“The Joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus...I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelisation.” *Evangelii Gaudium* 1
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OUR PURPOSE

TO WITNESS TO JESUS CHRIST AND HIS GOSPEL THROUGH PROMOTING LIFELONG LEARNING IN FAITH, BUILDING FAITH COMMUNITIES AND DISCERNING INNOVATIVE WAYS TO ENGAGE WITH CONTEMPORARY CULTURE
THE TEAM

**Director**
Fr. Kieran Mc Dermott

**Pastoral Co-ordinators:**
- Gerard Gallagher
- Rosemary Lavelle
- Patricia Carroll

**Youth Outreach**
- Kirsten Mahon
- Siobhan Tighe

**Co-Ordinator of Biblical Studies**
- Dr Kieran O’Mahony OSA

**Director of Pathways**
- Dr. Eileen Houlahan CHF.

**Director for Weeks of Guided Prayer**
- Dr. Éibhlys NicUaithuas D.C.

**Secretary**
- Mary Dent

Website – [www.evangelisation.ie](http://www.evangelisation.ie)
Introduction

All pastoral initiatives of the Office for Evangelisation and Ecumenism (from here on the Office for E&E) are situated within the path of renewal embarked upon in 2004. Archbishop Martin entitled it, ‘Working Together for Mission’. This call to renewal focussed directly on the mission of the Church to announce more effectively the name and saving message of Jesus within the Archdiocese.

The Archbishop emphasised that this was a task, not just for priests, but also for parish communities and for the entire People of God. 'Working Together for Mission' was to be rooted in an understanding of the calling of all Christians to the ministry of witness to their faith within the ecclesial community and in the world.

Methodology

Following a facilitated process the Office for E&E sought how to discern and make real Working Together for Mission. This process was underpinned through a prayerful time of reflection with the whole team. The following statement emerged as the purpose of the Office for E&E.

To Witness to Jesus Christ and His Gospel through promoting lifelong learning in faith, building faith communities and discerning innovative ways to engage with contemporary culture

This report is structured under the headings of the ‘purpose statement’ which also acts as a ‘yard stick’ assessing the departments work, its successes, failures and identifying how it might move forward.

Sections 1-3 directly reviews the work during the last year 2018-2019. Section 4 undertakes analysis of the overall work.

Endnote

The Endnotes are numbered sequentially at the end of the Report. This provides a fuller explanation of specific programmes.

Adult Faith Formation

Evangelisation is a lifelong process. It is a series of interconnected moments in the continuum of our life of faith.
In *Share the Good News*, the parish community is identified as a particular locale for passing on faith. It referenced adults in particular when it states, ‘adult faith development will be at the centre of parish life’.

The Office for E&E supports the work of adult faith formation. This is given priority, as it is the chief form and model for all catechesis. It is also one of the urgent religious and pastoral needs in Ireland in our time. An educated world needs an educated faith, which is emphasised in *Share the Good News*.

An important task is that of discerning what faith development supports are appropriate at any given time within the life of the diocese. For example, the Godly Play initiative engages children in experiences of biblical stories through play. In turn, it affects the “domestic Church”.

Two courses have been devised and a third incorporated from All Hallows. These emphasise participation of the lay faithful in the life of the church and the active and responsible engagement of the laity in the building up of the Christian community.

These Foundational courses are:

- Faith for Life (4 weekends)
- Pathways (2 years – 1 evening per week)
- The Best you Can Be, which takes place locally over 4 evenings inspired by *Evangellii Gaudium*: The Joy of the Gospel.

These courses attempt to bring people to a new understanding of their call to mission through a renewed relationship with Jesus. With a new understanding of their Baptism, participants become active members and potential leaders in their parish communities.

**Building Community**

Initiatives focus on the building up of faith communities that are missionary in nature, as Pope Francis puts it ‘in mission mode’.

Parish Pastoral Councils (PPCs) are encouraged to enable lay people to take up their pastoral leadership roles. Providing training opportunities for PPCs is a central part of the work, as outlined in Section 2.

The Office for E&E team works in conjunction with the Diocesan Liturgical Resource Centre, Office for Catechetical Formation and the Biblical Studies Coordinator. The Office for E&E provides training to members of parish baptism groups, funeral ministry teams, and leaders in sacramental initiation programmes.

**The Young Church**

Youth and Young Adult Ministry is a priority of the Office for E&E, it remains a challenging ministry. The numbers of young people engaging in regular practice and expression of faith continues to diminish.
In 2014, the Archbishop made available St Paul’s Church, Arran Quay where a new youth team to youth and youth adults was set up. A diocesan Parish Pastoral Worker skilled in this area was seconded and a new staff member was recruited.

In response to the decline in parish based youth and young adult ministry, the Office for E&E has tried to be innovative in engaging the culture of the young person. Effective use of various Social Media platforms is KEY to any communication with the young. St Paul’s is a space for faith to be experienced, and is deepened through prayer and formative training.

**Ecumenism**

The Office for E&E has given an important visible focal point for ecumenical matters and serves as the point of contact with other Christian denominations. Ecumenical Bible Week, which is organised by the Office for E&E and in partnership with the Combined Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough (Church of Ireland), has, over the past five years, emerged as a significant moment in the Ecumenical calendar in Dublin.
SECTION ONE

“TO WITNESS TO JESUS CHRIST AND HIS GOSPEL THROUGH PROMOTING LIFELONG LEARNING IN FAITH...

“I INVITE ALL CHRISTIANS, EVERYWHERE, AT THIS VERY MOMENT, TO A RENEWED PERSONAL ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS CHRIST, OR AT LEAST AN OPENNESS TO LETTING HIM ENCOUNTER THEM.”… EVANGELII GAUDIUM 3

The Office for E&E offers a range of opportunities for parishes, groups and individuals, accompanying them to grow in faith. These opportunities are threefold: Adult Faith Formation Programmes, Ministry Training & Interdepartmental Collaborations.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMMES

Faith For Life

Faith For Life is designed and delivered through a partnership agreement with the Archdioceses of Dublin and Liverpool. It has taken place in Dublin for the past seven years. A collaborative team, including a Parish Pastoral Worker and some volunteers, who have completed the course, leads it.

Faith For Life consists of 4 modules:

- Module 1: Called to become Human and Holy
- Module 2: Centred on the Word of God
- Module 3: Called to become Church in and for the World
- Module 4: Called to live Faithfully

It enables participants to grow in confidence about their own faith. The Bible and Catholic Social Teaching are foundation texts. Each theme in Faith for Life leads participants to consider:

- Reflecting and Discerning as a way of life
- Looking at themselves and their relationships in a new way.
- Bringing about a change in lifestyle and attitudes in light of the Gospel.
Best You Can Be6

Best You Can Be is a one-day introduction to Adult Faith for parishes with 4 themes:

- What it means to journey towards an adult faith
- Seeing God’s presence in the ordinary experiences of our ordinary lives.
- Building faith community
- Living with new vision and purpose

This course explores Pope Francis’ vision of missionary discipleship and adult faith. It also considers the stages of faith and the participants’ images of God. Jesus is presented as the One who shows us the way to be the best that we can be.

You Shall Be My Witnesses Programme7

A parish-based programme of four sessions, which invites and trains parents to be faith leaders for children preparing for the sacrament of confirmation. The four themes are:

- Belonging: How do I belong?
- Believing: What do I believe?
- Becoming a Witness: How do I share the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?
- Beginning Again: What happens next, the fruits of the Holy Spirit?

Pathways8

This programme explores faith and ministry. It takes place in an environment appropriate to Adult Learning and Adult Faith Development. It is suitable for adults of all ages who wish to explore:

- Issues and questions of faith
- The nature of belief
- Ministry
- The Church today and into the future.

The programme runs over two years from late September to end of May annually, on Thursday evenings in Holy Cross Diocesan Centre. There are three optional Retreat Days each year usually on a Saturday.

Bridge Programme9

The Bridge programme is an introduction to questions of faith for parents and which takes place over five evenings. Conversations take place on the following themes:

- Ten Ways to Help Your Family Grow in Faith
- Making Mass Meaningful for You and Your Child
- Bible Stories for You and Your Child
- Talking to Your Child About Reconciliation
- Praying with Your Child

PROCLAIM DAY for MINISTERS OF THE WORD10

A ministry morning took place on request from the Ballyfermot grouping of parishes and Raheny parish. The themes covered:

- Preparing head, heart and hands to read
The word before Jesus
• The word after Jesus
• Praying God’s word
• Experiencing God’s word
• Proclaiming: What will help people to listen and respond

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS DAY for EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

A ministry morning took place on request from Ballyfermot group of parishes. There was a catechesis on the Eucharist in order to grow in deeper understanding for ministry. The themes explored:

• Giving thanks – the heart of our celebration
• Different names same action
• Source and Summit
• A foot washing ministry
• Living the Eucharist

Rejoice and Be Glad Book Club Training

Prior to Lent a training took place for parishes to learn and reflect on Pope Francis’ exhortation Rejoice and Be Glad. This was well received. Groups then gathered in parishes throughout the Lenten season. This resource was also used in St. Paul’s Arran Quay with a group of young adults. The training included:

• How to set up a group
• The Five themes
• Guidelines for sharing
• Images to explore
• Saints to get to know
• Relating this to our lives and journaling
• Format for each session

Living Word Workshop for Lent

Participants from parishes took part in training as leaders using reflective resources on the Sunday readings. The format for each session was:

• Read out loud
• Reflect – with guided questions
• Respond – with suggested prayers
• Rest – with a word or a phrase

Parish groups met throughout the six weeks of Lent using this resource.

Children’s Liturgy Workshops

Workshops were held in Holy Cross Diocesan Centre and two other parishes pre-Lent 2019. This provided Children’s Liturgy leaders with resources for the Lenten season. Notes for leaders and digital PowerPoint presentations on the Year of Luke were made available on the Evangelisation website.
Godly Play

The purpose of Godly play is to enable children to access sacred stories through play activities. Godly Play takes place in Jobstown parish with an adult group and a separate children’s group. It is a collaboration with the local Parish Pastoral Worker and the Office for E&E. The sessions take place in rhythm with the Liturgical Year, with sessions taking place in Advent, Lent, Easter Season as well as other times of the year. Godly play builds confidence in children and familiarises them with Christian language - parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action – to help them understand the mystery of God’s presence in their lives.

Family Mass Workshops

20 parishes participated in training leaders and teams. Resources have been developed for the season of Easter up until Pentecost to model common practice, these include:

- Family Mass Format
- Celebrating Masses with Children
- Music to maximise participation
- PowerPoints of scripture themes and images

Parish Parent Helps

This is a resource for parishes to lead parent sessions about sacraments. There are four sessions available to parishes to work with parents who are preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion with the following themes:

- Session One: Home Coming
- Session Two: Making Choices
- Session Three: Remembering
- Session Four: Let the Children Come to Me

First Communion & Confirmation Talks

These talks enable parents to reconnect with their own faith journey in order to accompany their children.

Weeks of Guided Prayer

12 parishes or groups have taken part in this, with 230 participants. This helps parishioners to connect with their own life of faith led by a prayer guide over the space of one week. Trained and experienced prayer guides visit the parishes and are available for spiritual conversation and guidance. Depending on the numbers taking part, guides are available on a morning, afternoon and evening slot for one hour.

Cardinal Dew Symposium on Lay Ecclesial Ministry

“Launching Out - Lay Pastoral Ministry Development in Wellington”. Cardinal Dew, who was in Dublin for the World Meeting of Families, shared how his Diocese had progressed lay ministry and supported it to grow. The process of a diocesan Synod was outlined. This process led to a decision by Diocesan leadership not to introduce the permanent Diaconate but to concentrate on strengthening lay ministry. Themes for further consideration included ongoing pastoral support of lay ministers.
Inter-departmental Collaborations

Liturgy Seminar

The team has contributed to annual Liturgy Seminars by offering input on Children’s Liturgy leadership also on the theology and practice of Baptism.

Baptism Preparation

The team made a contribution offering further formation for Baptism teams and for their own enrichment about the meaning of Baptism for every Christian. This is bearing fruit in the development of new approaches that are more family friendly and engaging. Resources developed are:

- Prayer Tour of the Church
- Baptism Welcome
- Home Visit format
- Home Blessing format
- Our Journey Accompanying Families in steps and stages

Lenten Baptism Initiative

Resources were developed for all 199 parishes for use during the Lenten season, to connect everyone more intentionally with the meaning of their own Baptism and a renewed understanding of it. These resources included reflections, prayer of the faithful inserts and ideas for the Lent journey.

Funeral Ministry Training

Ongoing support to parishes who wish to enable the diocesan Funeral Ministry Policy continued with a joint initiative with the Liturgy office where training was provided in three modules.

- Module One – Funeral Ministry Teams
- Module Two – Policy and Ministry
- Module Three – Planning and Praying

These were delivered over three Saturday mornings. 125 participants took part from 90 parishes with very positive feedback.

Sacraments Review Group

This is an initiative of the Priest’s Council to examine the Sacraments of Initiation and the way forward for the Archdiocese. This group has been tasked to review the current practice of sacramental preparation and has worked on a review instrument to enable the community of the Archdiocese to feedback. The department is represented in this group and makes a significant contribution to discussions in light of the pressing need to evangelise parents. Every parish and school was invited to participate in the gathering of research as well as parents.

Catechesis in Non-Catholic school families: Meetings with the office for Catechetical Formation and Education took place over the period of one year to look at ways to support family’s needs for catechesis. Recommendations have been made to use the ‘Home’ section of Grow in Love as the material for working with families.
Pathways Collaboration

The Office for Evangelisation and Ecumenism contributes to leading sessions for Pathways giving input on the following subjects:

- The Liturgical Year – Advent, Christmas, Triduum and Easter Liturgies
- Parish Pastoral Councils
- Praying the Liturgy
- Documents of Vatican II
- The Universal Call to Holiness

**Biblical Studies**

Throughout the year, practical ways to learn and study scripture is offered. These take place in a prayer context.

Weekly resources are provided on the Sunday and the diocesan Biblical Studies co-ordinator, distributes weekday readings. These aim to assist praying with the Word of God during Mass and in prayer groups.

The School of the Word is a parish-based programme. Parishes can request one of three foundational programmes linked to the lectionary including,

- Introduction to the Gospel or the current liturgical year
- Introduction to the Old Testament
- Introduction to Paul and the second reading

The Scripture Summer School takes place annually and is a week-long non-residential programme with eighteen lectures over five days.

**OTHER COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES**

Throughout the year members of the Office for E&E collaborate in many ways internally within Archdiocese and externally in order to further the mission and purpose of our work.

**Adult Faith Formation Group (AFF):** 21 Parish Pastoral Workers plus 7 support workers have gathered 6 times to share experiences and discern AFF needs together in an interdepartmental initiative with the office for Catechetical Formation. This is bearing fruit in terms of clarity about training needs and growing capacity in parishes for AFF.

**Internal Diocesan Based Collaborations**

- Tulfaris in-service of new appointments in Archdiocese,
- Pathways
- Trócaire
- Scripture Union
- Emmanuel Schools Liturgical Music Programme
- College Chaplains, Education Secretariat
- Office for Catechetical Formation
- Co-ordinator for Biblical Studies
Youth Collaborations

- Momentum – Ecumenical Conference
- World Meeting of Families – Youth and Teen Programmes
- Pre-Synod meetings – Knock Shrine and Youth Synod in Rome
- Laudate Si – Climate Protests and social justice movement
- Howth Parish – Transition Year project (is this a repeat)
- Catholic Youth Ministry Ireland Federation – National Training Day in St. Paul’s
- Living Water – A young adult prayer group based in Clarendon Street.
- Support to Celbridge youth club (4FY)
- Support to Office for Clergy – Presentation on the work of the Youth Outreach St Paul’s
- Trocaire – Lenten Stations of the Cross initiative
- Catholic Schools Week – Bray
- Local School Chaplains in Secondary Schools
- Panama in Dublin – Emmaus Retreat Centre
- Belvedere School Retreats – in St Paul’s
- Support to Ember Retreat Teams – in collaboration with Education Secretariat.
- Pieta House – Darkness into Light
- Pathways - input with Year 1.

National Collaborations

- National Liturgy Commission Membership: A member of the department sits on this commission and has significant input to make on issues relating to evangelising parishes about the role of Liturgy.
- One team member is vice president of the National Women’s’ World Day Committee.
- Member of Youth & Young Adult Committee of the Bishops Conference. National Catechetical Committee Youth & Young adult Working Group

Organisations and Movements collaborations

- Net Ministries Ireland,
- Vocation Ireland,
- Trocaire
- Shekinah Retreats,
- Ember Retreat Programme,
- Irish Capuchins
- Church of Ireland – Combined Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough
- World Meeting of Families
- Alpha Ireland
- Aid to the Church in Need
International Collaborations

- World Youth Day Panama and Holy See
- Bishops Conferences’ of Latvia, New Zealand, USA, UK, Panama Archdiocese,
- Aid to Church in Need – International
SECTION TWO
“BUILDING FAITH COMMUNITIES...”

“A RENEWED UNDERSTANDING OF COMMUNITY IN THE CHURCH, AND IN THE WORLD, IS CENTRAL TO OUR SEARCH FOR MEANING, EMBRACING, SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING THE INDIVIDUAL AS SHE OR HE COMES TO BELONG TO A VISION OF LOVE IN CHRIST. NEW LANGUAGE MUST BE FOUND, TOO, IN ORDER TO SPEAK CLEARLY AND BE HEARD EASILY BY THE PEOPLE OF OUR TIME, ESPECIALLY THE YOUNG.” SHARE THE GOOD NEWS 24

Parish Pastoral Councils as envisaged in Living in Communion endeavour to be are faith-filled, co-responsible leadership teams. They work in partnership with the priests and the parishioners to further the mission of the Church in the local community. The team trains Parish Pastoral Councils to grow into their roles. Training enables parish communities to be confident about lay mission of leadership in order to strengthen service and outreach.

**Annual Induction Day**

A daylong event where Parish Pastoral Councils are helped to understand their role and how they can grow in confidence in becoming the servant leadership group for the parish. Training is focused on collaboration discerning the local pastoral needs. Three essential skills are developed:

- Prayer and discernment, which help parishes, make good decisions and build faith communities.
- Partnership – where laity and clergy work together for mission and are in continuous dialogue with the parish community and neighbouring parishes.
- Planning – where goals are set and pastoral priorities are named

**Accompany Day**

The day focuses on how Parish Pastoral Councils can take up Pope Francis’ vision of accompanying people on their journey of faith. Themes are:

- The Principles of Accompaniment
- Becoming an Accompanying parish
- The Role of the PPC in enabling everyone
Retreat Time

Offered in response to feedback that most Parish Pastoral Councils are finding the process of discerning difficult. The following themes shape the day.

- God speaks to us
- Listening to God’s voice
- Considering and deciding together
- Discerning together as a PPC

Discernment Process for Parish Pastoral Council

- A group of PPC members in Maynooth and interested parishioners took part in 6 evenings to learn about the art of discernment and how this influences pastoral planning.

Ongoing support and training

40 parishes are currently being supported into a new way of working together. Many of these PPC’s had lost focus and energy. Coordinators continue to provide resources to accompany them into a new way of being Parish Pastoral Councils in conjunction with Living Communion.

- By revising the principles and foundations of how they are meant to be working.
- Working towards setting up new ways of developing pastoral strategies for the parish.
- Working towards planning parish assemblies to listen to the parish and plan new ways forward.

Parish Pastoral Council formation for Chairs and Presidents

35 participants from 10 parishes from South Dublin and Tallaght deaneries took part in this.

Other Support Initiatives:

Pastoral Area Teams

The Office for E&E support the Area Teams in a variety of ways, including

- Contributing to ministry support days in these areas and the parish gatherings in the deaneries of Tallaght, South Dublin and Blessington, where there are 200 participants.
- Deanery Reconciliation Service
- 200 took part in this in service in Advent and Lent, led by the Office for E&E and experienced volunteers.
- Renewal of Ministries
- 38 participants took part in this from Blessington parish.
- In Advent 2018, there was also a daylong ministry workshop with 65 participants in the deanery of Fingal North where Skerries parish explored how baptism calls us to serve and how to build team ministry.

Chaplaincy Day Support

This was a collaboration between Education Secretariat and Office for E&E, where a retreat experience was developed based on reflecting on the World Meeting of Families Icon with 120 participants.
**Adult Faith Formation Forum**

This collaboration is between Catechesis and Evangelisation and provides a forum for PPW’s and other parish workers to discuss and progress initiatives relating to Faith Formation for Adults. In June, this led to a gathering where training needs were identified more clearly resulting in working group of three to set up a skill-based training for those accompanying parents.

**Baptism Enrichment**

This is a collaboration between Liturgy Office, Office for Catechesis and Office for E&E. Resources were created for all parishes for Lent. Baptism teams were invited to four separate venues around the Diocese to take part in a reflection evening on Baptism during Lent. Over 100 people participated in this.

**Sacramental Assemblies**

The Office for E&E and the Office for Catechesis collaborated in offering four workshops in four areas of the Archdiocese to unpack the findings of the Sacramental Review and listen to parishes responses.
World Meeting of Families

“Gamble big, for your entire life! Take a risk! Because your marriage is also a risk, but it is a risk worth taking. For your whole life, because that is how love is.” Pope Francis, Dublin 25 Aug 2018

The Office for E&E was directly involved in some core activities as part of the pre-planning and the event itself. A member was also seconded onto Event Management Team overseeing Pastoral Events (Youth &Teen) and programing, operations and animation of key events.

This included overseeing the historic visit of Pope Francis to St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral. He met with couples who were recently married or preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage.

Department members took on a variety of roles in assisting parishes and individuals in the local preparation in advance of the World Meeting of Families. One team member was part of the overall Liturgy Group, tasked to plan all liturgies for the WMOF.

Amoris Programme Facilitators Training

Over 300 participants took part in this to lead six sessions in their parishes. These facilitation skills can be transferred to any leader working with a group in a parish using small group process.

World Meeting of Family Prayer Resources

Resources for the World Meeting of Families were sent out to all 199 parishes to use in a variety of ways. There were also samples for leading prayers with children and parent groups.

Children’s Village Prayer Team Leaders

Two team members were asked to lead on two key activities in the Children’s Village – Leading Godly Play in one of the prayer tents and Leading a Family Prayer Experience around the symbols of Baptism. In each case, this department trained teams of volunteers.
“The young make us see the need for new styles and new strategies. For example, while adults often worry about having everything properly planned, with regular meetings and fixed times, most young people today have little interest in this kind of pastoral approach. Youth ministry needs to become more flexible: inviting young people to events or occasions that provide an opportunity not only for learning, but also for conversing, celebrating, singing, listening to real stories and experiencing a shared encounter with the living God.” Christus Vivit 204

Resources have been provided by the Archdiocese both in personnel and materially for St. Paul’s, Arran Quay. Weekly and monthly faith outreach programmes take place in St. Paul’s. These include:

- Leadership Training,
- Experiences of faith development,
- Opportunities to pray,
- Outdoor activities including Retreats, Pilgrim walks and Hikes.

Outreach to teenagers is also a priority both for parishes and for the department. Some of these are planned both in St Paul’s and in parishes.

A key shift has taken place whereby contact with youth and young adults is digital and online. Less young people are present in their parishes, so being directly in touch with them via an online presence is now crucial. However this does not replace personal contact.

**Teen Outreach**

**Faithfest**

Faithfest is an initiative led by some Parish Pastoral Workers and volunteers. It takes place bi-annually since 2012. It aims to create an event tailored to the needs of teenagers from parishes around the Archdiocese. It includes the following elements

- Input
- Music
- Inspirational workshops
- Assists the transition of teens to age appropriate initiatives.
• Allows young adults to volunteer with a young age group allowing for intentional peer ministry.
• 185 teenagers attended in 2018-2019.

Faithfest Retreat

A Faithfest retreat for teenagers took place in June 2019 in Ovoca Manor, Co Wicklow. The theme of the retreat was *Living the Blessed Life*. Over the three days, the teenagers experienced:

• Inspiring testimonies
• Engaged in different forms of prayer
• Experienced outdoor activities

Pope John Paul II Awards

The Pope John Paul II Award (JPII) is an award for young people aged between 16 and 18, without a catechetical element. It is

• Non-competitive
• Inclusive
• Flexible
• Voluntary

The Award helps young people enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional and social development. This takes place through participation in school, parish and community activities.

The Pope John Paul II Award is now in its tenth year in the Archdiocese. 125 students received the JPII Award in St Paul’s Church during February 2019.

Teen Hope

‘Teen Hope’ is a new parish based outreach for Teens. Its aim is to help the young person discover their true value and self-worth. Local leaders are trained to deliver the programme in their parish. The scripture from Jeremiah 29:11 inspires it “I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for your peace, not disaster, reserving a future full of hope for you.” Teen Hope is a space where teens can be themselves. It includes fun and engaging activities where friendships are deepened and an opportunity to encounter and experience the themes of welcome, belonging and discipleship.

Young Adult Initiatives

Encounter

Encounter is a night of live contemporary Christian music, reflective prayer in adoration, with guest speakers.

• The purpose is to provide an opportunity for young people to spend time in silent prayer.
• It concludes with some social time and refreshments.
• 12 Encounters took place in St Paul’s Church, Arran Quay with 50-80 attending per event.
• Participants also were surveyed about their experiences of Encounter.
Book club\textsuperscript{38}

- St Paul has hosted a weekly book club in 2019 studying a variety of faith based and inspirational books.
- 4 books were studied.
- In 2019 approximately seven people attended each book club.

Young Adult Retreats

- \textbf{Awake My Soul}\textsuperscript{39} - 21 Young Adults participated in a weekend retreat located in Ards Friary, Donegal.
- \textbf{Week of Guided Prayer} – St Paul’s has hosted a Week of Guided Prayer during October 2018.

Leadership and Young Adults

The Foundational Leadership Programme is an ecumenical leadership programme based in St Paul’s. It aims to prepare young adults to reflect on leadership qualities and training to be intentional in their faith and in their life. It is run jointly with the Office for E&E, The Irish Capuchins and the Church of Ireland. This collaboration is both helpful, symbolic and unique.

- The programme combines a mix of topics, Leadership, Scripture and Communication, Social Immersion, Journaling and Reflective Learning.
- Presenters are both expert and ecumenical in their field of discipline.
- In 2019, all young adult pilgrims participating at World Youth Day completed the programme.
- 20 young adults were trained and participated over 7 months of leadership programme.
  - Participated in 2 soup runs and 1 retreat
  - Students represented 6 parishes
- Some graduates have used this course to apply for employment positions and career advancement. Some have taken on leadership roles in their parish, at World Youth Day and at the World Meeting of Families. However some struggle to get meaningful roles in parishes in order to lead youth initiatives.

World Youth Day\textsuperscript{40}

World Youth Day takes place approximately every three years. 33 Pilgrims attended Panama World Youth Day January with Pope Francis 2018. Dublin was the only diocese officially represented at World Youth Day from Ireland. A small number of pilgrims from other dioceses linked in with Dublin.

- Pilgrims represented 12 parishes.
- Crumlin and Clondalkin parishes had groups of five pilgrims and there were five from Dublin City University Inter-Faith Centre.
- 30 participated in the \textit{Anchor programme}, which is a Pilgrimage Pastoral Programme, devised for World Youth Day.\textsuperscript{41}
- All pilgrims were invited to attend 4 Preparation meetings and 1 reunion. These modelled a typical day at World Youth Day, including,
  - Pastoral Reflection,
  - Catechesis,
  - Understanding what a pilgrimage is
  - Getting to know each other.
An innovation led by the Archdiocese of Dublin was a collaboration with Aid to the Church in Need and Youth Departments from Latvia, New Zealand, USA, Australia and UK.

- A *Mercy Programme* was created in collaboration with the host parish in Panama, Parroquia Santiago Apostle.\(^{42}\)
- This included young people being hosted in families in the parish, working with some children in the parish and helping to prepare and bring food to the needy in the local parish.
- Each of the national groups spent time reflecting on their experience of faith at home and some of the challenges in being a young Catholic in the modern world.
- The funding resource from *Aid to the Church in Need Ireland* was crucial to the Mercy Programme.
- A recommendation is to repeat this immersion experience at the next World Youth Day.

**Pilgrimages and the Great Outdoors**

- 10 Monthly Hikes for young adults around Dublin.
- 50 young people attended the diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock, Co. Mayo.
- 15 Participated in *Darkness into Light*, an annual walk at dawn supporting families that are affected by suicide.

**Digital Outreach**

The Office for E&E has had a digital presence for the past ten years in conjunction with the Communications Office. This online presence is crucial to record of our work and the ongoing reaching out to the new digital peripheries. The Office for E&E continues to resource this area of pastoral ministry. Increasingly we are discovering that people are now using our digital presence to keep in touch with matters of faith and ongoing formation throughout the diocese and beyond.

All our platforms are linked to and support the main platforms of the Archdiocese. Almost all team members use a variety of social platforms to highlight and inform people about the work. These include:

- 1 Website
- 7 Facebook Pages – linked to various specific initiatives, but linked to the department.
- 1 Instagram Page (new in 2019)
- 1 YouTube Channel
- 3000+ followers on Social Media
- New Online Payment Facility for programmes and pilgrimages.

**Christus Vivit\(^{43}\)**

In March 2019, Pope Francis issued an Exhortation *Christus Vivit “Young People and the Entire People of God”* in March 2019.

- A diocesan report was produced as part of a national submission for the Pre-Synod.
- Collaboration with the National Youth and Young Adult Committee to prepare for the Synod.
- 4\(^{th}\) May 2019, St Paul’s hosted a Diocesan Symposium on the Exhortation, attended by 40 young adult leaders from many youth initiatives and parishes. The St. Paul’s Team and some from the Foundational Leadership Team led this.
• 2 young adults from Archdiocese of Dublin participated at the International Youth Forum in May 2019 in Rome, discussing *Christus Vivit* and the implications for the local Church.

**St Paul’s Hosted**

• 3 Core Communities – St Gregorius Orthodox Community, St Kevin’s Community, Jesus Youth.
• 2 National Offices for Youth – Jesus Youth & Young Christian Workers
• 12 Encounters
• 3 Book clubs
• 4 World Youth Day Preparatory Events
• Foundational Leadership Programme
• Teen Hope Retreat Day
• 2 Youth Ministry Conferences
• 1 Symposium on *Christus Vivit*
• 1 Week of Guided Prayer
• 8 School Retreats – in collaboration with Jesuit Schools Belvedere College and Gonzaga College.
• 4 DIT University Chaplain Meetings
• 1 Altar Server Retreat from Clondalkin and Brackenstown parishes.
• 1 Concert – Matt Maher
• 1 Trocaire Prayer Service
• Bell Ringers of Ireland Annual General Meeting.

“*The Church and society must learn to engage with the questions and searching’s that people express through a range of spiritual activities. Evangelisation must always, therefore, have a double focus: the evangelisation of the individual, and the evangelisation of culture. Such evangelisation of culture requires of us to find room once more for religion appropriately, in the public square.”*  
(Share the Good News 22)
Ecumenism

The office receives a broad range of enquiries from couples who adopted a child from abroad (usually Russia) who had already received the Sacraments of Initiation at Baptism, as is the practice in the Orthodox Church, asking pastoral advice how best to integrate the child. We also receive frequent request from Christian congregations (usually from the orthodox world) requesting assistance in finding a suitable places to worship in.

Ecumenical Bible Week is now in its sixth year and become an important part of the Ecumenical Calendar in Dublin. Offering parish based events and central events it has been innovative in getting various denominations to collaborate in the spirit of ecumenism.

- 1 Week of Events – Pentecost – Trinity Sunday.
- 6 Parish Events
- 5 Core Events
- 500+ attended overall
- Collaboration with Church of Ireland, Scripture Ireland and Evangelical Alliance

Ecumenical Collaborations

- Church of Ireland
- Orthodoxy
- Evangelical Alliance
- Christ In Youth – National Research Programme
- Lutheran Church
- Evangelical Alliance
- Faithfest and Faithfest Retreat – ecumenical partnership with Scripture Union

“The ecumenical journey that we are all involved in should be recognised as one of the great adventures of our time, as we learn to support one another in living committed Christian lives.” Share the Good News, 6
SECTION FOUR

DISCERNING THE PATHS – PASTORAL OBSERVATIONS

“Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out but all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the “peripheries” in need of the light of the Gospel.” Evangelii Gaudium 20

One of the key learnings over the years has been that 'one size does not fit all'. All courses and programmes offered try to take seriously that people's needs differ, and to use varied adult learning methodologies. All initiatives respect the basic freedom and autonomy of adults and encourage them to engage in open and cordial dialogue. This is one of the greatest challenges for the Archdiocese.

Priority of Adult Faith Formation:

The Variety of Adult Faith Formation

In a changing Church there are many adults experiencing the need for further formation. This formation is at two levels.

The first is about what could be called Catholic catch up, where many faithful parishioners have not had opportunities to catch up at an adult level with their faith. The culture of our parishes does not seem to value this need.

The second need is formation for service and ministries; this is more pressing than ever in light of changing circumstances. Parishes are more likely to promote this kind of formation as it has a utilitarian end. However many participants in these formation processes report that when they go back to their parish they are not allowed to used their training fully.
**Ageing Parish Populations**

We are conscious that the age range of those who avail of Adult Faith Formation opportunities are in the semi-retired or retired range. This reflects the general age range in our parishes at Sunday Mass.

**Team Ministry Mentality**

In working with PPCs and ministry groups, it often emerges that there is no sense of being a team. Building team mentality and approaches has to be part of training for any ministry. This building of a ‘collaborative team mind set’ needs to be understood, accepted and shared between priests and laity.

Ministry groups often work in isolation and at times do not have opportunities to relate to each other or connect with the PPC.

**Growing in Prayer and Reflective Living**

A key challenge is enabling adults to become reflective about what they believe and how they live their faith. The approach of FAITH FOR LIFE should be a template for everything else. Discerning pastoral action needs to become part of parish life.

**Formation for all**

Adult Faith Formation is not just for lay people. To effect change laity and clergy need to do this together to make an impact on parish culture.

**Further Development of Parish Pastoral Councils**

**Initial training not enough**

Many PPCs require more support than the initial training. Increasingly there are requests to work with PPCs to help them work together with a focus on mission rather than maintenance. This is a huge challenge in light of the ageing demographic of parishioners more familiar with maintenance than mission. This also implies that those who are in voluntary ministries need to be continually upskilled, accompanied and nourished.

**Misunderstanding prayer, reflection & discernment**

The PPC is defined as a faith-filled group. This is why the notion of prayer, reflection and discernment is an essential concept to be grasped, if PPCs are to be truly instruments of pastoral change. We are aware that many PPC members do not understand this concept sufficiently to connect it with pastoral development. This year a retreat experience was offered to PPCs focusing on discernment. More intensive training about pastoral discernment is needed.

**Running out of steam**

The 2013–14 Review of PPCs highlighted how there was a good start made initially in setting up PPCs throughout the Diocese. However, at this stage, many PPCs are tired and their gatherings often revert to business meetings where the day-to-day running of the parish is the focus of attention. The distinction between the Parish Team and the PPC is often unclear and misunderstood. This leaves little time for future thinking and forward planning for mission.
**Development of pastoral planning**

The concept of pastoral planning seems to be widely misunderstood, in that most planning tends to focus around the forthcoming pastoral year and rarely beyond this. This would indicate that PPCs survive from year to year but perhaps do not have the capacity to look beyond to building a new future in a strategic way. These impacts hugely on parish’s capacity to embrace change enthusiastically.

**Recruitment of new members**

As our parishes age together, it does become more difficult to recruit new membership especially from a younger age range (30–45 year-olds). Finding new members is increasingly challenging. Many PPCs are not able to attract new members of any age category.

**Prioritising evangelisation**

With most PPC’s are still focusing in on the day-to-day maintenance of parish life, not much time is given over to strategies for sharing the Good News. Often the question arises about what we are inviting people into; this can be reflected in the quality of the Liturgy. Clergy and laity struggle with the concept, task and mission of evangelisation.

**Pathways Pastoral Observations:**

The Programme could continue to grow with better support and encouragement by priests and pastoral councils in the parishes throughout the diocese. This is could be achieved through issuing personal invitations to participate and if possible, sponsorship for lay people in their parishes.

It is important to make sure that the Programme is advertised regularly throughout all the summer months in both Newsletters and Mass notices and that some copies of the brochure are on display.

**New Pathways Options**

There is room for a Second Pathways Team to operate on the Southside of the city. For this to happen successfully there would need to be a second Director and a second Volunteer Team who would undergo the Pathways programme for themselves to catch its spirit and methodology. Then they would be ready to take ownership of it in their own area. With good co-ordination, some of the same presenters could possibly be used in both venues.


“There are ecclesial structure which can hamper efforts at evangelisation, yet even good structures are only helpful when there is a life constantly driving, sustaining and assessing them. Without new life and an authentic evangelical spirit, without the Church’s “fidelity to her own calling”, any new structure will soon prove ineffective.”

*Evangelii Gaudium 26*
Pastoral Planning with a Prioritising Youth and Young Adult

In terms of youth, population in the Dublin Archdiocese area the Office for E&E is only engaging with a small percentage. However, this connection is meaningful and life changing for many of those who do participate. Positively there is a hunger and desire within some young people to explore faith, life and purpose.

In the lead up to the XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, the Office undertook a Report on the consultation of young people the diocese for E&E. The data gathered for this presents a challenging picture of the experience of young people in the diocese. It noted that the Church had become more distant as an institution and less influential in many aspects of the life of young people. Many parishes often cite “youth” as a concern. Few parish cater for young people in a meaningful way. Young people noted that parishes do not create positive experiences for them to grow in faith. This poses a serious challenge for all aspects of pastoral planning currently and in the future. Key points to note also include,

- Young people are under enormous pressure (success, mental health, peer, gender and social media)
- There is a growing social pressure and ridicule from peers if young people practice or have a connection to Church. Young people spoke about suppressing their faith among their contemporaries in order to avoid ridicule.
- Young people have a great sense of justice, equality and fairness. Contrast this with Church and they see an institution where inequality exists in relation to women, people who are gay or different. Church doctrine and teaching seems far removed from their understanding of fairness, compassion and experience of faith.
- Young people still have a desire to learn, experience and have a greater role in their faith. There is a desire by some to get involved in their parish. Many noted that parishes are not places where this can happen mainly due to the obstacles placed by priests and parishioners.
- Pilgrimages and faith-based activities that focus on mobilising groups of young people seem to have the greatest impact on the lives of young people. Young people who encounter other young people in a faith setting are crucial to the ongoing faith journey.
- There exists little opportunities for vocational discernment among young people as parents and priests are not inclined to encourage vocations.

Increasing Role and dependency of Social Media

Social Media is vital in developing an outreach to young people on the periphery. Our various social media sites are central for communicating to young people who have questions of faith. They provide a means to connect young people with their peers. Social media provides a platform for outreach and communication to those who may not be active with communities of faith. It cannot replace the importance of personal invitations and personal contact with people.

Teenage Outreach and the connection with key collaborators – Parish Pastoral Workers

Teenage outreach is challenging but achievable. Parish Pastoral Workers have become a key collaboration in accompanying and connecting young teens to events and initiatives organised by the Office for E&E. The PPW provides the necessary link with parish, parents and young people. If a parish
has no PPW, it is more difficult to engage and connect with teens in a faith context. It is also observed that some teens who have attended teen events have graduated to young adult activities. This is a slow transition. However, we now have initiatives to connect the various points of contact connecting teen ministry to young adult ministry.

**Training Future Leaders**

Training future leaders in the area of faith is important. Significant training has been directed towards training young adults to be leaders of faith. These leaders will be crucial in creating a core group of young adult faith leaders, trained to lead and animate youth ministry. It would appear that parishes are losing contact with potential young adults suitable for volunteering for leadership. Young Adult Leaders testify to few opportunities to lead in their local parish. This was noted in the diocesan report prepared for the Synod on Youth, 2018 and is available on [www.evangelisation.ie](http://www.evangelisation.ie).

**Challenges**

Working with young people is not easy. It is intensive work. Many young people are transient and not rooted in parish life. Parishes need to be challenged to give and create youth ministry opportunities. Experience shows that young people continue to be captivated when exploring their personal relationship with Jesus.

- There are few parishes taking up opportunities to engage with teenagers and young adults. A small number of parishes have liturgical options or Gospel choirs. However while these are commendable, they will not sustain and build up the future Christian community on its own. The reality is that there are few opportunities for young adults to get involved in their local parish.

**St Pauls Outreach**

The opening of St Paul’s Outreach Mission three years ago represents a new model of youth and young adult ministry in the diocese. What has emerged is the development of programmes and initiatives to accompany youth and young adults in faith.

**Learning and Discerning**

The Office for E&E has been tasked with a great responsibility. Significant strides have been made in our endeavours in working together and supporting parishes and groups throughout the diocese. There remains a concern that not every parish can benefit from our work due to the capacity to reach the whole diocese limited by size of the E&E Team.

When 'Working Together for Mission' was initiated co-responsibility emerged as a key insight of *Share the Good News*. A difficulty quickly emerged as ‘co-responsibility’ was understood to mean different things to different people. Clericalism remains a barrier in both clergy and laity. There are many reasons for this including:

- The mind-set of pastoral leaders not trusting laity
- Inability to reimagine news paths for mission
- Laity not trusting lay leadership.

“Co-responsibility” will be realised, normative, understood and accepted ONLY if our priests and laity take part in shared formation and training.
SECTION FIVE

KEY PRIORITIES FOR MOVING FORWARD....

Introducing the theme

The work of the office has not been evangelical in the strict sense of a first proclamation of the Gospel, even though when we look at the statistic of the 48% of those between the age of 24 and 29 in our own diocese registered at the last census as having no religion, we wonder if we should be on the street corner?

The Church needs to change if it is to be relevant. Of course the Church has always changed and is always in need of reforming. Perhaps a kinder word is that the church is growing to a new maturity and Pope Francis in his witness and by his teachings is uncompromising in how the Church is to reach this mature place. It is to be faithful to Jesus and to his teaching. The Church, the baptised are called to authentic Christian living with a particular regard for the poor and those who are or see themselves on the periphery of life.49

Revisiting our Purpose Statement

To witness to Jesus Christ and His Gospel through promoting lifelong learning in faith, building faith communities and discerning innovative ways to engage with contemporary culture.

In light of this missionary key, is the above statement still pertinent in guiding the work of the Office? It seems that this still speaks to the ongoing development that needs to be done in the diocese.

Towards A Plan

Pastoral planning is essential to articulate pastoral objectives in a ‘missionary key’.50 It is clear that many of our current structures are inadequate and holding us back from becoming this missionary Church. Any planning for the future needs to articulate the steps and stages required to develop new ways of reaching out, underpinned by a missionary mind set. Development plans must then progress into implementation with clear pastoral strategies for mission. Such planning requires prayerful discernment about future parish and deanery structures. Parish communities will need accompaniment for this led by skilled leaders and training for a new way of being parish. All of this implies a much stronger focus on evangelisation.
Mind the Gap! - The missing generations in Church. Who are they?31

Younger generations, those aged under fifty are increasingly less inclined to be part of their parish or faith based groups. (See endnotes for more details) Multiple generations are disconnected. Some reconnect as young parents when children reach the required age for the Sacraments of Initiation. Others have a cultural attachment to the Church but not one of commitment that previous generations demonstrated.

Parishes as Schools of Prayer
Our parishes, and this applies to the young Church too, require that our communities also become places of encounter. This requires a greater amount of time and energy on teaching prayer and forming convinced disciples. Without this clear focus, parish life will not sustain itself. This implies a concentrated effort in training leaders for this kind of accompaniment ministry. Parish life will need to be like an oasis where people are refreshed, welcomed and belong. This is the lens through which pastoral planning should take place rather than by economic realities around viability and structures.

Forming a confident, articulate laity in contemporary culture.
St John Henry Newman saw the role of lay people as being witnesses for Christianity in the places where they were. He wanted a laity who knew their faith and could give reasons for the hope that is in them. Equipping laity to dialogue in the public square must be a key priority, setting up the conditions for a New Evangelisation of culture.

The work of God
The Office for E&E has been tasked with a great responsibility. We are gifted, and we are limited but we do work at working together and supporting each other in that work. When we gather to meet we give a large part of the beginning of the meeting to prayer. I hope that each of us can say that we Trust. In the first place trust God otherwise we could foolishly believe that the work depends on “me”. Yes, we can be anxious and frustrated at what is beyond our control and we can be disappointed at responses but also wonderfully ‘surprised’ at how God has and is at work through our efforts for which we praise God and give thanks.
ENDNOTES

2 General Directory of Catechesis, 1971, Veritas, para 172-175.
4 Evangelii Gaudium 33.

5 Faith for Life
   • 18 participants from the following parishes took part during the past year: Willington, Sandyford, Cabra, Laurel Lodge, Greystones, Rathfarnham, Dundrum, Donnybrook, Drumcondra, Rialto, Drimnagh, Terenure, Finglas West, Malahide, Clondalkin, Sutton.
   • The team in Dublin are Rosemary Lavelle, (Pastoral Coordinator, Office for Evangelisation and Ecumenism) Peter Siney, (Parish Pastoral Worker) Fr John Bracken, (Dundrum Parish), Eilis O’Reilly and Rachel Brady (Balbriggan Parish)
   • It uses a variety of learning methods. The starting-point is the individual’s personal experience. Reflection skills are taught and a deepening awareness of our personal experience and the deepening consciousness and awareness of God in the individuals life.
   • The four movements of Faith for Life are carefully constructed, indicating that the call of Baptism is inviting us into the human journey to become whole & holy (words with the same root), and ultimately to union with God. As we go deeper into this mystery, we are transformed ourselves and this leads to us being transformative for others. The process always has an inward, outward movement.
   • The course is moderated by staff from the Archdiocese of Liverpool annually.

6 Best You Can Be

This year there were 39 participants across from Blanchardstown and Larkhill/Whitehall parishes.
   • The team in Dublin are Rosemary Lavelle, (Pastoral Coordinator, Office for Evangelisation and Ecumenism) Peter Siney, (Parish Pastoral Worker) Fr John Bracken, (Dundrum Parish), and volunteers Eilis O’Reilly and Rachel Brady (Balbriggan Parish)

Best You Can Be Aims...
   • To explore the nature of adult faith and how it fits in Pope Francis’ vision,
   • To consider the stages of faith and the participants’ images of God,
   • To reflect on Jesus as the One who shows us the way to be the best that we can be.

7 You Shall Be My Witnesses
   • An annual training in Holy Cross Diocesan Centre for parent volunteers from the following parishes took place - Ayrfield, Glasnevin, Raheny and Rathmines with 80 participants.
   • Training also took place for 25 participants in Knocklyon parish over two evenings.
   • There is a training Powerpoint in the resource pack which has been adapted over the 10 years of its existence.
   • The training is based on familiarising the parents with the content of the four sessions with children. Each parent leader has a Leaders Book which is used in the training and needed for the four session.
8 Pathways

In 2018-2019 Pathways had 56 participants between 1st and 2nd Years, plus a Team of 12 together with a panel of 26 speakers/presenters (2 each Thursday evening). There was generally up to 68 present each Thursday evening.

Participants parishes:

Rivermount, Finglas South Marino Corpus Christi Cherry Orchard Lucan South St. Silvesters, Malahide Our Lady Help of Christians, Navan Road Fairview Laurel Lodge Ballygall St. Mary’s Lucan Our Lady of Victories, Ballymun Road Brackenstown St. Philomena’s Palmerstown St. Anthony’s Clontarf Bayside, Sutton St. Gabriel’s Clontarf St. Joseph’s, Balcurris St. Matthew’s Ballyfermot St. Jude the Apostle, Templeogue Baldoyle Sacred Heart, Donnybrook Drimnagh St. Joseph’s, St. Pappin’s, Ballymun Our Lady of the Assumption, Ballyfermot Gardiner Street Lusk Ardlea Road, Artane Dominic Street Booterstown St. Agnes, Crumlin Kilmacud St. Luke’s, Muhuddart St. Martin’s, Ailsbury, Tallaght Rathfarnham Our Lady of Consolation, Donnycarney St. Agatha’s, William Street Raheny St. John the Baptist, Clontarf St. Canice’s Finglas Palmerstown Artane

9 Bridge Programme

- This programme took place in January/February 2019 in Rathmines Parish with 12 parents.

10 Proclaim – Day for Readers

- 60 participants from the Ballyfermot parishes - St. Matthew’s, Assumption and Cherry Orchard.

11 Lift Up Your Hearts

- 75 participated from the Ballyfermot parishes – St. Matthew’s, Assumption and Cherry Orchard.
- 20 participants from Raheny parish

12 Rejoice and Be Glad Bookclub

- 32 participants took part in a training to lead sessions in their own parishes for Lent in Pope Francis’ exhortation Rejoice and Be Glad. Many of these participants had previously been trained for the Amoris programme in conjunction with the World Meeting of Families – facilitator and volunteer programme.

13 Living Word Workshop Participants

Artane Aughrim St Ayrfield Baldoyle Balbriggan Ballyfermot Ballygall Ballymun Ballymun Rd Blanchardstown Bonnybrook Cabra Cabra West Castleknock Cherry Orchard Coolock Crumlin Darndale Finglas Huntstown Kilmacanagh Whitehall Leixlip Malahide Maynooth Mt Argus Phibsborough Sutton

14 Children Liturgy Workshops

- This took place with 65 participants from a variety of parishes, mostly on the North side to train leaders and teams. Participating parishes included:
- Artane Aughrim St Ayrfield Baldoyle Balbriggan Ballyfermot Ballygall Ballymun Ballymun Rd Blanchardstown Bonnybrook Cabra Cabra West Castleknock Cherry Orchard Coolock Darndale Finglas Huntstown Kilmacanagh Whitehall Leixlip Malahide Maynooth Mt Argus Phibsborough Sutton

15 Godly Play

- The programme was developed by an American Episcopalian pastor, Jerome W. Berryman. He set up the Centre for Theology of Childhood centre with his wife and the Godly Play programme has now expanded worldwide across all Christian denominations.
- It uses the Montessori approach with the role of a storyteller guiding the children to make their own discoveries, rather than telling them what they need to know.
- Godly Play is about enabling children to enter into the biblical stories and explore their relationship with God and their own experience by engaging with their curiosity and imagination.
- It is also used with adult groups, people with special needs and people suffering with Dementia.

16 Family Mass Workshops
- 12 people took part from Swords/Brakenstown Grouping of parishes.
- There was a further workshop on request held in Blanchardstown, and another in Castleknock for teams.

17 Parish Parent Helps
- Requested by Kilnamanagh Parish, Huntstown, Mount View parishes.

18 Confirmation Talks
- 5 parishes participated in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. (Raheny, Aylesbury, Holy Rosary Tallaght, Templeogue and Cabinteely)

19 First Communion Talks
- Talks took place in Templeogue, Aylesbury, Holy Rosary, Rathmines parishes with 300 parents. The talks are based around the role of parents and encouragement to participate in the Do This In Memory Programme.

20 Weeks of Guided Prayer
- 12 parishes or groups have taken part in this, with an average of 230 participants.
- Participating parishes and or groups:
  - Arran Quay, Ayrfield, Coolock, Donnycarney, Enniskerry, Saggart, Kimmage Manor, Sanyford/Balally, Ballybrack, Skerries, Blackrock, Foxrock, Greenhills, Raheny

21 Cardinal Dew Symposium
- 100 participants, including Parish Pastoral Worker’s, took part in this gathering just after the World Meeting of Families.

22 Baptism Preparation
- 130 people participated from approximately 95 parishes. It is a collaboration between the Office for E&E, Liturgy Office and Office for Catechesis.

23 Funeral Ministry Training
- 125 participants took part from 90 parishes with very positive feedback.

24 Sacraments Review Group
- 1800 responded to a diocesan wide survey.

25 A full report by the Co-ordinator of Biblical Studies is available on www.evangelisation.ie
- Time is spent giving biblical courses in parishes, four nights of the week, Monday through Thursday. Typically, a parish books a six or eight weeks programme.
- Invited to attend priests’ trip to Germany in October 2018 and the deacons’ trip to the Holy Land in February 2019. Once a year, I organise one biblical study trip a year, as part of my diocesan work. This year, it was an archaeological visit to the Holy Land, which attracted forty participants. It was an Introduction to the Old Testament in the land itself. It was something I’ve wanted to offer for a long time and it turned out to be both popular and successful.
- DETAIL BIBLICAL RESOURCES- This weekly bulletin on the Sunday and weekday readings goes out each Monday. The purpose of the notes may be described as follow. The first goal and primary purpose to enable people encounter Christ through the Word of God. In other words, these notes are offered as
a help to praying the Scripture and as a support for lectio divina. Accordingly, there is much emphasis on personal reflection and prayer. At the same time, the reader is invited, more or less all of the time, to hear the word not only in our contemporary context but also and perhaps first of all in the context of the time of writing. Accordingly, the notes are conceived also as a kind of on-going course in bible study. If someone were to use the notes consistently over a period of time, the result should eventually be a solid bank of knowledge about the Scriptures — context, genre, teaching and spirituality. A long overdue review of Biblical Resources is underway.

**BIBLICAL EDUCATIONAL TRIPS**

- October: a diocesan trip to Berlin and places associated with Martin Luther. Paddy Sweeney asked me along on account of being able to speak German. We had a great visit to some of the sites of the Reformation and I gave three lectures on the Reformation and on Martin Luther (an interest of mine).
- February: a diocesan trip to the Holy Land with the deacons and their wives. This included one lecture in Dublin and six in the Holy Land.
- May: a Holy Land Old Testament visit. This attracted forty participants, mostly from the Dublin diocese. It was based on the Old Testament and “worked.” It is a potential template for other visits.

**SCHOOL OF THE WORD** This is the parish-based programme. Typically a parish or group of parishes will book a six or eight weeks course. The three foundational programmes of six weeks each are: Introduction to the Gospel of the current liturgical year; Introduction to the Old Testament; Introduction to Paul and the Second Reading in general. This basic programme is closely linked to the lectionary. Aft that, parishes are offered a range of possibilities: prophets, psalms, wisdom books, John, Hebrews, Romans and so forth. Occasionally the programme is more directly thematic such as “The events of salvation” in Finglas. All programmes are expressly ecumenical. For more detail on what is on offer: https://www.tarsus.ie/page/.

**PRO-CATHEDRAL COURSES** On the Wednesdays of Advent and Lent, a programme on the readings of the following Sunday. Typically, this attracts forty people.

**ECUMENICAL BIBLE WEEK (PENTECOST TO TRINITY)** This successful venture has grown over the years. Each year, the programme is adjusted after an evaluation of the previous year. In 2019, both the afternoon symposium and the evening Thinking Allowed events were outstanding.

**SCRIPTURE SUMMER SCHOOL** (THIRD OR FOURTH WEEK OF JULY) The SSS started life as the Orlagh Bible Week and ran for 17 years. When the Orlagh centre was closed, it moved to Holy Cross Pastoral Centre. In Orlagh, the maximum who could attend was thirty-six or forty. By contrast, it has grown each year since the move to Clonliffe and this year it attracted seventy-three bookings. It is a substantial programme — 18 lectures from Monday morning to Friday midday. There’s Mass each day as well. The other lecturers are Dr Jessie Rogers (Maynooth) and Sean Goan (Spiritans).

**PUBLICATIONS**

- Guellette, OP, Jean-Marie, How to Sit with God, Dublin: Veritas, 2018 (translated from the French by Kieran J. O’Mahony, OSA)
- O’Mahony, Kieran J, Commentary on the 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent 2019 in Scripture in Church 193, 76-86
- O’Mahony, Kieran J., Biblical Resources (5 pages /5000 words) sent out by email each Monday

**INTERNET**

website: www.tarsus.ie (biblical resources) work calendar: https://www.tarsus.ie/calendar/ (always up to date) Facebook page Twitter account
COMMITTEES AND BOARDS: Dublin Priests’ Council (religious representative), Ecumenical Bible Week Executive (co-chair), National Bible Society of Ireland (board member), OSA-Laity Forum (co-chair), Sacraments Review Group (member).

Parish and Places Visited:
Lusk, Blessington, Dalkey, Malahide, Finglas, Blackrock Lumen Centre, Pro-Cathedral, Emmaus Retreat Centre, St Paul’s Arran Quay, Howth Harold’s Cross, Ballinteer, Balbriggan, Whitechurch, St Annes’ Dawson Street.


27 Annual Induction Day
- Annual Induction Day was held in October with 50 new Parish Pastoral Council members representing 35 parishes.
- 50 people participated from the following parishes:
  Ballinteer Castleknock Clondalkin Coolock Drumcondra Enniskerry Kilbarrack Kilmacud Kilmacanogue Haddington Rd Howth Lusk Malahide Mt Merrion Milltown Newtown Park North William St Porterstown Rivermount Parish of the Travelling People Westland Row

28 Accompany Day
- 115 participants from 30 parishes took part
  Artane Ayrfield Baldoyle Ballybrack/Killiney Ballyfermot Ballygall Bawnogue Beaumont Booterstown Cabinteely Coolock Darndale Donnybrook Drumcondra Enniskerry Finglas West Firhouse Glasnevin Glasthule Haddington Rd Kilculleen Kilbarrack Killester Kimmage Manor Laurel Lodge Mt Merrion Newtown Park OL of Mercy Palmerstown Rathmines Rivervalley Rivermount Sean McDermott St St.PiusX Templeogue Whitehall Yellow Walls

29 Retreat Time
- 75 participants from 22 parishes took part in this first retreat experience together.
  Ardlea Ballinteer Castleknock Clondalkin Drumcondra Enniskerry Kilbarrack Kilmacud Kilmacanogue Haddington Rd Howth Lusk Malahide Mt Argus Mt Merrion Newtown Park Rivervalley Rivermount Sean McDermott Templeogue Whitehall Yellow Walls

30 Discernment Process for Parish Pastoral Councils

31 Ongoing Support and Training
- Parishes include:
  Blanchardstown Blessington Mt Argus OLV Donnybrook Athy Parish of the Travelling People Cabra Navan Rd Celbridge Pro-Cathedral Sutton Howth Baldoyle Ardlea Sruleen

32 Parish Pastoral Council Formation for Chairs and Presidents
- P.P.C. ongoing formation for Presidents and Chairpersons took place in Greenhills Pastoral Centre in March. It was requested by parishes who attended the Autumn Gathering Workshop on Parish Pastoral Councils given in November. The evening was designed to help those with specific roles to look again at their roles and re focus on the content in Living Communion. (Vision and Practice for Parish Pastoral Councils in Ireland Today)

33 Renewal Of Ministries – Blessington Parish
- Thirty four parishioners from Eadestown, Hollywood and Blessington attended. The content was a reminder of best practice in ministry, the spirituality of ministry and practical issues in preparing for ministry.
Faithfest and Faithfest Retreat

- Parishes/areas that the teens come from include (but not complete)
  Maynooth, Celbridge, Swords, Brackenstown, Aughrim St, Athy, Ballymun, Mount Argus, Sandyford, Blanchardstown, Mountview, Yellow Walls, Straffan, Rolestown, Tallaght Area.

Faithfest is an event for Teenagers. It is planned by Parish Pastoral Workers and the St Paul’s Outreach team over a few months. It aims to build spaces where teenagers have an experience of a peer community, explore faith, and encounter an experience of welcoming, belonging, discipleship, worship and prayer in a creative and fun atmosphere.

A typical evening follows the following structure.

Timetable:

- 6:00 – 6:30: Registration
- 6:30 – 7:00: Opening Session (Welcome, Ice Breaker Games, music and prayer)
- 7:00 – 7:45: Workshop 1
- 7:45 – 8:15: Break (Outside with open fires to roasted marshmallows, plus lots of sweets, crisps and drinks)
- 8:15 – 9:00: Workshop 2
- 9:00 – 9:30: Closing Session (Feedback from the Teens, Closing prayer and song, we give the teens a motivational piece of scripture as they leave)

Workshops:
- Our workshops are based on our theme of the night. Faithfest 15 workshops will include ecology/creation, cage soccer, music, meditation.

Faithfest Retreat

- Parishes represented at the Faithfest Retreat include - Maynooth, Mountview, Sandyford, Mount Argus, Ballymun, Celbridge, Brackenstown, River Valley.

Some testimonies of retreatants:

"The highlight of the retreat was that we are not alone in our faith, there are many other like minded young people. I now have to be brave to go back into my own town where there is a diverse view on religion and take my courage to stand tall before God. Faithfest gave me the opportunity to gain strength in my own beliefs"

"My favourite thing about the retreat is that it is so inspiring. Everyone was so nice. I felt very welcome. I like the idea in which we have a talk and a discussion after. Everyone was given a chance to speak up."

"My favourite part of the retreat was the talks and personal stories, really nice leaders and friendly people"

"I really thought the team work would be challenging but everyone was so kind and supportive so we all worked together really well. Everyone was so kind and friendly that I felt really comfortable being myself with my new 20+ friends"

Faithfest Retreat @ a Glance

- Icebreakers – introductions
- Fun and Games – inside and outside
- Testimonies
- Talks on various themes
- Prayer times
- Small group discussions
- Residential and Rules appropriate to overnight retreats.
35 **Pope John Paul Awards**
- As well as the feeling of personal achievement that a participant will gain from taking part in the Award, participation will help demonstrate the young person’s commitment to a task and goal.
- Parishes represented include Ballyfermott, Drimnagh, Rathmines, Celbridge, Killiney, Donabate, Clondalkin, Skerries

36 **Teen Hope**
- TY Howth is a school based outreach involved 35 Transition Year Students and social outreach.
- Teen Hope was piloted in Sandyford and Clontarf parishes, monthly and involved 35 teenagers.
- 12 new parishes are currently planning to use Teen Hope in 2019-2020 - including Blanchardstown, Glasnevin, Coolock, Clontarf, Lucan (St Patrick’s PPC), Rathmines Parish, Foxrock Parish, Porterstown Parish, Huntstown

37 **Encounter**
33 Participated in an online survey about their experiences of Encounter.
- Attendees at Encounter
- Demographic – North Dublin, South Dublin, West Dublin, City Centre, Laois, Kildare, Meath, Bray and Wicklow
- Age Profile - 10% - 18-24yrs, 57% - 25-34yrs, 32% - 35-40yrs

38 **Bookclub**
- *The Shack*, William P Young
- *God’s Healing Mercy*, Kathleen Beckman
- *Rediscover Catholicism: A Spiritual Guide to Living with Passion and Purpose*, Matthew Kelly
- *Mud, Sweat and Tears*, Bear Grylls
- *Rejoice and Be Glad* – Pope Francis Exhortation, Vertitas, 2018
- Bookclub Members came from some of the following parishes, Clondalkin, Church Street, South City Centre, Raheny. However this list is not complete or fully accurate due to the transient nature of youth adults.

39 **Awake My Soul**
- Some of the attendees came from the parishes of Clontarf, Foxrock, City Centre, Drumcondra and Church Street.

The Awake My Soul Retreat followed a typical retreat including:
- Introduction to What is a Retreat?
- Meditation
- Personal Reflection and Small Group discussion
- Various Spiritual Inputs and Talks
- Holy Hour and Prayer Time in Common
- Residential and Community Living

40 **World Youth Day Panama**
- The Pilgrimage Group included 1 Bishop, 2 Priests, 1 Deacon, 1 Parish Pastoral Worker, and Staff from the Office for E&E. Parishes represented include Lucan South, Wicklow, Clondalkin, Crumlin, Athy,
Rathcoole, Foxrock, Celbridge, DCU Interfaith Centre and some young people from Ferns diocese and Down & Connor.

- Our working theme was **Dare to Say Yes** taken from Luke’s Gospel “I am the handmaid of the Lord, be it done according to your word.” (Lk 1:38)

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41 The Anchor Programme was created in 2015 by the Office for E&E in preparation for World Youth Day in Poland. It is a weekend based course, led by a team of young adults and focuses on the core themes:

- Knowing Christ
- An Experience of Pilgrimage
- Know your Sacraments
- Food and Friendship

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42 **Mercy Programme** – was created especially for World Youth Day in Panama by the Office for E&E. It was inspired by Pope Francis vision of going to the “peripheries” and being with those who are poor. It was based on the Biblical Understand of Mercy, Living in Solidarity with host families in Panama and Social Immersion – experiencing a soup run in Dublin and then leading one similar in Panama.

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43 **Christus Vivit** “Young People, The Faith and Vocational Discernment” During 2017/18 a number of methods for researching young people in the Archdiocese took place in a number of pastoral areas, with focus groups including youth chaplains, young prisoners, unemployed young people and a group of young people active in faith initiatives.

- One meeting was hosted by Archbishop Martin involving many young adults from all over the Archdiocese.
- This formed the basis of a report from Dublin Archdiocese which as integrated into a national report from the Irish Bishop’s Conference. This in turn was submitted as part of a major pre-Synod research that supported the Linemata and the Synod of Bishops. **Christus Vivit** is Pope Francis’ Papal Exhortation post-Synod.

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44 **Matt Maher** is a Canadian Performer and Musician who plays a style of contemporary music that is appealing to many. He has sold millions of copies of his music. He travels extensively with a his music. He led the music as part of the Vigil of World Youth Day in Brazil 2013. He has performed twice in St Paul’s 2019 and 2017, [www.mattmahermusic.com](http://www.mattmahermusic.com)

45 The 2013-2014 Review of PPCs was prepared for the Office for E&E and available online.


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48 CIC 536 Pastoral Councils established by the Bishop, norms decided by the Bishop.

49 [www.cso.ie/releasesandpublications](http://www.cso.ie/releasesandpublications)

50 [Evangelli Gaudium, 30](http://www.cso.ie/releasesandpublications)

51 **Millennials**

- Formed by the culture of the 1990’s
- Loosely connected
- Weakly committed
- Emphasise externals
- Devotional aspects of Catholicism attract
- Looking for signposts
- Less than 10%
- These will be 30 - 40ish

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**Generation X**

35- 50 age group

- Their parents were more relaxed about obligation to attend Mass
- People who missed out in participating in parish life
- The language of faith did not connect with their reality or culture.
- They are comfortable not being part of the church

**Generation Y**
- Also called the iGeneration
- First to access the internet as babies
- Afraid of Risks
- Spend more than 3 hours per day using technology
- Rite of passage - phones
- Virtual interaction
- Lonely isolation
- Less face to face
- Seeking community in the Church
- Want to help the world move forward
- These could be up to mid 30’s