GO, REBUILD MY CHURCH

“A People Called to Shine, Sent to Serve.”

Guide to Reflection on the Pathways Table

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, the table that accompanies it and Archbishop Eamon's pastoral letter 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, they 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 parish, and community life, including fewer active clergy, changing patterns of participation and differing local capacity. The Congress calls us not simply to manage these pressures, but to renew how we encounter Christ, grow in faith, accompany others and share the Gospel.

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

Parishes, delegates and school representatives from across the Archdiocese are invited to come to one of five 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.

Called to Shine, Sent to Serve - The Five Pathways

The five missionary pathways offer a simple way for parishes, schools, families and individuals across the Archdiocese to focus our shared response to the fruits of the Congress.

Formation for Intentional and Missionary Discipleship
To strengthen formation for children, young people and adults, helping us to know and understand our faith, speak about it with confidence and recognise our call to bring our gifts into the life and mission of the Church and to help "transform the world from within."

Liturgy, Belonging to Christ and Parish Renewal
To renew the way we celebrate the liturgy and the sacraments, pray together and welcome others, helping our parish communities to become places where people are drawn into a deeper relationship with Christ and experience a genuine sense of belonging within the Church.

Accompaniment and Missionary Outreach to Youth and Family
To renew our accompaniment of young people and families, strengthening cooperation between homes, parishes and schools and creating opportunities where faith can be encountered, shared, supported and deepened.

Mission through Communication, Invitation and Digital Evangelisation
To strengthen communication, evangelisation, invitation and digital mission, reaching beyond those already gathered, sharing the Gospel with confidence and opening new doors through which people can encounter Christ and the life of the Church.

Encounter With Christ and the Renewal of Prayer
To deepen our encounter with Christ and renew prayer in our homes, parishes and personal lives, creating spaces where people can come to know the presence and love of God more deeply.

The accompanying table sent along with this guide sets out each of the five pathways in greater detail, explaining what each pathway means, the particular focus it invites parishes, schools and communities to consider, and the integrated proposals that have emerged from the Congress for reflection and action.

Five pathways, one FLAME:
Formation, Liturgy, Accompaniment, Mission and Encounter.

As we now receive and begin to act on the fruits of the Congress, the invitation to become “A People Called to Shine, Sent to Serve” offers a fitting way of expressing the mission before us. In his pastoral letter, Archbishop Eamon recalls the words Christ spoke to St Francis of Assisi: “Go, rebuild my Church.” During this Franciscan Year, marking 800 years since the death of St Francis, those words speak to us with renewed force.

The image of the **FLAME** also resonates and brings us back to Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples as tongues of fire and sent them out to proclaim the Gospel. That same Spirit is given to each of us in Baptism and strengthened in Confirmation. We do not receive the flame of faith simply to keep it for ourselves, but to carry the light of Christ into our homes, parishes, schools and communities.

The rebuilding of the Church begins in lives renewed by Christ and opened to the Holy Spirit. The five pathways are not separate projects, but different expressions of the one baptismal calling we share. Through prayer, formation, welcome, accompaniment and mission, each of us is invited to play a part in renewing the life of the Church and carrying the Gospel beyond ourselves.

In that sense, **FLAME** is more than just a way of remembering the five pathways. It points to the life of faith itself: received in Baptism, strengthened by the Spirit and sent out in service. Together, the five pathways help us discern how we might allow that gift to burn more brightly in our parishes, schools, families and communities.

How Can Parishes, Schools and Communities Respond?

During November 2026, we will invite parish representatives, Congress delegates, school representatives and others who wish to take part to attend one of five regional gatherings at venues across the Archdiocese of Armagh.

These meetings will give us an opportunity to listen to one another, reflect on the five missionary pathways and consider together how the fruits and emerging calls to action of the Congress can begin to take shape locally.

Before these gatherings, we ask parishes to bring together their Parish Pastoral Councils, Finance Councils and other groups or individuals who can contribute to the conversation. Schools and other faith communities and groups are also warmly encouraged to take part.

We invite you to read and reflect on Archbishop Eamon's Pastoral Letter, this document, and the table that accompanies them, paying particular attention to the table that contains, the five pathways, an explanation of what each pathway means, and a list of the integrated proposals. As you reflect, consider:

- What pathway and proposals resonates most strongly in your parish, school or community?
- Where do we already see energy, gifts or signs of hope?
- What practical and concrete steps could help this vision take root here?
- Which proposals might offer a realistic place for us to begin?
- What supports are needed to help us to move forward?

We encourage parishes, schools and groups to share the *Pastoral Letter*, *this booklet* and the *Pathways and Proposals Table* widely, especially with young people and families, so that their experience and hopes can help shape the conversation.

Where possible, we encourage groups to use Conversation in the Spirit as the method for this reflection.

Please bring the fruits of your local reflection to the regional gatherings in November.

The pathways and proposals are not presented as a finished programme. They provide a shared starting point for implementation which will be discussed, tested and further refined through the wisdom and experience of communities across the Archdiocese of Armagh.

SCAN HERE

Scan for a guide to Conversation in the Spirit