



Dromore Diocesan Pastoral Council Newsletter

Issue 2: Advent 2025



Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary General of the Synod, and Pope Leo XIV address pilgrims attending the Jubilee of Synodal Teams and Participatory Bodies in the Paul VI Hall. Photo: L'Osservatore Romano.

Dromore Pilgrims Participate in Jubilee of Synodal Teams

Five members of the Dromore Diocesan Pastoral Council and Synodal Group travelled to the Vatican from 24th to 26th October 2025 to take part in the Jubilee of Synodal Teams and Participatory Bodies.

The Dromore pilgrims were Miss Lisa Murray, Fr Brian Fitzpatrick, Deacon Pearse Thornbury, Dr Mark Byrne, and Br Thierry Marteaux (Benedictine Monks, Rostrevor).

The group began their pilgrimage on Friday morning with Holy Mass in the Martyrs' Chapel of the Irish College in Rome. Later that afternoon, they joined a prayer service and opening session with Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary General of the Synod, held in the Paul VI Hall.

In his remarks, Cardinal Grech emphasised that every baptised person is invited to share in the life and mission of the Church, even amid the frailty of human nature:

“The future belongs to God, which is why we look forward with hope. We also look forward with humility - we have done our part; the rest is in God’s hands. ...the Church belongs to God, who will complete, change, and perfect what we have done.” - Cardinal Mario Grech.

The session was followed by an hour-long audience with Pope Leo XIV, during which His Holiness received reports on the implementation of the synodal pathway from Africa, Oceania, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, and the Eastern Catholic Patriarchs. The Pope then responded to seven pre-submitted questions from participants.

Continues overleaf

Inside

Jubilee of Synodal Teams

Full coverage: Pilgrims from Dromore travelled to the Vatican for a conference with The Holy Father.

Event for Church Choirs and Musicians

Read about the musical liturgy event and Mass held on 23rd November 2025, Solemnity of Christ the King.

Pre-Synodal Assembly in Kilkenny

Delegates from across Ireland, including representatives from our Diocese, gathered in Kilkenny on 18th October 2025 for the Pre-Synodal Assembly.

Funded training courses for clergy and volunteers

Learn how the Diocesan Pastoral Council partnered with South Eastern Regional College to offer two fully funded courses designed to support volunteers, parish staff, and clergy.

Q&A with Pope Leo XIV

Read answers from the Holy Father to some big questions.

Youth Commission event for 2026

Take a sneak peak at a major event planned for 2026.

And much more!

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The pilgrims from Dromore: (L-R) Miss Lisa Murray, Fr Brian Fitzpatrick, Deacon Pearse Thornbury, Dr Mark Byrne and Br Thierry Marteaux (Benedictine Monks Rostrevor). Photo: Lisa Murray.

Early on Saturday morning, participants processed from the Paul VI Hall through the back streets of Vatican City and the crypts beneath St Peter's Basilica, making a pilgrimage through the Holy Door before attending a prayer service in front of the tomb of St Peter, led by Monsignor Luis Marín de San Martín, Undersecretary of the General Secretariat of the Synod.

Monsignor Martín reflected on the meaning and mission of synodality:

“Mission means walking together. It is not enough to ‘tell’ others, nor merely to ‘do’ for others: it is necessary to ‘be’ with others, to go to them, to feel with them. Together we must listen to the voice of God, so as to discern and act as a Christian community.” - Monsignor Luis Marín de San Martín.

The remainder of the day was filled with workshops and seminars, offering opportunities to meet lay and religious representatives from across the world. Although persistent rain that evening dampened the atmosphere, spirits remained high during the Marian Prayer Vigil in St Peter's Square.

“The Jubilee invites us to renew our apostolic zeal, to joyfully bear witness to the Gospel, to build bridges of fraternity, and to promote a culture of encounter.” - Cardinal Mario Grech.



Top: Pilgrimage through the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica with Monsignor Luis Marín de San Martín, Undersecretary of the General Secretariat of the Synod. Bottom: Monsignor Luis Marín de San Martín and Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary General of the Synod. Photos: L'Osservatore Romano.



Pope Leo presides over Holy Mass for the Jubilee of Synodal Teams and Participatory Bodies. Photo: Mark Byrne.

On Sunday morning, the pilgrims again arose early to attend Holy Mass in St Peter's Basilica, with Pope Leo XIV presiding and with Fr Brian Fitzpatrick and Br Thierry Marteaux among the celebrants and Deacon Pearse Thornbury among the deacons assisting.

The Holy Father dedicated his homily to the Jubilee of Synodal Teams and Participatory Bodies, articulating a vision for a more humble church:

“Dear friends, we must dream of and build a more humble Church; a Church that does not stand upright like the Pharisee, triumphant and inflated with pride, but bends down to wash the feet of humanity; a Church that does not judge as the Pharisee does the tax collector, but becomes a welcoming place for all; a Church that does not close in on itself, but remains attentive to God so that it can similarly listen to everyone. Let us commit ourselves to building a Church that is entirely synodal, ministerial and attracted to Christ and therefore committed to serving the world.” - Pope Leo XIV

Pope Leo stressed that the Christian journey should not be a solitary pilgrimage:

“The Church is called to walk together, to be synodal. Christians are called to walk at the side of others, and never as lone travellers. The Holy Spirit impels us not to remain self-absorbed, but to leave ourselves behind and keep walking towards God and our brothers and sisters.” - Pope Leo XIV

The Holy Father explained that in the church, relationships do not respond to the logic of power but to the logic of love:

“The supreme rule in the Church is love. No one is called to dominate; all are called to serve. No one should impose his or her own ideas; we must all listen to one another. No one is excluded; we are all called to participate. No one possesses the whole truth; we must all humbly seek it and seek it together.” - Pope Leo XIV

Following Mass, the group gathered in St Peter's Square for the Sunday Angelus before joining fellow pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Armagh for lunch and an opportunity to reflect on their experiences. Some members of the group then concluded their pilgrimage with a visit to the tomb of Pope Francis at the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major.

Reflections from the pilgrims

Brother Thierry Marteaux

For me, the word that best sums up our days in Rome is 'together'. Together as a group from Dromore, and together with so many brothers and sisters from all over the world, we prayed, listened to one another, and shared our experiences and questions.

Two moments were particularly moving: the procession through the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica and the time of prayer we shared together in front of the tomb of St Peter; and the entry into St Mary Major through the Holy Door and the prayer at the tomb of Pope Francis.

As I crossed the threshold of the two basilicas, the people of Dromore Diocese, my brothers in community, many relatives and friends - both living and deceased - were in my heart full of gratitude and hope.

In response to Pope Leo's invitation, may we continue to “practice reciprocal love, listen to each other, and enjoy walking together.” (Homily, 26.10.2025)

Deacon Pearse Thornbury

I was most inspired by the chance to engage with delegates from dioceses across the world. It was a powerful reminder of the Church's global reach and unity. Hearing how different communities identify the needs of the Church and how they work to keep the faith alive and relevant in today's world was both encouraging and energising.

What will stay with me most is the procession through St Peter's Square, walking behind the cross through the grounds of the Vatican and the catacombs beneath it. At times we walked in thoughtful silence, and at other moments we prayed together with our diocesan group. The procession led us through the Holy Door (open only once every 25 years) which was a profound moment.

As a newly ordained deacon, it was also deeply special to take part in the Sunday Mass in St Peter's Basilica and to distribute Holy Communion to the faithful gathered in the Square. I felt the privilege of not simply being a visitor in a historic building, but of participating in worship in a place that is, above all, a living church.

What struck me most was seeing synodality not as an idea, but as something lived. During the talks and workshops in the Paul VI Hall, I witnessed cardinals, bishops, religious, and lay people sitting side by side, listening to one another with genuine openness. There was no sense of rank or privilege, only a shared desire to discern the path of the Church together. It felt like a quiet but profound shift from the more hierarchical patterns of the past to a truly communal way of being Church.

I also enjoyed the sense of companionship within our own diocesan group. Sharing meals, reflections, and moments of prayer allowed us to grow closer as fellow pilgrims. Those simple, honest conversations around the table reminded me that synodality begins with small acts of walking together, listening, encouraging, and recognising Christ in one another. In Rome, I realised that synodality is not merely a process; it is a way of living our faith as one body, trusting the Holy Spirit who speaks through each of us.

Welcome to the second edition of the
Dromore Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) Newsletter.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we take a moment to reflect on the blessings and graces of the past year. It has been a year of vibrant Synodal activity at diocesan, national, and universal levels—marked by prayer, renewal, and joy.

In June, our Novena to the Sacred Heart united us in faith and devotion, while the Jubilee celebration of our Choir on the Solemnity of Christ the King reminded us of the beauty of music in worship and the gift of community.

This edition features highlights from the Jubilee Event for Church Choirs and Musicians, the Pre-Synodal Assembly in Kilkenny, the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome, a funded training course for clergy and volunteers, and many other articles of interest.

Prayer remains at the heart of our journey and we continue to say together:

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

*Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.*

*Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality
influence our actions.*

*Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal
life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.*

*All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the
communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.*

Amen.

We encourage you to keep accessing our dedicated web page: [https://
www.dromorediocese.org/diocesan-pastoral-council/](https://www.dromorediocese.org/diocesan-pastoral-council/)

Should you wish to contact us please do so through the Diocesan Office:
<https://www.dromorediocese.org/contact/>

As this holy season approaches, we extend our heartfelt wishes for a peaceful and joy-filled Christmas. May the light of Christ dwell richly in your homes and hearts.

Looking ahead to the New Year, we will continue our Synodal journey with hope and openness to the Spirit. We will also begin work on the Ministries of the Word and the Eucharist, seeking to strengthen our mission and witness in the world.

May the Lord bless you and your families this Christmas and guide us all in the year to come

Mrs Patricia Maguire

Diocesan Pastoral Council Chairperson



Dromore Pastoral Council Members 2025/26

Most Reverend Eamon Martin,
Archbishop of Armagh and
Apostolic Administrator of
Dromore

Deacon Pearse Thornbury

Ms Paula Jordan

Ms Lisa Murray

Mrs Frances McNally

Rev Anthony Moffett

Fr Thierry Marteaux

Mrs Patricia Maguire (Chair)

Mrs Lynn Laverty

Mr Stephen Greene

Fr Brian Fitzpatrick

Dr Mark Byrne

'Baptised and Sent', the Preparatory Document for the Pre-Synodal Assembly in Kilkenny, is available now at: <https://synod.ie/baptised-and-sent-preparatory-document-available-now/>

We encourage you to read the document, reflect on the emerging priorities and share your reflections at home, in your parish, in your school, or wherever two or three gather in His name.

BAPTISED AND SENT

Preparatory Document for the Pre-Synodal Assembly of the Synodal Pathway of the Catholic Church in Ireland being held in the Kilkenny Convention Centre on Saturday, 18th October 2025





Jubilee of Church Choirs and Musicians

In the spirit of the Jubilee Year of Hope, the Diocesan Pastoral Council organised a special celebration on 23rd November 2025 to coincide with the Jubilee of Choirs and Choristers taking place in Rome on the same day.

Choirs and church musicians were invited to an afternoon of joyful thanksgiving for the gift of sacred music - a gift that builds community, strengthens faith, and inspires hope.

The programme began with around 70 people taking part in a workshop at the Newry Conference and Banqueting Centre. Participants travelled from across Dromore and neighbouring parishes in the Archdiocese of Armagh. They had the opportunity to learn new music, make new friends, share their talents, and enjoy time together. Archbishop Eamon joined the gathering, offering words of encouragement and singing with the group.

Participants later contributed to the musical liturgy for the 5.30pm Mass in Newry Cathedral, presided over by the Archbishop. Sincere thanks to Ms Lisa Murray, her organising team, all who helped, and to Mrs Orla Nugent for her skilled facilitation.

Clockwise: Archbishop Eamon and Fr Emmanuel, Archbishop Eamon shares words of encouragement, the workshop in progress in Newry Parish Centre, choirs and musicians at the 5.30pm Mass. All photos: Mark Byrne.



Comments from Facebook

"The choir members from St John's Ballymaghery Hilltown were privileged to be part of this great celebration."

"It was a great afternoon. Thank you for organising it. From St Mary's Church, Lisnagade."

"The choirs and instrumentalists from St Catherine's Dominican Church, Newry, were privileged to be involved, thank you for organising."

"It was a wonderful event. Delighted to be a part of it."

"It was lovely spiritual and uplifting Mass today at 5.30pm, in the cathedral with lovely music and singing from the choirs. Lovely to be present. Well done, to all the musicians and singers."



Pope Leo XIV answering questions from delegates of seven continents during the Jubilee of Synodal Teams and Participatory Bodies. Photo: L'Osservatore Romano.

Q&A with Pope Leo XIV: Co-responsibility

Q: What would you say to bishops and priests who are concerned that synodality may diminish their authority as pastors? How can we better understand and promote co-responsibility, accountability and transparency in our dioceses and parishes? - Question from the North American delegate, Bishop Alain Faubert, Valleyfield, Québec, Canada.

A: "I would like to return to an expression that Dr Susan [Dr Susan Sela, delegate from Oceania] used a few minutes ago, when she spoke of 'pace and scale,' reminding us that not all things move at the same rhythm or speed and that there are indeed differences.

One of the disagreements that apparently many of you experienced – judging by your reaction when the question was asked [murmuring followed by applause] – is the concern among some pastors or bishops that their authority may be diminished. Apparently some of you have had that conversation, let us say.

I would like to invite all of you, as we were invited during the Synod sessions, to reflect upon what synodality is about, and to invite the priests, particularly even more so than the bishops, I think, to somehow open their hearts and take part in these processes.

Oftentimes, the resistances come out of fear and lack of knowledge. Every person who has reported so far from his or her region has listed formation as a priority. And I think we have to be very clear and sincere about the importance of formation on every level.

Sometimes, ready-made answers are given without the proper, necessary preparation in order to arrive at the conclusion that maybe some of us have already drawn, but others are not yet ready or capable of understanding.

Without proper formation on every level – whether in schools, seminaries, ongoing formation programs, adult formation for the laity, etcetera – there are going to be resistances and a lack of understanding.

I think that, at least to a certain extent, we have to understand that we do not all run at the same speed, and sometimes we have to be patient with one another. Rather than having only a few people running ahead and leaving many others behind – which could even cause a rift in the ecclesial experience – we must seek ways, sometimes very concrete ones, to understand what is happening in each place, what the resistances are or where they come from, and what we can do to increasingly encourage the experience of communion in this Church, which is synodal.

So with that, I think that the concrete reality – understanding within the American, United States culture – is that many structures which already exist have great potential for being synodal.

We must find ways of continuing to transform them into more inclusive kinds of experiences. Whether on pastoral councils, or in other diocesan structures or gatherings, the inclusion of people – men and women, laity and clergy, women and men religious, et cetera – can help all to take part and feel a deep co-responsible sense of belonging, leadership and accountability in the life of the Church.

Obviously, there are challenges, but I think some significant steps have already been taken, and hopefully that will continue. Thank you."

You can read all seven questions and the Holy Father's responses by scanning the QR code with your phone.





18th October 2025, Kilkenny

L-R: Mr Stephen Greene, Mrs Frances McNally, Mrs Patricia Maguire, Fr Brian Fitzpatrick, Miss Caitlin Quinn, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Mr Finbarr Burns, Mr John Campbell, Mrs Joan Aldridge. Photo: Courtesy Patricia Maguire.

Irish Synodal Pathway Update: Pre-Synodal Assembly in Kilkenny

Delegates from across Ireland, including representatives from our Diocese, gathered in Kilkenny on 18 October 2025 for the Pre-Synodal Assembly. This gathering marks a significant milestone on the Irish Synodal Pathway—a shared journey of listening, prayer, and discernment as we walk together as the People of God.

To help us prepare for this Assembly, the Preparatory Document, Baptised and Sent, has now been published <https://synod.ie/baptised-and-sent-preparatory-document-available-now/>. This is the fruit of prayer, reflection, and communal discernment, drawing on contributions from the Spring Gatherings held nationwide (February–May 2025) and the ongoing work of the National Synodal Team. It highlights the emerging priorities the Spirit is calling the Church in Ireland to embrace at this time. This work continues over the coming year, with the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) set to participate in Regional Meetings in the months ahead. DN: To read more about the Irish synodal pathway, scan the QR code with your phone.



You can view a series of video presentations from the Pre-Synodal Assembly in Kilkenny by scanning the QR code with your phone.

Youth Perspective: My Kilkenny Synodal Experience

By Caitlin Quinn

"I was lucky enough to attend the conversation in the spirit in Kilkenny on October 18th, 2025. As a young person my views entering the synodal event were broadened. From looking around the room there weren't very many people my age there. And at my table I was the youngest. When exploring the questions I spoke about how I personally felt that there needed to be a greater emphasis on youth and youth ministry within the church. Many said that they had never thought of that aspect before and realised that to place an emphasis on the youth in their parishes was the way to go.

I had never experienced an atmosphere that was as welcoming as the one in Kilkenny with the ability to speak freely without judgment was incredible. The room was filled with the Holy Spirit, and our conversations were filled with hope. All in all, I found it to be an enlightening experience that presented many ideas, we now just need to put them into action."

Caitlin, aged 20, is a second year student at St Mary's University College, Belfast. She is actively involved in her parish of Seapatricks where she sings with the folk group, plays guitar, and trains altar servers. Caitlin has completed her Gold JP II Award and an OCN Level 2 in Youth Ministry.



L-R: Deacon Patrick Gallagher, Deacon Daniel McAnulty, Deacon Pearse Thornbury, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Bishop Michael Router, Deacon Seán Farrel and Deacon Brendan McKernan. Photo credit: Dorothy Murtagh, Newry Parish.

Five men ordained to the Permanent Diaconate

Congratulations to Deacons Seán Farrel (Tullylish), Patrick Gallagher (Craigavon), Daniel McAnulty (Newry), Pearse Thornbury (St. Peter's Lurgan) and Brendan McKernan (Derrynoose, Keady, Archdiocese of Armagh) who were ordained by Archbishop Eamon Martin to the Permanent Diaconate on Sunday 28th September in the Cathedral of Ss. Patrick & Colman, Newry. Deacon Pearse Thornbury is a member of the Dromore Diocesan Pastoral Council. Please pray for these men as they begin their ministry as Permanent Deacons.

January Ordination to the Priesthood for Deacon Anthony

Dromore Diocesan Pastoral Council member, Rev. Anthony Moffett, will be ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Dromore by Archbishop Eamon Martin on Sunday 11th January 2026 at St Colman's Church in his home town of Dromore. He will preside over the celebration of Mass for the first time on Monday, 12th January 2026, at 10.30am at Newry Cathedral.

Archbishop Eamon Martin previously ordained Rev. Anthony to the Order of the diaconate on Sunday, 11th May 2025 at Newry Cathedral.

Rev. Anthony has been serving in Newry Parish since winter 2024 after completing his chaplaincy training in Cork. He has been warmly received by the people of the parish.

Please keep Rev. Anthony in your prayers in these weeks leading up to his ordination.



Photo: Rev. Anthony Moffett pictured during a celebration event after his ordination to the diaconate on Sunday, 11th May 2025. Photo: Mark Byrne, Newry Parish.

Q&A with Pope Leo XIV: the role of women in the church

Q: What hopes can women legitimately harbor in a synodal Church? Do you believe that a genuine cultural shift is underway in the Church, one that will make equality between women and men a lived reality in the future? - Question from the European delegate, Prof. Klára Antonia, KU Linz.

A: Thank you, Professor, for your comment and also for this question. **I'll begin with two very personal experiences, starting with my own family. I grew up in a Catholic family where my mother, and my father, both, were very, very active in the parish. Years ago, when there was much talk in the United States—I'm talking about the 1970s—of equality between women and men, I said to my mother, "Do you want to be equal to men?" And she replied, "No, because we are already better!" And she certainly wasn't joking. Women have so many gifts, which they could contribute even then in many ways, in family life, in the parish. Not just my mother, but many women.**

A second experience comes from Peru, where there is a congregation of religious women, consecrated women, whose charism is to work where there are no priests. They have the power to baptize, to assist at weddings... They do wonderful missionary work, which truly is a testimony for many priests as well. This is the courage it takes to proclaim the Gospel, and it is women who do it!

So, regarding your question, leaving aside the more difficult topics, which are part of the work of a study group that is currently being presented, I think the problem isn't that there are no possibilities, but that there are cultural obstacles. And this must be acknowledged, because not all bishops or priests want to allow women to exercise what could very well be their role. There are cultures where women still suffer because of differences—as if they were second-class citizens, so to speak—and don't always have the same rights. So there lies a challenge for the Church and for all of us, to see how we can together promote respect for everyone's rights; how we can foster a culture where these things become not only possible, but a reality, in the co-participation of all, each according to their own vocation, where everyone can exercise—let's say—a role of responsibility in the Church. We have seen many practical examples. But the reality is that culturally, not all countries are at the same point as Europe or the United States... And we can't simply assume that by appointing a woman here or there to this or that position, she will be respected, because there are strong cultural differences that create problems.

So we need to talk about how the Church can be a force for conversion, the transformation of cultures, according to the values of the Gospel. Unfortunately, often the way we live our faith is more determined by our culture and less by our evangelical values! That's where we can all be a force, an inspiration, an invitation to our nations, our communities, our cultures, to reflect on the differences that exist, and not just between men and women. In many countries, there are still differences based on class or rank in

society: one cannot be appointed to such an office because others will reject them... There are prejudices and discriminations that exist and that clearly go against the Gospel, and we are often powerless in the face of these realities.

So, there is certainly much to do. I believe the Church already offers opportunities to begin and continue this journey, and here too, we must be courageous, accompanying situations and realities so that, little by little, perhaps we can introduce changes and transformations in these cultures, eliminating authentic discrimination and becoming communities where the gifts and charisms of each person are truly respected and valued. Thank you!

Translation from Italian: Google.

You can read all seven questions and the Holy Father's responses by scanning the QR code with your phone.



Top: Pope Leo XIV arrives at the Paul VI Hall. Bottom: A reproduction of the 15th Century 'Madonna of the Column' fresco, later titled 'Mother of the Church', displayed in the Paul VI Hall. Photos: L'Osservatore Romano.





Participants enjoy a laugh with their tutor, Ashleigh Hamilton (right), during the 'Introduction to Digital Skills' course at Newry Conference Centre. Photo: Newry Parish.

Diocese offers Peace Plus funded training courses through South Eastern Regional College

Dromore Diocesan Pastoral Council partnered with South Eastern Regional College (SERC) this autumn to offer two fully funded courses designed to support volunteers, parish staff, and clergy. Both programmes were made possible through Peace Plus funding, meaning that participants were not required to pay any fees.

During October and November 2025, 20 enthusiastic volunteers completed the **Volunteer Leadership OCN Level 2** programme, bringing a wide range of experience and a willingness to take on new challenges in their parishes and the Diocese. Many participants had already completed or registered for the Pope John Paul II Award, while others were active parish and diocesan volunteers who valued the chance to build new skills and connect with fellow volunteers.

The **Introduction to Digital Skills** Programme is a four-week, bespoke course designed to help parishes strengthen their social media presence, build confidence online, and explore a range of practical digital tools. Throughout the programme, participants

learned how to grow and engage an audience, tailor content for different age groups, and monitor and evaluate their digital activity. The course also covered essential areas such as copyright awareness, data protection, and compliance with privacy legislation, ensuring parish communications are both effective and responsible.

Participants included clergy, parish staff, and volunteers from across the Diocese of Dromore, along with representatives from neighbouring parishes in the Archdiocese of Armagh, creating a rich mix of experience and shared learning. The Diocesan Pastoral Council wishes to thank SERC and Peace Plus for making these valuable learning opportunities possible.



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Inaugural meeting of Diocesan Communications Committee

The Diocese organised a consultation event in the summer of 2024 for those involved in managing social media channels and websites on behalf of parishes across the Diocese of Dromore and neighbouring parishes in the Archdiocese of Armagh. At the same time, a research exercise was carried out to determine how many parishes currently have a website and/or social media presence. A report outlining the findings was published in January 2025, and a Communications Committee - a subcommittee of the

Diocesan Pastoral Council - was subsequently formed to examine the results and plan a practical response.

The committee held its first meeting on 23rd September 2025, with Dr Mark Byrne serving as Acting Chair. It was agreed that the initial priority would be to draft guidelines, policies, and procedures to guide future communications initiatives. The committee will meet again in early 2026 to review progress and plan the next steps.



Young Adult Event February 2026: Our Future Church

The Diocese looks forward to welcoming young adults (18+), students, young parents, those working with young people, and all who carry the energy and hope of the next generation to Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre on the evening of 5th February 2026. This gathering is a chance for young people to share their vision for our Church. Questions to be considered will include:

1. How can we engage you, and your peers, more deeply?
2. How can we support you in your studies, your work, your family life, and the dreams and challenges ahead?
3. How might you help shape the change you want to see?

The event will provide an opportunity to meet others with a shared desire to build a vibrant future.

The programme will include music, prayer, and an open conversation 'moving forward together', guided by the Holy Spirit, the wisdom of our leaders, and the enthusiasm of our young people.

Queries to Mrs Frances McNally, Diocesan Youth Director at youthdirector@dromorediocese.org



Gallery: Dromore pilgrims attending The Jubilee of Youth in Rome from July 28th to August 3rd 2025. All photos: Abbie McConville.