



This is an exciting time to be church in Down and Connor. We can choose to stay locked in the upper room of our fears, nourishing one another with sad tales of past glories. Or we can pray together that we can discern where God is calling us to walk, despite our limited courage. My simple invitation, is to dare to be part of God's amazing dream for God's people in this Diocese, and for the Church throughout the world.

Donal McKeown
Bishop Donal McKeown, O.S.B.
Bishop of Down and Connor
Practical Justice (November 2023)

PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE
DIOCESE OF DOWN AND CONNOR



Foreword by

Very Rev. Canon Colm McBride

It is important that we engage with parishioners, as we enter an era of change in the church which we have heard about over several weeks through the Diocesan Pathways to the Future Initiative. The letter from Bishop Donal McKeown at Pentecost set out the reality of our changing church and what the future holds in terms of numbers of priests and the role of laity, and the questions that poses for us to consider what this may mean in practice and what we all can contribute.

The Parish Pastoral Council cannot respond, or effect change in isolation.

To that end we are developing a Parish Pastoral Plan and we need the views of parishioners to inform the plan.

This leaflet summarises the broad themes of our Pastoral Plan as developed by the Parish Pastoral Council for our consideration.

Engagement with parishioners about our Pastoral Plan will take place from November 2023 to January 2024.

Parish Group Leaders will be contacted directly to set up a session per group.

Open drop in sessions to facilitate conversations about our Parish needs will be held in Parish Churches as follows:

Mater Dei, Crumlin

Wednesday 8 November 2023
11.00am-1.00pm

Wednesday 22 November 2023
7-9pm

St. Joseph's Glenavy—Annex

Thursday 9 November 2023
10.30am-12.30pm

Thursday 23 November 2023
7-9pm

Members of the Parish Pastoral Council will be available to speak to after Masses on weekend of

25/26 of November 2023

Glenavy and Killead

Parish Office

59 Chapel Road

Glenavy

BT29 4LY



GLENNAVY
† KILLEAD
PARISH



Developing our
Parish Pastoral Plan

2024-2026

facilitating

Conversations about
our Future Church



We need to be better informed about our Parish needs. To achieve this, we will seek input to our Parish Pastoral Plan at our planned conversation sessions listed on the back of this leaflet. Please complete and return the separate input forms by **Sunday 3 December 2023**, to the boxes provided in our Churches; or return to the Parish Office, or contact us by email at:

glenavy@downandconnor.org

Our Vision is:

that we will be a vibrant, cohesive, welcoming and worshipping faith community, looking out for each other, actively engaged in the world around us, providing many pathways for people to Christ, resulting in God being alive in our lives.

Micah 6:8 'Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God'

What is a Parish Pastoral Council?

The Pastoral Council is a Parish group which exists to ensure that we focus on our vocation as Christians: the continuation of the mission of Jesus Christ in our time and place. One question is at the heart of the work of every Pastoral Council: where and how is God calling us to do three things:

Review Pastoral Matters: in other words to find out what is happening in the Parish and to ask what else could be happening

Reflect: we pray, discuss and discern these matters

Recommend: we recommend practical ways forward to realise our Parish Vision according to our planned Pastoral Themes.

As we develop our Parish Pastoral Plan, we are reviewing what is happening in our Parish under the following three Pastoral Themes:

- Developing our Faith
- Outreach and Inclusivity
- Our changing church.

We want parishioners to consider the actions/outcomes outlined under each theme and the questions posed below, and to use the separate input forms provided to inform our thinking.

Are there things or activities that we would like to see happen to enhance our faith experience?

What would make a difference for us as members of this parish?

How can we become more actively involved in parish life?



Please complete and return input forms by **Sunday 3 December 2023**, to the boxes provided in our Churches; or return to the Parish Office, or contact us by email.

Thank you on behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council.

Developing our Faith

1	Hold Parish 'conversations' about what our Parish needs. Analyse information gathered, assess gaps/opportunities.
2	Define/develop a programme of activity to support Faith Development in our Parish in line with needs identified.
3	Pope Francis has declared 2025 to be a Jubilee Year and in preparation 2024 is to be a 'Symphony of Prayer'. We will develop a programme of events for our parish starting with a Faith Mission in 2024.

Outreach and Inclusivity

1	Know our Parish better – use Diocesan/ Parish information to create a directory of the Parish. Conduct an audit of what is currently delivered, and to whom
2	Based on information gathered from synodal questions, Parish conversations and other feedback, identify areas to target for outreach/inclusivity. Do targeted engagements and gather further insights, identify quick wins and implement. Review insights and develop a programme of activities.
3	Run targeted campaigns to recruit volunteers according to areas of need.

Our changing church

1	Identify short term actions to support Canon McBride.
2	Define the changing role of laity and communicate to the parish. Start introducing changes in laity roles.
3	Engage with parishioners about proposed renovation of Mater Dei Church.