

Ministry Update

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

www.kandle.ie

October 2024

KANDLE is Calling! Bishop Denis Nulty Announces New Lay Pastoral Minister Training Programme


The Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin, under the leadership of Bishop Denis Nulty, is inviting people with the courage to step forward and answer an important call to service. A new training programme has been developed to equip laypeople with the essential skills they need to serve as Lay Pastoral Ministers within parishes and pastoral areas.

In response to the ongoing need for more vocations and the ageing profile of priests, the Diocese has announced a comprehensive new Lay Pastoral Minister Training Programme.


Bishop Denis expressed his enthusiasm for the programme, stating, "We are committed to empowering lay leaders within our diocese. This training will provide the necessary tools and knowledge for lay pastoral ministers to contribute meaningfully to our parish communities."



Bishop Denis Nulty with Colette Cummins (DPC) and Pat Roche (Director of Parish Development)



Are you being called?



LAY PASTORAL MINISTERS (*Diploma in Pastoral Ministry, Level 7*)

The Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin is delighted to present our Lay Pastoral Ministry programme, developed in partnership with St Patricks Pontifical University, Maynooth (SPPU) & Mount Saint Anne's Conference & Retreat Centre. This comprehensive training initiative aims to equip Lay Leaders with the essential skills required to serve as Lay Pastoral Ministers within Parishes & Pastoral areas.

To find out more please attend one of the information evenings being held throughout the Diocese
All meetings start at 7.30pm, with Tea & Coffee from 7.15pm

- Monday 4th November, Mount Wolesley, Tullow
- Tuesday 5th November, Westgrove Hotel, Clane
- Wednesday 6th November, Solas Bhride, Kildare Town
- Thursday 7th November, Dolmen Hotel, Carlow
- Wednesday 13th November, Parish Centre, Leighlinbridge
- Thursday 14th November, Mt. St. Annes, Killenard

For further details please contact
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The programme aims to nurture and develop the talents of lay leaders, preparing them to undertake significant roles within their parishes and pastoral areas. "This is an exciting and important opportunity for people who want to explore their faith on a deeper level and be part of the future of our Church."

Members of the public are invited to a series of information meetings across the diocese to find out more. These meetings will offer an opportunity to anybody who is curious to learn more about the course, its objectives, and the benefits it offers to participants and their communities.

Sacristans Meet in Solas Bhríde

It was great to spend a Saturday with 27 sacristans from parishes across the diocese on the 5th October, in the lovely setting of Solas Bhríde.

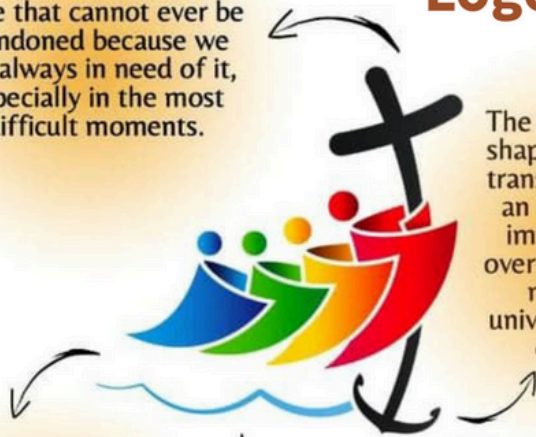
The day was an opportunity for sacristans to get to know one another, share stories and mutual support, in their very special work of service in our faith communities.



2025 - A Jubilee of Hope

Jubilee of Hope Logo

The cross of Christ is the hope that cannot ever be abandoned because we are always in need of it, especially in the most difficult moments.



The Cross, in the shape of a sail, is transformed into an anchor that imposes itself over the waves in motion. A universal symbol of Hope.

The figures represent humanity from the four corners of the World. They are embracing each other to illustrate the solidarity between the peoples, as the first holds onto the cross.

The rough sea is a reminder of the difficulties of the pilgrimage of life. Often, personal events as well as those of the world, press on us more intensely, demanding a greater hope.

Many people will remember the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy celebrated across the Catholic world in 2015.

Typically, the Church marks a Jubilee Year every 25 years. Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a Jubilee Year, with the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope'. It will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and the climate crisis.

A Jubilee Year is a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

The Year will officially open in Rome on Christmas Eve, when Pope Francis will open the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica. It will open across the Catholic world on 29 December with opening Masses in diocesan Cathedrals.

The Vatican has provided a logo, a hymn and a prayer for the year, as well as a calendar of events and pilgrimages to the Holy Doors in Rome that will open for the year.





**In November
We Remember**

UPCOMING EVENTS & RESOURCES



Afternoon for Funeral Ministry Teams

A gathering for members of Funeral Ministry Teams will take place in Solas Bhríde on Saturday, 9 November from 2-5 pm.

We are delighted to announce that Fr Vincent Sherlock, of Achonry Diocese, will be leading the afternoon. Fr Vincent is a highly regarded retreat leader and we are very much looking forward to the afternoon.

Parishes can book their teams through fds@kandle.ie /059 9164084.

November Prayers

Parishes will be marking November in many ways. The diocese has provided a set of prayers that can be used by individuals/families at the time of a visit to a grave, a church or before bed. See kandle.ie

Sharing from the Table of the Lord

This diocesan training programme for Ministers of Holy Communion will take place in the Cathedral Parish Centre from 10 am - 4 pm on Saturday, 9 November. Tea/coffee will be provided. Participants are asked to bring a packed lunch. The day will be led by Fr Thomas O'Byrne, with Julie Kavanagh. Booking through fds@kandle.ie /059 9164084. Please leave name, parish, and numbers attending.



BISHOP APPOINTS DIRECTOR OF PARISH DEVELOPMENT

Earlier this year, in June 2024, Patrick Roche was appointed as Diocesan Director of Parish Development with the aim of supporting parishes and building the involvement of more laypeople in Church life through training and education. This appointment by Bishop Denis is a key response to the synod conversations in recent years in the diocese, as well as joint conversations and discernment of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, Council of Priests and Faith Development Services.

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Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick and Bishop Alan McGuckian of Down and Connor are attending on behalf of the Irish Bishops' Conference



The Synod experience includes an opening retreat, prayer vigils and Eucharist, pastoral forums, spiritual conversations and discernment of key areas to support a synodal way of being Church



10 working groups established to address specific themes that emerged in the first session of the synod are due to bring a progress report to the synod before a final report in June, 2025.

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The second session on the Synod on Synodality has convened in Rome. This continues the work that flows out of parish, diocesan, continental and Universal conversations that have taken place across the world since 2021.

The Second Session of the XVI General Assembly of the Synod Continues in Rome

This session runs from the 2nd to the 27th October, after which a final report will be issued. You can keep up to date on happenings at the synod through synod.va and vaticannews.va Meanwhile the work of the Irish Synodal Pathway continues with the support of a recently appointed National Synod Team.

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

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