

DISCERN AND PLAN TOGETHER

Spend
some
time
in
silence.



Then share on the following:

- In light of all we have considered, what do we need to plan for and make a priority in the year ahead? Consider the SUGGESTED ACTIONS on pages 13, 16, 19, 22 of the [*Building Hope Pastoral Strategic Planning Resource 2025–2027*](#)
- Draw up simple plans outlining how you will action these priorities with dates and timing, using the PLANNING FORM TEMPLATES on pages 31–34 of the [*Building Hope Pastoral Strategic Planning Resource 2025–2027*](#)

CLOSING PRAYER:

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 prayer ~ reflection ~ planning

1st – 9th June 2025

Pastoral Aid

Archdiocese of Dublin

Suggested format for leadership gatherings during the Novena period to prayerfully reflect on the [Building Hope Pastoral Strategic Planning Resource 2025-2027](#) and plan towards action in the pastoral year ahead.

BEGIN IN PRAYER:

We light our prayer candle and call upon the Holy Spirit, as we pray slowly together our Novena Prayer:

Come, Holy Spirit, revive and renew us
Come, Holy Spirit, inspire and enthuse us
Come, Holy Spirit, unbind and release us

Open our eyes to see God's grace around us
Open our ears to hear God's voice within us
Open our hearts to welcome God among us

Send us out with joy to live the Gospel
Send us out with peace to act as one
Send us out with love to build up hope



PERSONAL REFLECTION ON OUR OBJECTIVES

Begin by revisiting in silence the OBJECTIVES set out in the [Building Hope Pastoral Strategic Planning Resource 2025–2027](#) on pages 12, 15, 18, 21.

Then Listen to the Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 29:11

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.

SHARE TOGETHER IN A SYNODAL MANNER

Review and acknowledge plans made and actions taken to date and consider...

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

As each person speaks, simply listen.

REFLECT ON THE SCOPE OF THE PASTORAL YEAR

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

Consider the following:

Building Communities of Welcome & Inclusion

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

Building Communities that are Faith-Filled

- How are we accompanying young families and those preparing to receive the sacraments of Christian initiation?
- How do we assess and respond to the adult faith formation needs of our parish / partnership?

Building Communities of Co-responsibility through Servant Leadership

- In developing our ministry teams, are we accessing the training available through the [Office for Mission & Ministry](#)?
- Have we at least two trained and commissioned [lay funeral leaders](#) in the parish partnership?

Building Communities Active in Social Justice

- How do we reach out to young people, the elderly and those on the margins of our community?
- Have we a social justice & care of creation (SJCC) group in the partnership to undertake joint social and climate justice initiatives and to raise awareness locally?