



# *Local Economy and the Local Church*

Launching  
Community  
Wealth  
Building in  
Dublin

*“Let us change today’s economy and give a  
soul to the economy of tomorrow”  
Pope Francis*

# Today's Broken Economy

We are living through difficult economic times. There is a cost of living and energy crisis, on top of a housing crisis that is getting worse every year. More and more people are struggling to pay rent and bills. We are also more vulnerable to unstable global politics and the worsening climate crisis. We need to find a way of transforming and giving a soul to the economy of tomorrow.



## What is Community Wealth Building?

The Community Wealth Building (CWB) model is a way of designing an economy that **generates, circulates, and retains wealth in communities**, benefiting local people instead of distant shareholders. It also seeks to operate within the limits of the environment. CWB:

- \* encourages schools, hospitals, and other big institutions to buy from locally owned enterprises.
- \* promotes the creation of cooperative businesses.

Cooperatives are worker-owned and democratically-run forms of enterprise. In practice, this means that every member has an equal vote in the running of the business. This ensures that decisions are made to benefit the workers—not just the bottom line.

## DID YOU KNOW?

In the Basque country of northern Spain, Fr José María Arizmendiarieta helped to set up the Mondragón Foundation in 1956.

Mondragón is now one of the world's biggest and most successful cooperative federations in the world, employing 70,000 people and with billions in revenue. This is a prime example of Community Wealth Building.

CWB is in action across the world, in Cleveland (USA), Preston (England), and in Scotland.



# How does Faith come in?

Popes have consistently called for economic reforms that meet the needs of individuals, workers, communities, and the environment.



*“Today we also have to say ‘thou shalt not’ to an economy of exclusion and inequality”*

**Pope Francis**

Community Wealth Building has many Catholic Social Teaching principles built-in:

**Care for our Common Home:** communities are not left behind by climate action policy.

**Subsidiarity:** communities make decisions for themselves.

**Human Dignity:** decent work, lower costs, and shared ownership.

**Solidarity:** committing ourselves to work for the good of all



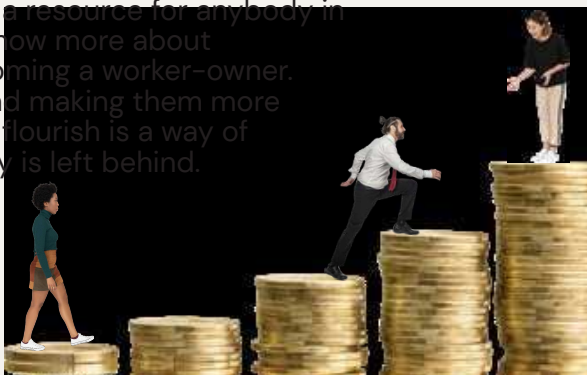
## Community Wealth Building in Dublin

Based in Phibsborough, **The Bohemian Cooperatives** is a new hub for local cooperative businesses. They will establish

- ✳️ A hub where people can get support to start their own worker-owned businesses
- ✳️ An insurance provider
- ✳️ A food and catering company

**The Bohemian Cooperatives** have grown out of the Bohemian Football Club and its civic engagement and relationship with the community. Since 2023 they have been running bike repair and energy efficiency skills courses and ‘libraries’ where you can borrow bikes or expensive tools and equipment.

**The Bohemian Cooperatives** will be a resource for anybody in the local community who wants to know more about community wealth building and becoming a worker-owner. Investing in our local communities and making them more resilient to change so that we can all flourish is a way of making sure no one in our community is left behind.



# *The Role of the Local Church*

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Mt 6:21).

As Catholics and Christians we are called to organise our economy in a way that restores life to people, our communities, and our common home.

We are called to transform the economy from one that pollutes and excludes into one that takes care of people and the Earth, and strives towards the common good.

Let us start building wealth in our community and give a new soul to the economy.

If you are interested in community wealth building and would like to host an event in your parish, please contact [info@jcfj.ie](mailto:info@jcfj.ie)

To find out more and get involved, visit



THE BOHEMIAN COOPERATIVES  
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