Diocesan Pastoral Council Book Club/Study Group

By Sr. Grace Redmond

The Diocesan Pastoral Council Book Club is really an informal study group designed to meet the need for continuing formation in our Christian faith, especially as that has been articulated in recent years by Pope Francis. Since this year is the year of ‘The Family’, [*Amoris Laetitia - (The Joy of Love)*](https://w2.vatican.va/content/dam/francesco/pdf/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20160319_amoris-laetitia_en.pdf)was chosen*.* Meetings were held one night each month from September, for an hour and thirty minutes in the Pastoral Centre. One person volunteered to lead the group and it rotated monthly. The leader gave a short input at the beginning of the meeting. A study guide written by Fr Eamonn Conway and Cathal Barry helped break down the document. All read and reflected on the relevant chapter in preparation for the night. It was a very enriching experience and lots of views and opinions were aired and shared each night. We had plenty of laughter! It helped us to get to know one another as a group. The initiative has proved very valuable in familiarising us with the unique way in which Pope Francis communicates his message. Next September we hope to take another book and discuss it in our Book Club.