

Building Hope

GUIDELINES for PARTNERSHIP PASTORAL COUNCIL:

1. The Partnership Pastoral Council exists as a forum to prayerfully discern, promote and develop joint pastoral action within the Parish Partnership.
2. This joint pastoral action includes liturgical, spiritual and social aspects, as well as pastoral, in order to create new possibilities for mission and pastoral renewal¹.
3. The Archdiocesan Statement of Mission² will inform these joint activities, where encounter with the person of Jesus makes us who we are, and shapes all we do.
4. This Statement of Mission also provides the Vision and Values that can be developed across the partnership parishes. Key to this is working alongside each other to effect renewal.

GATHERINGS

5. Since this is a forum for discerning joint pastoral action, it is important that substantial time is spent in prayerful reflection following a synodal approach.
6. At these gatherings, planning for joint pastoral activities can take place, members being careful to listen and reflect together on needs expressed.
7. Each Partnership Pastoral Council is encouraged to create vibrant communities of faith with a view to deepening the partnership of parishes over a period of time.
8. Awareness of the need for responsible stewardship will be an important element to grasp, as well as the resources available of time, talent and treasure.
9. At these gatherings, it will also be important to engage with the Framework for Pastoral Renewal¹ and the twelve Informing Principles of *Building Hope* to guide pastoral activity.³

CHAIRPERSON

10. Each Partnership Pastoral Council will nominate a Chairperson, through a process of dialogue and discernment, to facilitate gatherings of the council and encourage follow-through on joint pastoral actions.
11. The Chairperson organises the gatherings of the Partnership Pastoral Council in accordance with the model discerned (See Pastoral Aid B).⁴
12. The term of service of the Chairperson will be no less than one year and no more than three years.
13. The Chairperson will prepare the agenda for the gathering, together with the members of the Partnership Pastoral Council.
14. The emphasis will be on pastoral activities which nourish the whole partnership. Other items that impact individual parishes are for the usual Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)⁵ to consider.
15. The Chairperson will also appoint a note-taker who will simply record decisions and named actions.

¹ See [Framework for Pastoral Renewal \(p.15 Building Hope: Task Force Report\)](#)

² See <https://dublindiocese.ie/archdiocese-of-dublin-statement-of-mission/>

³ <https://dublindiocese.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/BUILDING-HOPE-PRINCIPLES.pdf>

⁴ <https://dublindiocese.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Pastoral-Aid-B-Towards-a-Partnership-Council-of-Parishes.pdf>

⁵ See Carroll, P. (2022). *Becoming a Pastoral Parish Council*.