

## Pastoral Aid B

### Discerning together

- Take time to consider the two proposed models
- Make some notes about the pros and cons of both
- What is positive about both models?
- What is less positive about both models?
- Have a conversation about what pros and cons you see
- Using the *Building Hope* prayer, pray together as a group of Partnership PPCs about what might be the best option for now
- Record a statement about this so that all can agree on the way forward
- After six months of meeting together in your preferred model review how things are going

### The Building Hope Prayer

Pilgrim God, we give you thanks and praise.

You constantly journey with us even in our darkness and doubts.

We seek your way of loving kindness to walk together as one family.

Open our eyes to recognise you in the faces of one another, in the breaking of bread and in the splendour of creation.

May the risen Christ sow seeds of hope and new life deep within us.

May our hearts and minds be filled with your Word,  
bringing forth truth, justice and peace.

May the Holy Spirit working in and through us do much more than we can dare to imagine as we live out our baptismal calling in humble and loving service.

We make this our prayer through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

St Laurence O'Toole, pray for us.

St Kevin, pray for us.

St Brigid, pray for us.

*Building Hope*

*Building Hope*



*Building Hope in Partnership*

**Towards a Partnership  
Council of Parishes**

Archdiocese of Dublin

## Two models for Parish Pastoral Councils in Partnership

In your partnership you are being asked to consider how PPCs can interact in order to work together for mission. We can acknowledge that:

“The parish is not an outdated institution precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community. While certainly not the only institution which evangelises, if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptability, it continues to be the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters.”  
**From Pope Francis in The Joy of the Gospel 28**

In developing our parish partnerships, PPCs will need to collaborate more closely for mission, and discern together joint pastoral initiatives such as faith formation opportunities, joint training for ministries, joint services, mass scheduling across the partnership and so on.

At the same time PPCs will also need to identify key local issues, discern pastoral priorities together and plan for sacramental moments.

Initially this will involve, coming together as a group of PPCs, and finding a balance between partnership gatherings where joint pastoral actions are addressed, and gathering a local PPC to address only what pertains pastorally to the parish.

Here two possible models are proposed for prayerful consideration:

**The first model** could be called a **Balancing Model**, where there are core joint gatherings of all PPCs in the partnership, interspersed with local PPC gatherings.

**The second model** could be called an **Integrated Gathering Model**, where there is a large gathering of all PPCs and in the first part of the gathering local PPCs meet to consider some issues. In the second part of the gathering the PPCs together consider pastoral activity that is shared.

Building  pe

## MODEL 1: Balancing Model

From this model it can be seen that there is a balance between Partnership Council gatherings and local PPC gatherings. This is what the year ahead might then look like:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Partnership Council		+		+		+		+		+		+
Local PPC	+		+		+		+		+		+	

+ indicates a gathering

Instead of ten PPC gatherings per year, there would be five PPC meetings and five joint Partnership Council meetings.

Here the partnership conversations would be about joint pastoral action. The PPC would deal only with specific local issues.

After an initial period with all members of PPCs participating, representatives of each PPC could then be nominated to take part in regular Partnership Council meetings.

## MODEL 2: Integrated Gathering Model

Here there would be ten gatherings per year, reflecting the present practice of ten PPC gatherings in the pastoral year.

All PPCs would gather in the same space.

Monthly gatherings	First half	Second half
	PPCs local matters	Partnership considerations

One part of the gathering would be in current PPC groups, looking at targeted local issues and considerations.

After a tea break, all PPC groups would come together in one large synodal gathering to consider what can be progressed together to develop partnership.

This would mean that both priests and people would have a monthly gathering to take part in.

Building  pe