

Building Hope

Novena to the Holy Spirit

12th – 20th May 2024

for the renewal of the Church in the Archdiocese of Dublin



Pentecost, by Jen Norton

Archdiocese of Dublin

Building Hope through Prayer, Reflection and Planning

Building Hope

Novena to the Holy Spirit

12th – 20th May 2024

This resource is for use in the nine days from 12th – 20th May beginning on the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, through Pentecost and continuing to the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church. You are warmly invited to join together in this Novena – a period of prayer, reflection and planning for the renewal of the Church in the Archdiocese of Dublin.

The *Building Hope* Prayer for daily use, is available on the next page and on the *Building Hope* Prayer Card. Other resources include scripture readings, reflections and planning thoughts and ideas. The music suggested may also be incorporated into your prayer moments. These resources, day by day, will be your companion for this period of prayer. Please feel free to use the material as you wish; during the Mass – perhaps to create a period of reflection after Holy Communion, or at your parish/partnership pastoral council or ministry group gatherings.

Let us, as a diocese, join together in praying the *Building Hope* Prayer during this dedicated period of the Novena. May this time of prayer, reflection and planning for every parish partnership in the Archdiocese of Dublin be blessed and build hope for a new future in partnership and a new way of being Church.

All resources and images are available at www.dublindiocese.ie under the *Building Hope* tab

Building Hope

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.

Archdiocese of Dublin

Building Hope through Prayer, Reflection and Planning

Building Hope

Ascension Sunday - 12 May 2024

Pray

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your **heart enlightened**, you may know what is the **hope** to which he has called you.

Reflect

Through the eyes of your **enlightened heart**, is there a word or phrase that stays with you. Maybe it is **'hope'**.

Say the word to yourself or out loud if you can.

What does it sound like? How does it make you feel?

Does any image or thought come to your mind as you repeat the word?

Try to hold that picture in your heart or put it down on paper.

Come back to it again during the day.

Plan

Keep in mind that hope alone is not a plan: See - discern - act.



Monday of the Seventh Week of Easter – 13 May 2024

Pray

“Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be **scattered**, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am **not alone** because the Father is with me. I have said this to you so that in me you may have **peace**. In the world you face persecution, but **take courage**: I have conquered the world!’”

Reflect

Maybe the challenging words **'take courage'** speak to you today as you look forward to the next stage of planning. Stay with what these words of Jesus might mean for you at this moment.

What situation calls for you to **'take'** courage? How do you feel about the challenge?

The refrain of Bernard Sexton's song **'Do not be afraid'** comes to mind.

'Do not be afraid, do not be afraid. God is always by your side. Do not be afraid.'

Listen to it on Spotify, iTunes or Apple Music under

Emmanuel 2024.

Plan

Planning is often more fruitful when it is a community effort. Spread the net wide to ensure that discussion is fresh and life-giving.



Feast of Saint Matthias – 14 May 2024

Pray

Reading

Acts 1:23-26

So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they **prayed**, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two **you** have chosen to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go to his own place.”

Then they gave **lots** to them, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was counted with the Eleven Apostles.

Reflect

Would you always pray before making a big decision? Do you seek God’s choice? The disciples of Jesus were schooled in the practice of prayer so it was their first instinct in choosing a successor to Judas.

Plan

With the affirmation of a prayerful consultative process we can look ahead.

Wednesday of the Seventh Week of Easter – 15 May 2024

Pray

Reading

John 10:17-19

Jesus said. Consecrate them in the truth. Your **word** is truth.

As you sent me into the world, so I **sent** them into the world.

And for them do I sanctify myself, that they also may be sanctified in **truth**.

Reflect

It is good to recall that we’ve been **sent**. We are not ‘lone rangers’ acting on our own accord or whim. We have our varied gifts to use but the one truth to proclaim.

Stay with that sense of speaking the truth – not ‘our’ truth but God’s truth.

Plan

Be sure that we are all singing from the same hymn sheet. Recognise the challenge when ‘partnership’ possibilities are explored. Check in with others step-by-step as we build up together communities that are faith-filled, formed around Jesus Christ.

Thursday of the Seventh Week of Easter – 16 May 2024

Feast of Saint Brendan the Navigator

Pray

Reading John 17:20-26

Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed saying:

That they all may be **one**, as you, Father, in me, and I in you;

that they also may be **one** in us; that the world may believe that you have **sent** me.

And the glory which you have given me, I have given to them; that they may be **one**, as we also are **one**:

I in them, and you in me; that they may be made perfect in **one**: and the world may know that you have **sent** me, and have loved them, as you have also loved me.

Reflect

Note how often '**one**' and '**sent**' appear in this passage. Take time to pray for those in your partnership of parishes. Carry them in your enlightened heart. Imagine that together you have been sent to share the spirit of unity for which Jesus prays. Sent on a journey of love. There will be teething problems as you work together. Prayer is the great soother.



St. Brendan is depicted carrying a boat as a symbol of the Church. It's a reminder of the Dublin Synodal journey too.

Another icon shows his closeness to Saint Ita whose blessing he sought before all his journeys. It is an image of spiritual cooperation under the inspiration of Jesus who invites us to pray and act for unity with diversity.

Plan

'They'll Know we are Christians' was a popular hymn at one time. A golden oldie now. Look it up and have a listen. This might be the time to cast out into the deep in recruiting for and supporting voluntary ministries. People may not realise the gifts they have which can be shared in parish partnership.



Friday of the Seventh Week of Easter – 17 May 2024

Pray

Reading John 21:15-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you **love** me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I **love** you." Jesus said to him, "**Feed** my lambs."

A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you **love** me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I **love** you." Jesus said to him, "**Tend** my sheep."

He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you **love** me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you **love** me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I **love** you."

Jesus said to him, "**Feed** my sheep."

Reflect

With love comes responsibility. Talk is cheap and we know how Peter had denied Jesus before. We are privileged to eavesdrop on this profound loving exchange. Feeding and tending are now our responsibilities as members of the Christian communities in which we

have been called to live. Sharing moments of tender prayer and loving reflection are fundamental sources of nourishment for all. Sit with this Gospel again and again. Say the words of Peter out loud. Hear the words of Jesus in our hearts.

Plan

Let's gather for prayer followed by some refreshments. Look at the informal and important ministry of welcome. Are there possibilities for refreshments on Sundays or other occasions? Let's build together communities of welcome and inclusion.

Saturday of the Seventh Week of Easter – 18 May 2024

Pray

Reading John 21:25

"This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written."

Reflect

The conclusion of the Gospel of John is tantalising as we imagine the many other words and actions of Jesus that are not recorded. However, the living gospel continues to amaze, heal, forgive and nourish through the words and actions of Christian communities throughout the world. Write down some of the special moments when you encountered Jesus through the people in your community. Be amazed at the amount of times that you were touched with the grace of healing, forgiveness and nourishment by others. Repeat the exercise for the times you were a source of blessing to your sisters and brothers.

Plan

It is the eve of Pentecost. A time to pause, to open our hearts and be still.

Pentecost Sunday – 19 May 2024

Pray

Reading

Acts 2:6

They were all excited, because **each** one of them heard the believers speaking in **his or her** own language.

Psalms 104

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and **renew** the face of the earth

I Cor 12:7

The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in **each** person for the good of **all**

Reflect

Take time with each brief passage. Let them speak to you in your own language. How is the Spirit present in me? How can I use that unique presence for others?

Renewal is more than superficial makeover. It runs deep. It might hurt – Ouch!

Plan

Let the Spirit breathe through your plans so far

Memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church – 20 May 2024

Pray

Reading 1 Acts 1:12, 14

After Jesus had been taken up to heaven, the apostles went back to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is about a kilometre away from the city. All these devoted themselves with **one accord** to **prayer**, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Reading 2. John 19:25-27

Standing close to Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, **your son**." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, **your mother**." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

Reflect

The family that prays together stays together.

Let us sing with one accord.

Ave Maria, mo ghrá Ave, is tú mo mháthair is mathair Dé.

A Mhuire Mháthair, Mother Mary pray for us

Plan

Lay it all before her in prayer.

Listen to Ave Maria (Caccini)

Closing Prayer:

God of hope and strength:

Bless our parish families with wisdom and discernment

Cherish us in our *'Building Hope'* efforts.

Help us to be courageous and compassionate

Empower us to use our unique gifts for the good of all

as we walk paths of justice, truth and freedom.

Through Jesus Christ. Amen.



A final Image for reflection, by artist Angie Rice, a symbol of walking the path of justice.