

The synodal journey of the Council of Priests, the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the various Diocesan offices and programmes, and the People of God within parishes and deaneries across the Diocese of Ferns has led to many fruitful conversations about our mission and hopes for the future.

This communal discernment with the help of the Holy Spirit has led us to a shared plan for 'Our Future Church', which recognises the gifts of the clergy, religious and laity to inspire faith and build hope in our parish communities; hopes for loving God and neighbour, for living our faith, for gathering together, for teamwork, for families and young people, for lay leadership, for learning together, for reaching out to the vulnerable, for mission, and for vocations to lay and ordained ministry. This plan will also help children and families prepare for the Sacraments; support families and loved ones in times of illness and bereavement; encourage prayer in our communities; and help sustain parishes.

As we continue to enrich this vital mission, we are building upon the solid foundation of faith which we have inherited. *'Our Future Church'* is presented here as eight themes, a grouping of parishes into 12 pastoral areas, a pastoral area map and a profile of a future parish to guide us with God's help in transforming our shared hopes into reality.

In the peace and friendship of Jesus, Bishop Ger Nash

THE EIGHT THEMES OF 'OUR FUTURE CHURCH' (2024 – 2030)

Love & Serve

Reaching out to others and to all God's creation in love

Hope & Communicate

Sharing the hope, meaning and joy of the resurrected Christ

Form & Lead

Supporting life-long learning, teamwork and leadership in ministry and mission

Listen & Follow

Letting our faith in God bring joy to our shared missionary lives



Worship & Witness

Nourishing our spiritual growth to lead others to Christ

Welcome & Include

Fostering a sense of belonging and inclusion

Pray & Journey

Praying personally and with others on the path of faith

Empower & Flourish

Working with others to strengthen parishes and the Diocesan family

THE GROUPING OF PARISHES IN OUR TWELVE PASTORAL AREAS

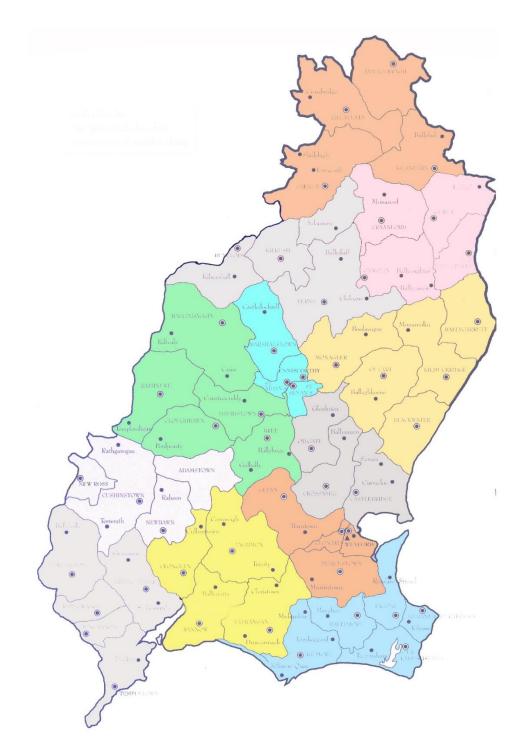
A Pastoral Area is a grouping of parishes and their curacies, which can increasingly work together in deeper and more intentional ways to support mission. This collaboration can involve the sharing of vital resources, such as priests, deacons and lay leaders across parish boundaries.

9 churches	7 churches	8 churches
Annacurragh	Ferns	Gorey
Killaveney	Kilrush	Camolin
Kilanierin	Bunclody	Riverchapel
Carnew		Craanford
12 churches	8 churches	4 churches
Ballindaggin	Monageer	Marshallstown
Rathnure	Oulart	St. Aidan's
Cloughbawn	Ballygarrett	St. Senan's
Davidstown	Kilmuckridge	
Bree	Blackwater	
9 churches	7 churches	9 churches
Horeswood	New Ross	Clongeen
Ramsgrange	Cushinstown	Bannow
Duncannon	Adamstown	Taghmon
Templetown	Newbawn	Rathangan
Ballycullane		
7 churches	12 churches	7 churches
Glynn	Tagoat	Castlebridge
Clonard	Kilrane & St. Patrick's	Crossabeg
Wexford	Our Lady's Island	Oilgate
Piercestown	Ballymore	
	Kilmore	

'For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.'

1 Corinthians 3:9

MAP OF OUR TWELVE PASTORAL AREAS



'For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.'

Romans 12:4-5

A PROFILE OF A FUTURE PARISH

Finance Committee

Takes responsibility for the finance of the local parish or curacy with the mission of developing the faith community.

Pastoral Council

Promotes teamwork & mission; A representative of the Parish Pastoral Council sits on Area Pastoral Council, which meets 4 times per year.

Pastoral Area

3 – 6 parishes per pastoral area Shared priests work in a team with trained & commissioned lay ministers.



Meetings

Regular meetings of lay & ordained minsters for coordination & fellowship.

Lay-led Liturgy

A small group leads the liturgy in each church in the absence of a priest. A group meets regularly to pray with Scripture.

Mass Rota

The Mass rota across the pastoral area is organised so that less priests can celebrate all the Masses as the need arises.

In the years ahead, possibilities for collaboration within pastoral areas include:

- Joint preparation of the sacraments of initiation (baptism, first communion and confirmation) for children and adults within each parish and a shared programme of adult education, formation and pastoral development within pastoral areas.
- Coordinating sustainable Mass schedules, themes of Masses and liturgical events.
- A coordinated response to the needs of the vulnerable and care for the earth,
 through a network of parish-based social action groups and charities.
- A collaborative youth and family ministry, which organizes events and activities for
 young people and families, such as retreats, pilgrimages and service projects guided
 by *The Way Forward*, a Diocesan initiative, which opens the door for young people
 to the possibility of Jesus in their lives. This ongoing plan builds upon a framework of
 parish-based Diocesan Faith Representatives within pastoral areas and develops new
 faith-based initiatives that link schools, parishes and home.
- A joint newsletter or online presence, which communicates news and information about the pastoral area and its parishes to each community within the area.
- The establishment of a Pastoral Area Office which co-ordinates requests for Masses,
 Administration, the tasks of Financial Reporting, Safeguarding, Training, GDPR and
 other administrative issues.