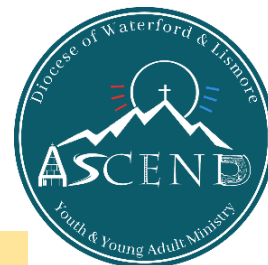


# Parish Summary: Ascend Strategic Plan for Youth & Young Adult Ministry 2022 – 2025



*“Intentionally walking with young people on their journey of faith and offering meaningful opportunities to encounter Jesus.”*

## CONTEXT / PURPOSE: DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN (2019 – 2024)

- Our young people are a treasure within our Church: they are its present as well as its future
- How to offer opportunities to help our youth encounter the person of Jesus Christ, find meaning and purpose in their lives, become disciples and effective evangelisers themselves.
- Collaboration between diocese, parishes, schools, families, religious communities, prayer groups, individuals – with a common goal
- Establish intentional network of prayer for youth, young adults and those who minister to them

## GUIDING VALUES:

Key words: Collaborating | Supporting | Connecting | Recognising

## STRATEGIC TASK FORCE MEMBERS:

Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan, Fr John Harris ADM, Nodlaig Lillis, Maura Murphy, Sr Kathryn Press ASCJ, Shauna McGrath, Olivia Elliott

## FOUR STRANDS

1. Recruiting, training and resourcing a network of parish-based voluntary Faith Representatives
2. Strengthening and promoting existing faith-based initiatives/projects/events
3. A collaborative approach to developing new faith-based initiatives/projects/events, linking diocese, parish, school, home
4. Ongoing consultation with stakeholders to substantiate its content and steer the plan.

## STRAND 1: WHAT IS A DIOCESAN FAITH REPRESENTATIVE?

- A parish-based volunteer, over age of 18
- Practicing Catholic, supported by local parish priest / curate
- Relates to young people
- Adheres to Diocesan policy & procedures
- Supports the Ascend Strategic Vision
- Responsible and reliable
- Can work as a member of a team

### RECRUITMENT TIMEFRAME:

January 2023: Advertise / Promote  
February 2023: Information Sessions  
March - May 2023: Training Begins  
Autumn 2023: Commissioning

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A DIOCESAN FAITH REPRESENTATIVE?

- Support clergy and post-primary school teachers in enabling young people to form a relationship with God
- Link between parish, school, and home, under the guidance of the Diocese
- Linked to the Pope John Paul II Award, where possible
- Enable / support key Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Ministry Projects and Events
- Circulate information regarding Youth & Young Adult Events / Pilgrimages etc.
- Attend relevant Diocesan Faith Formation Conferences and workshops
- Be a part of the ongoing development of youth & young adult ministry within the diocese, particularly through their feedback / experience on the ground
- Supported, trained and resourced by the Diocese and parish
- Every parish situation is different: collaborative consultation with parish priest is essential
- Encouraged to network with neighbouring parishes



## STRAND 2: STRENGTHENING & PROMOTING PRE-EXISTING INITIATIVES

- Youth Council now the **STRATEGIC TASK FORCE, POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARDS**, SUBCOMMITTEE IN PLACE, **HOLY FAMILY MISSION, ALPHA YOUTH, FAITH BASED RESOURCES** e.g. Faith@Home & To the Heights Newsletters, Ascend Social Media, Check it Out Events Bulletin, Ascend Resource packs



## STRAND 2/3: STRENGTHENING / DEVELOPING NEW INITIATIVES

- **YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:** Encounter Events | Faith Formation Series | Cherished Women's Ministry | More outreach to come...
- **PILGRIMAGES:** [SUBCOMMITTEE IN PLACE] *International Pilgrimages:* Medjugorje | Lourdes | World Youth Day | *Local Pilgrimages:* Diocesan Youth Camino: St Declan's Way | Local Pilgrimage Resource Pack | National pilgrimages



## STRAND 3: DEVELOPING NEW INITIATIVES

- **RENEWAL** (for post-primary RE teachers / chaplains): [SUBCOMMITTEE IN PLACE]: Annual Diocesan REnewal Day | Workshops for teachers | Promoting Diocesan faith development zoom series | Retreat / Pilgrimage options for RE Teachers / Chaplains | Kenya Twinning Project
- **CONTINUITY FOR CONFIRMATION AGE TO JUNIOR CYCLE:** [SUBCOMMITTEE TO BE ESTABLISHED]: Faith formation, fellowship and fun | promotion of Family Days / Faith Camps | Suitable Resources | Links to Pope John Paul II Award | Practical options for parishes will be piloted by 2025
- **VOCATIONS:** [COLLABORATE WITH VOCATIONS COMMITTEE / DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC COMMITTEE / RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES]: Resource pack / module | Possible speakers, videos, podcasts, | Creative ideas to promote awareness of vocations | Support a Diocesan "Holy Hour for Vocations"
- **LITURGY:** [COLLABORATE WITH DIOCESAN LITURGY COMMISSION]: Support faith development through liturgy | Collaborate with Diocesan Liturgy Commission | Promote Liturgy Days to teachers | Resources for JP2 Participants | Liturgical resources for schools & homes | Spotify Playlists
- **USEFUL YOUTH PROGRAMMES AND RESOURCES:** [SUBCOMMITTEE TO BE ESTABLISHED]: Research | Pilot | Recommend | Train Faith Representatives
- **PRAYER SUPPORT:** formally establish a prayer support network for youth and young adults in the diocese and for the spiritual support of the Ascend Strategic Plan.



## STAGE 2: RECRUITMENT OF FAITH REPS

- Presenting plan and faith rep role to priests in parishes
- Supportive letter from Bishop
- Online media campaign and PR strategy
- Brochure / Posters on the Role of the Diocesan Faith Representative
- Script for Mass announcement to be circulated to Clergy | Mass talks in January
- Promotional material highlighting key youth & young adult ministry initiatives in the diocese
- Faith Representatives nominated / recommended by parish priests
- Application process in accordance with Diocesan Policy and Procedures (to include Garda vetting)
- Publicising the commissioning of the selected Diocesan Faith Representatives.

### STAGES OF THE ASCEND PLAN:

Stage 1: Consultation (began in May 2022)

**Stage 2: Recruitment of Faith Reps (starts in Jan '23)**

Stage 3: Resource Development (ongoing)

Stage 4: Review & Evaluation (2025)

## TRAINING, RESOURCING AND SUPPORTING FAITH REPRESENTATIVES

- **TRAINING:** Diocesan Safeguarding Training, Running Alpha Youth, Role of Pope John Paul II Award Leader, Small group facilitation, Mentoring, Walking with Generation Z & Generation A...
- **RESOURCING:** provided by both the parish and the Youth & Young Adult Ministry Officer, members of the Ascend Strategic Task Force / other experienced facilitators
- **SUPPORT:** In-person and zoom meetings, annual Faith-based retreat / conference, Annual Ascend newsletter, Weekly "To the Heights" newsletter & Ascend resource, one-to-one mentoring, website / email support. The local Parish Priest / Curate will provide secondary support to the Diocesan Faith Representative and will involve them in relevant parish committees e.g. pastoral committee / parish leadership team.