

Second stage of the review

- Draw up a new table with proposed times of Masses across the partnership.
- Give a reason for each of the chosen times, taking on board the criteria provided.
- Share these on all parish newsletters and ask for feedback from parishioners.
- After a Partnership Council gathering, finalise the schedule in light of feedback and criteria.
- Announce the start date for the new Mass schedules by 1st April 2023.

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.

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Building Hope in Partnership

**Mass Scheduling in our
Partnership Parishes**

Archdiocese of Dublin

Planning Mass schedules across our partnership parishes

As we Build Hope together in our parishes, we are asked to review our schedule of Masses taking the following into account:

- Nurturing a sense of a community gathered for worship, perhaps with fewer Masses, but with greater participation in larger numbers.
- Pastoral care of our priests and their well-being in the knowledge of the diminishing numbers in active ministry in our Archdiocese.
- Ensuring each priest is scheduled to celebrate no more than one Saturday Mass (morning or vigil) and two Sunday Masses on a weekend as their regular practice.
- Providing some Sunday evening Masses in the partnership.
- Ensuring time for priests to meet people afterwards and to comfortably travel between churches, 1 1/2 hours between Mass times.
- Reviewing Mass scheduling in every parish of the partnership, as well as the average numbers for each Mass.

First stage of the review

Draw up a table of the current Mass schedules across the partnership.

Here is a sample of a partnership with six churches and only three priests appointed:

	Parish A	Parish B	Parish C	Parish D	Parish E	Parish F
Saturday Vigil	6pm (100)		7pm (40)			7pm (160)
Sunday	11.30am (145)	10am (135) 12 noon (155)	10am (240)	12 noon (200)	10am (134)	8.30am (90) 11.30am (156)
Sunday evening	6.30pm (70)					

Take time to prayerfully consider the following when you are discussing your partnership Mass schedule:

- How many appointed priests in active ministry are available for celebrations across the partnership parishes?
- What is the capacity of each of the churches?
- How many of these Masses are required in light of the capacity of each church?
- What is the distance between each of the churches?
- What access issues arise around Mass times?
- How can music ministries and other ministries be integrated in a new scheduling of Masses?

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