

DIOCESE OF CORK AND ROSS

PARISH AWARENESS WEEK

MY PARISH - A FAMILY OF FAITH

RESOURCE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

“EVEN THE WINDS AND THE SEAS OBEY HIM”
(Mt 8:23-27)



YEAR OF PRAYER,
LISTENING AND
DISCERNMENT

*In conjunction with
Catholic Schools Week 2025*

Welcome

This Year of Prayer, Listening, and Discernment in our Diocese offers us a unique opportunity to reflect deeply on how we can listen to the Holy Spirit and discern the path forward for our faith communities.

At the heart of this year lies the call to engage young people. I am happy to introduce a Parish Awareness Resource designed for Primary school pupils. This resource invites pupils to reflect on belonging, connecting and participating in their parish.



The resource includes:

- Objectives
- Key questions
- Suggested whole school and class activities

I hope this resource will inspire pupils to see themselves as active participants in their faith communities, and contribute to the mission of the Church. It aligns with our Diocesan focus on discernment and listening to the Spirit through the eyes and voices of our young people. I warmly encourage you to use these resources as part of your Religious Education classes.

This resource is a small yet significant step in fostering a deeper connection between young people, their personal faith, and their parish communities. Together, let us empower them to recognise their unique role in shaping the future of the Church.

May the Holy Spirit bless and guide us all as we journey together in faith.

Yours sincerely in Christ

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✠ Fintan Gavin

Bishop of Cork and Ross



Introduction

Welcome to this resource which has been designed to engage pupils in developing an understanding of belonging, connecting and participating in their parish.

The resource outlines the objectives, key questions, and suggested class and whole school activities.



*Education is
"accompanying and
encouraging students on the
path of human and spiritual
growth, showing them how
friendship with the Risen
Jesus expands the heart."
(Pope Francis)*



A Resource for Growth

This resource may foster **spiritual growth and discovery** – for both pupils and teachers. As you guide your pupils through these activities, you may find yourself inspired by their insights, creativity, and enthusiasm.

Teachers are encouraged to adapt this resource, draw from their own experiences, and incorporate relevant resources like **multimedia tools, current parish initiatives, and scripture reflections**. Your personal touch can bring these lessons to life in ways that resonate deeply with your pupils.

Final Encouragement

Thank you for your dedication to the faith formation of your pupils. Together, let's help them discover how they can live as active, engaged members of their faith and community.



During this Year of Prayer, Listening and Discernment you are invited to pray with your pupils:

OUR PRAYER FROM THE BOAT

(MT 8:23–27)

Loving God,
help me to pray and to listen.

Open my eyes, ears, heart,
and mind to see and hear
how you want us to love each
other.

Bless us,
the children of Cork and Ross,
as we imagine a future for our
Parish of

(Insert Parish Name)

Amen.

ÁR NGUÍ ÓN MBÁD

(MT 8:23–27)

A Dhia ghrámhar,
Cabhraigh liom guí agus
éisteacht.

Oscail mo shúile, mo chluasa,
mo chroí agus m'intinn
go bhfeicfinn is go gcloisfinn
conas is mian leat dúinn grá a
thabhairt dá chéile.

Beannaigh sinn,
clann deóise Chorcaí agus Rois,
mar a shamhláimid todhchaí
dár bParóiste.

(Ainm an pharóiste)

Amen.



The Logo for the Year of Prayer, Listening and Discernment



The logo contains the people of Cork and Ross from our Diocesan Logo.

The **boat** is a symbol for the Church. When Jesus invited the first men to become disciples he said, “Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people” (Matthew 4:19).

The **boat is in motion**. This symbolises a Church that is on the move.

The boat is in **full sail**. This is a symbol of the wind of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit leads us. We pray that we may be able to listen to where the Holy Spirit is guiding us.

Green symbolises hope, life and growth. We are people of hope and “we must fan the flame of hope that has been given us” (Pope Francis).

The **mast** of the boat is the cross, representing Jesus and his love for us.

Gold is a symbol for joy. We rejoice because Jesus is Emmanuel, God-with-us, and he promised to be with us always (cf. Matthew 28:20).

