

Meet the Diocesan Pastoral Council

Bishop Denis Brennan: is a native of Rathnure parish, was ordained in May 1970, served in the House of Missions and various parishes until he was appointed Bishop of Ferns on 1st March 2006. His resignation, on age grounds, was accepted by Pope Francis in 2020 but he remains as Bishop until there's a new appointment.

Fr Michael Byrne: a native of Clongeen parish, was ordained in June 1974, has served in Brazil for a number of years and is presently Parish Priest of Bree, Co. Wexford. He speaks fluent Portuguese.

Mary Martin-Carroll: from New Ross, is a nurse, married with a grown up family. She is a member of New Ross Parish Pastoral Council and involved in parish activities.

David French: is from the Moneylawn area, a farmer, married to Rose for 37 yrs with 4 grown up children and is looking forward to seeing his Kiwi grandchild expected in the near future.

John Fortune: from Gorey is an Outdoor Educator, Social Care professional & Youth Worker. John is a founder and youth leader of Play, Pray, Pizza. He is a self-taught boat-builder and musician.

Heather Hadrill is Wexford town based. She is a Therapist and a Drama Teacher. She has been involved in the community in multiple arts and theatre projects and is a UN Social Advocate for the Sustainable Development Goals for 2020.

Fr. Denis Kelly: is a native of Bree parish, has served as Adm. in St Aidan's Cathedral where he presided over a very active Pastoral Council. He is currently Parish Priest of Castlebridge, Screen and Curraclloe. He enjoys fishing, poetry and drama.

Mary Kenny: is a member of Askamore/Kilrush parish, mother of 8 and grandmother of 10. She on the Board of Management of St. Aidan's Gorey and a member of the Older People's Council. She arranges the annual Parish Pilgrimage to Knock.

Sandra Molloy: is native of Ballycullane parish, married with a teenage family and works as a School Secretary in Gusserane National School.

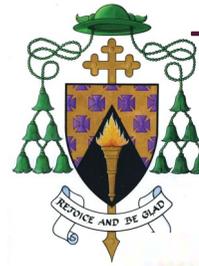
Sr Stephanie O'Brien is a Loreto sister who has worked in Kenya for many years in Adult Faith Formation. She has worked on Retreat teams for Secondary Schools and leads 'Guided Meditation based on Scripture' for both Radio and Prayer Groups.

George O'Connor: a native of Piercestown, is an Irish former sportsman. He was on the All-Ireland winning Wexford Senior Co. Team of 1996. O'Connor is regarded by some as one of Wexford's greatest-ever players. He is part of a team who provides Personal Development courses for Post Primary pupils.

Sr. Mary O'Shea is a sister of the St John of God. She has worked as a Primary Teacher and is currently ministering as Parish Sister in Kilmore. She has a keen interest in liturgy, music and singing.

Aaron Scahill: from Wexford, is a past pupil of the Christian Brothers. He has studied Business Management at Waterford Institute of Technology. He is a member of Youth 2000 and was elected chairperson of the Diocesan Pastoral Council in 2019.

Maria Colfer: from Caroreigh/ Taghmon parish is married to Martin and they have one son Lloyd. Founder of the Camross Passion Play in 2000. Presents a weekly programme on Saturday morning for the Christian Media Trust on South East Radio and appointed Co-Ordinator for the Diocesan Pastoral Council in 2012



The Diocesan Pastoral Council Advent Newsletter



'Its function, under the authority of the Bishop, is to study and weigh those matters which concern the pastoral works in the diocese and to propose practical conclusions concerning them'. Canon 511

If you wish to follow up on anything in this newsletter or to get in touch with us on pastoral matters please contact :

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“What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?” (#160)

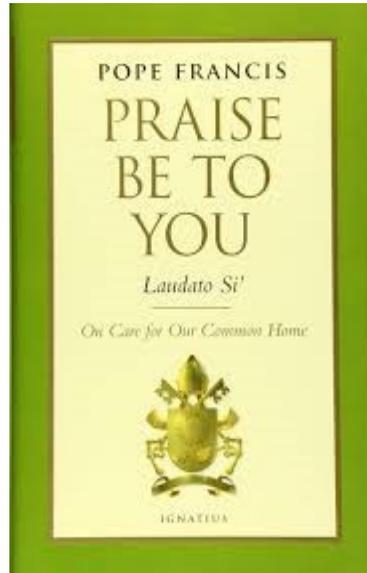
Over the last twenty years or more, people have become more and more aware of the untold damage being inflicted on this beautiful world that God has given us and of the implications this has for the future of all life on this planet. Pope Francis was so convinced of the urgency of the problem that in May 2015 he wrote an encyclical letter addressed not only to Catholics but to the people of the world. Its title ‘**Laudato Si**’ comes from the opening words of Canticum of St. Francis of Assisi ‘*Praise be to you my, Lord*’ and the encyclical is subtitled ‘**Care for Our Common Home**’.

In the six chapters of the letter Pope Francis lays out a blueprint for how we should act in response to this great challenge. Its aim is to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable future for the earth and the people of the earth.

One way of interacting with **Laudato Si** and answering the call of Pope Francis would be to gather together in small reading groups to study the document which would hopefully lead to active involvement in caring for Our Common Home. One person could facilitate the group or the facilitation could be shared.

You can set this up yourselves but if you would like help to run a **Laudato Si** book club in the New Year and see where it takes you, please contact jane.mellett@trocaire.org. **The encyclical can be downloaded in full from laudatosi.com.**

The study guide can be sourced here <http://columbancenter.org/sites/default/files/pdf/Laudato-Si-Study-and-Action-Guide-2017.pdf>



Online Advent Calendar

The Irish Bishops' Conference have an interactive, online Advent Calendar with new content for each day of Advent. <https://www.catholicbishops.ie>.

A New Pilot Project to start in our Diocese in the New Year

Training to Lead People in Prayer

There is a wonderful opportunity for lay people to learn skills to create a Calm, Sacred Space and lead groups in Prayer and Reflection based on Scripture and Music. (Resources supplied during training).

Where could this happen?

This could be used in Prayer Groups, Prayer in the home or school or in Parishes. It would be very suited to a period of Adoration.

Why do it?

There are three good reasons:

1. Spending time with Scripture can help people to pray together
2. It can help us to reflect on our lives and
3. It can help us to build relationship with God.

Who will provide the training?

Sr Stephanie O'Brien, a Loreto Sister, who has spent many years working in Adult Faith Formation.

How do I find out more? And what is the timeframe?

If you would like to be involved in this pastoral initiative or even just to know more about it, please email stephanieobr@gmail.com on or before the 15th December.

Would I be on my own?

It's your choice but you may like to bring a friend or co-worker as sharing a task makes everything easier.



Cathedral Priest Writes Two Books

'Love has a Source' is published by St Paul's and the book tries to redirect the hearts and minds of Christians back to the wellspring of love who is God. It seeks to connect our deepest hungers and desires to the only source where they can be satisfied and where we can be renewed and transformed. The second book 'Faith and Mental Health' is published by the Catholic Truth Society in London. The books, launched by Bishop Denis Brennan and Breda O'Brien, columnist with the Irish Times and the Irish Catholic are available in all good bookshops..

