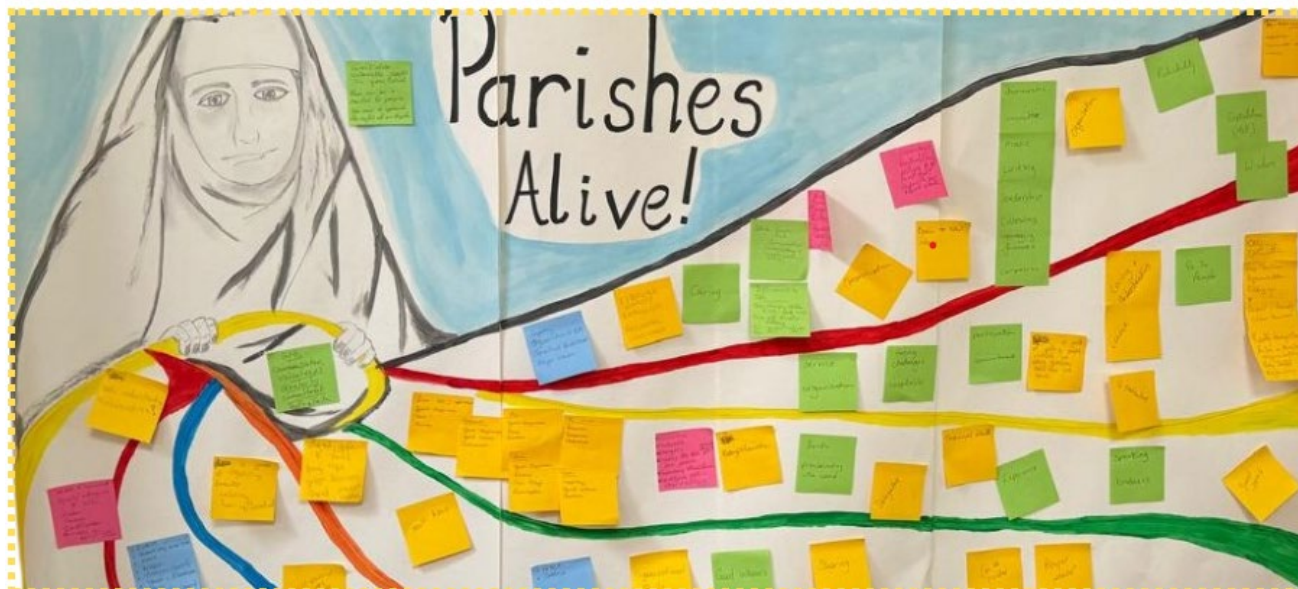


Parishes Alive!

Hosted by the Kildare and
Leighlin Diocesan Pastoral Council

8 June, 2024



OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

Over 100 people from parishes across the diocese gathered in Mount St Anne's, Killenard, with Bishop Denis and members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council for the full day on 8 June 2024.

The purpose of the day was to share stories on the many ministries being carried out every day in the 56 parishes of our diocese and to acknowledge the many gifts and huge variety of activities that make our parishes alive with the presence of Christ. It was a day of encouragement, connection and opportunity for all engaged in different forms of parish leadership across Kildare and Leighlin.



Along the way, the facilitator, Jim Deeds, led attendees in exploring the call for all the baptised to share responsibility for the mission of their parish. He showed us ways to discern what needs to happen in the parish. To help make this a reality, the role of a parish pastoral council or similar leadership group was explored in particular.

The day was an opportunity for the new Director of Parish Development, Deacon Pat Roche, to begin to introduce himself to parishes.



PARISHES ALIVE WITH GOOD NEWS!

The following gives a snapshot of the good news stories that were prepared and shared on the day with participants.



PARISHES ALIVE WITH ACTIVITIES!

Having heard stories from the coalface of parish life, those gathered had their chance to share on some of what is happening in parishes across Kildare and Leighlin

Parishes Alive with Activities!

Some of what people shared

Masses for November
Praying for local clubs
Working with schools
Funeral Team
Welcoming Ukrainians
& new comers
John Paul II awards
Fundraising to
redecorate the Church
St Brigid Walk
Eucharistic Adoration

Senior citizen Christmas
lunch
Hospitality after Mass
Housing for the elderly
Community care - social &
spiritual
Graveyard masses
Walking Group
Muintearas caring for the
elderly
Eco Parish Group
Parish cluster cooperation

Parish Library
Facebook page
Food sharing for Lent
Baptism Group
St Vincent de Paul
collection
Christmas Toy
Collection
Daycare centre
Pentecost multicultural
celebration
Sacramental
Coordinators
Volunteering Sundays
Prayer ministry
Meitheal team

Remembrance Mass &
Tree
Outdoors Stations of
the Cross
Lenten Programs
Ministry training
Bible study
Jubilee Celebrations
Hospital & nursing
home ministries
Secondary school
relations

Choirs
Lay led liturgies
children's liturgy/Sunday
School
Family programs
Festival of the Mountain
Lotto and GAA
Active Retired Group
Special Masses for
Communion &
Confirmation preparation
Diocesan events

Parish Pastoral Council -

What, How and Why?

Jim Deeds spoke about the importance of a parish having a vision. We are each called to share in the mission of the parish and we are each gifted for this task. And some of us are called to leadership with others in the parish.



SOME THINGS WE LEARNT ALONG THE WAY...

What does it take to be a Christian Leader?

- Care
- Listen
- Empower
- Hold a vision
- Serve others
- Pray

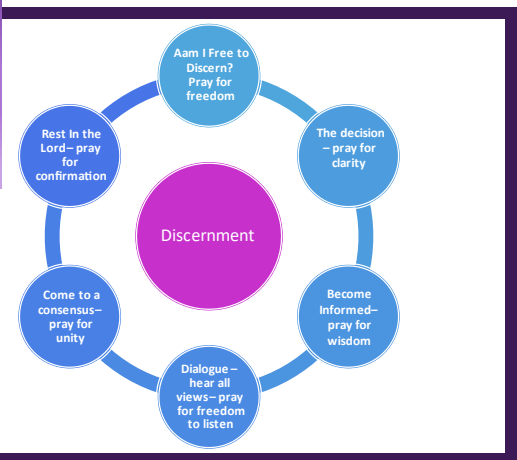


From Pope Francis



How needed pastoral councils are!
 A bishop cannot guide a diocese without pastoral councils.
 A parish priest cannot guide the parish without the parish council.
 This is fundamental!

*Cathedral of San Rufino, Assisi
 Friday, 4 October 2013*



Bishop Denis brought the day to a close, welcoming the positivity of the day and reminding us that the sharing and companionship experienced on the day is very much part of what it means to be a synodal Church - walking together and with Christ.

The day, he said, was an affirmation that our parishes are very much alive, revealing the face of Christ.

