

Mrs Eimear Harte,
Principal,
Grange Post Primary School.

Dear Eimear,

Thank you for your support and help last week in getting Bishop Kevin's Pastoral Letter into circulation.

Over the past two years 60% of the primary schools in the Elphin diocese have completed the Catholic Schools Partnership's process for understanding, supporting and taking ownership of the characteristic spirit in a Catholic School. One of the major findings has been the importance of nourishing teachers and principals' personal spirituality. Bishop Kevin has also referenced this in his pastoral letter. Bottom line: we find it difficult to give of our best when we feel over-stretched and under-nourished.

As a diocese we have been reflecting on how best to respond, mindful that teachers etc. in the Post-Primary / Secondary sector could hold the same view. Secondly we are conscious of the extra pressures experienced by many teachers, pupils and families (Primary and Secondary / Post-Primary) in the lead-up to Christmas.

Keen to be responsive without being intrusive, we have organised two Mini Evenings of Recollection for interested school personnel (Principals, Teachers, Special Needs Assistants, School Secretaries etc.). The details are on the poster in the file attached to this email. We also wish to emphasise that these Mini Evenings of Recollection are entirely optional, open to everyone in education in the diocese (Primary, Post-Primary and Third Level) and offered in a spirit of solidarity, gratitude and recognition of the significant demands of your professions.

Fr. [redacted] (our guest facilitator and presenter) has also requested that I highlight that each event will not take the form of an extended lecture. Rather each hour will be a mix of quiet times supported by music and image, a creative exercise, two short reflective inputs, opportunities for personal and shared prayer and a special blessing.

In leading these sessions Fr. [redacted] will be supported by [redacted] Catechist with the Sligo Cluster of Parishes.

We would be very grateful if you could make this opportunity known to your colleagues. For example you might put a printed copy of this email with the attached poster on the staff noticeboard, i.e. by way of drawing your colleagues attention to the spirit of invitation that accompanies this

offering? We would also appreciate if you could draw your colleagues attention to the poster and email.

Finally should this pilot initiative prove helpful we will be glad to reflect with you on how best to extend such opportunities.

Thanks again for all you and your colleagues do.

If there are any related enquiries feel free to direct them to me.

Sincerely,

Justin

Justin Harkin
Education Secretariat (Diocese of Elphin)

Thanks,
Eimear

Justin Harkin
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[Redacted signature block]

Eimear Harte

Hi Justin,
That's perfect Justin
I will get back to you regarding the possibility of an in Justin. It tends to be a luxury these days!

Kind regards,
Eimear

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Justin Harkin