

Diocese of Kerry



**Resource Book
for Parish Pastoral Councils**

September 2016 – August 2017

Introduction

In the 1960s the Vatican Council described the church as a participative community of the people of God. This vision of church and parish is one where the Good News is heard, people are introduced to Jesus Christ and the ministry of all the baptised is encouraged. The parish nourishes the faith of its members and reaches out to the wider community by caring, by welcoming, by listening and by praying. This understanding of parish is at the heart of the Diocese of Kerry Pastoral Plan 2016-20.

The Parish Pastoral Council [PPC] was introduced by the Vatican Council to give structural expression to this understanding of church. The role of the PPC is to enable the people and priest of the parish share responsibility for the life, the well-being and the future of their faith community. The PPC is not just another ministry group; the PPC is the parish leadership group, through which priests and people work together as co-responsible partners in furthering the mission of Christ in their parish.

This resource book is intended as a support for the PPC in its task of sharing responsibility with the priest for the life, the well-being and the future of their faith community. It includes discussion templates, prayer services and a calendar of events. The 'discussion templates' explore different aspects of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan and are offered as an aid to implementing our Diocesan Pastoral Plan at local level.

The PPC carries out its task of furthering the mission of Christ through pastoral planning. Pastoral planning is the process of praying, thinking about and identifying the key steps that will bring the faith community to where it wants to go. A calendar of upcoming events is provided as a support for the council in its task of planning.

Prayer is central to the work and life of the PPC as its source of inspiration and encouragement. This is not book-end prayer that opens and closes meetings but prayer that aims to change hearts and minds, prayer that sincerely searches out the mind of God in relation to this particular parish, at a particular meeting, with a particular agenda. Prayer is a source of strength and guidance and a group that spends quality time in prayer will be formed into a community of faith at the heart of the parish. Six prayer services are included in order to assist members to put prayer at the heart of the meeting.

Contents

Pastoral Plan 2016 – 2020	4
Discussion 1	6
Discussion 2	8
Discussion 3	10
Discussion 4	12
Discussion 5	14
Discussion 6	16
Prayer Resource 1	18
Prayer Resource 2	20
Prayer Resource 3	22
Prayer Resource 4	24
Prayer Resource 5	26
Prayer Resource 6	28
Calendar	30



Pastoral Plan 2016 – 2020

Our Purpose

Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ joyfully
through witness, community, worship and service.

*Fógair dea-scéala an Tiarna Íosa Críost le lúcháir,
trí fhianaise, trí adhradh agus trí sheirbhís*

Our Vision

To be a welcoming compassionate faith community,
with Christ at its centre,
calling forth the gifts of all
for the good of the world
to the glory of God.

*A bheith inár gcomhlúadar creidimh fáilteach truachróíoch le Críost ina lár
ag gaoch amach ar bhuanna gach duine ar mhaithe leis an saol chun glóire Dé.*

Goal 1

Develop welcoming, faith-filled communities relevant to the age we live in.
Comhlúadair fháilteacha lánchreidmheacha sáite sa saol ina mairimid a chur chun cinn

Goal 2

Enable people to deepen their faith and proclaim the Good News of Jesus.
É a chur ar a gcumas do dhaoine a gcreideamh a dhoimhniú agus Dea-Scéal Íosa a fhógairt

Goal 3

Be a catalyst for compassion and justice.
Bí ag griogadh le trócaire agus cóir a chur chun cinn.



Discussion 1

Enhancing the experience of the Weekend Liturgy

Step 1: Examine the present reality in our parish

- What are the physical conditions of the car park, toilets, sacristy, seating, heating system and sound quality?
- What happens to create a sense of welcome at Sunday liturgy?
- What impression does the singing and music create?

Step 2: Take time to reflect

The weekend experience is the number one opportunity for people in the community to connect with church. And almost everyone who actually does come in contact with the parish does so on the weekend. In that brief time, they will decide if it's worth it to come back or not. If the experience is boring and bad, then they won't.

Saint Pope John Paul II very simply taught that the Eucharist builds the church¹. The Church is formed and grows through the Eucharist, and mature Catholics understand what they are giving and what they are given in the Eucharist ... In it, they are nourished and grow as disciples.

"The Eucharist is 'the sum and summary of our faith,'" says Pope Benedict XVI.

The Church's faith is essentially a Eucharistic faith, and it is especially nourished at the table of the Eucharist ... For this reason, the Sacrament of the Altar is always at the heart of the church's life: "thanks to the Eucharist, the Church is reborn ever anew!" the more lively the Eucharistic faith for the People of God, the deeper is its sharing in ecclesial life in the steadfast commitment of the mission entrusted by Christ to his disciples².

But let's be honest. Many of the people coming to church these days do not understand the Eucharist and are simply not engaged in it.

The weekend experience should be a form of transportation, taking the participant on an emotional, intellectual, and ultimately spiritual journey to the higher things of God.

Taken from: Rebuilt: the story of a Catholic parish: awakening the faithful, reaching the lost, and making church matter, Michael White and Tom Corcoran 2013

¹ John Paul II, "The Lord's Day" Dies Domini (Vatican: the Holy See, July 5, 1998)

² Benedict XVI, "The Sacrament of Charity" Sacramentum Caritatis (Vatican: the Holy See, February 22, 2007)

Step 3: Explore various options

Having looked at the reality of the experience of people coming to the Weekend Liturgy in our parish and taken time to reflect on what Michael White and Tom Corcoran say about the meaning and the experience of people, explore the various possibilities of how our parish could enhance people's experience physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Step 4: Identify specific actions

- Informed by the discussion and reflection, identify specific actions that we could carry out in order to enhance the experience of the Weekend liturgy
- If no action has been agreed, identify what further research is needed.

Step 5: When the action is completed take time to review it by exploring:

- a. Did the action achieve its purpose?
- b. What was not effective?
- c. Is there a follow-up action needed?

Discussion 2

Sharing faith with children

Step 1: Examine the present reality in our parish

- In what ways do we create a sense of welcome for children at Sunday Liturgy?
- How do we support young parents who have a child for baptism?
- How does the parish complement the work of the schools in the faith formation of children?

Step 2: Take time to reflect

The 'primary and natural responsibility'³ for children's education belongs to their parents/guardians. 'Parents, and those who take their place, have both the obligation and the right to educate their children.'⁴ They have a vital part to play within the educating community. So, too, parents/guardians take on the principal role in the faith formation of their children, introducing them to Jesus and preparing them for the sacraments of initiation, Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. It is true that many parents today feel the need for support in this role, having become unfamiliar with what it asks of them, or even alienated from the institutional Church. However, they do not have to take this duty on alone; they do so with their wider family and within their parish community. They are supported by the priests of the parish, by other parents/guardians and by those who participate in the planning and programming of parish catechesis. Sharing faith with the young is the work of the whole Christian community, a responsibility it is happy to undertake and to invest its energy in. Adult Catholics recognise that in this conversation, children, too, can be an inspiration to them, opening adults to fresh ways of seeing life, love and relationships, with one another and with God and, thereby, coming to understand their own faith anew.

Taken from: Share the Good News: National Directory for Catechesis in Ireland, Irish Episcopal Conference, Veritas, 2011, p. 131

Step 3: Explore various options

Having looked at the reality of how we nurture the faith of children in our parish and taken time to reflect on what Share the Good News suggests, explore the various possibilities of how our parish could enhance children's experience of faith.

³The Catholic School on the Threshold of the third Millennium, 20

⁴Code of Canon Law (1983) 793

Step 4: Identify specific actions

- Informed by the discussion and reflection, identify specific actions that we could carry out in order to share faith with the children of the parish;
- If no action has been agreed, identify what further research is needed.

Step 5: When the action is completed, take time to review it by exploring:

- a. Did the action achieve its purpose?
- b. What was not effective?
- c. Is there a follow-up action needed?

Discussion 3

Parish Communications

Step 1: Examine the present reality in our parish

- How do we use the internet and social media to share news of our parish?
- How do we use the parish newsletter to share the Good News of Jesus Christ?
- How does the PPC communicate with the parish?
- How do we use local papers and radio?

Step 2: Take time to reflect

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8

Advertising agencies approach client campaigns in two different ways: “frequency” and “reach.” “Frequency” means how many times each person is touched by a message. “Reach” means how many people you can touch in a given area or market. Good advertising campaigns always aim for a frequency of at least three. They claim that the reach is not nearly as important as a minimum frequency of three. In other words, no matter how many people you send messages to, each person who received the message has to receive it at least three times to be effective. Strictly speaking, frequency is much more important than reach.

Let’s translate this idea into church terms for a moment. We put an announcement in the parish bulletin only to find it completely ignored. We tell everyone that an event deadline for registration exists and yet no one signs up on time. We send costly letters to parishioners asking for help yet no one calls. What is the problem here? Why are our parishioners inattentive or unresponsive to our messages? We would like to believe that everyone on the mailing list is as interested in the parish as we are. Yet, they don’t seem to pay attention to what we are telling them. Perhaps the problem is that we haven’t thought about this “rule of threes.”

Perhaps we need to think in the same terms: more attention to frequency.” Keep this new rule, the “Rule of Three,” in your mind as you examine communications in your parish.

Taken from: 22 Steps to a Great Catholic Parish, James N. Reinhardt, 2010

Step 3: Explore various options

Having looked at the reality of communications in our parish and taken time to reflect on what *22 Steps to a Great Catholic Parish* suggests, explore the various possibilities of how our parish could enhance its use of communications.

Step 4: Identify specific actions

- Informed by the discussion and reflection, identify specific actions that we could carry out in order to improve our use of different means of communication;
- If no action has been agreed, identify what further research is needed.

Step 5: When the action is completed take time to review it by exploring:

- a. Did the action achieve its purpose?
- b. What was not effective?
- c. Is there a follow-up action needed?

Discussion 4

Care for the elderly

Step 1: Examine the present reality in our parish

- How do we keep in contact with the housebound?
- Is there a facility for the housebound to tune into the church celebrations?
- How do we provide opportunities and ministry-related events for aging members of our parish?

Step 2: Take time to reflect

Loneliness among older people is believed to be as damaging to their health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, with older generations at risk of increased isolation as young emigrants move abroad, according to the Alone charity. Social isolation among older people - those aged 65 years and over - puts ageing populations at a higher risk of dementia, cardiovascular disease and decreased immune system responsivity, according to the Irish charity.

The latest figures from the Central Statistics Office show there are 586,600 older people over the age of 65 in the State. Seán Moynihan, chief executive of Alone, says older people living alone often have limited social interaction with the outside world and are at risk of taking less exercise, often leading to ill-health including depression. "Just under a third of older people live on their own and that number will continue to climb," said Mr Moynihan. "Loneliness has become a chronic situation and is affecting older people's well-being." "It is vitally important that as we age, we maintain strong links with our local community."

Research carried out by The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (Tilda) in 2014 found mothers of children who had moved abroad in recent years had experienced an increase in depressive symptoms and feelings of loneliness. Mr Moynihan worries that we have yet to see the real effects of emigration among the older generations left behind in Ireland. "The age that people emigrate, their parents are usually in their late 50s. We're only seeing the effects five to seven years later. People settle down abroad, don't come home and parents can end up becoming isolated."

According to the Centre for Ageing Research and Development in Ireland (Cardi), depression is set to become the second leading cause of disability worldwide by 2020. The growing rate of depression is expected to disproportionately affect older adults.

Cardi warns that depression among older people tends to go undiagnosed and is often accepted as a natural part of the ageing process. "Over the next 30 years, 20,000 people will turn 65 every year, that's 400 people a week," said Mr Moynihan. "Older people need good services of a consistent quality, to ensure that they don't slip through the cracks and become isolated from other people."

Taken from: www.irishtimes.com/.../loneliness-among-older-people-increases-health-risks Feb 9, 2015

Step 3: Explore various options

Having looked at the reality of elderly people's experience in our parish and taken time to reflect on the newspaper's report changing reality of elderly people, explore the various possibilities of how our parish could enhance its contact with the elderly.

Step 4: Identify specific actions

- Informed by the discussion and reflection, identify specific actions that we could carry out in order to enhance elderly people's experience of our parish;
- If no action has been agreed, identify what further research is needed.

Step 5: When the action is completed take time to review it by exploring:

- a. Did the action achieve its purpose?
- b. What was not effective?
- c. Is there a follow-up action needed?

Discussion 5

Inviting all parishioners into ministry

Step 1: Examine the present reality in our parish

- What are the opportunities for ministry in our parish?
- Is formation provided for those involved in the various ministries?
- How do we encourage all members of our faith community to participate in ministry?

Step 2: Take time to reflect

The evangelising parish expresses itself through all its members, through every member ministry. And it expresses itself through the various parish ministries and ministry groups, each with its own specific focus...

There needs to be a move away from seeing involvement as a job or a task and towards seeing it as a ministry. It will make a big difference if people involved in parish groups develop the spirituality that inspires and drives their ministry. It will also make a big difference if people develop a vision around their ministry. They can be helped to see beyond the specific task they are engaged in. They need to come to a sense of what it is that all the different parish ministries are feeding into. In particular, their work will be transformed if it is inspired by the vision of every member ministry. They will come to see themselves as parts of the jigsaw, working together as an evangelising parish.

Parish ministries are meant to be both voluntary and professional. The voluntary spirit will always be central. But it has to be accompanied by a commitment to quality. That is what the word 'professional' means here. It is interesting that the word has a religious connotation, such as when we speak of religious profession. In that sense, 'professional' ministry is imbued with commitment. It is inspired by the commitment of baptism. It is committed to our vision of parish. And it is committed to achieving the highest standards in realising that vision.

Taken from: Tomorrow's Parish, Donal Harrington, Columba Press, 2015

Step 3: Explore various options

Having looked at the reality of ministerial experience in our parish and taken time to reflect on Donal Harrington's views on ministry, explore the various possibilities of how our parish could enhance ministry and invite each member to participate.

Step 4: Identify specific actions

- Informed by the discussion and reflection, identify specific actions that we could carry out in order to enable people to understand ministry more and invite all to participate;
- If no action has been agreed, identify what further research is needed.

Step 5: When the action is completed take time to review it by exploring:

- a. Did the action achieve its purpose?
- b. What was not effective?
- c. Is there a follow-up action needed?

Discussion 6

Celebrating cultural diversity

Step 1: Examine the present reality in our parish

- How do we foster a culture of welcome?
- How do we challenge racism?
- How do we create awareness of our responsibility towards migrants?

Step 2: Take time to reflect

Migration today, involving some two hundred million people worldwide, constitutes probably the greatest ever population movement in human history. Making up a significant part of this population are those fleeing persecution in search of a place of safety, as well as those searching for work to support themselves and their families.

Encompassing as it does millions of people from diverse backgrounds with a wide spectrum of hopes and aspirations, migration today presents new challenges at many levels. Now part of the reality of contemporary society, migration flows have an influence on all aspects of life – economic, social, political, cultural and religious.

The main inflows to the Republic of Ireland were of people seeking asylum. Quite quickly, however, their number was far exceeded by new arrivals from both within and without the EU who came in response to growing employment opportunities.

At the heart of the Bible is the welcome of God for all of humankind. God created humankind in God's image and likeness (Gen 1.27) and invited all men and women to be part of God's people. This desire of God received a new expression in the coming on earth of Jesus as a human being: 'God loved the world so much that God sent God's only Son'. Coming among us as one like us, Jesus, the eldest of many brothers, shows His followers how they are to be sisters and brothers to one another.

Today, given the unprecedented movements of people, the challenge to the Churches is to welcome wholeheartedly, with openness and genuine hospitality and without distinction, those women, men and children from a wide variety of backgrounds who come to live among us. Fostering this culture of welcome, so that it becomes an integral part of the life of individuals, families and communities, is a responsibility not only of the leaders of the Christian community but of each and every member.

To welcome newcomers is an essential dimension of the mission of the Christian community. Important as it is, welcoming others is, however, only a first step. Implied in the initial welcome is a series of practical ongoing consequences if hospitality is to be genuine. The issues which Churches need to consider

include:

- How are newcomers and the established community given an opportunity to introduce themselves to one another?
- How are liturgies reflective of the languages, cultures and religious sensitivities of the entire community?
- Are notices and announcements, oral and written, communicated in ways that are comprehensible to all?

Taken from: Irish churches' affirmations on migration, diversity and interculturalism, Irish council of Churches, 2010

Step 3: Explore various options

Having looked at the reality of how we welcome other cultures in our parish and taken time to reflect on the excerpt from the Irish Council of Churches, explore the various possibilities of how our parish could enhance its welcome of other cultures.

Step 4: Identify specific actions

- Informed by the discussion and reflection, identify specific actions that we could carry out in order to enable greater welcome of other cultures and nationalities;
- If no action has been agreed, identify what further research is needed.

Step 5: When the action is completed take time to review it by exploring:

- a. Did the action achieve its purpose?
- b. What was not effective?
- c. Is there a follow-up action needed?

Prayer Resource 1

Starting afresh after the summer

Opening Prayer

Surprise us, Lord,

with the beauty of our parish community.

Let us see afresh

the wonder of you,

the wonder of ourselves,

the wonder of others,

the wonder of our world.

Surprise us, Lord, again and again in the year ahead.

Excerpt from Pope Francis' letter, *The Face of Mercy* 1

As we can see in Sacred Scripture, mercy is a key word that indicates God's action towards us. He does not limit himself merely to affirming his love, but makes it visible and tangible. Love, after all, can never be just an abstraction. By its very nature, it indicates something concrete: intentions, attitudes, and behaviours that are shown in daily living.

PAUSE

The mercy of God is his loving concern for each one of us. He feels responsible; that is, he desires our wellbeing and he wants to see us happy, full of joy, and peaceful. This is the path which the merciful love of Christians must also travel. As the Father loves, so do his children. Just as he is merciful, so we are called to be merciful to each other.

PAUSE

Responsory

Leader: Open us to recognise what you are creating in our communities

All: *Open our eyes, Lord.*

Leader: Open us to what you are sowing in our hearts.

All: *Open our eyes, Lord.*

Leader: Open us to see what you doing in our young people.

All: *Open our eyes, Lord.*

Leader: Open us to what you are revealing in our world today.

All: *Open our eyes, Lord.*

Leader: Open us to hear what you are saying through people around us
All: Open our eyes, Lord.
Leader: Open us to meet you walking now through the streets of our towns and villages.
All: Open our eyes, Lord.
Leader: Open us to hear what you are doing anew in our world.
All: Open our eyes, Lord.

Closing Prayer

As the nights shorten and the days lengthen, may we walk in the light:
in God's light that helps us to see the way,
that guides us as we journey,
that warms and comforts the distressed and encourages the weary.

May we be carriers of the hope and joy of mercy to all whom we meet,
drawn ever closer to the merciful heart of God.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer Resource 2

Giving thanks for the gift of creation

Leader: God, thank you for the sun, the sky, for all the things that like to fly,
the shining rain that turns grass green, the earth we know – the world unseen –
for stars and night, and once again the every-morning sun.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 24: 1-2

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;
for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

We take a moment to reflect on the gift of creation all around us, on its beauty and majesty; we
reflect too on its power and strength.....

Responsory

Reader: We live in all things. All things live in us.
All: We rejoice in all life!

Reader: We live by the sun. We move with the stars.
All: We rejoice in all life!

Reader: We eat from the earth. We drink from the rain. We breathe from the air.
All: We rejoice in all life!

Reader: We share with the creatures. We have strength through their gifts.
All: We rejoice in all life!

Reader: We depend on the forests. We have knowledge through their secrets.
All: We rejoice in all life!

Reader: We have the privilege of seeing and understanding.
We have the responsibility of caring. We have the joy of celebrating.
All: We rejoice in all life!

Reader: We are full of the grace of creation. We are graceful. We are grateful.
All: We rejoice in all life. We rejoice in all life!

Adapted from a prayer from Hildegard of Bingen

Concluding Prayer

All: God, our Creator, we ask you in a special way today
to teach us how to love and preserve our Mother Earth.

Give us the courage to make the efforts and necessary sacrifices
to live gently on the earth and with one another.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, and our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer Resource 3

Praying for our Dead

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: *Amen*

Leader: Today we take time to remember those whom we've met on life's journey and who have now passed on to eternal life. We may be remembering someone very dear to us – a mother, father, brother or sister, a grandparent, a daughter or son, a dear friend or relation.....and we may also call to mind people who walked alongside us in life's journey for only a brief time, but who touched our lives deeply.....we remember those who have died during the past year, and all our loved ones who have died....

Lighting of the Candle

Reader 1: Lord Jesus, you said, 'I am the Light of the World'.
As we light this candle, we ask that your light will shine on all those who have died....
May they be bathed always in the light of your love and grace,
and come to eternal life with you.

All: *Amen*

Candle is now lit

Reader 2: Let us listen to the holy Gospel according to John 8:12
Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Reflection:

Reader: At the rising of the sun and at its going down

All: *We remember them.*

Reader: At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter

All: *We remember them.*

Reader: At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring

All: *We remember them.*

Reader: At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer

All: *We remember them.*

Reader: At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn

All: *We remember them.*

Reader 1: At the beginning of the year and when it ends

All: We remember them.

Reader 1: As long as we live, they too will live;
for they are now a part of us
as we remember them.

Adapted from © Jewish Prayer Book/ Sylvan Kamens & Rabbi Jack Riemer

Final Prayer:

Together: God, we believe in your tender love for us.
Give comfort and strength to those who mourn today.
Take away any feeling of guilt
and ease the burden of regret.
Keep them in your care and help them
to renew their lives in a spirit of trust.
We ask this in faith, through Christ, Our Lord.

All: Amen

Prayer Resource 4

Letting Jesus teach us his ways

Opening Prayer

We take a moment as we begin this meeting
to become aware of ourselves here in the presence of God.....
and we open our hearts to meeting you, Lord, in your word and in the silence, in one another and in all
our conversations this evening.....

Reflection

Lord, teach me your way of looking at people:
as you glanced at Peter after his denial,
as you penetrated the heart of the rich young man
and the hearts of your disciples.

Lord, I would like to meet you as you really are,
since your image changes those with whom you come into contact.
Remember John the Baptist's first meeting with you?
And the centurion's feeling of unworthiness?
And the amazement of all those who saw miracles and other wonders?

Lord, how you impressed your disciples,
the rabble in the Garden of Olives,
Pilate and his wife and the centurion at the foot of the cross. . . .

Lord, I would like to hear and be impressed
by your manner of speaking,
listening, for example, to your discourse in the
synagogue in Capharnaum
or the Sermon on the Mount where your audience
felt you "taught as one who has authority."

Pedro Arrupe, SJ

Leader We take a moment to read through the agenda that we will discuss tonight.....and
we try to look at it and read it with the heart and mind and eyes of Jesus.....we ask
Jesus to give us openness and insight, courage and love as we enter into our discussion
and reflection on these agenda items before us.....

Scripture Reading – Matt 6:31-34

“So don’t ever worry by saying, ‘What are we going to eat?’ or ‘What are we going to drink?’ or ‘What are we going to wear?’ because it is the unbelievers who are eager for all those things. Surely your heavenly Father knows that you need all of them! But first be concerned about God’s kingdom and his righteousness, and all of these things will be provided for you as well. So never worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Closing Prayer

Loving God,
Creator of the universe,
you have made all things good
and given us the earth as our home.

You call each of us by name,
to proclaim the Good News of your Son, Jesus Christ
through witness, worship and service.

May your Spirit guide us
as a welcoming and compassionate community;
responding to the needs of those most vulnerable;
and sharing our gifts for the good of all people to the glory of God.
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Prayer Resource 5

God calls each one of us to live our vocation for the good of all

Presence

Living God,
ours are the hands and feet you use to do good.
stand us now in your presence,
that we might be refreshed.

Reflection *Some thoughts on vocation – David Konstant*

In God's plan, every single person is called upon to grow. Each life is a vocation. From birth, each one of us carries within ourselves the seeds of personal growth. Each one of us can bear fruit proposed for us by God.

Scripture Reading – Ephesians 3:16-19

Out of his infinite glory, may he give you the power through his Spirit for your hidden self to grow strong, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, you will with all the saints have strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; until, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge, you are filled with the utter fullness of God.

Prayers of the Faithful

- For the openness to be your hands and feet in the world – Lord, hear us
- For each person in her or his particular vocation – married, single, priest, religious – Lord hear us
- For the gift of wisdom to see our neighbours and parishioners anew – may we recognise the potential and hope they hold deep within. Lord, hear us
- For the faith to see, in the midst of our daily activities and the many things-to-do that haunt our calendars, that you are with us, every step of the way. Lord, hear us

Gathered by the one Father, together we say, Our Father...

Closing Prayer

With faith and trust,
we say, Glory be to God, whose power working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Make of us, people of the Spirit,
sharing our gifts and talents in your service.
Let us go, carrying with us the Love of God,
the Peace of Christ and the Strength of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Prayer Resource 6

Opening ourselves to being shaped by God

Opening Prayer

God, you are always at work in our lives.
Sometimes it seems you call us beyond
what we consider to be our limits.
Open us to trust you, God.
Open us to entrust ourselves
and all our doings and goings to you.
We rest in you.

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 18: 3-6

So I went down to the potter's house; and there he was, working at the wheel. But the vessel he was making came out wrong, as may happen with clay when a potter is at work. So he began again and shaped it into another vessel as he thought fit.

- Reader 1: We come before you, Lord, as a people shaped in the hands of life, each in a different way.
- Reader 2: We are like a ball of clay made up of many unique particles waiting to be shaped and moulded in the hands of the potter.
- Reader 3: Your hands, Lord, begin their work of moulding our lives, which are bound up with the lives of those around us. Each person is like a particle of clay encountering and shaping the other. Most of the time we are unclear what is happening – only you, the potter, know clearly.
- Reader 4: Your hands open us, making our horizons broader like the waves of the sea, creating space within us.
- Reader 5: Gently, but deliberately, with the hands of an artist inspired by a vision, you, the potter, work on us....we begin to yield to your touch and trust that deep within us, you see the potential to form vessels to draw others to their full potential as Christians and as ministers. Together we can then pour out your giftedness to those in need.

Closing Prayer

Melt us, mould us, mould us and fashion us
into the image of Jesus your son,
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Calendar

2016

September

Sunday 11th	National Grandparents' Day
Wednesday 21st	Reflection Day for Clergy
Thursday 22nd	Reflection Day for Clergy
Saturday 24th – Oct 3rd	<i>Days of Prayer, Gift of Mercy</i>
Saturday 24th	Course in Pastoral Ministry Kenmare Pastoral Area
Wednesday 29th	Course in Youth Ministry - John Paul II Pastoral Centre, Killarney

October

Liturgy Workshop for Parish Liturgy Groups	
Monday 10th	Exploring and celebrating Women's Spirituality
Wednesday 12th	Meeting of Diocesan Pastoral Council
Friday 14th	<i>National Day of Prayer for Children</i>
Tuesday 18th	Training for Pastoral Councils – Naomh Bhréanainn Pastoral Area
Thursday 20th	Training for Pastoral Councils – Listowel Pastoral Area
Saturday 22nd	Youth Music Ministry workshop
Sunday 23rd	Mission Sunday
Tuesday 25th	Training for Pastoral Councils – Tralee Pastoral Area
Thursday 27th	Training for Pastoral Councils – Corca Dhuibhne Pastoral Area

November

Thursday 3rd	Training for Pastoral Councils – Iveragh Pastoral Area
Tuesday 8th	Training for Pastoral Councils – Castleisland Pastoral Area
Thursday 10th	Training for Pastoral Councils – Millstreet Pastoral Area
Sunday 12th	<i>Day of Prayer for Prisoners</i>
Tuesday 15th	Training for Pastoral Councils – Killarney Pastoral Area
Thursday 17th	Training for Pastoral Councils – North Kerry Pastoral Area
Sunday 20th	<i>Closing of the Year of Mercy</i>
Tuesday 22nd	Training for Pastoral Councils – Killorglin Pastoral Area
Thursday 24th	Training for Pastoral Councils – Kenmare Pastoral Area
Sunday 27th	<i>Advent begins</i>
Tuesday 29th	Training for Pastoral Councils – Beara Pastoral Area
Tuesday 29th	Day for Parish Secretaries

December

Thursday 8th	Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
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2017

January

Sunday 1st	<i>World Day of Peace</i>
Tuesday 10th	Public Talk in The Brehon Hotel, Killarney
Sunday 15th	<i>World Day of Prayer Migrants and Refugees</i>
Jan 18th	<i>Beginning of Week of Prayer for Church Unity</i>
Sunday 29th	Catholic Schools' Week begins

February

Liturgy Workshop for Parish Liturgy Groups	
Music Workshop for Parish Choirs	
Thursday 2nd	<i>World Day for Consecrated Life</i>
Saturday 11th	<i>World Day of the Sick</i>
Sunday 26th	<i>Day of Prayer for Temperance</i>

March

Lenten Talks will be taking place in pastoral areas	
Day for Church Sacristans	
Wednesday 1st	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>
Friday 17th	<i>St. Patrick's Day - Special Day of Prayer for Emigrants</i>
Wednesday 29th	Ceiliúradh na nÓg

April

Sunday 9th	<i>Palm Sunday</i>
Tuesday 11th	<i>Chrism Mass</i>
Thursday 13th	<i>Holy Thursday</i>
Friday 14th	<i>Good Friday</i>
Sunday 16th	<i>Easter Sunday</i>

May

Ógra Beo Youth Ministry Celebration Night	
Certificate nights for Participants of Diocesan Courses in Pastoral Ministry and in Youth Ministry	
Sunday 7th	Day of Prayer for Vocations
Sunday 28th	World Communications' Day

July

Youth Pilgrimage to Taizé	
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Diocesan Prayer

Loving God,
Creator of the universe,
you have made all things good
and given us the earth as our home.

You call each of us by name,
to proclaim the Good News of your Son, Jesus Christ
through witness, worship and service.

May your Spirit guide us
as a welcoming and compassionate community;
responding to the needs of those most vulnerable;
and sharing our gifts for the good of all people to the glory of God.
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Paidir na Deoise

*A Dhia Ghrámhair, Cruthaitheoir na Cruinne,
dheinis an uile rud maith agus thugais an domhan dúinn mar ár mbaile.
Ghlaois ar gach duine againn ina ainm
le Dea-Scéal do Mhic Íosa Críost a fhógairt trí fhianaise, trí adhradh agus trí sheirbhís.*

*Go dtreoraí do Spiorad sinn mar chumann fáilteach truachróíoch
ag freagairt dá nglao siúd is soghonta;
ag dáileadh ár dtabhartas ar mhaithe le gach duine chun glóir Dé.
Sin é ár nguí chugat trí Chríost ár dTiarna.
Amen*

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