



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our pastoral initiative to prevent alcohol and drug misuse, which is now available to your parish. At present there are over 260 other parishes already involved nationwide, who are playing a positive role in prevention. We are an initiative of the Bishops' Conference.

It is the vision of this Initiative that all parishes will register with our initiative. We will then support your parish in whatever small way you may wish. A small coordinated response is a very effective way of helping to reach out to your parish community.

Register your Parish now to

- Receive a **Free Prevention Pack**, that will include a Parish Posters – A directory of Local Services – Information Leaflets – Ideas on parish events and information helpful for Liturgy.
- Without little or no effort required from clergy, we can support and offer **training** for your parish in **organising** a local response that would meet **the needs of your parish community**. One or two interested individuals; can begin the process of a planned response.
- Your Parish will be placed on our data base and will kept informed of upcoming events in your dioceses in relation to **training, conferences and local Parish responses** as well as receiving a quarterly **e-newsletter** on up to date information in relation to alcohol / drug issues.

If you would like more information on our initiative or consider getting involved, please do not hesitate to contact us at 01-5053044 or ibd@lecon.ie and we will register you parish with the initiative and we look forward to making links with you.

We pray you will see the value in this worthwhile pastoral initiative and by a parish member contacting us; may be the beginning of the first steps in playing a vital role in preventing alcohol / drug misuse within your parish community.

We look forward to hearing from you, and we will make contact with you in the near future

Yours Sincerely

Darren Butler

Darren Butler
National Coordinator



Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative : St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare
Telephone : 01-5053044 Fax : 01-6016401 Email : ibd@lecon.ie Web : www.catholicbishops.ie/drugs

Pastoral Response to substance misuse is an initiative of Irish Episcopal Conference. The drugs initiative was established in 1997 to allow the Church to play her part in responding to the increasing problems of alcohol and drug misuse in Irish society. We also strive to remember that it is part of our call as Church to be our sisters' and brothers' keepers, and a small response at parish level is a caring pastoral way of safeguarding our young people, family and community from the harms that can be caused by drug and alcohol misuse.

In the early days, the initiative organised a number of conferences and produced a number of publications such as "Beyond Maintenance, Breaking the Silence and Faith Response to Street Drugs" In 2006, the Initiative with the support of the National Drug Strategy set up our Pastoral Response to Substance Misuse. The project uses the unique parish and diocesan structures to access the wider communities that may be difficult for other services to access. These structures were found to be ideally placed to gauge and respond to local gaps and needs in primary and secondary prevention. Parish communities, in partnership with voluntary, community and statutory agencies, can work together locally to identify and help prevent or address issues pertinent to substance misuse. Over the past five years the initiative has held an annual national conference, produced publications titled Alcohol / drugs: Parishes Respond, Alcohol in Moderation as well as a number of DVD's on alcohol and the formation of parish pastoral responses.

Strategic Plan

- **Strategic Aims:**
 - Support parish mobilisation to respond to the primary and secondary prevention of alcohol and other drug misuse.
 - To provide pastoral responses along with other evidence based responses to alcohol / drug issues in local communities
 - To reduce the demand for alcohol and other drugs at a parish, diocesan and national level
 - To enable parish communities to make informed decisions concerning substance use / misuse
 - To work in partnership with Government, Statutory and community/voluntary service providers in reaching our goals.
 - To research and evaluate our services and events provided.

Overview of Actions to meet our Objectives

- Raise awareness in the wider community of the need for the spiritual, pastoral, Christian response of reaching out to those affected by drugs / alcohol, we raise awareness of the positive effects that mobilizing planned parish responses can have in preventing or reducing the harms.
- Supporting parishes in responding to the primary and secondary prevention of drug and alcohol misuse through the provision of resources & support while promoting the creation of links and partnerships with other agencies both voluntary and statutory
- Promote an increase in alcohol/drug awareness knowledge, and understanding of related issues among people in the parish communities through provision of information & resources
- Increase awareness of treatment services available locally, regionally and nationally, with parishes at all levels. Parish initiatives can be a signpost to support. The initiatives will also have links and understanding of Local / Regional Drug Task Forces.
- Promoting best practice in alcohol / drug prevention with parishes initiatives. The parish committee members will feel empowered to respond more positively to drug use / misuse in parish communities. The aim is to promote and create a more positive attitude to understanding drug / alcohol misuse in communities. We will advise parish initiatives of training i.e drug education quality standards, putting the pieces together and other training available through the local or Regional Drug Task Forces.
- Continue to play a part on a national level in relation to policy change with alcohol advertising, and play a part in organising national events and producing materials for prevention of drug and alcohol use and misuse.
- Evaluate and monitor all our parish initiatives and responses from a strategic view.
- Develop close working relationships with all key stakeholders.
- Produce a number of support handbooks and training programs for diocesan and parish training.
- Support community and urban youth and pastoral / faith ministries as well as a number of inter church projects in the area of substance use / misuse .

Examples of what some parishes have done to date

Drugs awareness training for parents and young people

Confirmations programme / The Commitment

Exam Student alcohol free nights

Local Seminars highlighting issues, Alcohol , Mental Health etc

Alternative activities e.g Graffiti / Self Defense Nights

Community gatherings of groups – promote alternatives

Youth Café set up

A/A, Al Anon Meetings & Family Support

ASSIST Suicide Training

Peer Education

Drop in Centre

Addiction Studies Course

Parenting Program

Linking Faith with Addiction

Faith programs for adults

Networking and involving Youth Leaders who are not involved in Parishes

Training – youth, parents & community workers

Fund Raising

Leadership training

Parish Family Fun Day's

Promote Drugs.ie website

Also included in the Information/Welcome pack is a number of resources for Parishes.


A poster for parishes to include local addresses to sign post people to local services

Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative

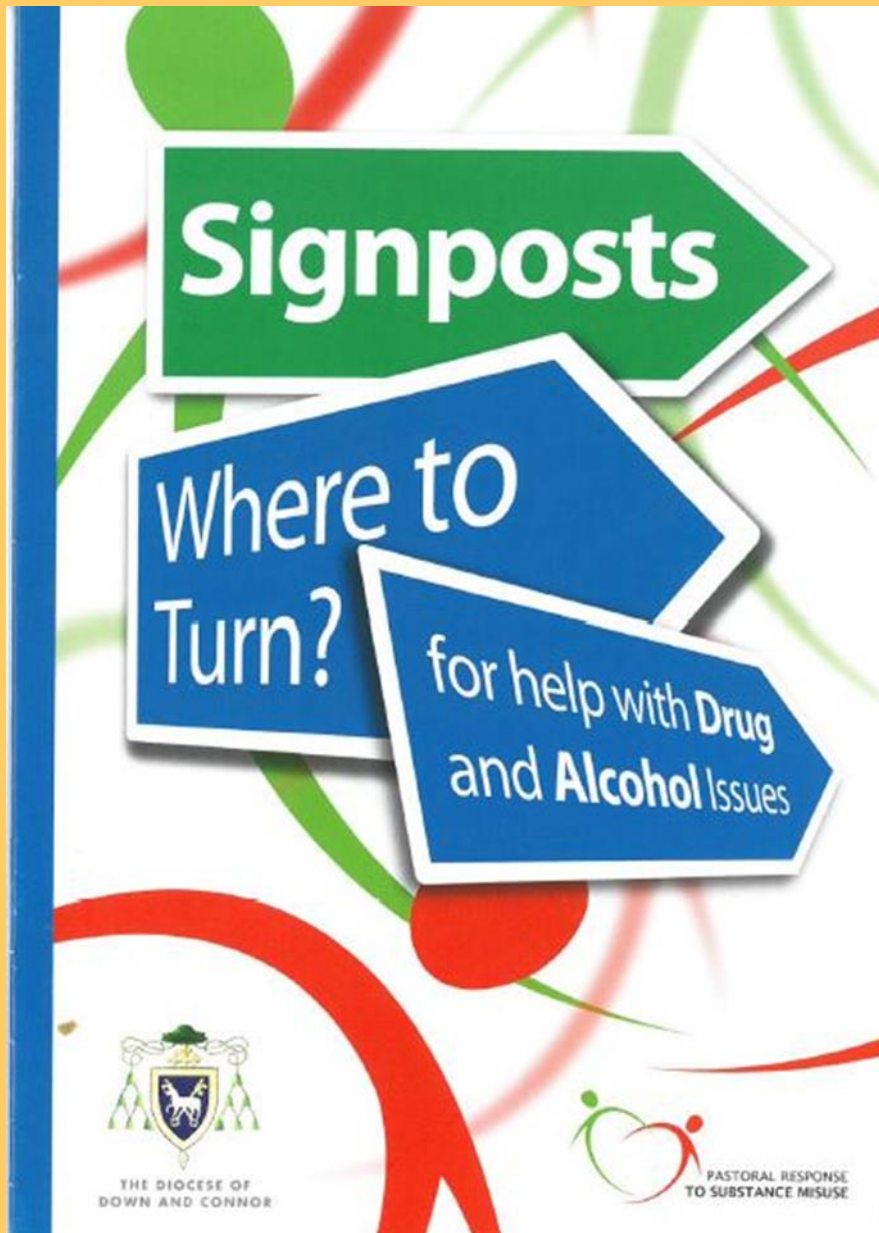
Are Alcohol/Drugs Affecting You, Your Family or a Friend?

Your Parish Can Help

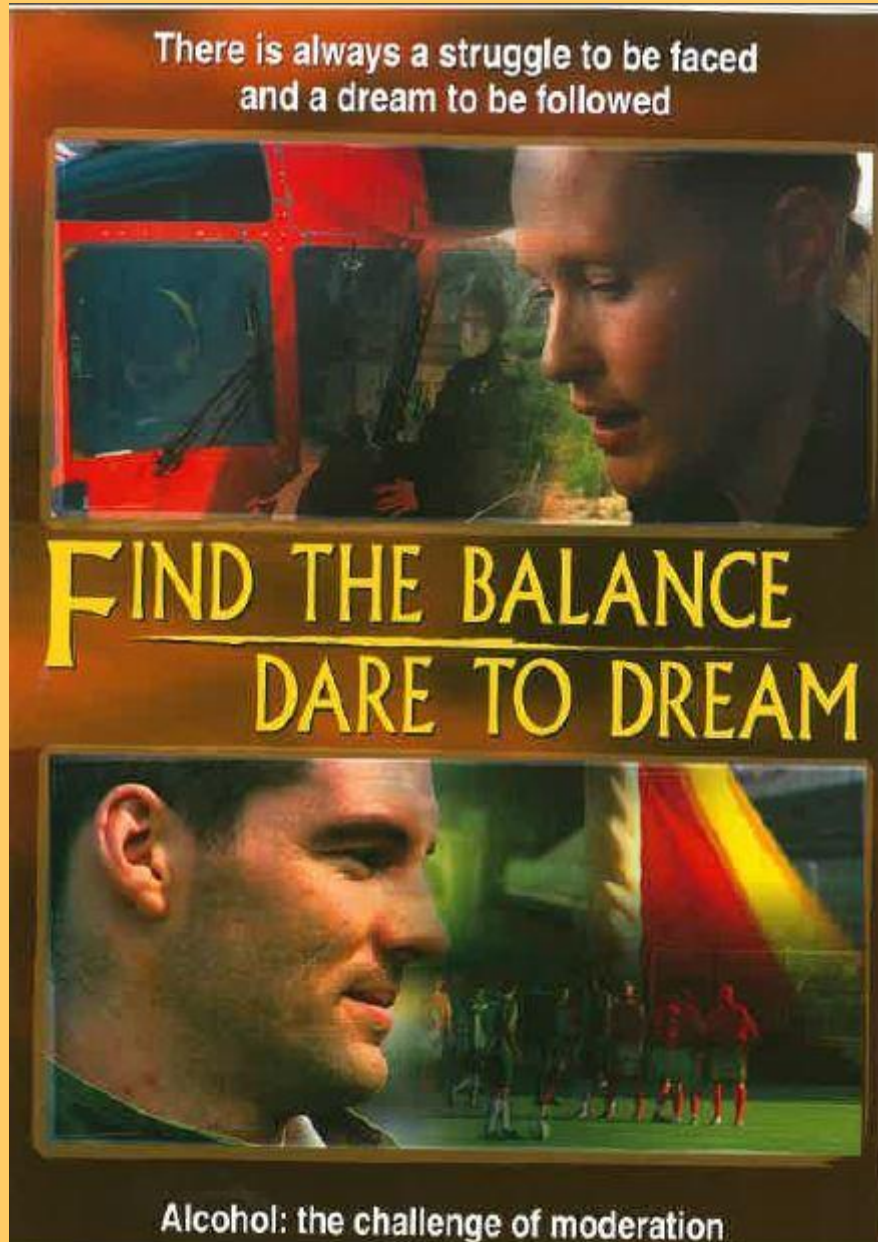
Local and Regional Supports

 IRISH BISHOPS' CONFERENCE Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative: 01 5053044 | ibdi@iecon.ie

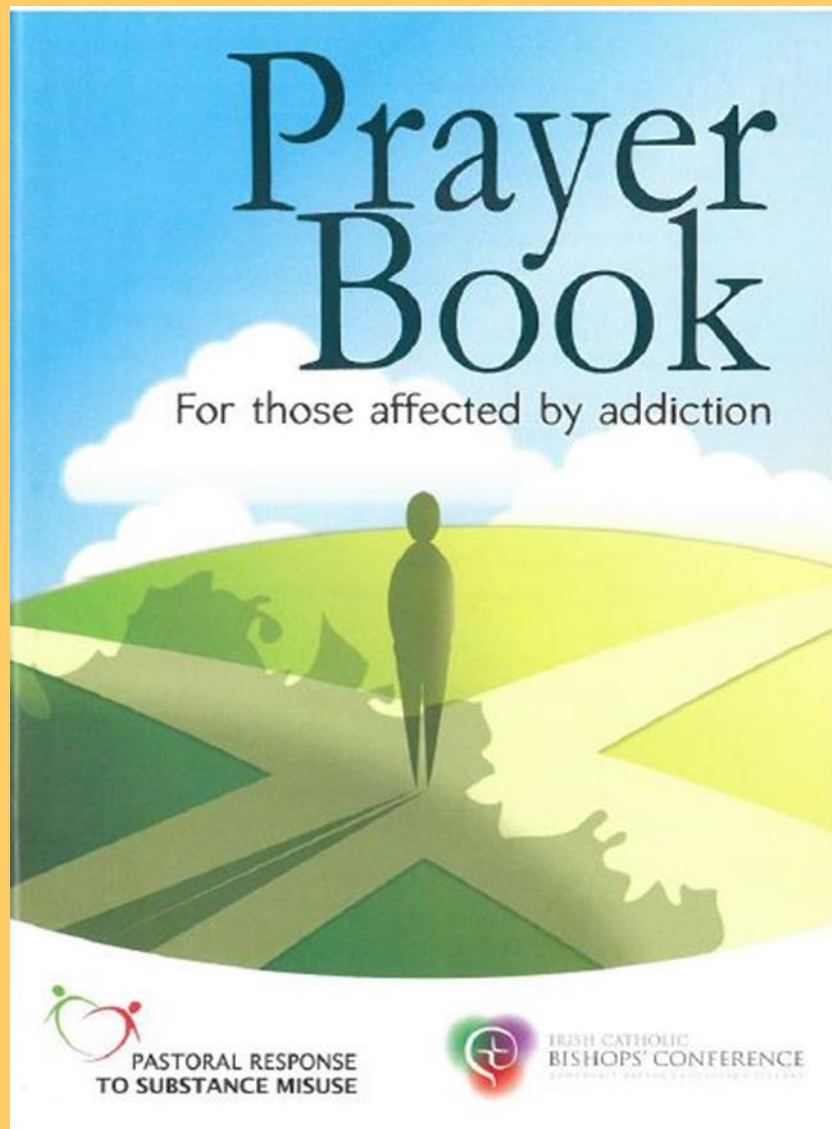
A Handbook on Alcohol & Substance Misuse for Parents and Young People



The Challenge of alcohol is everywhere in Irish society. Pastoral Response to Substance Misuse has commissioned this DVD for secondary schools to aid discussion, encourage debate and help foster a culture of moderation among young people.



A Prayer Book for those affected by addiction





Registration for Parish or Interested Parties

Name:

Address:

Phone No: _____

Email Address: _____

Mobile No: _____

Name of Parish: _____

Please complete relevant information and return to the following addresses:

Email - ibdi@iecon.ie

Post

I.B.D.I Columba Centre,
St. Patricks College,
Maynooth,
Co. Kildare.

Ph.: 00-353-1-5053044