

Building Hope

Period of Prayer, Reflection & Planning

12th – 20th May 2024

Including a Novena to the Holy Spirit for the Renewal of the Church in the Archdiocese of Dublin

Beginning on the Feast of the Ascension (Sunday 12th May), through the Feast of Pentecost (Sunday 19th May), ending on the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church (Monday 20th May).

Speaking Notes for the Chairperson of the PPC (or alternate) to be read at all Masses on 11th/12th May

- Good morning/evening! My name is [.....]. I am the Chairperson/ a member of the Parish/Partnership Pastoral Council and I would like to speak briefly about the nine-day period of prayer, reflection and planning which we begin this weekend across our parish partnership of [*name the parishes in your partnership*] and across the Archdiocese of Dublin.
- This weekend in our Mass we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord into heaven and the beginning of the period of prayer awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Pentecost, which we will celebrate next Sunday, marks the beginning of the Church and the start of its mission.
- Our Novena (nine days of prayer) to the Holy Spirit is a crucial part of the *Building Hope* pastoral renewal process of prayerful listening, dialogue, planning and action. Pope Francis encourages times such as these 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. We trust this prayerful period will be fruitful for our parish partnership and for our Archdiocese.
- Recalling the example of the disciples after the Ascension, who persevered together in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, we too will pray together earnestly at this special time. You are warmly encouraged to join in prayer here at each Mass over the next nine days or to pray the Novena *BUILDING HOPE PRAYER* daily in your home.
- We join together now in praying the *BUILDING HOPE PRAYER* ... which you will find on the Novena prayer card / in your Mass leaflet.

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.