



## **KILMORE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY 2014**

**'Walking Together ... Building the Kingdom ... Professing our Faith'**  
**St. Patrick's College, Cavan - Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 October 2014**



# **ASSEMBLY REPORT**

**Seán Coll**  
**Director, Kilmore Diocesan Pastoral Centre**

**February 2015**

## **Prayer for the Success of the Assembly**

Most Holy Trinity, we long to share your life of communion and grace.

Father, you so loved the world that you gave us your Son.

Christ Jesus, you emptied yourself for us on the cross and restored us to new life.

Holy Spirit, you have been poured out on us to enliven our hearts and minds.

As our diocese prepares to meet in Assembly,  
open the hearts of all people of good will to receive the joy of the Gospel,  
so that we may all walk together, build the kingdom  
and profess our faith in the one God  
who is Father, Son and Spirit now and forever. Amen.

ST. PATRICK, PRAY FOR US  
ST. FELIM, PRAY FOR US

# Message from Pope Francis on the occasion of the 2014 Assembly



183 Navan Road  
Dublin 7

N. 3354/14

21 October 2013

The Most Reverend Leo O'Reilly  
Bishop of Kilmore  
Bishop's House  
Cullies  
Cavan

Your Excellency,

I am pleased to forward the following Message from the Holy Father, as requested by Rev. Dr Enda E. Murphy, Director of Pastoral Services, on the occasion of the third Kilmore Diocesan Assembly which is scheduled to take place on 25/26 October next.

*His Holiness Pope Francis sends his cordial greeting and blessing on the occasion of the Kilmore Diocesan Assembly which will take place at St Patrick's College, Cavan.*

*The Holy Father prays that, by walking together in this Diocesan Assembly, the participants will encounter the truth and source of hope for their lives, Jesus Christ, and, filled with joy and gratitude, will share this gift by collaborating in building the kingdom, illuminating even the fringes of our world by their profession of faith and leading to "fruitfulness in the work of evangelization" (Evangelii gaudium, 11).*

*Commending all who gather at the Kilmore Diocesan Assembly to the intercession of the Most Holy Mother of God, the Holy Father willingly imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of peace and joy in the Lord Jesus.*

With kind regards and prayerful good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Charles J. Brown*

Archbishop Charles J. Brown  
Apostolic Nuncio

## Report on Proceedings

The Diocese of Kilmore held its third Diocesan Assembly on 25-26 October 2014 in St. Patrick's College, Cavan. Over 300 delegates from the 35 parishes, religious communities and apostolic organisations attended and took part in the discussions. The theme of this year's Assembly was taken from three phrases Pope Francis used during his first homily as Pope: ***“Walking Together, Building the Kingdom, Professing our Faith.”*** An Assembly is a meeting of clergy, religious and laity from all around the diocese. It is a consultative group, which discusses issues of importance for the diocese and makes recommendations about future directions.

Heeding Pope Francis' call at the recent synod when he told the participants “it is necessary to say all that, in the Lord, one feels the need to say: without polite deference, without hesitation. And, at the same time, one must listen with humility and welcome, with an open heart, what your brothers say” the Assembly was marked by a great openness and respect both in the discussions and in the quality of listening. Indeed Pope Francis sent a message of blessing and closeness to all those gathered at the opening of the Assembly where he prayed that “the participants will encounter the truth and source of hope for their lives, Jesus Christ.”



***Bishop Leo O'Reilly welcomes delegates***

At the opening of the Assembly, Bishop Leo O'Reilly echoed Pope Francis words when he said “An important lesson from the recent Synod is that listening to what the Holy Spirit is saying means being free to express our views, listening to each other respectfully, and at times agreeing to disagree” and he continued, “The goal of our discussions and reflection will be to discern what are the pressing issues for the Church in Kilmore diocese at present and how we will go about engaging with those issues in the years ahead.”

The structure of the Assembly greatly aided this respectful exchange of views with a premium been placed on small group discussion between 6-7 people and some time also being given over to “open forum” sessions.



***Fr. Michael Router***

Fr Michael Router, PP Bailieborough, set the context for the work of the Assembly by presenting the findings of a listening survey which had been conducted over the past 18 months throughout the diocese. Respondents included those who, while considering themselves Catholic, have disconnected from the Church somewhat.

All, who took part in the survey identified the strain in their lives, especially in finding the correct balance in securing material contentment but not at the expense of and emotional and spiritual wellbeing.

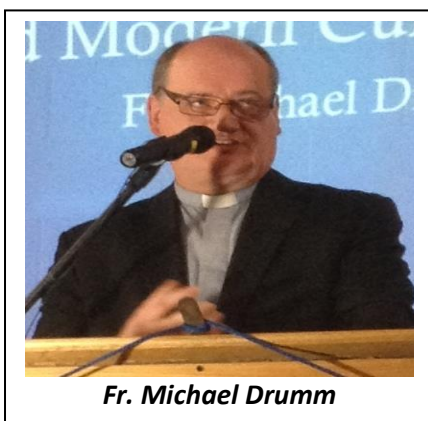




Older people have developed resilience over time and therefore have lower expectations. While remaining faithful, they are not uncritical of their Church. They are grateful for what they have but mourn the loss and security of traditional values they can no longer depend upon. They have concerns for their future healthcare, especially how they are to cope in the face of illness and incapacity. They see the stresses and pressure their children are experiencing as parents.

Younger people highlighted a lack of direction in their lives and the difficulties of deciding who they can trust, since the pillars of bygone times have failed them. Social media, while it promises much, cannot provide the real relationships and deeper value system that must underpin an integrated community.

Many considered the Church as being detached from most peoples' lives, identifying the need for a more 'family friendly Church' where priests exercised a ministry of teacher and guide, as opposed to a dictatorial role. The Church was considered to be overly male orientated and devaluing of women. A church which was open to married clergy and women priests might be better able to connect with and communicate with people today, especially in its liturgies, which would be enriched by the greater involvement of trained lay people.



Having discussed the results of the listening survey in small groups the delegates were then addressed by Fr Michael Drumm, Fr. Michael Drumm from the Diocese of Elphin and Executive Chairperson of the Irish Catholic Schools Partnership Trust, who emphasized the need to understand sacraments as means of grace and healing for the wounded and not the perfect. Taking lessons from the history of the Irish and Universal Church Fr Drumm highlighted how at various times in its history the Church has undergone massive change which, while painful, had ultimately led to growth and renewal. He suggested that now was such a time and that the challenge for the Church in Kilmore was to perhaps let go of some structures we have grown accustomed to in order to be free to once more be a missionary community that can speak the gospel message in a language understandable to today's culture.



**Matthew McFadden**  
**Clogher don Oige**

The third input of the day was provided by Matthew McFadden of the Clogher don Oige youth ministry team. Matthew outlined how over a ten year period the youth ministry program in the diocese of Clogher had been transformed and is now very successful terms of its outreach and the numbers of young people it engages with. One of the secrets to its success, he argued, was the involvement of a sizeable number of people under 22 years of age on the administrative committee who always carry through on proposals and ideas. The contribution on youth ministry found a very strong resonance on the floor of the Assembly hall in both the small group discussions and the open forum.

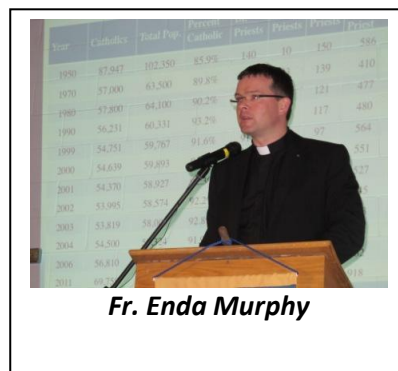
After the delegates returned to their parishes on Saturday evening the 50 facilitators of the small group discussions were brought together by Martin Kennedy, the overall facilitator, in order to draw the day's work together. The main thrusts emerging from the 50 groups were noted and 150 feedback sheets were perused in order to formulate a document for approval by the delegates the next day.



**Bishop Leo delivers homily at**  
**Assembly Mass**

On Sunday the Assembly Mass was held in the Cathedral of St Patrick & Felim in Cavan at 11:30a.m. The principal celebrant and homilist was Bishop Leo O'Reilly who was joined by the priests of the diocese, the Assembly delegates, as well as the parishioners from the local parish of Urney & Annagelliff. At the beginning of Mass 35 delegates representing all the parishes of the diocese processed into the cathedral carrying candles which they placed around the cathedral sanctuary. Later 9 people, representing the 9 Pastoral Areas in the diocese carried up items representing the various pastoral and apostolic ministries which are carried out in the diocese.

After lunch the Assembly delegates returned to hear a presentation on priest numbers in the diocese today by Fr. Enda Murphy, Diocesan Director of Pastoral Services and Youth Ministry. Fr. Murphy emphasized the continued need for priests and the importance of continued prayer for vocations. However he pointed out that just a cursory look at the statistics revealed a cause of grave concern and a need for action to address the dwindling and aging number of priests. In 1950 the Kilmore had 140 diocesan priests and for much of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was ordaining 4 men a year for the ministry. However priest numbers in the diocese had now fallen to 76 with only 5 ordinations in the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century compared with 35 ordinations in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup>. The average age of priests in the diocese is 64 with 41 priests under 70 and 35 over that age. Projecting forward to 2020 he drew attention to the fact if things remain the same the average age of priests will have risen to 70 with 32 priests under 70 and 44 over that age.



**Fr. Enda Murphy**

This contribution formed the backdrop for the distribution and discussion of the summary document from the previous day. Delegates were asked to affirm if they agreed that it was a fair and true summary of all that had been said on Saturday and would there be anything they would like to add in the light of the presentation on clergy numbers. After the group discussions and a lively open forum the facilitators were

once again drawn together to gauge the other items which needed to be included in the final recommendations.



***Breda O'Brien***

The final speaker of the day was Ms. Breda O'Brien, Mother of Four, Second-Level Teacher and Columnist with The Irish Catholic and the Irish Times, who shared her own story of faith but also where she that sees the Church in Ireland today. While acknowledging the challenges facing the Church today and the heavy legacy of the past she had a hope filled message for the delegates. In giving talks to groups around the country she was privileged to witness green shoots returning in many places in a tentative but very real way. She acknowledged in particular the findings of the listening survey which spoke of the struggle many people face in the modern Ireland and suggested that meetings those struggles is where the Church could be at its best.

In his concluding remarks Bishop O'Reilly spoke of his great sense of hope from the two days. He assured the delegates that their concerns had been heard and action would follow. That action would surround the sense of welcome to those on the margins of Church life; a renewed emphasis sacramental catechesis for parents and children; a clear policy and vision for engagement and work with young people and a look at how we use our material resources throughout the diocese given the shortage of priests and lack of vocations.

The recommendations of the Diocesan Assembly will now be taken forward by the Diocesan Pastoral Council which will formulate a pastoral plan for the diocese. During the interim period a summary of the proceeding will be forwarded to the parishes to be presented at all Masses on the feast of Christ the King in order that the people of Kilmore know what has been discussed and the broad thrust of what the priorities will be for the future.

This was the third such Assembly in the Diocese of Kilmore with previous ones held in 2000 and 2007 – each of which produced a pastoral plan for the diocese. Some of the outcomes from previous Diocesan Assemblies include the establishment of a Diocesan Pastoral Centre; the development of a pastoral plan following each Assembly; the establishment of pastoral councils in each parish; the initial formation of parish clusters which led to the eventual formation of nine pastoral areas in the diocese; and the employment of pastoral assistants in some of the pastoral areas.



***Martin Kennedy, Assembly Facilitator***



***Fr. Michael Drumm in conversation with  
Seán Coll, Director KDPC***





**Clare Carolan & Grainne O'Reilly, ACCORD Cavan**



**Corina Brown, Diocesan Eucharistic Adoration Group**



**Delegates on the Sunday Afternoon**



**Aislinn Tighe, Castlerahan**



**Jim Hannon, Cornafean with Bishop Leo**





### ***The Open Forum Discussions***



***Justin Sofio***  
***Direction for Our Times***



***Maria Hunt***  
***Witness for Hope, Knock***



***Mary Flynn***  
***Veritas***

**Video-recordings of all the talks given at the Assembly are on the diocesan website, [www.kilmorediocese.ie](http://www.kilmorediocese.ie) and the Pastoral Centre website [www.kilmoredpc.ie](http://www.kilmoredpc.ie). Each parish will also receive a copy of a dvd with video-recordings of all the talks.**

## Full text of Listening Survey Report

**What would you say are some of the issues affecting your everyday lives that you and your peers feel very strongly about at this time?**

What comes across most strongly from all age groups is the strain on their lives in this time of economic difficulty. Firstly there is a strong cry about the ordinary, day to day struggles of so many people to simply make ends meet. And secondly there is a recognition of the impoverishment of community life that comes from an over emphasis on material things and values. The sense that comes across is of ordinary people struggling to find a balance between two values. On the one hand the need for material prosperity as a basis for happy living. On the other the recognition that materialism on its own is not enough for a good life.

Older people emerge in some ways as the most resilient group, perhaps because they have lower expectations. They express a sense of gratitude for what they have in terms of social services, pensions and community facilities. But they speak about the loss of some traditional community values, leaving them more isolated and lonely, and sometimes living with fear and a sense of insecurity about their safety. The cutbacks have left them with fewer supports, and the strongest concern that they name for themselves is about their future healthcare. What will happen to them when they become unable to care for themselves? They see the pressures their own children are experiencing today as parents, and they see the impact of unemployment and emigration on the young adults.



The young adults themselves speak strongly about these issues. They speak about the financial pressures of trying to get a start in life when work is hard to come by. They speak about the numbers of their peers who have emigrated and are better off now than they. They speak about the lack of direction in their lives and name the damage that drink and drugs are doing to so many of their age group. They name bullying and suicide among the young as cause for concern. While they welcome the growth of social media they also recognise that it cannot replace real relationships.

The central theme from parents is the struggle with family finances, and the pressures of rearing children in more difficult times. The lack of work or the insecurity of work, the lower income levels and the resultant and constant pressure with bills and mortgages all feature here. Children who were reared in the boom times still have high expectations. They are exposed to so much in today's media. The culture of drinking and drug taking among the young, the pressure on mental health arising from the stresses of life, the danger of bullying, the fear of suicide – all these are issues named by the parents as being of strong concern to them and their peers.

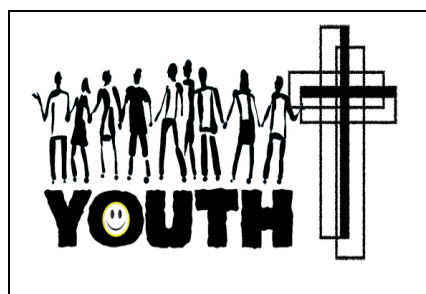
Among the other groups of adults, including teachers and business people, the main theme is family stress arising from the economic depression. Where there are concentrations of unemployment and poverty there is often also a culture of dependency. Here there is a sense, particularly among teachers, of the need for greater parenting skills for dealing with the current situation. Also named is the need for a deeper system of values to inform our vision about life.

**What strong feelings and what hopes /expectations do you and your peers have for the church?**

Coming through strongly is a sense of appreciation for what the church can be at its best, a recognition of the positive role it can play in the lives of people. There is also a strong regard for the present Pope, an

appreciation of the work on the ground by many clergy, and a concern for the increasing workload that priests are carrying as they get older and fewer. There is also a positive sense of faith and spirituality in the lives of people, even though this is often disconnected from Church. But at the same time there is a central and widespread criticism of the Church as being disconnected from people, out of touch with their lives, not communicating effectively. There is a strong sense of the Clerical Church being preoccupied with issues not central to the lives of people, and ignoring issues that are central. There is an appreciation of the role that priests play in the life of the Church and community and a desire that this should continue through the opening of the priesthood to married men. There is a desire for closer involvement in the lives of people, and for greater acceptance of the reality and complexity of people's lives. There is also a desire for the greater involvement and training of lay people.

All these points are articulated across the different age groups, but especially by the older people. They express a strong attachment to church and faith, but not an uncritical one. They say that the abuse scandals have done great damage to people's trust in the Church. They express concern at the ageing profile of mass attenders and question what will happen to the Church when their generation is gone. But there is a strong regard for the priests in the parishes and for Pope Francis. There is concern at the workload that priests are carrying. There is a desire for the priest to be closer to the people, particularly at times of sickness and bereavement.



There is a recognition of the difficulties here with the reducing numbers of priests and there is a strong desire for the opening up of the priesthood to married men. This isn't just because of the declining numbers – there is a belief that married men would have a better understanding of the real life issues of people. There is frustration at the perceived lack of engagement by parents around the faith of the children, and the non-attendance at church except for special occasions. At the same time they say that the Church needs to change – to be closer to people and to be ministering in ways that connect better with them. There needs to be a better understanding of the realities of people's lives and a more compassionate response to issues such as broken marriages and second relationships.

Among the young adults there is a strong sense of an ageing Church, out of touch with the younger generations, out of tune with the realities of modern life, and unwilling to change. There is a welcome for Pope Francis and a desire for a church that is more inclusive of young people. Here the youth ministry programme of Clogher diocese was offered as a good example of such inclusion. There is a positive sense of the role the priest could play as teacher, but not as dictator. There was a call for priests to be able to marry, and a belief that this would make them more sensitive to the realities and pressures of modern life. There is a need to recognise the role of lay people and to provide training for that.

Parents recognise the real detachment from Church that has taken place among their peers, but say that faith and spirituality are still alive in people. They criticise the Church for being distant from the reality of people's lives and believe it needs to meet people half way. They say that it needs to undertake a programme of change. They believe that the Church at its best represents something very positive and that



the reducing number of priests and the possibility of church closures is a great loss for communities and the coming generations. They say that the Church is very male orientated and the way it is set up devalues women. Married priests and women priests would be good. There is a need for a more family friendly church, one better in tune with the realities of modern life, one more accepting of the greater variety of family types, one better able to connect with and communicate with people today, especially in its liturgies.

The other adult groups follow the same pattern. For them the way forward for the Church is to stand with people and speak from experience. The Church however is set up to be the opposite and it's often removed from people. They recognise the manpower issue and believe in opening up the role to both married men and to women. They see the need for increased involvement of laity and for the necessary training for this. They see that liturgies need to be developed in ways that connect better with people's lives.



# KILMORE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY 2014

**‘Walking Together ... Building the Kingdom ... Professing our Faith’**

**St. Patrick’s College, Cavan  
Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 October 2014**

## PROGRAMME

### **Saturday 25 October 2014**

- 9:15a.m. Registration – *Tea and Coffee served until 10:15a.m.*
- 10:30a.m. Welcome – Prayer – Setting the Scene
- 11:00a.m. Summary of Listening Survey Outcomes
- 11:15a.m. Small Circle Discussion on the Listening Survey Outcomes
- 11:45a.m. Sacramental Practice & Modern Culture – *Dr. Michael Drumm (Diocese of Elphin and Executive Chairperson of the Irish Catholic Schools Partnership Trust)*
- 12:15p.m. Small Circle Discussion on Sacramental Practice & Modern Culture
- 1:00p.m. Open Forum
- 1:30p.m. Lunch
- 3:00p.m. Reaching Out to Youth – *Clogher Don Oige Youth Ministry Team*
- 3:30p.m. Small Circle Discussion on Reaching Out to Youth
- 4:00p.m. Open Forum
- 4:45p.m. Closing Comments and Preview of Tomorrow
- 5:15p.m. First day concludes

## **PLEASE NOTE THAT CLOCKS GO BACK ONE HOUR TONIGHT**

### **Sunday 26 October 2014**

- 11:30a.m. Assembly Mass in the Cathedral
- 1:00p.m. Lunch
- 2:30p.m. Future Direction for Our Diocese – *Fr Enda Murphy, Diocesan Director of Pastoral Services and Youth Ministry*
- 3:00p.m. Small Circle Discussion on the Future Direction for Our Diocese
- 3:45p.m. Open Forum
- 4:15p.m. Break - *Tea and Coffee served*
- 4:45p.m. Witness – *Breda O’Brien, Mother of Four, Second-Level Teacher and Columnist with The Irish Catholic and the Irish Times*
- 5:15p.m. Small Circle Discussion
- 5:30p.m. Closing Address
- 6:00p.m. Assembly concludes

## **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

### **Most Reverend Leo O'Reilly, Bishop of Kilmore**

Good morning everybody and welcome to this Assembly of the diocese of Kilmore. This is the third Assembly of the diocese, where priests, religious and lay people from all our parishes have come together to reflect on and discuss important issues concerning the life and mission of the Church in our diocese.

The first Assembly in 2000 gave a major impetus to the programme of parish renewal and development that was already in place at that time. The wide-ranging Pastoral Plan which emerged from that gathering has served the diocese well in the years since then. The establishment of parish pastoral councils in every parish as a normal part of parish organisation and the greater involvement of lay people in every aspect of the day-to-day life of the parish were the more important outcomes of that first Assembly. The Assembly in 2007 concentrated attention on vocations and the growing shortage of priests and produced a menu of proposals for parishes focussing on vocation spirituality, youth ministry and greater lay involvement in the mission of the parish.

The theme of this Assembly is inspired by words spoken by Pope Francis in his inaugural homily: "Walking Together, Building The Kingdom, Professing Our Faith." The Assembly will aim to reach a consensus on how to address three key pastoral challenges of the present time: engaging with young people in the Church, celebration of sacraments in a secular culture and engaging with people on the margins of the Church. It will try to offer broad directions which the Diocesan Pastoral Council will then develop into a more detailed pastoral strategy. The discernment process will also seek to take into account the challenges to our mission arising from the decreasing number of priests.

Every Assembly takes place in a different context. The context of this gathering is shaped by many things both within the Church and outside. The ministry of Pope Francis and in particular his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, will certainly shape the context for our deliberations. This Exhortation offers us great encouragement and hope as well as many very practical steps to take in walking this journey together. Pope Francis' vision that everything begins with faith in the unconditional love and mercy of God and the joy of experiencing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ shapes the context of everything we do. Anyone who experiences joy will want to share it, and those who experience the Joy of the Gospel will want to share it too. This is the source of the missionary impulse and that brings us to the heart of Pope Francis' message, which is that everything in the Church must be missionary. He says: "I dream of a 'missionary option', that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation." (EG 27)

In the planning for this Assembly the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Steering Committee were conscious of the importance of hearing the views of people in the parishes, and particularly those on the margins of the Church. There was a serious effort made to reach out to those who would not normally come to Church. The feedback from those listening sessions in the parishes gives us the context in which many people live out their lives in our society today and the context in which we must try to preach and live out the message of Jesus. The next session will provide a summary of the findings of that consultation process and will be followed by an opportunity to discuss those in small groups.

The goal of our discussions and reflection will be to discern what are the pressing issues for the Church in Kilmore diocese at present and how we will go about engaging with those issues in the years ahead. As I mentioned this is our third Assembly in the last fifteen years. We are aware by now that one assembly is not going to change everything. Nevertheless, our earlier assemblies have changed some things. They have produced proposals and plans that have had a real impact on our parishes. We now take for granted a level of lay involvement in parish that would not have been imagined in the past. We have a



range of initiatives ranging from adult faith formation courses to pre-sacramental programmes, from pastoral area planning to youth programmes and so on, that all had their seeds in the Assemblies of those years.

We saw recently that the Synod of Bishops in Rome discussed and disagreed about some important issues, like the attitude of the Church to married people living in second relationships, to people of homosexual orientation and people living together before marriage. If the Synod of Bishops with Pope Francis were not able to settle these issues in one sitting it's not likely that we will either. However, an important lesson from the Synod is that listening to what the Holy Spirit is saying means being free to express our views, listening to each other respectfully, and at times agreeing to disagree.

There are many areas where we can't make changes but it is within our power to bring about important changes in many areas which affect the life and worship of our parishes. We will be reflecting on sacraments and modern culture and I believe we need to look again at our celebration of the most important sacrament of all - the Sunday Eucharist. If the Eucharist is, as the Vatican Council told us, the source and summit of the Christian life, we have a duty to ensure that, as far as possible, people experience it as that. But that is just one issue among many that will be discussed and about which we have to discern what the Spirit is saying to us at this time.

I have used the words 'discern' and discernment a few times. I have used them to highlight the fact that we believe that the Holy Spirit is very much present in our process of discussion and decision making. We have to listen to the Holy Spirit living in each of us, and to Christ who is present where even two or three are gathered in his name. We gather in the spirit of the first disciples as they awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We are told that 'all these joined in continuous prayer, together with several women, including Mary the Mother of Jesus'. We too pray with Mary the Mother of Jesus that the Holy Spirit will inspire our speaking and listening. We ask the Lord to be with us this week-end and we invoke his blessing on this Assembly and on all who take part in it.

I am delighted to inform you that we have received a message from Pope Francis, sending his cordial greetings and blessing on the occasion of the Assembly. I will now read the Holy Father's message:

*His Holiness Pope Francis sends his cordial greetings and blessing on the occasion of the Kilmore Diocesan Assembly which will take place at St Patrick's College, Cavan.*

*The Holy Father prays that, by walking together in this Diocesan Assembly, the participants will encounter the truth and source of hope for their lives, Jesus Christ, and, filled with joy and gratitude, will share this gift by collaborating in building the kingdom, illuminating even the fringes of our world by their profession of faith and leading to "fruitfulness in the work of evangelization"(Evangelii Gaudium, 11).*

*Commending all who gather at the Kilmore Diocesan Assembly to the intercession of the Most Holy Mother of God, the Holy Father willingly imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of peace and joy in the Lord Jesus.*

## **Membership of the 2014 Assembly Steering Committee**

Neil Brady

Seán Coll

Teresa Donnellan

John Paul Feely

Siobhan Grogan

Jenny Harte

Martin Kennedy

Fr. Enda Murphy

Grainne O'Reilly

Bernie Reilly

Fr. Michael Router

## **Organisations who put up displays during the Assembly**

Accord

Aid to the Church in Need (Ireland)

Cursillo

Diocesan Apostolic Work Society

Diocesan Eucharistic Adoration Group

Diocesan Vocations Committee

Diocesan Missions Committee

Diocesan Safeguarding Committee

Direction for Our Times

Knights of Saint Columbanus

Knock Shrine 'Vision of Hope' Initiative

Legion of Mary

Lough Derg

Pioneer Total Abstinence Association

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

Veritas, Monaghan

## Acknowledgements

- Bishop Leo O'Reilly for his guidance and assistance
- The members of the Assembly Steering Group for their valued and valuable input in the planning of the two days
- The Diocesan Pastoral Council for its support
- The priests and parish pastoral councils in the diocese for their assistance both before and during the Assembly
- Those who facilitated and participated in the Listening Survey
- The Board of Management, Principal and Caretaking staff of St Patrick's College
- Eddie Dowling and his team for the excellent catering
- Guest speakers
  - Fr Michael Router
  - Fr Michael Drumm
  - Matthew McFadden, Clogher don Oige
  - Fr Enda Murphy
  - Breda O'Brien
- Aid to the Church in Need for donating much of the material in the delegate packs
- Martin Kennedy who acted as the facilitator for the weekend and helped significantly in the planning for the Assembly, the training of the group facilitators, and drafting the initial summary of deliberations
- The Group Facilitators themselves
- The staff in the Pastoral Centre - Ann Clarke, Grainne O'Reilly and Pat Smith - for their appreciated input into the administrative co-ordination of the Assembly and the preparation of the venue
- The volunteers who helped with preparing the delegate packs and also with the catering
- Special word of thanks to the young people from the parish of Urney and Annageliffe (some of whom are John Paul II Award participants this year) who helped out with stewarding
- Cathal Kelly and his team who co-ordinated the car-parking with the on-site caretakers
- The members of Cavan Civil Defence who were present over the two days
- Fr. Kevin Donohoe, Administrator of the Cathedral of SS. Patrick & Felim, the Pastoral Assistant – Jenny Harte, the sacristan, organist, soloists, choir, altar servers, and everyone involved with the celebration of the Assembly Mass on the Sunday morning
- Ray Beggan from I-Catholic who recorded the formal proceedings over the two days of the Assembly and also Fr. Bill Kemmy from I-Catholic who helped produce the dvds of proceedings
- To the various diocesan and other organisations who accepted the invitation to set up displays and added to the colour and vibrancy of the event
- Finally the delegates themselves for giving of their time and energy to contribute to the proceedings of the Assembly, for their co-operation over the two days, and for their input into the deliberations

**Seán Coll**  
**Director, Kilmore Diocesan Pastoral Centre**

**February 2015**