

## DISCERN AND PLAN TOGETHER

Light a candle and call upon the Holy Spirit.

Spend some time in silence.

Then share on the following question:

- In light of what we have considered, what do we need to plan for and make a priority in the year ahead?



**Make sure to take notes of what has been shared.**

At your next council meeting, draw up a simple plan about how you will address these priorities with dates and timing.

### **A blessing for *Building Hope***

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.

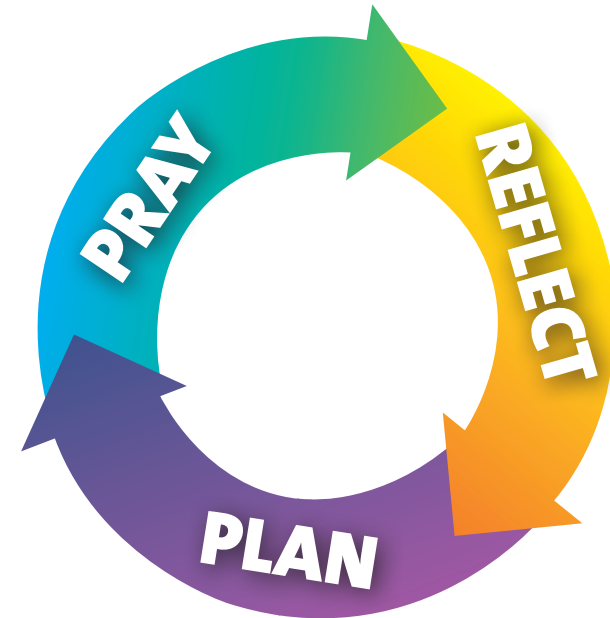
Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

St Laurence O'Toole, pray for us.

St Kevin, pray for us.

St Brigid, pray for us.

# Building Hope



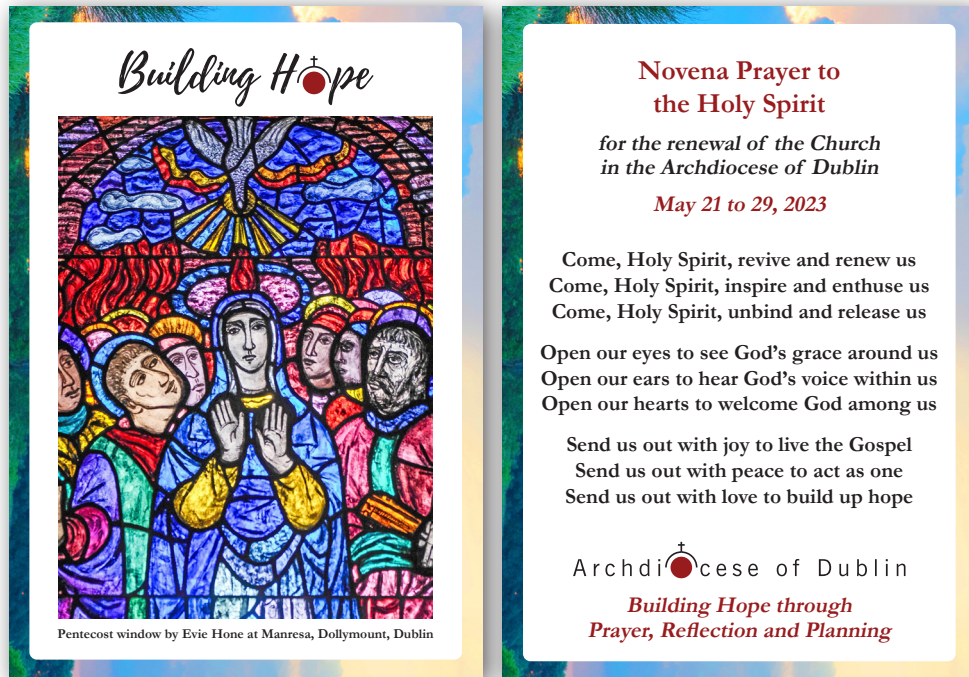
## Novena to the Holy Spirit

*21st – 29th May, 2023*

**Pastoral Aid for  
Parish Pastoral Councils**

Archdiocese of Dublin

## PRAY THE NOVENA PRAYER TOGETHER SLOWLY



### SHARE

Take time to share what stays with you from this prayer.

What are your hopes for the new pastoral year in September?

What are your fears about the new pastoral year in September?

Take time to listen to each other.

### REFLECT ON THE FOLLOWING

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord,  
plans to prosper you and not to harm you,  
plans to give you hope and a future.* – Jeremiah 29:11

As you think about the year ahead, what plans do you think will help your parish build hope?

## REFLECT ON THE SCOPE OF THE PASTORAL YEAR

Here are some things to consider when planning.

### Voluntary Ministries

- How many volunteers are available in the year ahead?
- What opportunities will be available for training?
- What ministries need to be renewed and refreshed?
- How can we recruit new volunteers?

### Accompanying Families

- What activities can support families throughout the year?
- When is the Family Mass and Children's Liturgy taking place?
- Who is invited to these?
- Who is the team for this?
- Is there a Baptism Team and how can we review what's working well? What do we need to change?
- When and how will parents be able to register for this year's sacraments?
- How are we reaching out to families?
- What fun events can we invite families to take part in?
- How are we caring for those on the margins?

### Partnership activities

- Is there something our parish can offer our parish partnership in the coming year?
- Which activities have we agreed will be for all in our partnership?