



Council of Laity

Communique

1. On Saturday 17th February 2018 the first meeting of the re-formed Council of Laity took place at the Diocesan Offices. We, the Partnership Chairs, representatives of young adults, Religious Sisters together with Bishop Séamus and our chaplain Fr Jeff Dodds discussed the transformations our diocese need to adapt to the expected shortage of priests and reduction of laity.
2. Bishop Séamus stressed the need for transformation in addition to personal formation and that we needed to look at the development and spiritual formation of lay leadership.
3. We identified our priorities for our work as:
 - a. Formation of 'Lay Leadership'.
Define what we mean, define the skills needed and plan a development programme.
 - b. Support our clergy.
Each partnership chair to have conversations with the clergy to find out what their wishes are for partnership development.
 - c. Pay attention to communication with all.
 - d. Foster personal formation to become disciples.
 - e. Work with the Council of Youth to find out their vision of Church.