

# DERRY DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN 2018-2021

# GOD IS LOVE

## INTRODUCTION BY **BISHOP DONAL MCKEOWN**

### Q. Why do we need a Diocesan Plan?

While the message of the Gospel does not change, the mission of the Church is to present it in ways that respond to the needs of each new generation. In aiming to build living, optimistic communities of faith, this Plan is designed to help us to do that, recognising the reality of life for the people and families of our diocese at the start of the 21st century.

### Q. How did we develop the Plan?

We developed the Plan over a 2-year period. A group consisting of 14 men and women - laity, religious and priests were tasked with developing the Plan. We sincerely thank them for their great work.



### Q. What does the Plan say?

The Plan 'God is Love' tells us, under three different themes, how together, we can create inclusive, Christ-centred and outreaching parishes.

The Plan asks us to work together, to build parishes that reach out to the vulnerable, those in need and those who feel excluded; to deepen our faith, or reawaken it; and to join in the effort of making the message of the Gospel relevant today.

### Q. Where can you view the full Plan?

A limited number of printed copies of the Plan are available on request. You can also view and download a copy of the Plan from the diocesan website:  
[www.derrydiocese.org/God-is-Love](http://www.derrydiocese.org/God-is-Love)



### Q. Who will implement the Plan?

The short answer is you. Some of you may get involved in a practical way, helping out on parish councils or volunteering in various roles. If your circumstances make it difficult for you to get involved in a practical way, you can still make a difference, just by offering encouragement to those who step forward to take on a voluntary role.

### Q. What happens now?

One of the key objectives of the Plan is: **to consult and involve parishioners in decision making.**

To make sure that this objective is achieved in every parish, we need every parish to commit to the task of putting structures in place, to discuss and plan parish pastoral priorities. Parishes should complete this task by December 2018.

Please see over for full details of all tasks that each parish should be aiming to complete by December 2018.

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**If you would like to get involved in your parish, please contact the person below:**

Parish Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The full Diocesan Plan can be viewed at: [www.derrydiocese.org/God-is-Love](http://www.derrydiocese.org/God-is-Love)



# GOD IS LOVE - THEMES, OBJECTIVES & TASKS

## THEME 1.0 BUILD WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

The Plan asks us to strive to build parishes that are places of welcome and hospitality to all, reaching out in particular to the vulnerable, those in need and those who feel excluded.

One of the most important objectives under Theme 1.0 is, to ensure that parishioners are consulted and involved in decision making.

**Therefore >>** each parish is tasked with putting structures in place to discuss and plan parish pastoral priorities.



Task to be completed by December 2018

## THEME 3.0 WORK TO MAKE JESUS KNOWN AND LOVED

Through the Gospel we experience the love of the Father, forgiveness in the Son and the power of the Spirit. As Christians we are all called to be part of the work of making this relevant in our own lives in today's society.

A key objective under Theme 3.0 is to spread the message of the Gospel into all areas of human life with sensitivity, compassion, mercy and joy. **Therefore >>** each parish is tasked with developing prayer opportunities for home, church and social outreach, both local and global.

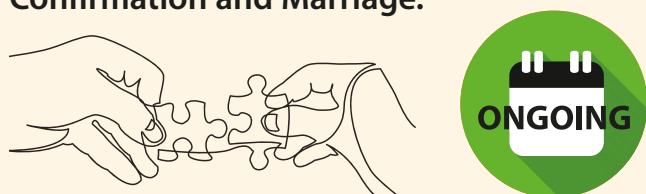


Task to be completed by December 2018

## THEME 2.0 BE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

When we know and understand our Catholic faith and practices, we can share it with others. As the disciples of our time, we are called to pass on the faith.

A key objective of Theme 2.0 is to help everyone deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith. **Therefore >>** each parish is tasked with providing faith-development opportunities for parishioners and parish-based preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confession, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and Marriage.



Task ongoing from June 2018

A copy of the full Pastoral Plan - 'God is Love' can be viewed and downloaded from:  
[www.derrydiocese.org/God-is-Love](http://www.derrydiocese.org/God-is-Love)

