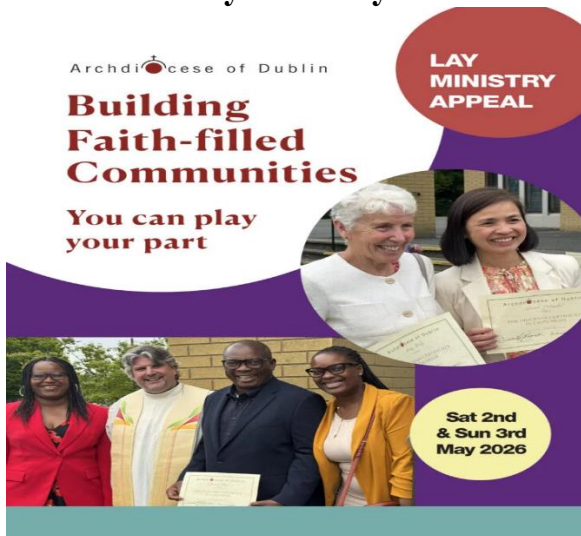


## Lay Ministry 2026



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In our second reading today, we are reminded that Jesus Christ is the 'precious cornerstone' on whom we depend. We are called, as Christians who are baptised, to be 'living stones', built on Christ: 'living stones making a spiritual house... to sing the praises of God who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light' (1 Peter 2:4-9).

This call is embodied in this year's theme for Lay Ministry Sunday: Building faith-filled communities. We are called to be builders of faith so that we can confidently share our faith in Christ with others. Through your donation to the annual Lay Ministry Collection, you continue to support and build up faith-filled communities in the Archdiocese. As priests, deacons and people, we seek to find new and creative ways to engage everyone in developing their faith.

Because of your support for this Collection, the grant fund, announced last year, has been able to facilitate parishes, in areas of most need, to engage the ministry of a Faith Development Worker. This initiative is beginning to bear fruit, and I encourage all Partnerships of Parishes to pray and discern what lay ministries are needed to build faith-filled communities in their area.

Thanks to your contributions on Lay Ministry Sunday, the diocese can now offer subsidies to participants of the Diocesan Certificate in Catechesis, the Pathways into Ministry Programme and the Youth Ministry Leadership Certificate. This year, 1,500 people are participating in formation for voluntary ministries – a great sign of hope to us all. In addition, through the work of the Office of Mission & Ministry, parish ministries such as Lay Funeral Prayer Leaders continue to be supported, formed and resourced.

In addition, since last September, the Diocesan Pastoral Council has begun to explore with me the pastoral development of the Archdiocese. Please help to support

lay ministry initiatives. Your committed generosity, today and every day, makes a difference. Together we can build parishes and partnerships that are alive and active, joyful and faith-filled, synodal and missionary.

May we be 'filled with the Spirit and with wisdom' (Acts 6:3) as we focus on the pastoral, missionary and synodal conversion the Holy Spirit is calling the Church to, across the world, in our time.

+ Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin

### WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased

Eithne Whelan, Portmarnock Crescent

Sunday, 10.30a.m.

Maura Walshe,[11<sup>th</sup> A]; Desmond Burns,[13<sup>th</sup> A]

Sunday, 12 noon

Peter Wynne, [Month's Mind

Siobhan Sullivan,[12 A]; Maureen Breen,[A].

### COLLECTIONS

Lay Ministry Sunday, and the Associated Lay Ministry Appeal, takes place this weekend of May 2nd/3rd and will replace the Share collection this .

Sincere thanks for your support last week

Common Fund €1245

Share € 750



**CELEBRATION OF  
FIRST PENCE  
ST MARNOCK'S INS  
13<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 2.30p.m.**

Parents who wish their child to celebrate the Sacrament of First Penance please arrive at the Church at 2.30p.m. Please ensure each child be accompanied by an adult – Parent/Grandparent/ Guardian. There will be a number of priests present to assist with First Confession.

Families should continue to attend the **Family Mass** each **Sunday at 10.30a.m.**

as it is important preparation for receiving the Sacraments.

**Advance notice for your Diary –  
CONCERT IN AID OF THE  
DUBLIN DIOCESAN  
PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**

to help defray costs of taking sick Pilgrims to Lourdes as part of the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Sept, will take place on **Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 5.00p.m.** in St. Anne's church, Portmarnock.

More information to follow.



***"In Knock, we have an apparition to ordinary people - people like ourselves."***

I recently read a biography of St Anthony where the writer said that there was never a so-called golden age for Christianity and that each century brings its own challenges for the Church and people of faith. He writes that, in every age, there are only a certain number of really committed Christian people. This was as true in the time of St Anthony in the 12<sup>th</sup> century as it is today. There is a sense then that we can be always looking back over our shoulders at what we consider having been better times, instead of focusing on the present and how we can positively influence the times we live in with our contributions and efforts through the lens of faith. There is a great well spring of faith in our parish, in our community and throughout our Archdiocese. I saw this faith again at first hand last weekend at the Archdiocese of Dublin pilgrimage to Knock. Archbishop Dermot Farrell and Bishop Paul Dempsey were joined by parishes from throughout the Archdiocese including our own parish partnership at the annual pilgrimage to Knock last Saturday. In this homily, Archbishop Farrell said: *"In Knock, we have an apparition to ordinary people—people like ourselves, and we have a silent apparition, a vision that we have to make sense of. In a very real sense, the apparition at Knock is a vision to the Church, to the people of God."* He went on to say that: *"In our presence and prayer here today, the vision of Knock is bearing fruit; the Lord is at work among his people—the Lord is gathering his flock, leading us home."* There was a great atmosphere of camaraderie and mutual support during the pilgrimage among people who had travelled from Dublin to the west of Ireland. Many commented on the prayerful atmosphere at the shrine, especially during the pilgrimage mass. Pilgrims were welcomed by the Rector of the Shrine, Father Richard Gibbons. The liturgy was greatly enhanced by the wonderful singing from the Diocesan Choir of Many Voices led by Ciaran Coll. There were many younger voices participating in the prayers and readings from different parishes including Portmarnock. The day began for pilgrims with a number of workshops which focused on Baptism, Mission and Ministry. With many parishes officially represented and many more parishioners and priests from elsewhere in the Archdiocese present, this pilgrimage is sure to grow from strength to strength in the coming years. It was a memorable and inspiring day for those taking part and it won't be long before the organising team gets to grips with planning a bigger and even more vibrant pilgrimage in 2027. I will conclude with some words from Archbishop Farrell in Knock last Saturday: *"We care to re-discover our calling and our mission as the Body of Christ. Pope Leo put it like this a few days ago, "Mindful that the aim of mission is not [Church's] own survival" but "the Church... [That is all of us, together are] called to live with confident courage, as a small flock bringing hope to all" (Letter of Pope Leo to the Cardinals, April 2026)".* May Our Lady of Knock continue to intercede for us and also for our families and friends. And may the graces from this pilgrimage enfold in our parishes over the coming months.

Deacon Gerard

### ***AFTERNOON OF MERCY PRAYER***

**With Deacon Don Devaney, Kilbarrack Church**  
**Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> – 2.30pm to 4pm**  
 Refreshments in the Parish Centre

### **MALAHIDE BETHANY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

Monday's at 10.30am  
 (except bank holidays)

A bereavement support group is held from 10:30am to 11.30am every Monday (except bank holidays) in the Parish Centre. This group provides a safe and confidential listening space where those who understand the complex and often traumatic experience of grief gather to support each other under the guidance of two trained volunteer bereavement facilitators. Individual listening support is also available from the Malahide Bethany Team, To speak confidentially to a member of the Bethany team, telephone 087 7936189. To find out more visit [www.malahideparish.ie/bethany](http://www.malahideparish.ie/bethany).

Contact Pauline Geoghegan, 0876293744



Pieta's annual Darkness Into Light Walk takes place on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 4:15am at Malahide Castle**. We hope you can join us for the most important sunrise of the year, raising vital funds for Pieta's services. Last year, the funds raised contributed to 100,000. Helpline calls and texts and 41,000 counselling hours for Adults and Children in need of support. Please register at [www.darknessintolight.ie](http://www.darknessintolight.ie)