

An introduction to

Seeds of Hope



Pastoral Plan for the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly 2021-2026

Faith & Spirituality

Youth & Family

Community Engagement

Participation in Liturgy

Leadership & Co-responsibility

Message from Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly



"I welcome the publication of the Diocesan Plan for the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emlý, *Seeds of Hope 2021-2026*. The publication of the Plan is a very important moment for the Archdiocese as we chart our path for the future of the Church in our parishes, in particular, and the Archdiocese in general.

Our Plan represents the fruits of the Listening Process that we have been engaged with, presenting us with a way forward to build mission-oriented communities.

Pope Francis in his Letter, the *Joy of the Gospel*, gives us an impetus on this journey: 'I dream of a *missionary option*, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation.' (Joy of the Gospel #27).

Each of us is invited to dream and to plant seeds now that will bear fruit over time as the Holy Spirit leads and directs our journey ahead. The Diocesan Plan is composed of five 'Seeds' that are now being sown into the life of the Church in Cashel & Emlý." (Extract from Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly's Introduction to *Seeds of Hope: Pastoral Plan for the Archdiocese of Cashel & Emlý 2021-26*).



Co-Responsibility

Pope Francis has identified "The path of synodality as the path that God expects from the Church in the third millennium." The image of path 'walking together' as a pilgrim people - meeting, listening, debating, praying and deciding - is the appropriate way forward for all of us, the People of God in the Archdiocese of Cashel & Emlý.

(Fr Éamonn Fitzgibbon, Irish Institute for Pastoral Studies, in *Seeds of Hope*, p. 4).

Vision Statement

The Faith Community of Cashel and Emlý is centred in Jesus Christ.

It is a vibrant community of service and mission guided by the Holy Spirit.

It seeks to live by the values of the Gospel as a humble, compassionate and listening community.



Seed 1 Faith & Spirituality

The Listening Process revealed that **Faith** is still truly alive in our lives. We celebrate our faith and ask for God's help. We pray with our young children and celebrate with them through Baptism, Communion and Confirmation. We mark significant events such as marriages and funerals in Church. Faith is our developing relationship with God. We appreciate the richness of having faith. However, many of us are struggling to communicate and live out our faith in today's world.



This Seed offers an opportunity to each of us individually to grapple with these issues in a new way:

- Sharing what faith means to each of us individually – Why/What do I believe?
- Celebrating the Faith Story/Journey of each parish.
- Exploring ways to make our faith celebrations more inclusive and meaningful.
- Renewing and strengthening the link between home, school and parish in deepening our faith in Jesus Christ.
- With Pope Francis, allowing the wonder and beauty of God's creation to inspire and renew our faith.
- Recognising God in each other and in the stranger.

Faith is our developing relationship with God, wherever we are on our faith journey. We are all invited to travel this new path as we journey together in faith.

— **Will you help in your parish to keep the faith alive in new ways?**





Seed 2 Youth & Family

We invite young people, their parents, grandparents and guardians to be part of the renewal of faith in our diocese. The place of faith in today's society needs to be discussed openly and practices renegotiated afresh with this new generation of young families and their children.

— Your input will help us “to appreciate new sensitivities and consider new questions”.
(Pope Francis)

All of us in the Church of Cashel & Emly – Archbishop Kieran, priests and people in each parish – will provide opportunities to allow the voice of young adults, parents, guardians and children, to be meaningfully heard. Together we will encourage the development of new strategies based on meaningful input.



In this way we can add new activities, which young people and families have suggested, to complement present diocesan faith initiatives such as the Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes, the Pope John Paul II Awards, the World Meeting of Families *etc.*

The relationship with Jesus for this generation will be built on free assent and new avenues of prayer acceptable to and carved out by families and young people themselves.

**Building the faith within our young people
and our families is of primary importance.**





Seed 3 Community Engagement

Belonging to a community fulfils an essential need in all of us. Each of us has been blessed with our own special gifts. Our faith community values this giftedness and invites us all to share in building up a vibrant caring community where everyone can feel they belong and no one feels excluded.



Having listened to you, the people of the Archdiocese of Cashel & Emlly, we now launch our Diocesan Plan of mission and service to cherish and develop the lives and faith of all.

Our Diocesan Plan:

- Seeks to develop our faith, make it more relevant in people's lives and be inclusive of all.
- Aims to promote greater dialogue and better communication.
- Desires to create a greater sense of joy, support and hospitality in our communities.
- Provides opportunities and options to become involved in different ways *e.g.* join a parish group, gather as a parish to reflect on and share views, promote care of the environment, plan events which convey welcome and hospitality to all.





Seed 4 Participation in Liturgy

The Diocesan Pastoral Plan invites us to look at new ways to celebrate our faith with creativity and vision, especially at Masses, key sacramental moments in life and other significant community celebrations.

Living out of our imagination, we are encouraged to start with a *blank page* and seek out new ways to communicate with God *e.g.* guided Christian meditation, outdoor celebrations which draw us into the beauty of God's creation, celebrating with joy and thanksgiving all that is good in our parish communities.



Drawing on and bringing together the gifts and talents of celebrant, singers, musicians, artists and Readers, we will be enriched by what each person has to offer, with each voice bringing new insights and possibilities. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to begin afresh.

You may wish to join a liturgy team, a choir or a meditation group in your parish. Training will be provided to all who choose to travel new paths, joyfully celebrating all that we hold dear.

Let us gladly acknowledge, utilise and share the gifts and talents of all in our faith communities.

**— If you feel that you could enrich this undertaking,
please consider becoming involved.**





Seed 5 Leadership & Co-responsibility

Leadership into the future is a challenge for us all as we journey together.

Over the next five years in the Archdiocese of Cashel & Emly, we are planning to discover new ways of working together, so that the voice of all, people and priests, will be heard in our new model of co-responsibility.



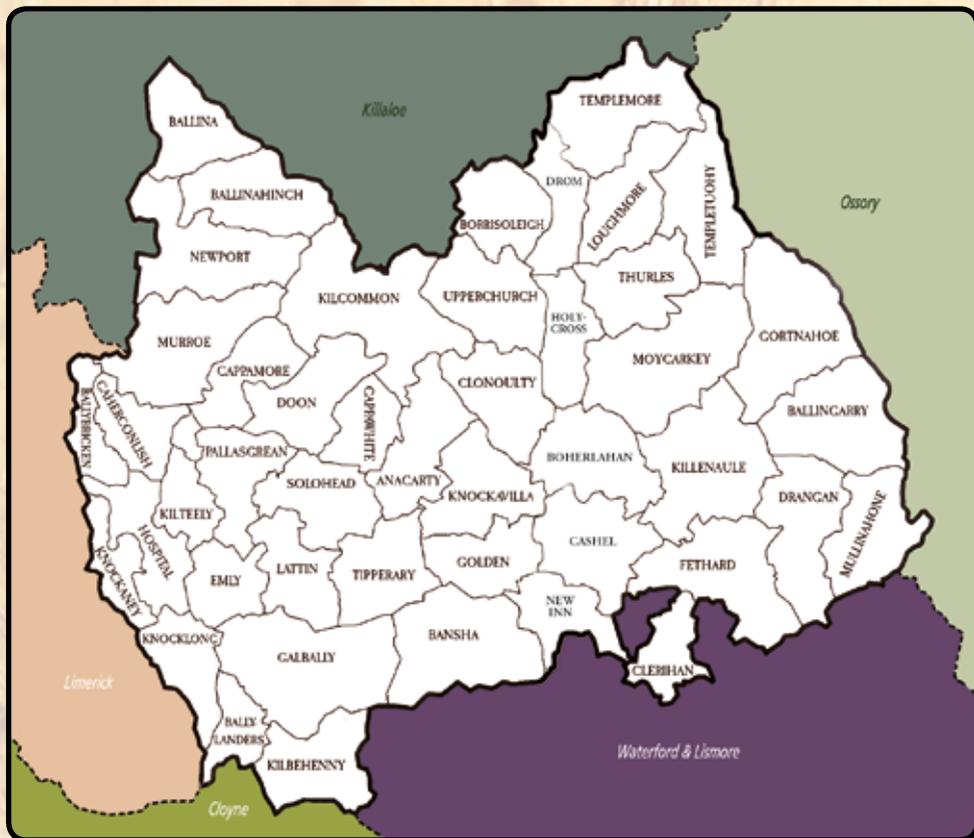
Each parish will have its own Pastoral Team to support all in the community. It will also link with other parishes and be supported by the Diocesan Pastoral Team.

Whether you have an interest in getting involved at a very practical level *e.g.* gardening, or as a Reader at Mass or in the work of your Parish Pastoral Group, you are welcome.

The welfare of the Faith in our diocese into the future depends on all of us, people and priests, working together, sharing our gifts and assuming our joint responsibility for the mission of the Church in the Archdiocese of Cashel & Emly.



The forty six parishes of Cashel & Emlý



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