

Building Hope

Novena to the Holy Spirit

21st – 29th May, 2023

A period of Prayer, Reflection and Planning
for the renewal of the Church in the Archdiocese of Dublin

The Novena (nine days of prayer) commences on the Feast of the Ascension (Sunday 21st May), through the Feast of Pentecost (Sunday 28th May) and ends on the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church (Monday 29th May).

Speaking Notes for the Chairperson of the PPC (or their alternate) to be read at all Masses in all parishes on the weekend of the 20th/21st May, 2023

- Hello! My name is _____

I am the Chairperson [or a member] of the Parish Pastoral Council and I would like to speak briefly about the nine-day period of prayer, reflection and planning for the renewal of the Church in the Archdiocese of Dublin which begins this Sunday as we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord.

- As you will know from our various parish gatherings concerning synodality (the process of making Christ's way our own) and *Building Hope* (an initiative in our own Archdiocese of Dublin), we are together on a journey of renewal. As Archbishop Farrell said at the Holy Thursday Chrism Mass:

In our diocese, the Building Hope initiative involves people and priests creating a joint mission – a mission together – in which new pastoral areas will comprise a number of parishes in partnership. This necessarily involves a 'letting go' of the past and an embrace of what is to come. For this pastoral initiative to be successful, there needs to be a shared appreciation of the rationale, and a shared conviction of the necessity to embrace change...

Rather than viewing change as a negative, the real challenge is to see change as an opportunity for creative ways to sustain a viable and vibrant future for the faith communities of our Diocese...

Let us not be under any illusion as to the demand and depth of that change. In fact, it might be more accurate to call it a conversion.

- Here in our parish, we are in partnership with _____

_____ and we have already begun our joint pastoral conversations in our parish partnership.

- Pope Francis encourages times of prayerful reflection, listening and sharing, so that we can better hear the voice of God's Spirit, to help direct the Church into the future. The Novena to the Holy Spirit which we begin today is a critical part of our *Building Hope* process of prayerful listening, dialogue and planning.
- You are warmly invited to join in prayer here at each Mass over the next nine days. We hope this prayerful period will be fruitful for ourselves, our parish, our diocese, our Church. Should particular thoughts or ideas strike you during these nine days, please be in touch with the PPC through the Parish Office.
- We join together now in prayer...