



**St Mary's
Parish
Haddington
Road Parish**

***Serving the
family***

***Serving the
community***

***Serving the
city***

25-26 June 2022

Building Hope Pastoral Development Strategy: Parish Update

We had a very encouraging gathering last Thursday, grounded in the hope and belief that what we contributed as we shared our ideas was informed by the Holy Spirit. The gathering has a prayerful mood and focused on the 4 dimensions of Faith, Servant Leadership, Welcome and Social Justice centred on the person of Jesus Christ. Questionnaires were distributed to the community in attendance as a means of gathering the opinions of all present in a structured manner. The next step is to collate the information from the questionnaires and submit the information to the diocese.

If you were not able to attend or did not get an opportunity to complete the questionnaire relating to questions of interest to you, or if you know somebody who did not know about the parish gathering and who would like to offer their opinions on developing a pastoral strategy, there will be an online questionnaire available from Sunday, 26 June until Friday, 01 July. A link will be on the **parish website [Home Page](#)** to facilitate access to the form.

As a means of gaining insight as to how Archbishop Dermot sees our faith life and structures changing, we have included his speaking notes used for a panel discussion during Ecumenical Bible Week.

Thank you to all who attended the gathering and to the people who helped with hospitality and facilitating the small groups.

Speaking notes of Archbishop Dermot Farrell for a Panel Discussion during Ecumenical Bible Week on the topic *A New Pentecost: Moving to the Edges* - June 9, 2022

I thank you for your invitation to this Ecumenical Bible Week, and indeed for the interesting title which brings a number of questions in its wake!

In recent years there has been a great deal of talk about moving to the edges, the margins, the peripheries. However, without serious reflection and engagement, there is the risk that even a worthy image or insightful framing can leave us unmoved, or leave us on the surface of things, repeating formulae which sound good, but have lost their power to call us to renewal and change of heart. Sometimes, I think, in Ireland, we need to ask who is now on the margin? As the Church finds itself relegated to the edge of life in a fractured society like ours, I find myself not only asking "what is the Spirit saying to the Churches" today, but also asking what the Spirit saying *within* the Churches? Where is the Spirit bringing the Church? Put another way, 'what is the Spirit empowering the Church for, or empowering the Church to?

During the last 200 years, until recently our churches existed and functioned in a society and a culture which broadly cohered with the values of the other. That gave purchase to all sorts of illusions about the character of our culture, and the vibrancy of the churches. In the last 20 years that illusory symbiosis has crumbled before our eyes; in the next decade, the effects of that disintegration will become more and more evident. The churches and communities of faith are therefore having to re-discover how we fulfil the mission entrusted to us by the Lord, and whose urgency we have come to know for ourselves in our tasting of 'the goodness of the Lord' (Ps 34:8) and the joy of the gospel.

Upon reflection, I find myself wondering if authentic Pentecost is not always new? After all, must Pentecost not always be so, as the Spirit who comes is always new! Is not the Spirit of the living God, the Spirit of newness and renewal? In this perspective we might consider the following:

1. The importance of discernment based on deep listening to faith communities, and to the Word of God with those communities. It is important that this process continue and become embedded in the life of the Church. Sustained synodality is the challenge. We need to follow the synodal dynamic animated by the Holy Spirit. People have to be meaningfully heard and responded to in the institutional life of the Church. The people of God must journey together.
2. If the Church in Ireland is to be renewed, we must develop an active ministry to young people and the younger generations, i.e. those who are under 40. Younger people are definitely on the edge. Some of these young generations have undoubtedly heard the gospel proclaimed, but we

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need to ask what will bring the Word to life for them—and indeed for us? This surely draws attention to the transcendent dimensions of human existence. Here also much work has to be done.

3. The way of the future is lay involvement with co-responsibility. We have no option but to build a Church that is inclusive of all, where all participate in every level of parish life, and where co-responsibility is essential. Tomorrow is the Feast of St Ephrem the Syrian (c. 306–373). In his *Commentary on the Diatessaron*, reflecting on the richness of Scripture, he remarks, One might realize that a person is only capable of discovering one out of the many riches that exist in [a passage of Scripture] ... A thirsty person rejoices because they have drunk: one is not grieved because she proved incapable of drinking the fountain dry. The fountain can conquer your thirst, but your thirst cannot conquer the fountain. (1:18–19). My friends, let us turn to the Word and its riches, to the spring of living water, that our own thirst may be sated, and that its overflowing riches may bring life to our weary world, and provide direction and renewal for our disheartened communities.



Summer Dues

2022

THANK YOU
FOR SUPPORTING
YOUR PRIESTS

Archdiocese of Dublin

St. Mary's Parish Events—Summer/ Autumn '22

25 June 11:00a.m.	St John's Day Mass: Order of Malta
12 August 6:30p.m.	Lion's Club: Summer Barbecue
03 September 3:00p.m.	Order of Malta Mass
19 September 5:45p.m.	Pastoral Council Meeting
5 November 3:00p.m.	Requiem Mass: Order of Malta
6 November 11a.m.	Mass for the Dead of the Parish
14 November 5:45p.m.	Pastoral Council Meeting

The Building Hope Prayer

Pilgrim God, we give you thanks and praise. You constantly journey with us even in our darkness and doubts. We seek your way of loving kindness to walk together as one family. Open our eyes to recognise you in the faces of one another, in the breaking of bread and in the splendour of creation.

May the risen Christ sow seeds of hope and new life deep within us. May our hearts and minds be filled with your Word, bringing forth truth, justice and peace. May the Holy Spirit working in and through us do much more than we can dare to imagine as we live out our baptismal calling in humble and loving service. We make this our prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.
St Laurence O'Toole, pray for us.
St Kevin, pray for us.
St Brigid, pray for us.

Faith and Spirituality resources are available on the [parish website](#).

IN MEMORIAM

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Sunday: 11a.m.	Dr. Walter Halley, Anniversary
Sunday: 11a.m.	Joseph Matthews, Anniversary
Recently deceased	Ray Lyons

Mass Times

Sundays:

Vigil, 6p.m. (Saturday), 9.30a.m., 11a.m., 5p.m.
Croatian Community Mass 6.30p.m.
French-speaking community Mass 2nd and 4th
Sundays of the month at 12.30p.m.

Daily Mass: 10a.m. - **Rosary:** daily after 10a.m. Mass

Baptisms

1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Request forms available from Parish Office.

Marriages

For the use of St. Mary's Church and Prenuptial enquiries please contact the Parish Office (open Monday — Thursday , 10.30a.m. - 3p.m.).

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