

Building Hope Strategy Update: Moving Forward Focuses 1–4 Draft Agendas

I. Summary of Pastoral Meetings April 5th and 12th 2025

The two meetings held in Rathdrum and Roundwood during Lent attracted Parishioners interested to serve their communities and ready to begin building a culture of dialogue, discernment and solidarity, as well as actively participating together as baptised People of God (Archdiocese Building Hope Planning Resource: Values, no. 2 and 3.)

The meetings attracted respectively 20 and 26 Parishioners from the Partnership, many of whom signed up to support the Focuses.

| Participants Signed-up | Focus 1 | Focus 2 | Focus 3 | Focus 4 | Total |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Rathdrum (15) | 2 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 19 |
| Roundwood (4) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| TOTAL | 2 | 4 | 9 | 9 | 24 |

II. Moving Forward

This report summarises actions for each group as well as setting out more detailed Actions for each Focus's Objectives and Parishioner feedback during April's meetings.

- A. Some of the volunteers for Focus 4, Building Communities that are Faith Filled, held their first meeting and agreed plans for the Pentecost Mass on June 8th. Invitations will soon be sent to the comprehensive list of volunteers for the next meeting. Beyond immediate plans to prepare liturgical support the group will also need look at how to move forward with implementing Focus 4 objectives.
- B. The three other Focus groups have yet to meet, and volunteers will be invited to attend meetings:
 1. Focus 1, Building Communities of Co-Responsibility through Servant Leadership has only two members so far, others are invited to join. Their ministry is to develop a parallel structure for operating our parish preparing for the day when we are no longer supported by a resident Parish Priest and support the other Focus groups in this aim.
 2. Focus 2, Building Communities that are Active in Social Justice Groups according to those who signed up and everyone else who would like to join to draw the connection between our community and the Church's commitment to our natural and social environment. Pope Francis's *Laudato si'* provides our guide. The election of Pope Leo XIV also directs our attention to his named predecessor's encyclical *Rerum Novarum* – Rights and Duties of Capital and Labour.
 3. Focus 3, Building Communities of Welcome and Inclusion has resonance with the Hospitality Group that bring us together once a month after Mass. We are encouraged to seek to include others, looking beyond the peripheries of and beyond Parish 'Enter into the reality of other people's lives' (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*.)

III. Participants Ready to Support Their Parishes and Communities

Deeper involvement by the laity in the delivery of the Message of Jesus Christ to our communities is a forever process. Some people wishing to participate have explained they have existing commitments but look forward to participating once they have free time. We look forward to all Parishioners joining their fellow believers in participation.

TABLE 1 RATHDRUM AND ROUNDWOOD PARISHIONERS VOLUNTEERING FOR MINISTRY PARTICIPATION IN THE 4 FOCUSES

| # | Name | Parish | Focus 1 | Focus 2 | Focus 3 | Focus 4 | Comments |
|----|----------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------|
| 1 | Derek Doyle | Rathdrum | | √ | | √ | |
| 2 | Breda Sheehan | Rathdrum | | | | √ | |
| 3 | Cyrilla O'Carroll | Rathdrum | | | √ | √ | |
| 4 | Gera Lee | Rathdrum | | | √ | | |
| 5 | Emily Kearns | Rathdrum | | | √ | | Hospitality group |
| 6 | Marian Sheehan | Rathdrum | | | √ | | Hospitality group |
| 7 | Teresa Byrne | Rathdrum | | | √ | | Hospitality group |
| 8 | Lorraine McWilliams | Rathdrum | √ | | √ | √ | |
| 9 | Mary Fitzgerald | Rathdrum | | √ | | | |
| 10 | Patrick O'Driscoll | Rathdrum | | | | | |
| 11 | Sandra O'Shaughnessy | Rathdrum | | | √ | | |
| 12 | Eibhlin Oscroft | Rathdrum | | | | √ | |
| 13 | Steven Lee | Rathdrum | √ | √ | ? | ? | |
| 14 | Dermot Byrne | Rathdrum | | | | √ | |
| 15 | Mary Cooper | Rathdrum | | | | √ | |
| 16 | John Green | Roundwood | ? | ? | ? | ? | |
| 17 | Clare McEvoy | Roundwood | | | | √ | |
| 18 | Marie Conalty | Roundwood | | √ | √ | √ | |
| 19 | Peggy Collins | Roundwood | | | √ | | |

TABLE 2 SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTIONS FOR THE FOUR FOCUS GROUPS WITH PARISHIONER FEEDBACK DURING OUR APRIL MEETINGS

| 'Building Hope' Focuses 1 - 4 | 'Building Hope' Focus Objectives | Proposed Action 1 | Proposed Action 2 | Proposed Action 3 | Parishioner Feedback 5 th /12 th April, 2025 |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| 1. Building Communities of Co-Responsibility through Servant Leadership - Servant Leadership | 1. <i>Affirm and support co-responsible PRIESTLY MINISTRY – a 21st Century model reimagining sacramental and pastoral ministry in its unity of celebration and diversity of vocations, charisms and ministries.</i> | 1. Work with participants in other Focus groups to prepare a roadmap for a future without a resident Parish Priest, noting an indeterminant timescale. | 2. Support the other Focus groups to deliver a pastoral ministry which seeks to attract our fellow Parishioners and community members to share in our Catholic Community. | N.A. | 1. In the absence of a Priest How do we attract people to our services? 2. Further consideration of liturgy for Tuesday Eucharistic Service. 3. Deacons? |
| | 2. <i>Actively include women and men in all areas of pastoral ministry reflecting differentiated (differentiated in accordance with their rich variety of gifts and roles) CO-RESPONSIBLE SERVANT LEADERSHIP in action.</i> | 1. Recruit more women and men to participate in active ministry sharing responsibility with the resident and non-resident clergy. | 2. Develop the role, engagement and synodality of our parish/partnership pastoral councils. | 3. Coordinate access to diocesan Servant Leadership courses. 4. Enhance PPC engagement with the Wicklow Deanery. | |
| | 3. <i>Develop and grow TEAM-BASED MINISTRIES in our parish partnerships.</i> | 1. Support the setting up of multiple lay ministries in Parishes and across the Partnership, by actively encouraging | 2. Consider the value of promoting lay ministry participation on the Voluntary Ministry Day and use the | N.A. | |

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| | | women and men's participation. | questionnaire in Voluntary Ministry Matters, drawing on available diocesan resources. | | |
| | 4. <i>Establish a FUNERAL MINISTRY team where one does not currently exist, or seek to expand and develop it where it does, providing at least two trained and commissioned lay funeral ministry leaders within the partnership.</i> | 1. Support creation of a Funeral Ministry Team where one does not already exist | 2. Support the existing and future Funeral Team members to attend a diocesan Funeral Ministry and Leadership course. | N.A. | |
| 2. Building Communities that are Active in Social Justice - Social Justice | 1. <i>Establish an intergenerational SOCIAL JUSTICE & CARE OF CREATION GROUP.</i> | 1. Set up an intergenerational Social Justice and Care of Creation Group. 2. Develop a programme against injustice that embraces solidarity with those who feel marginalised or excluded. | 3. Find out more about the intention behind the adoption of "Ecological practices and policies in Parish/Partnership, undertaking an energy and sustainability review." | 4. Undertake awareness initiatives within the Partnership, which may include offering educative programmes on social and climate justice, on Catholic Social Teaching and on the See-Judge-Act method of analysis. | 1. How to attract people into the Social Justice/ Care Group? (May lead to more participation in the church.) 2. Practice/demonstrate our values as Catholics. 3. Facilities for youth. |
| | 2. <i>Conduct LOCAL PASTORAL SOCIAL ANALYSIS to discern how we can actively outreach</i> | 1. Using census data* design a pastoral response to actively reach out to young people, young families, | 2. Decide which local concerns and needs require a pastoral response. | N.A. | |

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| | <i>within our community and to those on its peripheries.</i> | older people, those who are alone. Work where possible with local schools to connect with available social services. * (https://visual.cso.ie/?body=entity/ima/cop/2022&boundary=C04160V04929&guid=b931e042-d9b9-49ee-b55e-31df3b3369c1) | | | 4. Need for premises for youth club. 5. Projects for youth adults (e.g. nature/flower garden). 6. Difficulty of "Welcoming All" and still staying true to Catholic beliefs. 7. Bringing in Priests from abroad. 8. Lack of encouragement to those who are keeping masses etc going, especially our Priests. |
| | 3. <i>Make CARE OF CREATION a pastoral priority in the parish/partnership.</i> | 1. Make a priority for each Parish its care of creation. | 2. Focus on the Season of Creation, use Parish grounds as a haven for pollinators and biodiversity and work towards an eco-congregation award as a Parish or Partnership. | N.A. | |
| | 4. <i>Offer a Lenten programme, annually, which connects with CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING.</i> | 1. Offer a Lenten programme, which connects with Catholic social teaching, guided by the "DOCAT: What to do?" | 2. Connect the Lenten programme at the Partnership level, incorporating a period of preparation, implementation & reflection. | N.A. | |
| | 5. <i>Extend ACTIVE OUTREACH to the marginalised in the locality.</i> | 1. The actions defined by Objective 5 will be a challenge for the Social Justice & Care of Creation Group, certainly during the | 2. We tend to forget that there already exist Catholic organisations undertaking substantial works, which could benefit from further | N.A. | |

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| | | initial period. These actions bring us to the heart of our renewed pastoral mission, by actively using practical action to support those who are experiencing inequality and social exclusion. | support through our Parishes and beyond. | | |
| 3. Building Communities of Welcome and Inclusion – Welcome | 1. <i>Build relationships in love inviting all to meaningful, joyful encounter with Jesus Christ – EVANGELISE.</i> | 1. This Objective challenges us to use praying together as a means of communication by bearing personal witness to Jesus' Love | 2. Are we being guided towards re-thinking the prayer group format, conscious that we are here for others to share our faith together. We are encouraged to seek to include others, looking beyond the peripheries of and beyond Parish 'Enter into the reality of other people's lives' (Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium/ The Joy of the Gospel, 270.) | 3. Every few months schedule a discussion within the group about how to reach out to other people not in contact with the Parish. | 1. Build on existing groups (personal calling.) 2. Leaflet for newcomers. 3. Newsletter to businesses. 4. Social media. 5. Use Hermitage in Glendalough/Laragh. 6. Notice boards to include information on other Parishes. 7. Look out for new people and welcome them. |
| | 2. <i>Ensure language, spaces and actions concerning faith and hope are INCLUSIVE and family-friendly – that they are more accessible, more</i> | 1. Together with the Partnership Finance Forum review the sustainability of the Parish's buildings and grounds in terms of improvements to improve accessibility, | 2. Together with the Communications team review all traditional and electronic messages to ensure the language and imagery are welcoming, engaging and inclusive. | 3. Seek to include, welcome, serve and learn from all by being aware and open to diversity of background, religion, ability, experience and faith experience. Support this | |

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| | <i>embodied in the diversity of people's experience and open to engagement with all (Synthesis Report, XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, Rome, October 2023).</i> | welcoming and family friendly. | | openness by practically supporting those seeking to join. | <p>8. Welcome at door (welcome sign?) at Masses & Communion.</p> <p>9. Refreshment after Mass monthly.</p> <p>10. Where necessary/ possible, share skills, knowledge and participation across Parishes.</p> |
| | 3. <i>Establish parish WELCOME & HOSPITALITY team(s) where they do not currently exist, to engage with and offer hospitality to people coming to parish – building community together.</i> | 1. Form Parish Welcome and Hospitality Ministries for newcomers to the Parishes as well as for existing Parishioners, building on the ideas and experience of existing Hospitality Groups. Develop 'welcome cards' with essential Parish information and prayers targeting different age groups including those new to our Parishes. | 2. Welcome and offer hospitality proactively to people coming to participate in all the liturgical events of the Parishes so there is no doubt of their feeling this is their place too. | N.A. | |
| | 4. <i>Actively seek individuals who may be called to minister with and</i> | 1. Actively seek individuals in our Parishes who may be called to minister | 2. Find a way to invite young people to participate and lead in all aspects of parish life | 3. Once we have a Partnership structure in place consider identifying one Parish as | |

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| | <i>learn from YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS, beginning/ growing youth and young adult ministry in parish / partnership.</i> | with and learn from youth & young adults. | – making good use of family interaction with our Parishes. | a youth gathering space where priority would be given to peer ministry and encounter. | |
| | 5. <i>Develop parish/partnership communications, including a dynamic online and social media presence, focusing on internal and outward-facing COMMUNICATION OF OR SHARED MISSION, the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.</i> | 1. Establish a Parish/Partnership Communications team of at least one person to project our shared mission through multiple forms of traditional and electronic media. | 2. Focus on outward-facing communication of our shared mission, the gospel message of Jesus Christ. | N.A. | |
| 4. Building Communities that are Faith Filled - Faith Filled | 1. <i>With an awareness of the need for ongoing ADULT FAITH FORMATION, help parishioners to discern participation in diocesan training programmes.</i> | 1. Many of the ministries referenced in the Building Hope Focuses will provide opportunities for Parish members wishing to further the life of their Parish and broader community. In addition to using their life experience they will also share a wish for | 2. It will be important that at least one member of the Faith Filled group familiarise themselves with available diocesan training programmes and where gaps in formation courses are perceived bring these to the attention of the Deanery. | N.A. | 1. Prayer/Faith is basic to all our needs and hopes. 2. We should be <u>working with</u> our Priests, to learn, encourage and grow. |

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| | | personal development; this will often mean attending formation courses that assist Parish members to better understand the formalities of their servant ministries. | | | 3. Renewal of our Faith (through necessity). 4. Restore pilgrim tradition. |
| | 2. <i>Assess the FAITH DEVELOPMENT needs of the parishes in partnership, in particular the needs of young families & children, youth (under 18), young adults (18–35).</i> | 1. In addition to the existing Parish groups that interact directly with Families in pursuit of their Sacramental duties for their children consider how to further engage by offering alternative faith development opportunities for young adults. | 2. This could involve sharing a Partnership Faith Development Worker. | N.A. | 5. Making the most of our natural resources around us. 6. Individual spiritual development. 7. Lektion Divina (bible study) – combined with walks/discussion. |
| | 3. <i>SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION – Establish practices such that those who request the sacraments of Christian initiation are accompanied by family, parish and school, in preparation for their reception and</i> | 1. This Objective emphasises the need for our Parishes to use available diocesan training programmes to enable our ministries to knowledgeably nurture a team approach to accompanying families on their sacramental journey, from registration in the Parish | N.A. | N.A. | 8. Lead by example. 9. WhatsApp group to share events across the Parishes. 10. Children/teen activities and prayer cards etc. |

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|----------------------------------|--|---|--|--|---|
| | <i>the ongoing development of their faith.</i> | to celebration of the sacraments of Christian initiation and beyond. | | | 11. Prayers for use at home (sickness/death). |
| | 4. <i>Celebrate the EUCHARISTIC & LITURGICAL MOMENTS in the life of the faith community in spirit-filled and hopeful ways.</i> | 1. Establish a Liturgy team to assist in the preparation of liturgical celebrations in the absence of a priest, with duly trained members of the laity having the opportunity to participate in the preparations for liturgical celebrations. | 2. This Objective draws together our four focus areas of Servant Leadership, Social Justice, Welcome and Faith-filled, so that they intersect throughout the liturgical year creatively incorporating themes from each Focus. Use a music ministry to support liturgical ministries. | 3. Assess regularly that the availability and time of Masses and Services best nurture a sense of participation and belonging in a faith-filled community. | |
| | 5. <i>Deepen the spirit of PRAYER in the parish/partnership.</i> | 1. This Objective, to deepen the spirit of prayer, is the heart of this Focus and can be effected by inviting, training and supporting a variety of people in the Parish to lead prayer in the Parish/Partnership. | 2. Make sure there are spaces for prayer experiences and organise Parish/Partnership participation in the diocesan Novena annually at Pentecost, encouraging Prayer – Reflection – Planning. | 3. Organise regular events to promote prayer within the Partnership and promote unity by sharing in ecumenical prayer and action. | |