

*Building Hope*



# Week of Prayer

*29 May to 6 June 2022*

**Week of Prayer – *Building Hope***  
**29 May to 6 June 2022**

This resource is for use in the week beginning with the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, through Pentecost and continuing to the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church. You are warmly invited to join together in a period of prayer to the Holy Spirit for the renewal of the Church in Dublin. May this time of prayer for every parish in the Archdiocese be blessed and build hope for a new future and a new way of being Church.

The period covers many interesting feasts and scripture quotations. There is a four-line prayer each day which uses the *Building Hope* Prayer as its base. The full prayer is also reproduced for use each day after Communion.

Other resources include a variety of material; Introductions to the Liturgy, Reflections after the Gospel and a Litany that you might find useful. These resources, one page per day, will be your companion for the week of prayer. The images incorporated can be used as slides to assist the congregation.

Please feel free to use this material as you wish. Let us, as a diocese, try to say the short daily prayer as part of the Gospel reflection/homily in addition to the *Building Hope* Prayer after Communion.

On Monday 23 May at 8.30pm you can get a flavour of these resources by connecting to [www.rednuns.com](http://www.rednuns.com) webcam when the Sisters of the Monastery of Saint Alphonsus will lead the prayerful reflections with a bonus offering of music from the Dublin Diocesan Music Group.

If you can't make it for the live presentation, check out the recordings section of the Monastery website later where you will find the resource.

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**29 May**

**Ascension Sunday**

**Introduction to the Word**

Many people turned to humour during Covid lockdowns. There was even a joke about the Ascension – ‘*the day Jesus started to work from home*’. Working remotely does not mean that we are not still at the heart of our business. We are present, but in a different way, just as Jesus continued to accompany people after the Ascension and in our own time.



***Mary – The Sure Footed Disciple***

*The Ascension threw the others into confusion  
But not you, Mary, in your red shoes of victory  
Calm and composed you held it together prayerfully  
Rooted in the present while others looked up in dismay  
You showed yourself to be the sure-footed disciple.*

**Prayer**

Pilgrim God, we give you thanks and praise.  
Fill our hearts with your grace  
as we work together to build up a kingdom of hope.  
May Mary be a calm presence as we seek the way forward.

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**30 May**

**Tuesday of the Seventh Week of Easter**

**Introduction to the Word**

*When Saint Paul asked the disciples in Ephesus ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?’ they answered, ‘No, we were never even told there was such a thing as a Holy Spirit.’*  
(Acts 19:2)

**Reflection after Gospel**

Where are we noticing the Spirit at work in our *Building Hope* conversations?  
Archbishop Dermot Farrell answers this in his Pastoral - *Living the Hope of Easter*.  
‘God is bringing forth something new. Our challenge – and it is ours – rather than simply reacting to events, is to shape the future in the light of the gospel. This is the work of God’s Spirit among us, but – like Mary – we have to welcome it’.



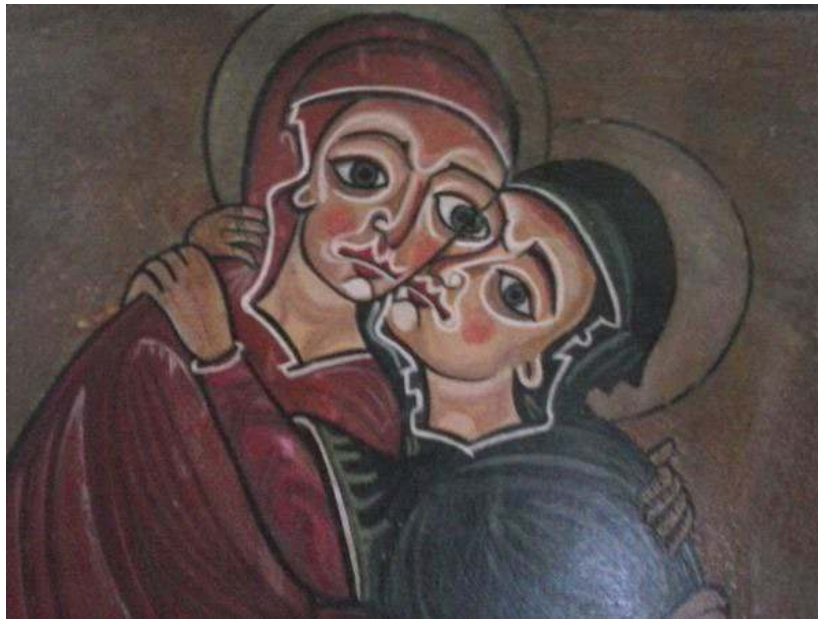
**Prayer**

Pilgrim God, we give you thanks and praise.  
You constantly journey with us  
even in our darkness and doubts.  
We seek your way of loving kindness  
to walk together as one family.

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31 May

Feast of the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth



*13<sup>th</sup>c. Monasteria Santa Maria de Llussa - Catalonia*

### Reflection after Gospel

Mary's gracious visit to her cousin Elizabeth has inspired many representations in sacred art. This example shows that they are very close - seeing eye to eye.

Mary's response to the unborn child leaping in Elizabeth's womb is the recitation of the *Magnificat* – a canticle of surprises.

God has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.

God has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

“The Magnificat is a revolutionary song of salvation whose political, economic, and social dimensions cannot be blunted. People in need in every society hear a blessing in this canticle. The battered woman, the single parent without resources, those without food on the table or without even a table, the homeless family, the young abandoned to their own devices, the old who are discarded: all are encompassed in the hope Mary proclaims.” –

**Sister Elizabeth Johnson, 2012**

### Prayer

Pilgrim God, we give you thanks and praise.  
May the spirit of the Magnificat inspire us with energy  
That we will act for justice and peace in your name.

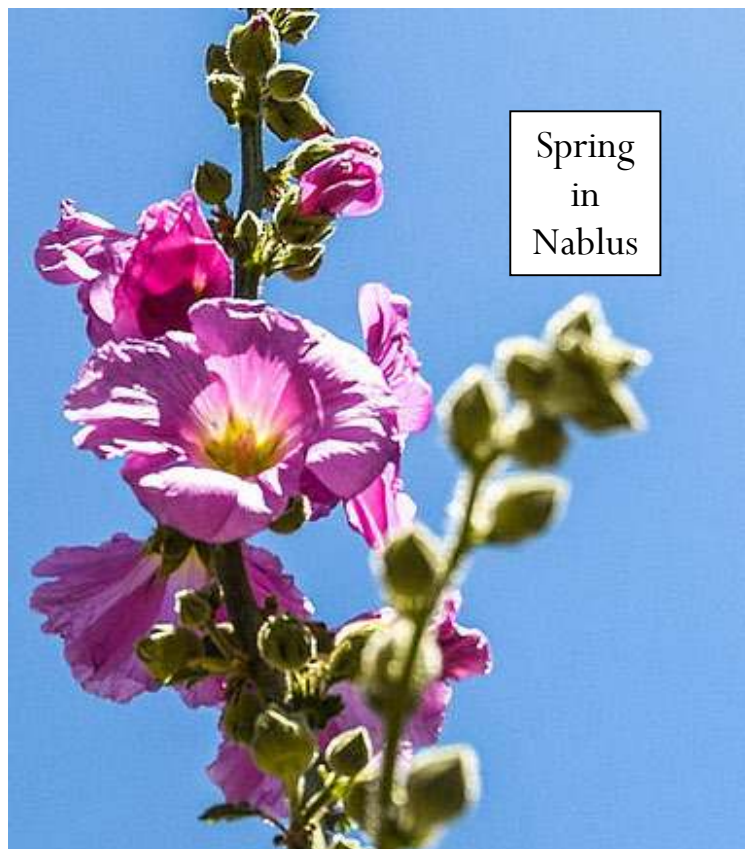
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**1 June**

**Feast of Saint Justin**

**Introduction to the Liturgy**

Justin was born around the year 100 in Nablus, Palestine, and was martyred in Rome around 165. He was a pagan philosopher who converted to Christianity and became a staunch defender of the faith. He continued to dialogue with others on matters of philosophy and faith. He showed great courage in the face of persecution. His witness fills us with courage as we build bridges of hope together.



**Prayer**

Pilgrim God, we give you thanks and praise.

We pray that, through the intercession of Saint Justin,  
our community will be open to new ways of living the Gospel  
and that we will walk in hope together into the new church era.

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**2 June**

**Thursday of the Seventh Week of Easter**

**Reflection after Gospel**

**John 17:21 - ‘May they all be one.’**

How do *Building Hope* conversations help us to work in unity with other parishes?

When a conversation begins with prayer and ends with prayer what happens in between is blessed. The dialogue takes on a different tone altogether. Reflective pauses enable us to stop and allow another point of view to find its place. It also can diffuse the tension if feelings are running high.

It is good to hear the stories of each church community and essential to have a place where they can be shared. Sometimes a visual presentation with archival material helps to paint a picture of each community. Visiting another church for liturgy will also give a sense of how the community celebrates.

As at most gatherings, it is over the cup of tea that barriers are broken down and the mutual understanding is achieved. Hospitality that mirrors the Eucharist is great nourishment and a source of healing too.



**Prayer**

Pilgrim God, we give you thanks and praise.  
Draw us closer to each other as we share our understanding  
May our hearts and minds be filled with your Word,  
bringing forth truth, justice and peace.

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**3 June**

**Feast of Saint Kevin of Glendalough**

The story of Saint Kevin waiting patiently for the blackbird to hatch her eggs has been part of our Irish Spirituality for at least 800 years now. Seamus Heaney immortalized it in his celebrated poem ‘Saint Kevin and the Blackbird’ in which he muses about the physical and mental state of the man with outstretched hands of prayer.

*May his patience inspire us while the fruit of this prayerful process buds and blossoms.*

The artist, Imogen Stuart, captures this tender and protective encounter in a bronze sculpture.

It depicts the firm protective thumb of the saint while the bird sits comfortably in his hand. The open hand of St. Kevin might encourage us as we widen the space of our tent to trust and let go. The thumb, however, clasps the bird’s body protectively lest the precious gift of life be in danger.

*May we be blessed with openness to new ideas knowing that God’s hand holds us safely.*



The composer John Columba McCann OSB was also taken by the story.



He wrote a piece for the organ using the diversity of the instrument to portray the different moods and moments of the text. The trill of the new life is portrayed memorably.

*May we use our creativity to build hope together as communities of faith.*

**Prayer**

Pilgrim God, we give you thanks and praise.

We seek your way of loving kindness to walk together as one family.

Open our eyes to recognise you in the faces of one another,  
in the breaking of bread and in the splendour of creation.



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**4 June**                      **Saturday of the Seventh Week of Easter**

**Reflection after the Gospel**                      **John 21:25**

‘There were many other things that Jesus did;  
if all were written down, the world itself, I suppose,  
would not hold all the books that would have to be written.’

Let’s start with the Gospels that we have. How well do we know them? Do we only hear them at the celebration of the Eucharist or are they part of our daily prayer? When looking for inspiration during this time of building hope are we regularly connected with *lectio divina* groups or scripture study.

*Why look to other sources when the living word of God is available to us?*

Find your own way to open up the Gospels beginning with the one of the day. You may be surprised how daily familiarity will make the words and actions of Jesus your constant friend. Hold on to a phrase that speaks to you and use it as a mantra for prayer as you journey through the day. You will be amazed over time how you will hear the voice of Jesus guiding and leading you. The buzz of daily life will be like a distant rumble when you experience the power of Jesus in direct communication with you.

*Why not listen with new ears to the Gospel of the day and explore the daily scripture?*



**Prayer**

Pilgrim God, we give you thanks and praise.  
As we listen to the Gospel may our hearts be open.  
May the risen Christ sow seeds of hope  
and new life deep within us.

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5 June

**Pentecost Sunday**

**Quotes from Mystics**

“The Holy Spirit is our Harpist; all strings which are touched in Love, must sound. “

**Mechtilde of Magdeburg**

“O Holy Spirit, you are the mighty way in which everything that is in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth, is permeated with connectedness, permeated with relatedness

**Hildegard of Bingen**

**Litany of the Holy Spirit**

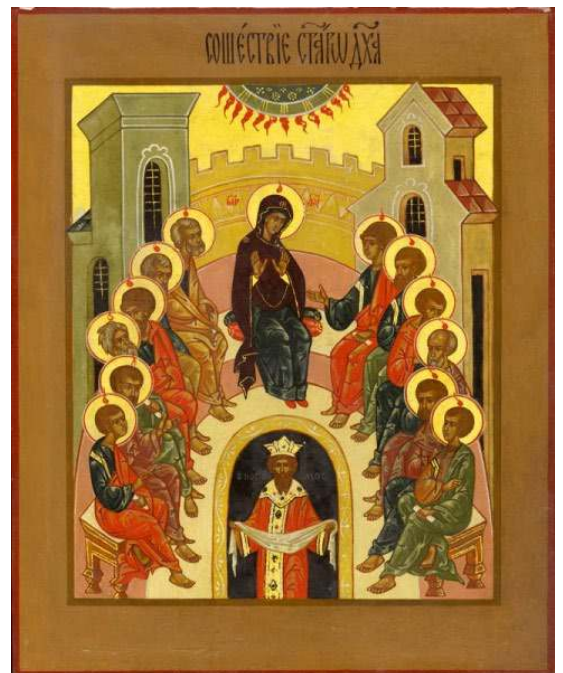
**All sing:** Veni Sancte Spiritus (2)

May the Spirit of Love, Joy and Peace be with us as we discern how best to build up the kingdom of God  
in our time

**All sing:** Veni Sancte Spiritus (2)

May the Spirit of Goodness, Kindness and Patience be with us as we sift through the issues before us and  
the needs of the people we are called to serve

**All sing:** Veni Sancte Spiritus (2)



**Ukrainian Icon**

May the Spirit of Gentleness, Faithfulness and Self-Control be with us as we hold the  
values of the Gospel in our own hearts with integrity

**All sing:** Veni Sancte Spiritus (2)

**Prayer**

Pilgrim God, we give you thanks and praise.  
May the Holy Spirit, working in and through us  
do much more than we can dare to imagine  
as we live out our baptismal calling  
in humble and loving service.

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**6 June**

**Mary, the Mother of the Church**

**Introduction to the Liturgy**

Words of Robert Cardinal Sarah on the occasion of the inauguration of this Memorial.

- ‘Pope Francis has decreed that the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, should be inscribed in the Roman Calendar on the Monday after Pentecost and be now celebrated every year.’
- ‘As a caring guide to the emerging Church, Mary had already begun her mission in the Upper Room, praying with the Apostles while awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit (cf. Acts 1:14).



**Prayer**

Pilgrim God, we give you thanks and praise.

You constantly journey with us even in our darkness and doubts.

Mary, mother of the Church, is with us too, as she was at Pentecost.

We seek your way of loving kindness to walk together as one family.

# The *Building Hope* Prayer

Pilgrim God, we give you thanks and praise.

You constantly journey with us  
even in our darkness and doubts.

We seek your way of loving kindness  
to walk together as one family.

Open our eyes to recognise you  
in the faces of one another,  
in the breaking of bread  
and in the splendour of creation.

May the risen Christ sow seeds of hope  
and new life deep within us.

May our hearts and minds be filled with your Word,  
bringing forth truth, justice and peace.

May the Holy Spirit working in  
and through us do much more  
than we can dare to imagine  
as we live out our baptismal calling  
in humble and loving service.

We make this our prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

St Laurence O'Toole, pray for us.

St Kevin, pray for us.

St Brigid, pray for us.