

Ministry Update

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

www.kandle.ie

May 2026

An Invitation to all Baptism Teams across the Diocese

It's been a number of years since Baptism Teams have had a chance to meet so we are excited to host this evening. Booking essential. See details below.



EVENING for BAPTISM TEAMS

Wednesday, 13 May

A chance to catch up and reflect with other teams on this special parish ministry.

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REGISTER YOUR TEAM'S ATTENDANCE BY EMAIL TO FDS@KANDLE.IE LEAVING NAME OF PARISH AND NUMBER ATTENDING

Teams from across Kildare and Leighlin are invited to this special evening hosted by the Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation.

SOLAS BHRÍDE, KILDARE TOWN, R51Y281

7:30PM-9:30PM
(TEA/COFFEE FROM 7:15 PM)

Sunday Series aims to help people reflect on the importance of Sunday

The Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation is encouraging people to take these weeks up to the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ to revisit the Irish Bishops' letter, 'Why Sunday Matters', and to reflect on their own experience and practice of Sunday.

Parishes have been invited to share excerpts from the letter in their newsletters each week. The diocesan Facebook and X accounts will also share these excerpts, together with other video and written material for further reflection on the celebration of Mass and our participation in it.

Sunday matters - it's helpful every now and again to stop and remember why!



Announcing Weekly Sunday Posts
10 May - 7 June
Kildare and Leighlin

DIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR LITURGICAL FORMATION

[WhySundayMatters](http://WhySundayMatters.com)

READ REFLECT RESPOND

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READER TRAINING EASTER 2026

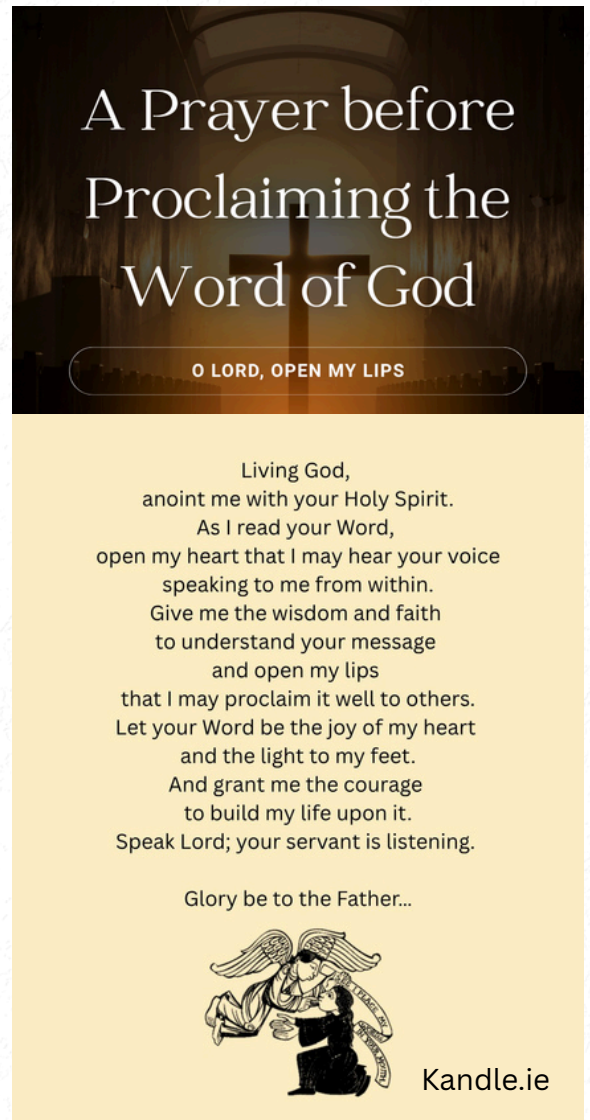
Up to 100 people from parishes in four pastoral areas are currently participating in the diocesan three session Parish Reader training programme, '**Entrusted with the Word**'. Faith Development Services and the Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation have put in place four presenter pairings to deliver the course.

The venues are Clane, Graiguecullen, Myshall and Tullow with the final practical session taking place in the local parish church. Participants all receive the diocesan Guide for Readers and will each receive a diocesan certificate of participation upon completion.

The sessions look to the importance of God's word in our lives and faith, and give time to explore the biblical, liturgical, spiritual and technical preparation needed to proclaim God's word to God's people.

The response to the sessions has been hugely positive and we look forward to running these sessions again in other pastoral areas in the future.

We're very happy to include here a prayer that we share with participants. If your parish would like to receive digital copies just contact:
julie.kavanagh@kandle.ie




A Prayer before
Proclaiming the
Word of God

O LORD, OPEN MY LIPS

Living God,
anoint me with your Holy Spirit.
As I read your Word,
open my heart that I may hear your voice
speaking to me from within.
Give me the wisdom and faith
to understand your message
and open my lips
that I may proclaim it well to others.
Let your Word be the joy of my heart
and the light to my feet.
And grant me the courage
to build my life upon it.
Speak Lord; your servant is listening.

Glory be to the Father...



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Baptised and Sent in Lent Review

There was an excellent response across the diocese to the 'Baptised and Sent in Lent' series. This series was centred on the Sunday Gospel readings and the key priorities for the Church in Ireland as named through the Irish Synodal Pathway. Leading from the Gospel, each week focused on a particular theme and shared quotes for reflection from the Irish document '**Baptised and Sent**'.

You can use the QR code to access this document.



A number of people who had facilitated this series in our parishes gathered in Newbridge to reflect on the experience. They highlighted the importance of having opportunities like this for people to come together, to listen, reflect, and share on the Word of God, to feel a sense of belonging and welcome in the parish, and to connect with the wider Church in Ireland and the priorities of the faithful across the country. They also named a desire for ongoing training in facilitating future similar series, as there is a hunger for more.



Season of Creation Theme Announced

The Season of Creation starts 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

This year's **theme**, "Living Water", explores Ezekiel 47:9 and 12 as a powerful biblical vision of hope and ecological healing. Set amid exile and loss, the image of living water flowing from God's sanctuary reveals divine healing that renews land, water, biodiversity, and human responsibility towards the whole creation.

The **symbol** pictures water flowing from the Temple of God - at first a tiny stream which grows deeper and deeper and as it does so it brings life to dead areas and restores fertility to damaged or barren ecosystems. Through living water comes healing, but in order to receive new life we too must step into the water and also become part of God's river of life, taking part in the healing of creation.



Scan the QR code to view a video invitation from Christian leaders across the world to celebrate the Season of Creation.

Resources for the Season will be available on seasonofcreation.org after Pentecost.

Bishop Denis with Sr.s Mai and Anne at the launch of their Cosmic Garden in the Suaimhneas Centre, Emo



Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock

Bishop Denis Nulty invites you to join with him and parishioners from across the diocese at the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock on Sunday, 7th June 2026, ceremonies begin at 2.30pm in the Basilica. See parish newsletters for local arrangements.

TRAINING DAY FOR BAPTISM TEAMS

BOOK NOW



Existing and new baptism team members are welcome to book places on a diocesan training day taking place in Solas Bhríde, Kildare Town, on Saturday, 13 June, from 10am-4pm.

Booking essential
by email to fds@kandle.ie leaving parish name, and names of those attending.

Bookings at
edenderryparish.ie/liam-lawton-concert/

• SPECIAL PARISH EVENT

A Celebration of *Liam Lawton's* Music

Beloved songs performed by fellow artists

Join us for a very special evening at **St. Mary's Church, Edenderry** — a concert celebrating the extraordinary music of **Fr. Liam Lawton**, performed by artists whose lives his songs have touched. All proceeds will support the care of our parish church.

DATE	TIME	VENUE
Sunday 24th May 2026	8:00 PM	St Mary's Church Edenderry
	ADMISSION	
	€30	

NEW TERM OF OFFICE BEGINS FOR DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

The new term of office began on 25 March with an introduction and training session led by Jim Deeds. Along with some members of the previous DPC who have remained in place, Bishop Denis was delighted to welcome a considerable number of new members.

Jim will work again with the DPC on 27 May, after which the work of the DPC will continue in earnest. **Look out for a photo of the DPC in a future edition of Ministry Update!**



Jim Deeds

Keep up to date with news and resources for the Catholic Church in Ireland at www.theway.ie where you can also subscribe to a weekly ezine



K&L Lay Pastoral Ministry News

Our 25 students have completed their first year of academic studies and are continuing to work in their pastoral placements until the end of June. They will resume their 2nd and final year of study in September for the award of a level 7 diploma in Lay Pastoral Ministry from St Patrick's College, Maynooth.

They will have the opportunity to gather for a weekend retreat in Mount St Anne's from 22-24 May. This will be led by Jane Mellet - Carlow native and Church Outreach Manager at Trócaire.

We ask you to remember our Lay Pastoral Ministry candidates in your prayers and we thank them for already contributing so much to the life of the diocese.

In Carlow College, St Patricks

Led by Dr Oonagh O'Brien and Janet Forbes, this diocesan day will explore where we are now as individuals and as parishes in relation to baptism, and where we are called to be. What calls to change flow from a baptismal and synodal vision of the Church? What, if any, kind of change is needed? How can we make these changes together?

Bookings open in June

SAVE THE DATE

Parishes Alive!
Becoming a
Synodal Church
20 June 2026

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

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