

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.

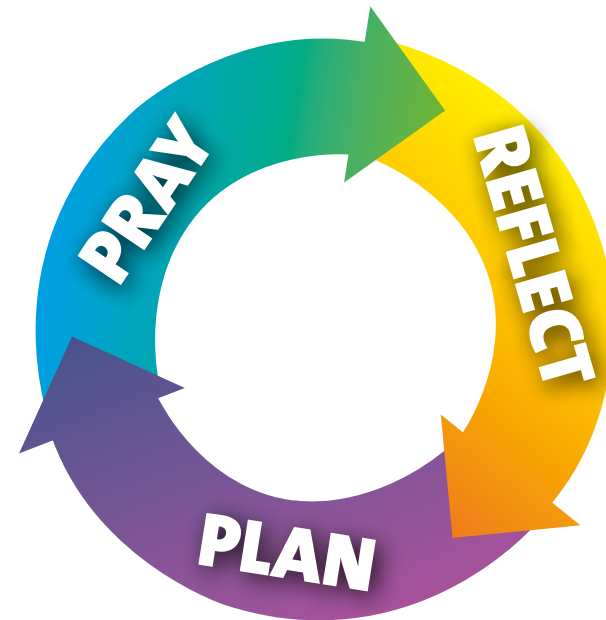
Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

St Laurence O'Toole, pray for us.

St Kevin, pray for us.

St Brigid, pray for us.

Building Hope



Novena to the Holy Spirit


12th – 20th May 2024

**Pastoral Aid for
Parish/Partnership Pastoral Councils**

Archdiocese of Dublin

PRAY THE NOVENA PRAYER TOGETHER SLOWLY

Building Hope



Painted by Jen Norton

Archdiocese of Dublin

*Building Hope through
Prayer, Reflection and Planning*

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.
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Building Hope through Prayer, Reflection and Planning

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/partnership build hope?

REFLECT ON THE SCOPE OF THE PASTORAL YEAR

Here are some things to consider when planning.

Strengthening your Parish Partnership

- Is your Partnership Pastoral Council working well (see [guidelines](#))?
- Is there something your parish can offer your parish partnership in the coming year?
- Which local activities have you agreed will be shared within your parish partnership (see suggestions [here](#))?

Growing your Voluntary Ministries in Partnership

- What ministries need to be renewed and refreshed?
- What training opportunities will be availed of in partnership (see [Mission & Ministry](#))?
- How can you attract new volunteers (see [Voluntary Ministry Matters](#))?

Building Communities Active in Social Justice

- Have you a social justice & care of creation group in the partnership to undertake joint social and climate justice initiatives and to raise awareness locally?
- How do you plan to reach out to those on the margins of your community?

Building Communities of Welcome & Inclusion

- How do you welcome those coming to Mass, funerals, sacramental liturgies or to attend talks and events in your parishes?
- Are your spaces, actions and language concerning faith and hope inclusive and family-friendly?