julie.kavanagh@kandle.ie)

