

# Outcomes of Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

## 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2015

### 1. PPC GUIDELINES

Fr Liam proposal made that these be updated in line with what's happening in the parish. Some areas could be improved on and strengthened and other areas need to be implemented.

**ACTION:** Read the guidelines and bring comments to next meeting for discussion.

### 2. PARISH CATECHIST

The pastoral council agreed that it was a good idea to engage the services of a Parish Catechist. Olive Ruane has agreed to take up the position; she has worked in this area previously when she helped the children in Newtown prepare for Holy Communion. Fr Liam to draw up a contract, details of payment and guidelines in relation to the role. Olive's focus will be on sacramental preparation programmes and the John Paul II Awards. It was also agreed that the Parish Catechist would be an ex-officio member of the PPC. It is hoped the collection in Ardkeen will pay for this role.

### 3. PASTORAL AREA MEETING UPDATE

Fr John attended the Pastoral Area meeting.

**Grow in Love** - There'll be a new programme for primary schools beginning in Sept for Junior Infants and First Communion, called 'Grow in Love'. The programme has already been piloted in a number of schools. Rather than have a Saturday for the Holy Communion it is planned that the 4 Sundays in May will be available for those who wish to make it and it will take place at a community mass. It will be the parent's choice. We will definitely need a team around this as it's more of a Parish/Community focus. This will form an essential part of our Parish Plan going forward (the formation of children at Communion and Confirmation). The programme will create stronger links between home, school and Parish. This will tie in with the fact that the principal day for celebrating the Eucharist is a Sunday. There will be a diocesan conference on the subject to advise and plan.

**National Eucharistic Congress in Knock** – Sept 26/27 as a follow-up to the Eucharistic Congress at a Diocesan level and to prepare for the next one in the Philipppians. Fr Paul Waldron is the Diocesan delegate for this event.

**'Year of Consecrated Life'** - Diocesan Day of Celebration in Mount Melleray, later in the year (autumn), not firmed up yet.

**800 Years** – Dominicans are 800 years in Ireland this year. Part of their celebrations is hosting a continuous Rosary for 48 hours (1 in every Priory).

#### 4. PARISH PASTORAL PLAN

**Evaluation** – Following a discussion it was agreed that the evaluation of the Parish Pastoral Plan will take place at 7.30pm on Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015, with tea/coffee provided. . **ACTION:** Bernie to send out a copy of the current plan to all, during August to aid in the evaluation.

**New Plan** – We need to take into account what the Bishop wants and the issues raised above at Pastoral Area level also. It was agreed to work on the new plan on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October from 8pm to 10pm and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. This allows time for the new members of the PPC to be in place and for them to have input and be involved in the planning process. Fr Liam suggested changing the strategic directions wording to ‘Prayer’; ‘Service’; ‘Teaching’ and ‘Fellowship’ to mirror the 4 pillars of the Church. Much of the work undertaken stands and it was agreed to take 2 Pillars per night to focus on. A discussion took place on who would facilitate the evaluation of the current plan and the work of planning going forward. It was agreed that Bernie would close off the current plan by facilitating the evaluation and Sr Antoinette would be asked to facilitate the new plan (**ACTION:** Fr Liam to query) and if she’s not available Bernie will facilitate same. **ACTION:** Bernie will also send a list of all the ideas/suggestions not actioned to date to help in the preparation for the new plan.

**Adult Faith Formation** – last film was ‘Dead Man Walking’ which was well received. We will continue and build on this as we go forward. The referendum meeting was very good.

**Confirming our Children** – Happy with this programme. At the end the mass goers advised they were delighted to see the children involved, at the beginning people weren’t too happy with the noise, by the end transformed by the experience. The parents were involved in the preparation of the mass and also attended.

**Social Justice Group** – Fr Liam has got a commitment from a number of people and is ready to start the group – Denise made a suggestion that Bro Tom be invited to put a stand at the back of the Church to advise and update us on all that they do in the DLS Mission. Fr Liam has asked Bro Tom to do this to no avail yet.

**Co-ordination of Ministries – Bereavement** – Angela Curtin said they are no longer continuing, they need to be revitalised. A suggestion was made that people go to the Diocesan Pastoral Centre which is thriving and where they can attend individually. Our parish group worked very successfully for many years and people no longer attending. A suggestion was made that those who volunteer in our parish and who wish to continue to do so could volunteer with Ann O’Farrell in the Diocesan Centre and also receive ongoing supervision. **ACTION:** Fr Liam to follow-up.

**Baptism Team** – To date three Baptismal preparation meeting were held at which parents with children for baptism were invited to attend.

At the first open meeting there were 2 parents in attendance, the 2<sup>nd</sup> 16 parents and 13 at the last meeting. All agreed that it was very worthwhile to hold these meetings as it gives young parents a chance to reflect on the meaning of baptism. It was decided to continue these meeting during the summer and to develop the programme.

**Nursing Home Visitation Team** – Havenwood and Maypark continuing. It's 2 years since came up with the idea, it took 4 months to set up and would now like to extend to Mowlam. Will need more people to make another group. Aim to look for another 10 people and train them. Denise will visit Mowlam again and if she gets a positive reaction will look for more volunteers, will move slowly. Will have separate yet interactive teams. Would like to have 1 day retreat for teams in Ballyvaloe House in Wexford, for both groups, asked for the parish to subsidise the event. Fr John did Benediction today with all the old hymns and it was very worthwhile, Havenwood had everything ready and it evoked wonderful memories for the residents. Suggested to do again in October as feedback was excellent. Well done to all. **ACTION:** Denise on all above.

## 5. UPDATE ON ST MARYS

Graveyard – Paths are seriously damaged and currently redesigning them, they'll need to be torn up and put down again having been reinforced with mesh and 6" of concrete. Waiting on price from James Pierce who'll do the job. Also looking into putting steps from car park to side road.

## 6. UPDATE ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Nothing to report on Safeguarding Children. We need another person to take on this role.