

The growth of our five

Seeds of Hope



**Midterm review of our Pastoral Plan
for the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly 2025**



Message from Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly



Dear Parishioners,

I am happy to present to you this review of our Diocesan Plan: “Seeds of Hope”. I would like to thank sincerely all who have participated in the various meetings as we sought to discern together our roles in the evangelising mission of the Church.

Our baptism is the source and foundation of every Christian vocation. It is the door through which we enter to become missionary disciples- a task fulfilled over our lives.

Our diocesan plan is a help and a means to assist each person to fulfil their calling within the Church.

The fruits of the review are presented to you for your reflection and future planning - individually and in groups. There is a wide and rich variety of activities in our Church in Cashel and Emly.

The review also outlines challenges that lie ahead and which we will address together.

May this Jubilee Year of Hope reawaken within us our quest to fulfil the mission entrusted to each one of us through our baptism.

With renewed good wishes and blessings.



Faith & Spirituality

Prayer

Prayer and reflection at parish meetings

Adult and young adult prayer groups which pray together on a regular basis.

Rosary (including Primary schools on zoom)

Prayer days for those involved in ministry

Prayer around the Cross

Stations of the Cross with children around the bog

November memorial tree

Divine Mercy

Parish mission

World Day of Prayer

Daily reflection on the Internet

Eucharistic adoration

Adults and children involved in Eucharistic adoration

Increased lay led adoration



Scripture

Meditation/reflection for young adults

Sharing of Scripture readings

Participation in Lectio Divina

Faith programmes

‘Meet the saints’ talks

‘The Chosen’ – film on the life of Christ and discussion

Faith Camp for children at Easter

Involving children and families in the ‘Heart to Hand’ initiative through their schools. This programme focuses on reaching out to those in need.

Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage to Holy Cross Abbey

Jubilee pilgrimage to Derry

Jubilee Pilgrimage to Patrickswell, Co. Tipperary as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’

Eco spirituality

Mass of creation

Creating eco-friendly wild garden

Communion and Confirmation children – community involved in tree planting

St. Brigid’s day event

Harvest celebration – historian, hospitality, culture

Four-night programme on ‘The Letter’ (documentary telling the story of Laudato Si by Pope Francis)



Youth & Family

Baptism

Baptism Teams – Meetings with parents who wish to have their children baptised
Annual Mass and blessing of babies baptised during the previous year

First Holy Communion

Do This in Memory programme with children and parents

My Faith programme

Godly Play with children preparing for First Holy Communion

Parental Preparation night for First Holy Communion

Each parishioner praying for a child who is preparing for their First Holy Communion

Enrolment Mass

The children who make their First Holy Communion and their families invited to participate in the May procession.

On the feast of Corpus Christi – Family Mass for children who have made their First Holy Communion, refreshments afterwards

Confirmation

My Faith programme

Parental preparation nights

Confirmation retreats in Holy Cross Abbey and the parish

Sixth Class students – desire for reconciliation/ penance as shown on retreat

Confirmation candidates participating in Sunday Mass e.g. readings, offertory procession

Prayer support for children preparing for Confirmation

Enrolment Mass

Leadership

Pope John Paul 11 awards

Young adults participating in the JP11 awards organised and led a reflection with those in 6th class who were not being confirmed. The theme was on preparation for secondary school

Youth choir established to create a Children's Mass once a month

Young adults attending World Youth Day in Lisbon

Young adults going to Lourdes on pilgrimage





Community Engagement

Communication

Parish webcam involves wider community at home and abroad

Parish website

Parish Facebook page

Notice boards and newsletters for encouraging consultation about parish issues

Local radio – reflections during Lent

Publicising initiatives through the school and in the local newspaper

Outreach

St. Vincent de Paul social services

Legion of Mary – visitation to nursing homes and recitation of the rosary

Links with residential/nursing homes and day care services for older people, the Sue Ryder organisation which provides housing for older people and Young at Heart which promotes healthy aging

Cooperation with the hand ball and GAA clubs particularly with fundraising events

Schools, musicians and various clubs such as Knitting club supporting parish fundraising

Mass for sporting groups

Lay blessing before GAA matches

Advent procession – Community groups in the parish represented (GAA, Rugby, Carers)

Celebration of 50th Anniversary of the opening of the Abbey

Celebration of St. Ailbe's ministry in music, song and drama

Golden Jubilee Mass

Zimbabwe community Mass

Collaboration with Tidy Towns and Villages. These groups are looking after the area around the churches and graveyards

Presence of our priests at Community Council or Men's Shed gatherings

Mass and parish party for Active Retirement group

Blessing of the Crib which included members of the Ukrainian community



Presence of the parish priest on the Board of Management of parish schools – upholding the Catholic ethos

There is a strong connection between the parish and the local schools – school children attending First Friday Mass and Prayer around the Cross on Good Friday

Scór na bPáistí playing for the Family Mass

School concert in the parish church

First year programme

Children in schools writing to residents in Nursing Homes

Trocaire walk

Cemetery walk

Community Walk at Easter

St. Patrick's Day parade

Christmas tree lights

Blessing of cars

Blessing of pets

Hospitality

Refreshments after Mass

Welcoming new families and new parish priests into the parishes

Stewarding

List of organisations and clubs for all new people moving into the community



Participation in Liturgy

Eucharist

Altar servers – recognition of their ministry with certificates and a party

Children involved in choirs, the Offertory procession and as collectors

Pray and Play

Youth choirs

Adult choirs

Repair of the church organ which enhances music ministry

Revival of folk group for young adults

Drama at the Parish Mission



Laity leading Prayers of the Faithful and Communion Reflections

Altar in centre of the church to encourage participation and community

Course for Ministers of the Word and Eucharist

Commissioning Eucharistic Ministers

Flower arranging group

Family Mass

Grandparents' celebration

Mother and Father's day events with Mass

Examination Mass

Transition Year celebration of faith

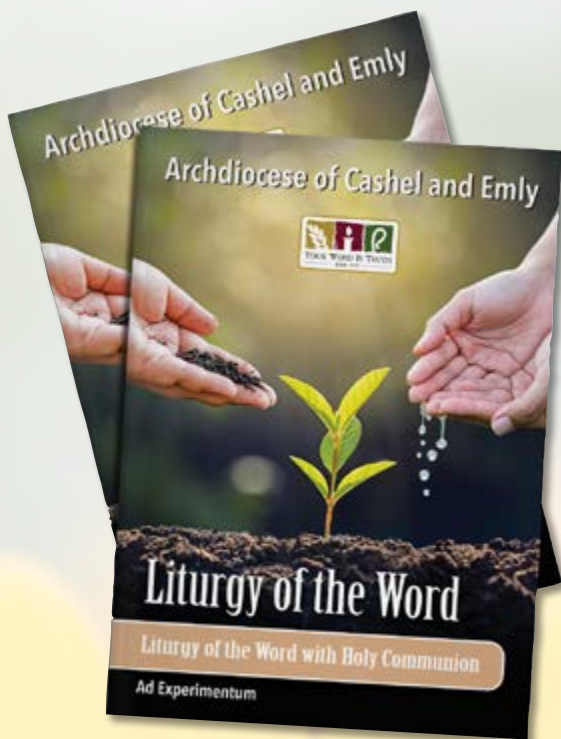
Leaving Certificate graduation Mass

Bambinelli/Gaudete Sunday

Third Sunday of Advent

Families are invited to bring their figurine of Baby Jesus from their crib at home to the parish church to be blessed

Easter gardens to enhance ceremonies



Lay led liturgies

Parish Liturgy Team

Eucharistic Ministers now bringing Holy Communion to residential homes and to older people living in their own home

Christmas carol service including both adults and children from schools

Laity led prayer during Lent

Lay person visiting the children for Confirmation and leading a meeting for parents

Lay involvement in leading Confirmation preparation and Good Friday evening prayer

Lay led 'My Faith' programme

Funeral Ministry Teams being established with training provided





Leadership & Co-responsibility

Parish Pastoral Teams

Parish Pastoral Teams are coordinating pastoral initiatives in the parish

Representatives from parish groups are now on Parish Pastoral Teams

Parish Pastoral Teams are working in a synodal way

Parish Pastoral Teams are encouraging new leaders in the parish

Members of the Laity are leading prayer at Parish Pastoral Team meetings

There are lay chairpersons

Parish Pastoral Teams are assisting the new Administrators

Members of Parish Pastoral Teams maintain contact through WhatsApp

There are Seeds of Hope Coordinators

New Pastoral Centre



Ministries

Organisation of Rotas – those who maintain the upkeep of the church, collectors, Altar Society, opening/closing the church, Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist

Ministers of the Word keep in contact via WhatsApp

Booking of Masses

Safeguarding Team

Mission Fund Team

Sacristy Team

Funeral Ministry Team

Parish Finance Team

Fundraising Team

Parish Pastoral Combinations

Cooperation – the rotation of our priests within our Parish Pastoral Combinations

Initiatives organised for all the parishes within the combination – Evening of Sacred Music and Song

The ministry of Permanent Diaconate is supporting the Parish Pastoral Combination

Involvement in the discussion on new Mass times

Joint Pastoral Team

(representatives from each Parish Pastoral Team within the Parish Pastoral Combination)

Attending meetings and bringing the information back from other parishes and combinations

Lay Pastoral Ministry and Leadership programme of Formation MIC Thurles

Twenty-two Pastoral Ministers have completed the programme

Diocesan level

Members of Parish Pastoral Teams on the Diocesan Pastoral Council

Challenges as members of Parish Pastoral Teams

Outreach

How to reach out to people

How to reach out to young parents – is home visitation a method?

How to invite others to become involved

Invite more men to become involved in different ministries

Engage people who have not been part of the Diocesan Listening Process

To be more inclusive

Include all people in all stages of life from the cradle to the grave.

Inclusive language in liturgy

Simplify the liturgy – make it more understanding for everyone

Encourage and welcome people to experience the liturgy

Openness to the changes and way to journey together

To fully engage with 'Seeds of Hope' to make our Church more life-giving to all

Welcome new blood and new ideas

Change from the old model of Church to the new

Finding new ways to engage youth and families in parish gardens

Time commitment

Being involved in parish

Busy parents – busy world – other commitments

Communication

To encourage and convince parishioners that they have a say and a role in the workings and life of the parish

Balancing the tendency to wish to move quicker with having patience to allow the slow and fruitful progression of plans

To be able to be more open to young people and respect their view of life

Learn to listen

How to be relevant

Motivation

To keep motivated and to motivate others

There can be a sense of weariness at times when we feel there is no obvious progress. It is important to maintain hope in this Jubilee year despite the challenges.

Priorities for the coming year

Hope

Be hopeful

To acknowledge the need for hope and celebrate this year of hope

Be encouraging

Priests and people working together

The growth of Parish Pastoral Teams

Synodal approach

Persevere

Keep throwing the seed

Trust in God

Prayer

Be prayerful and guided by the Holy Spirit

Introduce more prayer at meetings

The need to develop the internal quiet space.

Approach our Faith and spiritual life in a holistic way

Taize prayer during the month of November

Co-Responsibility

Keep and nurture initiatives already in place

Value the fact that parishes are taking on more responsibility and working with our priests both within parishes and Parish Pastoral Combinations

Support all parishes in the archdiocese to establish Parish Pastoral Teams



Communicate with each other and welcome those with different opinions

Set up structures for dialogue and engagement within parish regarding concerns

Translate to all what a Pastoral Team is trying to achieve

Take small steps to involve more people and show them the value of being involved

Parish Combinations of Cashel & Emly 2025



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