

# Deoise Chiarraí



## Resource Book for Parish Pastoral Councils

*September 2018 – August 2019*



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# Pastoral Plan 2016 – 2020

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## **Our Purpose** *Ár nAidhm*

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** *Ár bhFís*

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 truachroíoch le Críost ina lár  
ag glaoch amach ar bhuanna gach duine ar mhaithe leis an saol chun glóire Dé.*

## **Goal 1** *Sprioc 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** *Sprioc 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** *Sprioc 3*

Be a catalyst for compassion and justice.

*Bí ag griogadh le trócaire agus cóir a chur chun cinn.*

# Introduction

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A frequent question asked by people is what is the role of the Parish Pastoral Council and how does it function. This resource book attempts to provide answers to these questions.

The book provides clarity on the role of the PPC, which will enable the PPCs in the diocese to function more effectively. It also offers suggestions on how to run an effective meeting, as well as suggesting relevant discussion topics for the agenda. Prayer resources are offered for use at the meeting.



## How to use the book:

- At the first meeting of the year, it is recommended that time is spent reflecting on The Role of the Parish Pastoral Council [pg 4] so that there is a shared understanding among all of the role of this group.
- When planning the meeting, use the template outlined on page 6
- Once a year, take time to review the effectiveness of your meeting by using the template on page 35.
- Choose one of the discussion topics [pgs 8-18] as an item for inclusion on the agenda for each meeting.
- Prayer and reflection is central to the work of the PPC – before you lead the prayer, take time to read pages 20-21.
- Choose one of the prayer resources [pgs 22-32] for each meeting.

# The Role of the Parish Pastoral Council

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## What is the Mission of the Parish?

The parish is a community of people, who are inspired by Jesus Christ and committed to proclaiming God's dream for our world. By word and action, the parish seeks to spread the Gospel of the risen Christ, and to be the Body of Christ on earth.

## Who is responsible for promoting the mission of the parish?

It is the task of all the baptised to promote Jesus' work of love, peace, justice and freedom. The priest does not have sole responsibility for building up the church community. The carrying out of the mission of Jesus Christ is the responsibility of both the laity and the priest(s) working together in partnership.

## What is the Parish Pastoral Council?

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is a leadership group through which priests and people work together as co-responsible partners in furthering the mission of Christ in their parish.

## What is the role of the PPC?

The Parish Pastoral Council has an:

- Advisory role - Advises the priest(s) in relation to pastoral needs and issues.
- Coordinating role - Supports and promotes the work of the various parish groups and ministries.
- Planning role - Plans for the parish on an ongoing basis, responding to present and future needs.

## Prayer

Prayer is central to the work and life of the PPC as its source of inspiration and vision.

## Consultative

The PPC is a consultative body. The parish priest/moderator explores pastoral needs and concerns with the members. The task of the members is to represent the wisdom of the parish faith community. By respectful sharing and listening, the PPC comes to decisions.

## Role and responsibility of members

Members of the Parish Pastoral Council have a responsibility to:

- Listen to the needs of parishioners
- Participate in discussion but not force personal opinions
- Listen to the views of others in a non-judgemental manner
- Submit agenda items on an agreed date before meeting
- Read materials circulated
- Carry out actions agreed at meeting
- Notify secretary in advance if unable to attend a meeting.

An effective Parish Pastoral Council makes a real difference. It enables all the members of the parish faith community to participate fully in the life of the parish by sharing their talents, wisdom and faith, thus helping to build a welcoming and compassionate parish faith community.

# Productive Pastoral Council Meetings

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Careful planning before, during and after the meeting is required to ensure that time is used well and is productive.

Elements that contribute to working well together at meetings include:

## Before the Meeting

- The chairperson, secretary and priest meet to prepare the agenda.
- The secretary notifies members of the upcoming meeting and circulates the agenda.

## During the Meeting

### • Welcoming environment

- Ensure that the venue is comfortable and organise seating in a way that is conducive to the active participation of all members.

### • Prayer

- Develop prayer as part of the life of the group and as its source of inspiration.

### • Agenda

- An agenda is simply a list of things you want to discuss at the meeting.
- Prioritise items so that those needing attention can be dealt with first.

### • Timeframe

- Begin and end each meeting according to the time schedule agreed by the group.

### • Social Dimension

- The chat and the cup of tea after the meeting provide a non-threatening and enjoyable way of building social interaction.



## After the Meeting

- **Minutes should be circulated shortly after the meeting to allow members act on agreed matters.**

- Minutes are a record of the issues addressed and the agreed outcomes. They are a record of the proposed actions and the person(s) responsible for carrying them out.

- **Follow up on agreed actions**

- The overall effectiveness of a pastoral council depends on the participation of its members. Agreed actions need to be carried out and reported on at the next meeting.

# Discussion 1 *Plé 1*

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## Season of Creation in our parish

### Step 1: Examine the present reality in our parish

1. Is there an awareness of the Season of Creation in our parish?
2. How did we encourage people to reduce food waste in 2017?
3. In what ways do we care for God's creation in our parish?

### Step 2: Take time to reflect

Catholic Social Teaching [CST] is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and acting responsibly amidst the challenges of modern society. One of the themes of CST is 'Care for God's Creation'. Our faith reminds us that we are partners in caring for creation and so we, as Catholics, are called to live out this faith in relationship with all of God's creation. The Season of Creation from September 1st – October 4th offers opportunities to deepen our faith in action. This year's theme focuses on our being part of the solution to plastic pollution.

In 'Laudato Si', On Care for our Common Home, Pope Francis says that 'our Sister, Mother Earth...cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her.' This is why the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) committee of the Diocese of Kerry has chosen 'Plastic Pollution' as our theme for the Season of Creation 2018.

*Diocesan JPIC brochure*

### Step 3: Explore various options

Having looked at the present awareness of the Season of Creation in our parish and taken time to reflect on the Diocesan Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation's statement, discuss ways of protecting 'Our Common Home' from irreparable harm.

### Step 4: Identify specific actions

- Following the discussion and reflection, identify actions in which our parish can reduce the amount of plastic it uses. How might the parish act together to prevent plastic pollution?
- If no action has been agreed, identify what further research is required?

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

- a. Did the action achieve its purpose?
- b. What worked well?
- c. Is there a follow-up action needed?

# Discussion 2 *Plé 2*

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## Our parish presence on the internet

### Step 1: Examine the present reality in our parish

1. Name the ways the parish is presently using technology for communication.
2. Who is responsible for managing the parish page on the diocesan website? The parish website? or Facebook?
3. How do we assess the effectiveness of our use of technology?

### Step 2: Take time to reflect

Whether or not your parish has a newsletter or parish magazine, a parish website is almost essential today if the parish is to reach out to people on the margins, who may not be in regular contact with the church. Some use websites to find Mass times or other basic parish information; but when an attractive website is encountered, it can be a tool for greater communication and evangelisation.

Parishioners appreciate websites that give them all sorts of parish information. Ministry rosters can be displayed so that people can check when they are next to read at mass or when they are to act as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. A website also allows a parish extra space to describe in full what is involved in baptism in the parish or a marriage or funeral. More than anything, your website needs to convey what is wonderful about your parish.

Parish communications cannot be confined to newsletters, magazine and websites, however. Some parishes invest in technology that allows them to broadcast their masses in the local area and even globally using the World Wide Web) – a godsend to elderly and housebound people. In a rapidly changing age of communication, no parish can afford to be left behind in employing every media to spread the Good News.

*Taken from: How to survive working in a Catholic Parish, Diana Klein and Bernard Cotter, Redemptorist Publications, 2016, page 106 - 108*

### Step 3: Explore various options

Having looked at how we use the internet for parish communication and reflected on the importance of maximising the use of technology, how can we make better use of it?

### Step 4: Identify specific actions

- Informed by the discussion and reflection, identify specific actions that we could carry out to use technology to improve communications.
- If no action has been agreed, identify what further research is needed.

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

- a. Did the action achieve its purpose?
- b. What worked well?
- c. Is there a follow-up action needed?

# Discussion 3 *Plé 3*

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## Review parish groups and ministries

### Step 1: Examine the present reality in our parish

1. Name the ministries and church groups presently in the parish.
2. What is the relationship between the PPC and these groups and ministries?
3. How do we recognise the contribution of these groups and ministries to the life of our parish?

### Step 2: Take time to reflect

The Parish Pastoral Council is not just another ministry group; the PPC is the parish leadership group, through which priest(s) and people work together as co-responsible partners in furthering the mission of Christ in their parish.

As well as providing leadership and acting in an advisory role to the priest/ moderator, it has a role in coordinating the various pastoral initiatives within the parish. It is responsible for overseeing that the necessary groups and ministries exist in order to enable parishioners to contribute to the wellbeing of the parish. However, it may not infringe upon the autonomy of ministerial groups; its role is to support them.

#### Ministry Groups include:

**Finance Council** works with the parish priest in the administration of the goods of the parish.

**Liturgy Group** works with the priests to develop the life of prayer and worship in the community.

**Safeguarding Children Committee** works with the priest(s) to promote the safeguarding of children within church organisations and activities, and to oversee the implementation of diocesan policies and procedures.

**Other ministries** include Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist, Choir, Altar Servers, Altar Society, Collectors, Adoration Group, Funeral Lay Ministry and Baptism Team.

**Apostolic groups** include St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society, Legion of Mary, St Vincent de Paul and Pioneers.

### Step 3: Explore various options

Having reflected on the various ministries in the parish and how the PPC relates with them, explore what other ministries are needed. Also look at how the PPC encourages and supports the different ministry groups e.g. arranging training or celebration night or recruitment of new members.

### Step 4: Identify specific actions

- Informed by the discussion and reflection, agree what needs to be done to support the existing ministers in the various groups and ministries. Identify what new ministries would support the parish's emerging needs.
- If no action has been agreed, identify what further research is needed.

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

- a. Did the action achieve its purpose?
- b. What worked well?
- c. Is there a follow-up action needed?

# Discussion 4 *Plé 4*

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## How can parish support young people?

### Step 1: Examine the present reality in our parish

1. In what ways does the parish support young people?
2. Is our parish a welcoming place for young people?
3. How does the parish reach out to all young people?

### Step 2: Take time to reflect

Ideally, parishes are places where young people are welcomed, grow in Jesus Christ and minister side by side with the adults of the community. Here young people need to have a wide variety of opportunities to use their gifts and to express their faith through meaningful roles. If parishes are to be worthy of the loyalty and participation of young people, they need to become youth-friendly communities. A decision to do so often impacts upon other aspects of parish life e.g. such things as the style and length of preaching, the use of creativity, membership of parish groups and committees etc.

In youth-friendly Irish parishes young people feel this sense of acceptance and as a result they bring youthfulness, energy, hope and vision to their parish community. They also develop a spirit of commitment to their community by becoming involved in the many ways the Church carries out its mission. When this happens it's a great enrichment to the whole parish.

In order to become more youth-friendly a parish will usually have to look to adult lay people to take a leading role, working in partnership with parish clergy and religious. This commitment to youth ministry in the parish setting is vital to the life of the local Church.

*Taken from: A Framework Document for Youth Ministry in Ireland, Irish Episcopal Conference, Redemptorist Publications, 2009, page 24-25*





### Step 3: Explore various options

Having looked at the reality for young people in our parish and reflected on how their involvement can enrich their own lives and the life of the local Church, explore how we can build a youth-friendly parish.

### Step 4: Identify specific actions

- Informed by the discussion and reflection, identify specific actions that we could carry out to help make our parish a welcoming place for young people.
- If no action has been agreed, identify what further research is needed.

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

- a. Did the action achieve its purpose?
- b. What worked well?
- c. Is there a follow-up action needed?



# Discussion 5 *Plé 5*

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## Supporting Family Life

### Step 1: Examine the present reality in our parish

1. Name the ways we are connecting with families
2. What support and encouragement do we offer families ?
3. How do we celebrate family as the domestic church?

### Step 2: Take time to reflect

We do not often think of our families as holy...but real holiness is about wholeness. It is about being real people living real lives...even in the middle of noise and busyness, chaos and kinds, dinners to be cooked and floors to be washed, there is something very special that speaks to us about God. That is what the holiness of family life is about, the love at the heart of family expressed in the day-to-day realities of living.

Family is good news and, lived in faith, family becomes a way to share that faith and good news with others. There is a prayer said to have been written by St. Teresa of Avila: "Christ has no body now but yours, no hands or feet on earth but yours." This is what we are invited to be – Christ for each other and the world.

We know family life can be messy and complicated but where love is, God is.

*Bairbre Cahill – Family Spirituality God among the pots and pans, pgs 4, 27, 29*

### Step 3: Explore various options

Having looked at the reality in our parish and taken time to reflect on how family is where we meet explore the various ways in which our parish could recognise and affirm the gift of family.

### Step 4: Identify specific actions

- Following the discussion and reflection, identify actions that we could carry out to acknowledge and celebrate the gift of family life.
- 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 worked well?
- c. Is there a follow-up action needed?

# Discussion 6 *Plé 6*

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## Praying with the Gospels

### Step 1: Examine the present reality in our parish

1. Name the different opportunities for prayer in the parish
2. How does our parish support adults to develop their life of prayer?

### Step 2: Take time to reflect

Only if we know, recognize, adore and follow Jesus will he truly be “the centre of our life”. And to do this there are a few gestures available to everyone: to always have close at hand a pocket version of the Gospel so as to easily read it each day, along with the recitation of brief prayers of adoration, such as the Gloria, while paying close attention not to simply “parrot” the words. The point is: “to recognize Jesus, to know Jesus”. And although it is good to know about “the life of this or that saint” or about “the apparitions of that one here and there”, one must never lose sight of the fact that “the centre is Jesus Christ: without Jesus Christ there are no saints”.

Indeed, to “know Jesus, one must first “be able to recognize him”. “To know Jesus, there is prayer, the Holy Spirit, yes, but it is also good practice to “pick up the Gospel every day”. “How many of you pick up the Gospel each day and read a passage? It is important to always take a copy of the Gospel with you, such as “the pocket version, which is small, in order to be carried in a pocket, purse”, so it is “always with me”. And in this way, keeping it always close at hand, we can “read a passage of the Gospel every day: it is the only way to know Jesus”, to know “what he did, what he said”. “Please, do this: each day a passage of the Gospel, a small one — three, four, five minutes”. It is precisely by reading it that the Gospel is understood, “and this works within: it is the Holy Spirit who then does his work. This is the seed. It is the Holy Spirit who makes the seed sprout and grow”.

*Pope Francis, Morning Meditation 9 January 2017*

### Step 3: Explore various options

Having looked at the opportunities for adults to develop their prayer life and taken time to reflect on Pope Francis' invitation to know Jesus through the Gospels, explore various possibilities of how our parish could support adults in developing their relationship with Jesus Christ.

### Step 4: Identify specific actions

- Informed by the discussion and reflection, identify specific actions that we could carry out in order to offer people an experience of Gospel prayer or how to read the Gospels.
- If no action has been agreed, identify what further research is needed.

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

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

# Leading Prayer *Ullmhúchan chun urnaí*

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These prayer resources offer prayers to be said in common, scripture passages or reflections to be listened to and some moments of quiet and reflection. As a group, take your time to pray with them. It is an opportunity to stand back from the tasks of our group, and to reflect awhile...to wonder and to be rooted again in God's vision for the world.

## Before you start to lead the prayer:

### Preparation

The time you put into being prepared and organised for leading the prayer moment, will make it easier for you, and more enriching for all of us. Write on your page. Highlight what you are saying and what others are saying. Arrive in time to allow yourself plenty of time to be organised, so that when you come to lead the prayer, they have become your prayers.

### Involve others

Know how many readers you will need and give them the chance to read through their piece prior to the time of prayer. Not everyone is comfortable to read...so let people choose whether or not they wish to take part. Invite the group to put aside their folders/books and pens. Leave time and space so that people are not rushed. Trust the Holy Spirit!

### Sacred Space

Creating a simple focal point for your prayer time allows us to centre and focus. Place a candle, image or symbol on a cloth for the prayer time. It may also help us during the meeting to remind us of God in our midst.



## During the prayer:

### Take time to pause and be silent

During these times of prayer, use silence and pauses to enable us to listen and hear what has been said, to allow the words to find an echo in our hearts and to let us be touched by God.

### Notice your pace

Life can be very busy. Take your time with these prayer times, so that we can all slow down a little! When we are leading something, it can sometimes be hard to get a sense of our speed and pace. A good rule of thumb is to count...after a reading or a reflection, count to 30 slowly....if you have invited the group to think about a question for their own life, count to 40 slowly...gradually we will all become comfortable with the pace of the prayer.

### Practise

For most of us, leading others into prayer is a new experience. And like all new things, it takes time to get used to. So let's practise, it will ease the way for all of us!

Finally, always remember,

*"Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in your midst"*

*Matthew 18:20*



# Prayer 1 *Urnaí 1*

## Awakening to God in all of creation

*Use a green or brown cloth...add symbols of nature...a candle is lit in the centre of the space....*

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Leader      | All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.<br>You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.  |
| <i>All</i>  | <i>Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.<br/>Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.</i>   |
| Reader 1    | A reflection on the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 6 Look at the birds of the air and flowers in the field. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes. |
| Reader 2    | When we see the consequences of pollution in the natural beauty that surrounds us  |
| <i>All</i>  | <i>May we act as if everything depended on us and in faith wait as if everything depended on God."</i>   |
| Reader 3    | When we see the plight of environmental migrants forced to flee as a result of climate change impacting rising sea-levels, extreme weather events or drought,  |
| <i>All</i>  | <i>May we act as if everything depended on us, and in faith wait as if everything depended on God.</i>   |
| Reader 4    | Our Father, who art in heaven  |
| <i>All</i>  | <i>You are also at home in the air, soil, forests and oceans,</i>  |
| Reader 4    | Hallowed be Your name...   |
| <i>All:</i> | <i>By the care we take of your creation,</i>   |
| Reader 4    | Your Kingdom come...   |
| <i>All:</i> | <i>All that you see is good,</i>   |



- Reader 4      Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...  
*All*              *Your will to till and care.*
- Reader 4      Give us this day our daily bread...  
*All*              *that all may have sufficient to live life in fullness*
- Reader 4      Forgive us our trespasses...  
*All:*              *our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species and for future generations,*
- Reader        4 As we forgive those who trespass against us...  
*All*              *by reconciliation with justice and peace.*
- Reader 4      Lead us not into temptation...  
*All*              *the temptation to equate dominion with exploitation,*
- Reader 4      And deliver us from evil...  
*All*              *the evil of destroying your gift of creation,*
- Reader 4      For Yours is the Kingdom...  
*All*              *Yours Lord, not ours,*
- Reader 4      The Power and the Glory...  
*All:*              *in the cross and the resurrection,*
- Reader 4      For ever and ever...  
*All*              *You were the beginning and you are the end.*
- Reader 4      Amen.  
*All*              *And so be it.*
- Leader        The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty.  
Praise be to you!  
*All*              *Amen.*

# Prayer 2 *Urnaí 2*

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## Finding God all around us

*Place a cloth with lots of different shapes/sizes of candles/nightlights on it.*

Leader            Draw us, Lord  
                      into your presence,  
                      into your loving gaze at all people,  
                      into your vision of the world,  
                      here and now.

*Scripture*        *Reading Ezekiel 34: 12- 16*

Reader 1        As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ... I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Leader            We take a few moments now just to relax into the reality that we can trust God who seeks us, who comes looking for us, who strengthens us

*PAUSE*

Reflection

Reader 2        We need to stop running....let us stop and pause...  
God is looking for me.....God looks for us.....God will not forget us.

Reader 3        We must stop chasing around  
                      and rushing from one thing to another:  
                      Let us pause and rest and be awake enough these days  
                      to notice the footsteps of God,

Reader 4 Help us, Lord, to recognise Your spirit alive in people around us,  
in the kind word or thought-filled act,  
in the self-giving commitment and the relentless support,  
in the carer's gentleness and the activist's call,  
in the daily goodness of people.

Reader 5 You, God, are a God of surprises and a God of disguises.  
You call to us in the loveliness of others,  
You seeks us out in our lonely and hidden places,  
You come to us in the gentle word and in the knowing glance.

### Closing Prayer

*All Loving God, you are all around us.  
Open our eyes to see you,  
our hearts to respond to you  
and our minds to recognise you.  
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ.*

*Amen.*

# Prayer 3 *Urnaí 3*

## Growing in greater openness

*Place a cloth with a lit candle in the centre of the space...broken pieces of pottery and a young plant could also be placed in the space.*

### Opening Prayer

Leader            Discomfort us, Lord  
discomfort us from our well-used words and phrases,  
discomfort us from our usual way of praying and relating.

All                    *Discomfort us, Lord, as you discomfort all living things  
that the potential you have placed in us  
may find space to grow.*

### Reflection

Reader 1            From the place where we are right  
flowers will never grow  
in the spring.  
The place where we are right  
is hard and trampled  
like a yard.  
But doubts and loves  
dig up the world  
like a mole, a plough.  
And a whisper will be heard in the place  
where the ruined  
house once stood.

*Amichai Yehuda – Selected Poetry*

*Adapted from a prayer of Patriarch Athenagoras of Constantinople*

Reader 2            I have waged this war against myself for many years.  
It was terrible, but now I am disarmed.  
I am no longer frightened of anything  
because love banishes fear.

- Reader 3 I am disarmed of the need to be right  
and to justify myself by disqualifying others.  
I am no longer on the defensive holding onto my riches.
- Reader 2 I just want to welcome and to share,  
I don't hold onto my ideas and projects.  
If someone shows me something better –  
no, I shouldn't say better, but good –  
I accept them without any regrets.
- Reader 3 I no longer seek to compare.  
What is good, true and real is always for me, the best.  
That is why I have no fear.
- Leader When we are disarmed and dispossessed of self,  
if we open our hearts to the God man  
who makes all things new  
then he takes away past hurts  
and reveals a new time where everything is possible.
- All Amen*

# Prayer 4 *Urnaí 4*

## Seeking Justice for all

*A candle is lit in the centre of the space....5 nightlights surround it*

### Gathering Prayer

Leader            Open our eyes, Lord, to see where we can grow in being just.  
                          Open our ears to hear your truth, your invitation.  
                          Open our hearts to meet you in unexpected places.  
                          Open our hands Lord to reach out to those in need.

*From the Gospel of Luke Luke 10:25-37*

Reader 1            And behold, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself."

Reader 2            Jesus in his lifetime worked to establish justice for all people. He sent his disciples out to do his work.

*All                    As followers of Jesus, we now carry this torch.*

A nightlight is lit

Reader 3            Slavery is a weed that grows in every soil, including in Ireland.

*All                    What did you do once you knew?*

A nightlight is lit

Reader 4            You may choose to look the other way  
                          but you can never again say you did not know.

*All                    What did you do once you knew?*

A nightlight is lit

Reader 5 All that is needed for evil to succeed  
is for good people to say nothing.

*All What did you do once you knew?*

A nightlight is lit

Reader 6 Never doubt  
that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the  
only thing that ever has.

*All As followers of Jesus, we now carry this torch.*

A nightlight is lit

Leader O ever-attentive God,  
help us fight against all forms of poverty, slavery, injustice.  
Being just is a choice.  
Open our eyes, our ears, our hearts, our hands.  
Teach us to discern ways  
to be deliberately and consciously just in our words and actions.  
This we ask, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

# Prayer 5 *Urnaí 5*

## Recognising God in family

*A candle is lit in the centre of the space....perhaps a mix of cloths would communicate the diversity and richness of families*

Leader      God of all creation,  
Your breath gives life to all humanity.  
In our parish family, breathe into us your love and guidance  
that we may welcome and accompany all families.  
Help us pass on a faith that matters  
a faith that nurtures and sustains.  
Breathe your Word in us now.  
Breathe in us and through us.

*Reflection*      *Extract from Rejoice and Be Glad #14*

Reader 1      We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. That is not the case. We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves.

Are you called to the consecrated life? Be holy by living out your commitment with joy. Are you married? Be holy by loving and caring for your husband or wife, as Christ does for the Church. Do you work for a living? Be holy by labouring with integrity and skill in the service of your brothers and sisters. Are you a parent or grandparent? Be holy by patiently teaching the little ones how to follow Jesus. Are you in a position of authority? Be holy by working for the common good and renouncing personal gain.

Reader 2      We pray for all families in our parish:

- Families living together and families now separated
- Families celebrating new beginnings
- Families mourning endings
- Families experiencing pain and poverty
- And especially for those who have no family



*All*                    *God, our Father,  
We are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son,  
One family, in the Spirit of your love.*

*Bless us with the joy of love.*

*Make us patient and kind,  
gentle and generous,  
welcoming to those in need.  
Help us to live your forgiveness and peace.*

*Protect all families with your loving care,  
Especially those for whom we now pray:  
[We pause and remember family members and others by name].*

*Increase our faith,  
Strengthen our hope,  
Keep us safe in your love,  
Make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share.  
This we ask, as we live and breathe,  
through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

# Prayer 6 *Urnaí 6*

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For all that has been – thanks!  
For all that shall be – Yes!

*A candle is placed in the centre of the space...place the agendae and minutes of the meetings around it...*

Leader Lord of our journey,  
send your Spirit to guide us as we chance the unknown ahead.

*All May our experience here be a source of blessing for us.*

Leader Inspire all our conversations, planning and work

*All May your love, joy and peace be always evident in us.*

*Reflection St. Theresa's Prayer*

Reader 1 Christ has no body now but yours,  
no hands, no feet on earth but yours.  
Yours are the eyes through which he looks  
with compassion on this world.  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.  
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet'  
yours are the eyes, you are his body.  
Christ has no body now but yours,  
no hands, no feet on earth but yours.  
Yours are the eyes through which he looks  
with compassion on this world.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

## Lighting of Candle

Leader We light this candle to remind us of our call as Christians to be the hands and feet of Christ wherever we go...and to recall that others are icons of God for us.



Reader 2 For the blessing of those who are life-giving for us.  
For the blessing of those who call forth what is best in us.  
For the blessing of all who have shaped us.  
For the promise "I will be with you always."

*All We give you thanks, Lord of our journey.*

Reader 3 To recognise you in the events of life.  
To be open to growth and change.  
To place our gifts at the service of the community.  
To accept challenges along the way.

*All We beg assistance, Lord of our journey.*

Leader As sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ, we pray together, *Our Father*

### Closing Prayer

Leader Lord of all journeys, we thank you for all your blessings to us.  
Help us to trust that you are walking the road of life with us  
as we journey further and further  
into a new way of being church.  
We ask this through Jesus your Son  
who lives and reigns forever and ever.

*All Amen.*



## Appendix 1

# Discussion Topics from previous resource books

These are available to download from [www.dioceseofkerry.ie](http://www.dioceseofkerry.ie)

## Resource Book September 2017 – August 2018

- Discussion 1 How can parish support family life?
- Discussion 2 Engaging with young people post-Confirmation
- Discussion 3 The challenge of Immigration
- Discussion 4 Responding to families presenting a child for baptism
- Discussion 5 Praying for our Dead
- Discussion 6 Parish Newsletter

## Resource Book September 2016 – August 2017

- Discussion 1 Enhancing the experience of the Weekend Liturgy
- Discussion 2 Sharing faith with children
- Discussion 3 Parish Communications
- Discussion 4 Care for the elderly
- Discussion 5 Inviting all parishioners into ministry
- Discussion 6 Celebrating cultural diversity

## Resource Book January 2016 – August 2016

- Discussion 1 Extend welcome and build community for parishioners
- Discussion 2 Foster initiatives to support the faith and spiritual development of adults in our parish.
- Discussion 3 Enabling people to carry out the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
- Discussion 4 Identify actions to promote care for the earth

## Appendix 1

# Review of Parish Pastoral Council Meetings

Please tick appropriate box

<b>Preparation before the meeting</b>	<i>Never</i>	<i>Occasionally</i>	<i>Regularly</i>
Parish Priest, Chairperson and Secretary meet to prepare the agenda			
Members of PPC contribute items for the agenda			
Agenda is circulated in advance			
Venue is prepared in advance			
Members review materials circulated in advance of meeting			
<b>Process during the meeting</b>			
Time is allocated for prayer during the meeting			
Chairperson facilitates the group in working through the agenda			
All members have an opportunity to contribute to the meeting			
Meeting begins and ends on time			
Priorities for the next meeting are identified			
Set date for the next meeting			
<b>Actions after the meeting</b>			
Minutes of the meeting are circulated. Contents include decisions taken, actions to be carried out, by whom and when, preparations required for the next meeting			
Agreed actions are carried out			
Communicate with the wider community i.e. newsletter etc.			
Links are maintained with the Area Pastoral Council and the Diocesan Pastoral Council			

## Family Prayer

God, our Father,  
 We are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son,  
 One family, in the Spirit of your love.  
 Bless us with the joy of love. Make us patient and kind,  
 gentle and generous,  
 welcoming to those in need.  
 Help us to live your forgiveness and peace.  
 Protect all families with your loving care,  
 especially those for whom we now pray:  
 [We pause and remember family members and others by name].  
 Increase our faith,  
 Strengthen our hope,  
 Keep us safe in your love,  
 Make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share.  
 This we ask, through Christ our Lord.  
 Amen

## *Paidir na dTeaghlach*

*A Dhia, ár nAthair,  
 in Íosa do Mhac is bráithre agus siúrachas sinn,  
 teaghlach amháin, i Spiorad do ghrá.  
 Beannaigh sinn le lúcháir an ghrá.  
 Déan foighneach agus cineálta sinn, séimh agus fial,  
 fáilteach rompu siúd ar an ngannchuid.  
 Cabhraigh linn maireachtáil i maithiúnas agus i síocháin.  
 Tabhair aire do na teaghlaigh uile le do chúram gearúil,  
 go háirithe dóibh siúd a nguimid orthu anois:  
 [Cuimhnímid ar bhaill dár dteaghlaigh agus ar dhaoine eile ina n-ainm].  
 Méadaigh ár gcreideamh, neartaigh ár ndóchas,  
 coinnigh slán sinn i do ghrá,  
 Déan buíoch i gcónaí sinn  
 as tabhartas na beatha a bhfuilimid páirteach ann.  
 Iarraimid é seo, trí Chríost ár dTiarna.  
 Amen*

## 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*









*[www.dioceseofkerry.com](http://www.dioceseofkerry.com)*