Pathways and Proposals Table 2026 - 2032

What We Heard and What Comes Next

Fruits of the Congress – 2026 to 2032

What we heard and What Might Come Next

The Diocesan Congress on Youth, Family and Faith, together with the months of prayer, listening and discernment that led to it, gave us a strong desire to build on what we heard and experienced together.

The five missionary pathways and fourteen integrated proposals in this document bring the recommendations of the Congress into a form that parishes, schools and communities can begin to reflect on and put into practice. They gather together proposals that naturally overlap while remaining faithful to the hopes, concerns and priorities expressed throughout the Congress process.

This document accompanies Archbishop Eamon's pastoral letter and offers a shared direction for the Archdiocese as we begin this next phase. The intention is not that every parish, school and community should take on every proposal. Rather, communities are invited to read the pathways prayerfully, discuss them together and listen especially to the experience and hopes of young people and families.

Every parish, school and community has its own gifts, needs and capacity. Each is therefore asked to reflect and begin identifying one or two proposals that speak directly to its local circumstances and offer a realistic and hopeful place to begin.

We recognise the real pressures facing parish life, including fewer active clergy, changing patterns of participation and differing levels of local capacity. Our response, however, cannot be limited to managing those pressures or maintaining existing structures. The Congress calls us to look again at how we encounter Christ, grow in faith, pray and worship together, accompany young people and families, and share the Gospel with others.

The five missionary pathways listed in this document provide a framework for that work:

Parishes, schools and communities from across the Archdiocese will come together at regional gatherings during November 2026. These gatherings will give us an opportunity to hear what communities are recognising locally, share emerging priorities and consider how the proposals can begin to take shape in different parts of the Archdiocese.

Ahead of those gatherings, parishes, schools and communities are invited to gather and reflect on the pathways and proposals, giving initial thought to the following questions:

- Which one or two of the proposals might your community begin to explore?
- Where do we see energy, hope or recognise particular need in the life of our parish or community?
- What support would help us to take the next steps?

Fourteen Integrated Proposals under Five Missionary Pathways

The five pathways that follow gather the nineteen proposals discerned through the Congress into fourteen integrated proposals. They show how related hopes and recommendations can work together and provide a basis for reflection and conversation ahead of the November regional gatherings.

Pathway	What this pathway means	Possible Pastoral Activities and Actions
Formation for Intentional and Missionary Discipleship *Helping people of all ages come to know Jesus, grow in faith and find the confidence to live and share that faith in everyday life. Through catechist training and opportunities for intentional discipleship, this pathway equips people to proclaim the Gospel in word and action.*	People need support to understand their faith, grow in confidence and live it in the circumstances of everyday life. This pathway will provide formation for children, young people, families, adults, clergy and lay ministers. It will strengthen catechesis, renew sacramental preparation and equip people to take an active part in the prayer, mission and service of the Church. Formation will not simply pass on information but will help people become intentional and missionary disciples who can recognise and respond to their baptismal calling.	**1.** Develop a diocesan catechetical framework and support the formation of catechetical teams. **2.** Renew sacramental preparation through a family-centred approach involving home, parish and school. **3.** a. Provide accessible youth and adult faith-formation courses across the Archdiocese. b. Provide ongoing formation for clergy and lay liturgical ministers.
Liturgy, Belonging to Christ and Parish Renewal *Renewing how we worship and pray together, through the Mass, the sacraments and other forms of communal prayer and celebration, so that people can encounter Christ, feel they belong and help shape the life of their parish and the diocese.*	Our parishes should be places where people encounter Christ, participate fully in worship and know that they are welcomed and valued. This pathway will help parishes reflect on the quality of their welcome, their liturgical life and their care for people who feel isolated, vulnerable or distant from the Church. This pathway seeks to renew participation in the liturgy, develop liturgical leadership and foster parish communities in which people of different ages, backgrounds and abilities can find a place and contribute their gifts to all aspects of parish community life.	1. Support parishes in developing a culture of welcome, hospitality and belonging. 2. Strengthen compassionate parish outreach to people experiencing isolation, illness, bereavement or hardship, including migrants and others who may feel far from parish life. 3. Develop pastoral accompaniment for couples and families in their vocation to marriage, and for those experiencing separation, divorce or other difficulties in relationships. 4. Renew liturgical leadership and participation across the Archdiocese, including through the establishment or renewal of a Diocesan Liturgy Commission that will support parishes in celebrating the Mass, the sacraments and other forms of communal prayer in ways that welcome people, make room for their gifts and deepen their sense of belonging to Christ and to one another.

Pathway	What this pathway means	Possible Pastoral Activities and Actions
Accompaniment and Missionary Outreach to Youth and Family *Creating places, spaces and moments where young people and families can belong, encounter Christ, explore faith together and help shape the life and mission of the Church, while reaching out to those who are less connected.*	Young people and families need places where they can form friendships, encounter Christ and grow in faith. Young people bring gifts and insights of their own, and should have a part in shaping the Church's life and mission. This pathway will strengthen cooperation among parishes, schools and families. It will also create opportunities for young people and young adults to gather across parish boundaries. Gatherings, retreats and pilgrimages can open a door; continuing friendship and accompaniment help faith grow beyond the event itself. Regional hubs could bring people together to pray, celebrate faith and support neighbouring parishes. They would take shape around local people and their gifts, sharing resources and making possible things that a parish may struggle to offer on its own. Particular attention will be paid to young people after Confirmation, young adults and families, listening to them and making room for their gifts in leadership, service and outreach.	**1.** Develop a Parish, School and Family Partnership Framework to strengthen cooperation in faith formation and mission. **2.** Pilot regional Youth and Family Belonging Hubs as missionary communities that gather people, support parishes and share formation, activities and resources. **3.** Create a Post-Confirmation Discipleship and Leadership Pathway for young people, with opportunities for young adults to continue growing in faith, community and service.
Mission through Communication, Invitation and Digital Evangelisation *Sharing the Good News clearly and warmly, online and in person, opening doors that lead to Christ and making it easier for people to discover what is happening, to feel invited and to take part in the life of the Church.*	Communication serves the mission of the Church when it helps people hear the Gospel, find community and receive an invitation to take part. This pathway will strengthen communication within and between parishes, schools and diocesan bodies, while recognising the digital world as a real place of encounter and mission. It will help the Church communicate more clearly, listen more attentively and reach people who may have little connection with parish life, especially young people and families.	1. Develop a diocesan Communication and Digital Mission Strategy that strengthens communication, invitation and evangelisation across parishes, schools and diocesan ministries.

Pathway	What this pathway means	Possible Pastoral Activities and Actions
Encounter with Christ and the Renewal of Prayer *Helping people meet Jesus in prayer and in one another, and making space for prayer in our homes, parishes and everyday lives.*	Everything begins with an encounter with Jesus Christ. This pathway seeks to renew prayer in our homes, parishes and communities, helping people to deepen their relationship with God and become more attentive to the presence and movement of the Holy Spirit in their lives It will create accessible opportunities for prayer, retreat, pilgrimage and spiritual accompaniment, while helping families to recognise the home as a place where faith can be prayed, shared and lived.	**1.** Develop a Domestic Church and Family Prayer Initiative, including simple home-based faith tools that help families pray together, talk about faith and connect everyday life with the life of the parish. **2.** Establish a Prayer Guide Ministry and provide opportunities for spiritual accompaniment. **3.** Develop diocesan retreat, pilgrimage and prayer pathways that are accessible to people at different stages of faith and life.