

# Altum *Put out into the deep'*

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

## Parishioners anxious but supportive in priest shortage

Parishioners across the diocese are concerned about the scarcity of priests and the general falling numbers of religious. But they are also keen to be part of the solution.

Several hundred people from the parishes of the diocese attended an evening in Togher Church, Cork, which was organised by the Pastoral Development Office with the support of vocations directors of religious congregations and St. Joseph's Young Priests Society.

The evening was addressed by Joe Merrick from the St. Joseph's Young Priests Society who highlighted the need to promote vocations to priesthood and religious life while also encouraging lay people to fully live their Christian calling as baptised members of the church.

Each parish that was represented received a pack of materials to help the parish assemblies and pastoral councils become more involved in promoting vocations in their parishes. The pack included a DVD, a CD, prayer cards and information literature.

The resources also include a plan for a liturgy which can be led by lay parishioners. Part of the prayer liturgy was presented on the night with readers from Togher parish assembly and singing by St. Mary's on the Hill Folk Group.

The diocese has also commissioned a



*Above: Members of the St. Mary's on the Hill Folk Group, Knocknaheeny-Hollyhill Parish who led the music and singing at the evening on vocations promotion in Togher Church.*

set of display posters with stands which are available to the parishes to display in their churches. These, along with the texts for the liturgy, are available from the Pastoral Development Office.

Vocations directors from male and female religious orders and congregations also distributed printed materials to parishioners.

*Below: Togher parishioners who read the scriptures and led prayers at the vocations evening in Togher church. (l to r.) Leonard Murphy, Della O'Leary, Sorcha Uí Laoghaire, Victor Tabone.*



## Parish updates and developments

The first assemblies have been nominated in three more parishes of the diocese. Dunmanway parish has had a parish steering group laying the foundations of the new assembly and there was a high level of participation by parishioners in the nomination process.

Skibbereen and Rath and the Islands are served by the same clergy and these along with parish representatives have been coordinating the first assemblies – one for each parish. However, it is envisaged that both parish assemblies will coordinate much of their activities and both parish groups will come together for most of the formation programme.

During the spring months Carrigaline and Courceys parishes renewed their parish assemblies. In Carrigaline Gerard D'Arcy was nominated as Chairperson and Adrian O'Herlihy as deputy and Ber Parfrey as the secretary. In Courceys, Geraldine Nyhan was nominated as chairperson and John Twomey is deputy with Noirin Hayes as secretary. In both parishes this is the second parish assembly.

New members have also been nominated to form the third parish assembly in Caheragh and the third group in Schull parish. Formation for these groups is planned for before the summer break.

The parishes of Turner's Cross, Innishannon, Ballinhassig, Tracton Abbey, and the Harbour parishes have all participated in a facilitated review meeting since Christmas. From these meetings Turner's Cross, the Harbour and Innishannon have begun to make plans to renew their parish assemblies in the autumn.

In Wilton Parish they have been meeting over the past number of weeks reviewing the work of the parish assembly over the past three years. Plans are under way for seeking nominations for the new assembly in September.

Gurranabraher Parish Assembly will shortly be coming to the end of their

first year as a parish group; they are planning to hold a day of retreat and reflection to review the work of the assembly over the last year.

At present Togher have completed the nominations to their second parish assembly and are participating in the diocesan formation programme now. Kilmurry Parish are in the process of counting and sorting their nominations for the setting up of their new parish assembly and expect to be up and running by early summer. Mahon Parish are well on the way to setting up their new parish assembly. They will shortly begin a formation process with the pastoral development office to develop their plan for the next three years.

Frankfield, Kinsale and Kilbrittain parishes are making plans for nominations in the coming months. Glanmire are preparing to renew their parish assembly in the autumn. Glounthaune are also reviewing this month. Watergrasshill renewed in February with Dan Costello as chair and Norma Buckley, secretary.

Enniskeane and St. Patrick's parish assemblies have also held reviews.

Congratulations to Knocknaheeny Parish assembly on the recent launch of their new Parish Website.

### Young Adults Conversations

There has been an excellent response from the young adults 18-35 to our initial conversations to discuss possibilities for ministry with this age group in the diocese. We will be meeting with them again in the coming weeks.

### Family and Faith Conversations

We met with parents of children under 12 in the city and in the west over the winter months and are now working on the suggestions they made regarding resources and ideas for them and their children in the area of handing on faith in the family and in the parish.

### Baptism Teams

Over three sessions in January and February 35 people participated in the Parish Baptism Preparation Team training and there are now trained teams with new members in Knocknaheeny, Watergrasshill, Ovens, Gurranabraher, Douglas, Frankfield, Sunday's Well and Turner's Cross while a number of parishes came to experience the training with a view to setting up a team in the autumn.



Members of Carrigaline's recently nominated new Parish Assembly photographed at part of the formation programme. (Photo: Adrian O'Herlihy)

**Altum** 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 in altum'.)

Editor: Fr. Tom Hayes

EDITORIAL ADDRESS:-

Pastoral Development Office

Parochial House, Ballyphehane, Cork

Tel 021-4537474

Email: tom.hayes@corkandross.org

Website: www.corkandross.org/pastoral

#### PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE CONTACTS:

Director of Pastoral Planning

Fr. Tom Hayes tom.hayes@corkandross.org 021-4537603 087-2629154

Pastoral Development Coordinators

Sr. Karen Kent osu karen.kent@corkandross.org 021-4537601 087-9161792

Fr. Charlie Kiely CC charles.kiely@corkandross.org 021-4313103

Pat Sheehan pat.sheehan@corkandross.org 021-4537602 087-2630810

Liturgy Office

Fr. Christy Fitzgerald liturgy@corkandross.org 021-4537600 087-2675275

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.

## Looking ahead for pastoral opportunities . . .

### Dates, Resources and Events to aid planning by your parish

6 May The Big Brew – hold a tea party to support the Alzheimers Society of Ireland [www.teaday.ie](http://www.teaday.ie)

9 May Second Collection at Mass for Pastoral Development Office

16 May Ascension Day  
The Church worldwide marks today as World Communication Day

Ice Cream Sunday – host an ice cream party after Mass for the children to support the Downs Syndrome Society of Ireland. [www.downssyndrome.ie](http://www.downssyndrome.ie)

23 May Pentecost Sunday – invite the children who received Confirmation this year to Mass and offer special prayers and a blessing for them. Resources available from the PDO office.

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

11-16 June Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes – consider bringing a group from your parish to travel with the diocese? Plan for next year – same dates!

19 June Year for Priests closes – offer thanks and a special prayer for your parish clergy today (resources in pack distributed on 14th April)

20 June Father's Day – offer a special blessing for all fathers today – see the Book of Blessings for the text

27 June Collection for Peter's Pence

25-27 June Knock Youth Festival for over 18s  
[www.knock-shrine.ie/youthfestival](http://www.knock-shrine.ie/youthfestival)



*Pictured are members of the new parish assembly for Watergrasshill Parish at their planning day.*

10/11 July Know Your Neighbour weekend – organised by Macra – try one of the activities in their pack available from [www.knowyourneighbour.ie](http://www.knowyourneighbour.ie)

12-16 August Youth 2000 summer festival in Clonmacnoise for young people 16 and over. [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie)

14-21 August Knockadoon liturgy and folk music summer camp for young people in East Cork. Tell your parish musicians about this week – especially groups involving young people.  
[www.knockadoon.net](http://www.knockadoon.net)

15 August The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Holy day of obligation

End of August Mission Alive resources available for download for use in October – begin your planning early for Mission Month. [www.imu.ie](http://www.imu.ie)

September Make plans for the introductory session of your parish Do This in Memory Programme

16 September Ireland's biggest coffee morning [www.hospice-foundation.ie](http://www.hospice-foundation.ie)

September Make preparations to start a faith and fun group in your parish – reconnecting with children who received First Holy Communion last May. See our online handbook for information.

### Lenten talks were well received in Blackrock

*May Kelly, from Blackrock Parish Assembly describes a recent successful initiative during Lent in the parish.*

The Liturgy, Prayer and Faith Development Group of St. Michael's Parish Assembly organised another series of Lenten Talks in 2010, (encouraged by a successful series in 2009).

This year a new group of very interesting speakers was invited and a wide variety of topics was covered. The talks were held on each Wednesday of Lent (St. Patrick's Night excepted) in St. Michael's Parish Centre which is a most comfortable venue.

On 17 February Mr. Declan Hassett spoke on "Lenten Hope and Compassion"

On 24 February Sr. Nan O'Mahony, Chaplain, Marymount, spoke on "Spirit of the Hospice".

On 3 March Mrs. Mairead Bushnell, National President of St. Vincent de Paul spoke on "Challenge and Opportunity"

On 10 March Fr. Charles Conway, M.S.C. spoke on the Passover for Jews and Christians.

On 24 March Fr. Noel Kehoe, Redemptorist spoke on "Opportunity and Hope in time of Recession"

All the Talks were followed by an opportunity for community participation in a very relaxed atmosphere.



*Courceys Parish has recently nominated the members of its second Parish Assembly and members are seen here with Canon Tom Kelleher PP at their planning day as part of the formation programme provided by the Pastoral Development Office. (Photo: Donie Hurley)*

## Programme to form teams of people to minister at funerals in the diocese

Following on from the publication of the Diocesan Funeral Documents a series of workshops took place. During those workshops we explained that we would be inviting parishes to form a Pastoral Team for Funerals.

At that time we suggested parishes would talk together about establishing such a Team. We suggest that Liturgy Groups, Assemblies and Pastoral Councils engage in a conversation with the parish clergy about gathering members for their parish.

A six week training programme will take place in the autumn. The training will be provided for a number of parishes together. Further details will be made known later. Parishes may in the meantime contact Fr. Christy at the details provided below.

### MUSIC WORKSHOP FOR FUNERALS

The last in the series of workshops on the funeral documents will take place in May. It is planned that these workshops will be for people who provide music at funerals. We will get contact details from the Funeral Directors. The workshops are planned as follows:

Quality Hotel, Clonakilty Wednesday  
26th May 8 – 9.30 pm

Rochestown Park Hotel Thursday  
27th May 8 – 9.30 pm.

### Challenges of Leadership

The Department of Theology and Religious Studies at Mary Immaculate College in Limerick, is hosting its third conference in the McAuley Conference Series on May 27th next.

The title of this year's conference is "The Emerging Challenges for Leadership in Ireland Today".

The one-day conference includes speakers from education, churches, politics and social commentators, including Dame Nuala O'Loan and Mark Patrick Hederman, Abbot of Glenstal Abbey.

Conference fee: €80 (incl. tea /coffee/lunch)

Further information on:-

[www.mic.ul.ie/theology/leadership.html](http://www.mic.ul.ie/theology/leadership.html)

### An Evening for Parish Liturgy Groups

Traditionally a full day during Eastertide was held for Liturgy Groups. This was found to be difficult for many to attend. This year we are going to offer Parish Liturgy groups an opportunity to gather for an evening. One session will take place in West Cork and another in the City.

The evening will begin at 8pm concluding at 9.30pm. It will provide an opportunity for groups to identify the issues, needs and challenges for liturgy groups in their area, as well as sharing experiences with other Liturgy Groups.

West Cork:  
Parish Centre, Clonakilty, Monday May  
17th. 8 – 9.30 pm

City:  
Frankfield Parish Centre, Thursday May  
20th. 8 – 9.30 pm

Please contact Fr. Christy with details of numbers and which evening you will attend!

*Liturgy Office Contact details:*  
Fr. Christy Fitzgerald,  
Diocesan Director of Liturgy, Pastoral  
Development Office, The Parochial  
House, Ballyphehane, Cork.  
021-4537600 / 087-2675275  
email: [liturgy@corkandross.org](mailto:liturgy@corkandross.org)

### Course at Irish College, Rome, where participants will also be accommodated

The Irish College, Rome is running a course in July specifically for lay people entitled *Return to the Source -- rediscovering the meaning of our baptism*.

The course will run from July 18 to 24, 2010 and will be facilitated by Fr Micheal Drumm (Diocese of Elphin; Executive Chairperson of Catholic Schools Partnership).

Lectures, liturgies and visits to significant sites in Rome will combine to deepen an appreciation of the sacraments and a rediscovery of the meaning of baptism. Further information can be found at the link.

See: [www.irishcollege.org/PDF/aTimeForLayPeople.pdf](http://www.irishcollege.org/PDF/aTimeForLayPeople.pdf)

### COLLECTION FOR PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT ON MAY 9

The work of the Pastoral Development Office is funded in three ways: an annual collection in churches, a grant from diocesan funds, and private donations.

This year's annual collection is being taken up in churches of the diocese on May 8/9th. We are grateful to parishioners and priests for the support given to this collection in recent years and for the generosity of all who contributed.

Please promote and support the collection this year. Thank You.

### 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 College 5th – 9th July.

The cost to the participants for the week including music, tutorials, full meals and accommodation is €430 for ICMA members and €480 for non-members, students €330 (there will be an additional charge of €50 for applications received after June 1st).

Tomás Kenny is the registrar for the ICMA Summer School.

Any enquiries, please contact him on 01 7083478/ Mobile 086 2366521 or by email: [tomaskenny1@eircom.net](mailto:tomaskenny1@eircom.net)

### Mission Month 2010, will have strong Cork links

October is known as Mission Month. Mission Sunday is celebrated on the second last Sunday of October. This year Mission Sunday will be celebrated on October 24th.

October is a time to reflect on Mission, as well as to our call to renew our Missionary work for today. The theme for October 2010 is "Together in Mission".

This year the Irish Missionary Union will be working in partnership with the Cork and Ross Diocese to help explore what Mission means in 2010 for parishes and how it can be further integrated into normal parish life. As the programme progresses more information will be provided to parishes.

The IMU through the Mission Alive Office will provide resources to help reflect on the theme for 2010. Incorporated in this year's material will be a Resource book for second level schools, a Handbook on parish twinning, a Prayer Card with suggested material for use during October.

See [www.imu.ie](http://www.imu.ie)