

Altem *Put out into the deep'*

NEWSLETTER OF THE PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE DIOCESE OF CORK AND ROSS

Young adults discuss connection with 'young church'

The most often asked question by members of new parish assemblies and pastoral councils is: "How do we get young people involved in Church?"

To explore the question further, the Pastoral Development Office invited a cross-section of young people who are members of parish assemblies and pastoral councils to two meetings.

Meetings in Turner's Cross Parish Centre and in Bandon Parish Centre heard a range of views and ideas.

Participants shared the view that most of their peers do have faith but are disconnected from the Church and its rituals. As one person said "We still believe and we want our views to be heard."

For some of the young adults who are involved in parish, this experience can be rewarding but also lonely – there's a sense that one is alone among a typically older group.

Being involved also brings many positives including getting to know new people, understanding the priest and his life better, opportunities to join new groups and organisations and to go on pilgrimage with other younger people.

Some participants also felt that there may be tension between the kind of church experience that would work for younger people and the experience of the customary Sunday Mass which older people value and which they will be slow to change.

Among the suggestions offered as starting points were organising a pilgrimage to World Youth Day in 2011 in Madrid, or providing a young person's section on the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Meanwhile, the Irish Church recently published a document on youth ministry in Ireland. *Called Together. Making the Difference* was compiled by the National Committee of Diocesan Youth Directors and the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. The full text is available from Veritas; a synopsis is available for download at <http://www.catholicbishops.ie/publications/56/1405>



At the Bandon Parish Centre, attending one of the meetings to discuss the church's outreach to young people, were (seated) Dan Twomey, Tracton Abbey Parish; Paul Finn, Eileen Collins and Lorraine Whelton, all from Barryroe Parish; (standing) Orla Hurley, Innishannon, Padraig O'Donovan, Murragh and Templemartin Parish and Helena Fleming, Kilbrittain Parish.

All are members of the pastoral council or parish assembly in their respective parishes.

Church's future is in co-responsibility of parishioners and clergy

Uncertainties give us all food for thought. Sadly, for many people, the thought of being without a secure income has become reality. Many people have had to change their plans, postpone dreams and lower expectations.

The past year has also ended with many people questioning how our Church is organized and administered. The Report of Judge Murphy's Commission of Inquiry used direct language to describe atrocities committed by priests and to criticise failures by bishops and administrators.

In their statement at the recent December meeting, the Irish Bishops said that "The Report raises very important issues for the Church in Ireland, including the functioning of the Bishops' Conference, and, how the lay faithful can be more effectively involved in the life of the Church. We will give further detailed consideration to these issues."

The call for involvement of parishioners in the life of the Church

is not new. The call from parishioners to be given a meaningful voice in the life of the Church is not new either. Neither voice has been heard adequately. This requires a coming together of the Church in Ireland which has not yet happened.

In a largely unreported address to a meeting in his diocese in Rome in May 2009, Pope Benedict called for a radical re-examination of the role of all the baptised.

"This will require a change of mentality, especially regarding lay people -- to move from considering them to be the clergy's collaborators to recognizing them as truly sharing responsibility for the existence and action of the church," the pope said.

The faith and commitment already evident in the vitality of parish leadership groups in our diocese are evidence of how the Lord can breathe new life into his people.

That life challenges all of us to truly discover the Lord at work in one another. May you have a hope-filled New Year. (-TH)

Our hopes and fears

In this and in future newsletters, we will dip into the lives of some of the people across the diocese who are involved in the development of their parishes. They will be chosen more or less at random and asked a few questions!

The intention is not to canonise people but to acknowledge the movement of people who make up parish life in all its richness and to acknowledge the many others they represent as well.

Aidan O'Shea is a member of the Baptism Team in Upper Mayfield Parish, in Cork city.

"I enjoy being able to contribute through voluntary effort to the practical and spiritual life of the parish and of the wider community. "In return, I have made friendships and received many insights from other volunteers," he says.



When asked about the most challenging aspect of being involved in parish, he named one that faces the entire church.

"The most challenging aspect of active lay involvement is maintaining faith and hope despite the massive failures in the church's moral and legal obligations to the victims of abuse."

On his hopes for the Baptism Team in Our Lady Crowned, he says he hopes it will grow in numbers and in the standard of its service to faith families.

"Initiatives are also needed to reach out to Catholics who have lost contact with the parish for whatever reason," he says.

Altem is a publication of the Pastoral Development Office of the Diocese of Cork and Ross.

(The phrase 'put out into the deep' is taken from the Gospel and was used by Pope John Paul II as a theme for the new millennium. In Latin it is 'duc en altem'.)

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Maggie Mulpeter is a member of the Parish Assembly for the Harbour Parishes (Monkstown and Passage West) and has been involved in running a "Faith and Fun*" programme for families and children. She is chairperson of the Youth subgroup of the assembly, based in Passage West.

"The most positive aspect of being part of the Faith & Fun programme is seeing the children engaged in their faith on a level that they can relate to."

Getting the opportunity to tell them about the wonders of the Lord through nature, sports, art, games and simple bible stories in a fun atmosphere is very powerful, she said.

The most challenging part is liaising with the schools and parents to get the children to the sessions and to comply with all the recommendations of child protection.

Her group hopes to have at least two more faith and fun sessions one of which they hope will be outdoors in the spring.

* See the Handbook on www.corkandross.org/pastoral for details of the Faith and Fun programme.

Mena Twomey is a member of the parish assembly in Knocknaheeny/Hollyhill Parish and is a member of the Liturgy Group.

The most positive thing about being part of the assembly, she says, is that she knows she has a voice, along with other parishioners, and a place to say how she would like to see the parish community develop.

"There is great commitment and spirit within our church, dedicated membership along with great spiritual mentors."

As secretary of the Liturgy Group she has also discovered that there is more than talk involved!

"I didn't realise how much work is involved in being in a parish group," she says.

Her hopes for the future of the parish and of the assembly are high.

"There are lots of young people involved in our parish group, I hope that by our setting an example all the young people would continue to get involved in the church."

"And I also hope that the people currently involved would get as much out of it as they put in," she says.

The Year of God's Favour

A new book by Fr. Brendan McConvery C.Ss.R

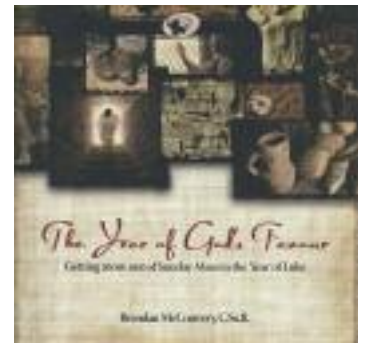
This is a new publication for the Year of Luke (Advent 2009 to Christ the King 2010) written in an easy to use style with user-friendly language. It gives a short explanation of the Gospel for each Sunday of the year.

The book is presented in sections following the Church's year and includes some beautiful artwork, contemporary and traditional, which adds to the reflections offered by Brendan McConvery.

The book is aimed at individuals (perhaps Ministers of the Word) who wish to prepare themselves for Sunday Mass, families who might like to spend some time in prayer and reflection together or parish *lectio divina* groups who are looking for a resource to assist in their prayerful reading of the Gospel.

Fr Brendan offers insights and background to the text to help us understand the meaning of the Sunday texts and invites us to reflect on what the words mean for us today and who/what we might pray for and think about during the week.

The book is published by Redemptorist Publications and is available from sales@redcoms.org or visit www.redcoms.org



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Printing and distribution of this newsletter is made possible by a donation to the work of the Pastoral Development Office by a generous donor.

A copy of this newsletter is sent to all the clergy of the diocese, members of religious orders and missionary societies ministering in the diocese, parish sisters, members of parish pastoral councils, parish assemblies and parish finance committees, as well as members of parish steering groups. It is sent to almost 2,000 people. It is also available on the website.

Around the parishes . . .

Ongoing development of parish leadership groups and pastoral areas

There has been significant progress in recent months in the two-fold work of the Pastoral Development Office to support the development of pastoral leadership groups in parishes and to support the work of the pastoral areas.

There is an expanding number of generously committed parishioners now involved in parish assemblies, parish finance committees and parish pastoral councils. They number several thousand at this point.

“Lay people are called not simply to help their priests run their parishes, but to share fully in the responsibility of building up the church,” Pope Benedict XVI told delegates to the annual convention of the Diocese of Rome in May of



Pictured are members of the third parish assembly for Drimoleague Parish at their planning day in Myross Wood Retreat Centre in November. The day was facilitated by Fr Tom Hayes.

this year.

Several thousand more parishioners are building up the church by being involved in a wide range of ministries and activities in their parishes, including the important challenge of putting in place

and maintaining effective child protection measures.

Here we give an overview of recent pastoral development happenings in individual parishes and in the 16 pastoral areas of the diocese. It is not a comprehensive summary – just an overview of recent updates.

Almost all the parishes now have either a parish assembly or a parish pastoral council in place or have a process in place to lead to the nomination of one.

The development of the pastoral areas is linked to the growth and development of the groups in individual parishes.



Pictured are members of the newly formed parish assembly for Clontead Parish at their first meeting. The meeting was facilitated by Sr. Karen Kent.

first pastoral area meeting . . .



At an inter-parish pastoral area meeting in the Carmelite Friary, Kinsale, were clergy, parish finance committees and parish assembly members from the four parishes of Ballinhassig, Clontead, Courceys and Kinsale who make up Pastoral Area 2.

Pastoral Area 1

Carrigaline, Crosshaven, Monkstown, Passage West and Tracton Abbey (Minane Bridge). The Coordinator is Fr Bertie O'Mahony, PP Carrigaline.

The Pastoral Area Coordinating Group met for its first meeting in October in Carrigaline.

In the next few months Carrigaline Parish is preparing to renew its parish assembly membership.

Pastoral Area 2

Ballinhassig, Clontead (Belgooly/Riverstick), Courceys (Ballinspittle/Ballinadee), Kinsale (Parish and Friary). The Coordinator is Fr Robert Young, PP Kinsale.

Clontead parish have renewed their long serving pastoral council and now have a parish assembly and its first parish finance committee. Thanks go to the parishioners who served on the council.

The new assembly has nominated Sean Scully as its chairperson and Liz Murphy as its secretary.

Courceys parish is currently beginning preparations to renew their assembly in the spring of 2010.

In the pastoral area, an open meeting was held for all members of the four parish assemblies and each parish's finance committee to help in moving towards establishing the Pastoral Area Coordinating Group in January.

The meeting was hosted at the Carmelite Friary in Kinsale.

Pastoral Area 3

Ardfield/Rathbarry, Barryroe, Clonakilty, Kilmeen & Castleventry (Rossmore), Rosscarbery and Timoleague. The Coordinator is Fr John McCarthy PP Rosscarbery.

Each parish in this pastoral area has either a parish assembly or a parish pastoral council (the pastoral councils for Kilmeen and Rosscarbery are due to renew their membership).

The Pastoral Area Coordinating Group will meet in January with representatives of each parish nominated. (Out-going pastoral councils will nominate one member from their group and the new groups, when nominated, will nominate the second representative from the parish.

Pastoral Area 4

Aughadown, Caheragh, Castlehaven, Kilmacabea (Leap/Glandore), Rath & the Islands (Baltimore), Skibbereen. The Coordinator is Fr Pat O'Sullivan MSC PP Kilmacabea.

Recent developments in this area include the first meeting of steering groups in SKIBBEREEN and RATH & THE ISLANDS who will work to arrange the nomination of pastoral leadership groups in the two parishes.

CAHERAGH parish is planning to nominate new members for its assembly in the spring.

Parish assemblies or pastoral councils are already in place in the other parishes and representatives will meet in the spring to plan for the area's coordinating group.

Online Theology

Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, has launched its first accredited online theology course so that people can study at home or wherever they have access to the internet. To overcome the isolation felt by some people in online learning the participants meet on two occasions during the course to enhance their learning.

For more information see www.nostra.ie/steponline.html

Pastoral Area 5

Bantry, Goleen, Muintir Bháire (Durrus), Schull. The Coordinator is Fr Robert Brophy PP Bantry.

There is one parish pastoral council in this area at present – in SCHULL – and its term of office is complete. The outgoing pastoral council is working with new PP Fr. Alan O'Leary and Fr. Joe Spillane to have nominations in Schull in March.

A pastoral area coordinating group cannot materialise until pastoral leadership groups representative of the parishioners are formed in the other parishes.

Pastoral Area 6

Drimoleague, Dunmanway, Kilmichael, Uibh Laoire. The Coordinator is Fr Ted Collins PP Dunmanway.

DRIMOLEAGUE has recently nominated its third parish assembly, chaired by Pat Keohane, with Hannah McCarthy as Secretary.

DUNMANWAY steering group, chaired by Denis O'Mahony is progressing towards the parish nominating a parish assembly in the spring.

Thereafter, it will be possible to develop plans to have representatives of each parish assembly form a pastoral area coordinating group.

Pastoral Area 7

Bandon, Enniskeane & Dessertserges, Innishannon, Kilbrittain, Murragh & Templemartin (Newcestown/Farnivane). The Coordinator is Fr John Kingston PP Innishannon.

The Pastoral Area Coordinating Group held its first meeting in December.

The term of office of Bandon's Pastoral Council is up and plans are being developed for a new pastoral leadership group for the parish.

Baptism preparation teams in parishes



Following contact from a number of parishes about setting up new teams, or introducing new members to existing teams, the spring training programme will be offered on Wednesdays 20 January, 27 January and 3 February at the Turner's Cross Parish Centre.

Parishes who wish to participate should contact Sr. Karen Kent or Fr Charlie Kiely to reserve places.

The programme introduces people to a way of helping the parish to welcome and support parents who present children for baptism.



Pictured are members of the second parish assembly for Ovens / Farran Parish at their planning day in Oriel House, Ballincollig. The day was facilitated by Pat Sheehan.

Pastoral Area 8

Pastoral Area 8 is comprised of the parishes of Ballincollig, Kilmurry and Ovens. The Coordinator is Fr George O'Mahony PP Ballincollig.

The first meeting of nominated parishioners to the pastoral area's coordinating group will be in early February.

OVENS/FARRAN PARISH has elected the second parish assembly with John O'Leary from Coachford as chairperson and Mary O'Callaghan from Ovens as secretary. Jerry Kelleher from Coachford has been re-elected as vice chair. Although smaller in number, but building on the excellent work of the previous assembly, they hope to concentrate their energies on three areas: liturgy and faith development, community care and welcome, and youth and children.

KILMURRY PARISH are putting plans in place for the renewal of their parish assembly. They hope to use their parish mission in early Spring as a springboard to launch the process of electing a new parish assembly.

Pastoral Area 9

Pastoral Area 9 includes the parishes of Ballineaspig, Ballinora, Curraheen, Sacred Heart Parish, and St Joseph's Parish, Wilton. The Coordinator is Mgr. Kevin O'Callaghan PPVG, Ballineaspig.

Parish leadership groups are currently involved in a discernment process to select their members to serve on the PACG. The first meeting of the newly elected members for the pastoral area is scheduled to take place on Thursday January 21, 2010.

BALLINEASPAIG Parish Elected their new Parish Pastoral Council in October with David Clifford as chairperson and Tom O'Donovan as secretary. Plans are being prepared for the Parish to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2010.

WILTON parish is due to renew its parish assembly in the spring.

Pastoral Area 10

The Coordinator is Fr Pat Fogarty, PP Knocknaheeny. The parishes of Clogheen, Farranree, Gurrabraher and Knocknaheeny/Hollyhill, have had introductory meetings to establish the coordinating group for the pastoral area.

The first meeting of the pastoral area coordinating group is scheduled for the start of the year.

FARRANREE Parish will begin the process of re-electing a new parish assembly early in the New Year.

Welcome to Fr Jack Harris CM, the new Parish Priest of St. Vincent's, Sunday's Well. Fr. Harris is from Portadown and has previously ministered in England also.

Fr Harris replaces Fr Colm McAdam who has been assigned to a Dublin parish.

Pastoral Area 11

This pastoral area takes in the parishes of the Cathedral, Blackpool and St Vincent's (Sundays Well). The Coordinator is Fr John O'Donovan PP Blackpool.

Chairpersons from the parish groups have had introductory meetings with clergy to establish the parishes' coordinating groups.

BLACKPOOL and CATHEDRAL Parishes will renew their parish assemblies in late summer or early autumn 2010.

Pastoral Area 12

St. Joseph's, St. Patrick's, Upper Mayfield. The Coordinator is Fr Aidan O'Driscoll PP Upper Mayfield.

The Pastoral Area Coordinating Group held its first meeting in October and has planned 4 meetings for the coming year.

Pastoral Area 13

Carraig na bhFear, Glanmire, Glounthaune, Watergrasshill. The Coordinator is Fr Noel O'Sullivan PP Glanmire.

The Pastoral Area Coordinating Group held its first meeting in November and has planned four meetings for 2010.

Carraig na bhFear parish has established its third parish assembly and has nominated Liam Ring as the Chairperson and Marian Murphy as the secretary.

Watergrasshill have plans in place towards their third parish assembly and Glanmire will be following this pattern in the spring time.

Pictured below are members of the new parish assembly for Carraig na bhFear Parish at their Planning Day in Vienna Woods Hotel, Glanmire. The day was facilitated by Fr Charlie Kiely.



Who is my Neighbour?

A resource evening was held in October last in the Sacred Heart Centre, Western Road, Cork, to support the work of parish assemblies and pastoral councils.

The evening entitled *Who is my Neighbour?* was presented by Pat Sheehan from the Pastoral Development Office.

A number of issues were briefly explored including: what is community? How can communities build on their existing assets?

Attendees discussed five elements of good Christian community, and how connecting people with each other through relationships can enhance the community building process.

Resource materials were given out on the evening to help parishes explore further ideas in creating more welcoming and vibrant communities.

Public Lecture Series

Introduction to John's Gospel

These talks are on Thursday nights from 7 pm to 8 pm in Mardyke House, Cork. (behind the former Ervinville Hospital)

☐ 21st January - 11th March 2010.

☐ Cost: €10 per lecture.

☐ Students taking this module as part of an accredited NOSTRA programme are required to attend a seminar each night from 8.00 pm to 9.30 pm following each lecture.

Full details of lecturers, costs and registration requirements for accredited students available at www.nostra.ie/public_cork2010.html

Pastoral Area 14

Ballinlough, Blackrock, Blackrock Road, Mahon. The Coordinator is Fr Jim O'Donovan PP Ballinlough.

Nominated members from Ballinlough, Blackrock Road (SMA), Blackrock Parish and Mahon Parish are due to hold their first meeting of the PACG on Thursday 28th of January, 2010.

MAHON Parish Assembly members are working hard to have a new Parish Assembly in place sometime early in the New Year. They recently held a day of reviewing and reflecting to look at the experience of the current members of the parish assembly.

BALLINLOUGH Parish will also begin the process of re-electing a new parish assembly early in the New Year.

Pastoral Area 15

Douglas and Frankfield-Grange parishes. The Coordinator is Fr John Walsh PP Frankfield.

In late September/early October a training programme was held to establish Baptism preparation teams in Douglas and Rochestown and to renew the team in Frankfield parish.

The parishes have also begun to publish a joint weekly newsletter as one move towards closer collaboration between the communities.

Pastoral Area 16

The parishes are Ballyphehane, St. Finbarr's South, Ss. Peter and Paul's, The Lough, Togher, and Turner's Cross. The Coordinator is Canon Kerry Murphy-O'Connor, PP Turner's Cross.

The Pastoral Area Coordinating Group met in November for the first time and has planned four meetings for next year.

Togher parish assembly are beginning the process towards nominating the parish's second parish assembly.

Discussing families and faith

Ten parents of young children met with Fr Charlie and Sr Karen to respond to the broad question "how do we hand on faith to our children?"

The discussion was lively and thought provoking for all who might be seeking answers to this question often raised in parishes. Having discussed what helps and what are the challenges facing parents of children under 12 today the group offered a number of ideas to us that will need further planning and discussion but are a basis from which we can develop further resources for parishes and parents.

Some parents spoke of the children's liturgies, faith and fun programme and "Do this in memory" offered currently in some parishes. The need to build on these is essential for parents and children. Some ideas raised: can we offer a resource session to help other parishes establish children's liturgy groups and the

faith and fun programme; can we offer a programme for parents about handing on faith; internet resources that parents can use at home with their children; summer camps – faith based; Sunday school and much more...

Offering parents a choice about the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation was a major topic of discussion. Could the preparation be solely parish based to take away the pressure to conform as part of the classroom activities? This would mean families having a choice to participate and receive the sacraments as active members of the faith community.

The bigger question raised was – what is offered for the age group 12 upwards by the church/parish/diocese? This one is for another day and another discussion.

(A similar conversation planned for the west of the diocese had to be cancelled due to flooding in Bandon.)

Journeying with Luke:

Short introduction to Luke's Gospel for small parish groups

Would you be interested in creating an opportunity for a small group in your parish to come together to learn about the Gospel of Luke, which is the gospel that we will hear read at Sunday Mass over the coming year?

If so, why not come along to a workshop on how you might go about it on either of the following dates:

10.00 am - 4.00 pm Saturday 16th January 2010 in Myross Wood Retreat House, Leap, Co. Cork.

or

10.00 am to 4.00 pm on Saturday 23rd January 2010 in St Michael's Parish Centre, Blackrock, Cork City.

No cost for taking part. Lunch and all resources needed for the workshop will be provided free of charge.

Please register by calling Fr. Sean O'Sullivan at the Adult Religious Education Office at 021-7336053 or emailing are@corkandross.org before 10th January 2010.



Members of the Pastoral Area Coordinating Group for Pastoral Area 7 at their first meeting in the Parish Centre, Bandon, on Dec 3rd, 2009.

Workshops will mark launch of new Diocesan Funeral Documents

There are new booklets, published by the Diocesan Liturgy Commission and approved by the Bishop, which deal with the celebration of Catholic funeral rites. They seek to take the rites and to place things in an appropriate way during our funeral celebrations.

Our Funeral Rites are sacred. They help us as a people of faith to share in the ministry of consolation of those who are bereaved.

They help us to grieve and they help us to do ritually what we ourselves, sometimes, cannot express.

These booklets for parishes and for the bereaved families will help to ensure that the funeral ceremony is conducted in a dignified, personal, meaningful and

prayerful way.

Workshops to explain their content and how they will be used are scheduled for January.

DATES OF WORKSHOPS:

► Cork City - Rochestown Park Hotel, Monday, 11th January, 2010.
Funeral Directors: 11am – 12.30
Clergy, Sacristans, Liturgy Group Rep: 3 – 4.30 pm

► West Cork - Quality Hotel, Clonakilty, Tuesday, 19th January, 2010.
Funeral Directors: 11am – 12.30
Clergy, Sacristans, Liturgy Group Rep.: 2.30 – 4pm

Please contact Fr. Christy at 021-4537600, 087-2675275 or liturgy@corkandross.org with details of those attending.



Fr. Liam Lawton pictured with members of the choir of St. Patrick's Church, Rochestown, when he presented a workshop for choir members in the diocese at the Rochestown Church. Below are more attendees.



CHURCH MUSIC SUMMER SCHOOL

2010

Christopher Walker is an internationally known lecturer, composer and conductor whose works encompass children's music for liturgy and catechetics plus a wealth of material for all liturgical celebrations.

He will be the guest director for this year's Church Music Summer School. It will take place in Maynooth 5th – 9th July. For more details email liturgy@corkandross.org

Training for Ministry

Courses for Ministers of the Eucharist will be run in Castlehaven, Crosshaven & Kinsale in late January and February by the Team of Trainers.

During Lent, Fr. Christy and Eamonn Nash will be running courses for Ministers of the Word for parishioners from Ballinhassig, Crosshaven, The Lough, and Frankfield.

Why Pastoral Areas?

"The grouping together of parishes in Pastoral Areas is another change for the diocese and for parishes. It is rooted in two pressing needs: firstly, our commitment to a renewed spirit of cooperation among the entire church as People of God and, secondly, from the need to plan for the rapidly decreasing numbers of priests and religious ministering in our diocese.

These two strands of our mission are complementary. Nonetheless, it is understandable that the concern and energy of people in parishes is concentrated on the urgent need to address the shortage of priests for parishes.

Our tasks for the future in the diocese include helping each parishioner to live out their baptismal calling in a life of prayer, lived in communion with others; strengthening collaboration between priests and parishioners; coordinating more efficient use of resources between parishes; discerning ways of encouraging more people to serve in priestly and religious ministry and then managing how we deploy resources to these tasks."

— from *Guidelines for Pastoral Area Coordinating Groups* in the Diocese of Cork & Ross. Full text online at www.corkandross.org/pastoral

20 January

Trócaire Parish and Liturgy resource pack for Lent now available (sent to parish clergy) it includes new Stations of the Cross: "From Ireland around the world" in the same style as our Cork Stations of the Cross of last year – composed by Sr Karen.
See www.trócaire.ie

18 -25 January

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Theme for 2010: You are witnesses
Why not gather to pray with other local Christians? And enjoy a social time afterwards.
Resources sent to all clergy and available at www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer
The Order of Service will be posted to priests as usual. The central Ecumenical Service will be held on Friday 22nd January, 2010 at 7.30pm in the Church of the Resurrection, Farranree.

31 January

Catholic Schools Week – resource pack distributed to schools and parishes
2010 theme: Catholic schools – a light for every generation.

1 February Saint Brigid

2 February

Candlemas - blessing of candles.

3 February

Saint Blaise – blessing of throats.

11 February

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of the Sick
Why not invite and arrange transport for the sick and housebound of your parish and their carers to come to a special Mass today. Include the Anointing of the Sick and a cuppa and a chat afterwards.

14 February Second collection for Lourdes pilgrimage fund.

17 February

Ash Wednesday – Lent begins.

22-23 February

Developing Parish Seminar at All Hallows College, Dublin, on collaborative ministry, with Br Loughlan Sofield.
www.allhallows.ie

5 March

Women's World Day of Prayer -
www.worlddayofprayer.net
Gather to pray and celebrate with women from other Christian churches. Prayer service is prepared by women

from across the globe – why not join this global day of prayer this year.

9 March

First of the Confirmation ceremonies in the diocese for 2010. The full schedule is available online at
www.corkandross.org/confirmation

14 March

Mother's Day – include a special prayer and blessing for all mothers at Mass today.

14 March Second collection for the Bishop's commissions.

17 March Saint Patrick

26 March Daffodil Day www.cancer.ie

27 Priesthood Information Day

St. Dominic's, Ennismore, Cork
10.30am to 4pm
For those seeking information about being a priest in the Diocese of Cork and Ross.
Info: priesthood@corkandross.org

28 March

Palm Sunday – Holy Week begins.

1 April

Holy Thursday – Chrism Mass in the Cathedral at 10am
The Bishop and priests will bless the oils that will be used during the coming year for the celebration of the sacraments in your parish. Why not join in this diocesan celebration and bring the oils in procession at the opening of your Evening Mass of the Last Supper.

2 April

Good Friday – look back to last year's resources for Prayer around the Cross led by young people and see the Trócaire pack for Stations of the Cross
Copies available in the office.

2 April Collection for the Holy Places of Jerusalem.

4 April Easter Sunday

25 April

Vocations Sunday - see our web site for resources and ideas.

6 May

The Big Brew – hold a tea party to support the Alzheimers Society of Ireland.
www.teaday.ie

9 May Second collection for Pastoral Development Office and services.

16 May

Ice cream Sunday – host an ice cream party after Mass today to support the Downs Syndrome Society of Ireland.
www.downssyndrome.ie

23 May

Pentecost Sunday – why not invite the children who received Confirmation this year to Mass today and offer a special prayer and blessing for them
See last year's resources.

6 June

Corpus Christi
Procession in the city 3pm from the Cathedral to Daunt Square.

11-16 June

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes – why not gather a group from your parish to join this pilgrimage?

27 June Second collection for Peter's Pence

25-27 June

Knock Youth Festival for over 18s.
www.knock-shrine.ie/youthfestival

10/11 July

Know your neighbour weekend - organise one of the activities suggested in the organisers pack available from Macra at
www.knowyourneighbour.ie

14-21 August

Knockadoon liturgy and folk music summer camp for young people in East Cork.
www.knockadoon.net

12-16 August

Youth 2000 summer festival in Clonmacnoise for young people of 16 years and older.

End of August

Mission Alive resources available to download for October – Mission Month.
www.imu.ie

More on the web . . .

Many more ideas and helps on the diocesan website at
www.corkandross.org/pastoral
In particular, browse the Handbook of Ideas for parish groups. It has lots of useful resources which parish groups can work with in their local parish.