

their proposals for partnership with neighbouring parishes. In September, I published my initial response to that parish material in a document entitled *Feedback on Easter 2022 Strategic Planning Process*, which I ask parishes to reflect on deeply.

I am now making a further response to you, having listened carefully to your proposals for partnerships. Following careful analysis and further dialogue, I am writing to each parish to confirm the partnership arrangements through which I am asking you to realign your efforts and energies to suit the times in which we live.

Within each partnership of parishes, Parish Pastoral Councils, all active parishioners, priests, deacons, parish pastoral workers and voluntary parish leaders, including catechists into the future, are encouraged to renew the missionary aspect of parish life and contribute energetically towards the partnership of local parishes. In this way we can reach out beyond what any one parish might be able to facilitate or imagine. A set of pastoral aids will be provided to help with conversation and action locally. You know the time has come.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas we open our hearts again to Jesus Christ, God-with-us, a light for all the world to see. Even in the darkest and loneliest of places he brings salvation. His message of justice, peace and love sets us out again on a journey, this year and every year, focused on love of God and love of neighbour. 'Let us walk in the light of the Lord' (Isaiah 2:5), 'that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths' (Isaiah 2:3). Let us turn our hearts towards Christ, who is the light that will show us the way forward, a light for our footsteps into the future God is preparing with us.



+Dermot Farrell
Archbishop of Dublin

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