

## Summary of Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council Jan 2015

A Meeting of Dungannon Parish Pastoral Council was held on Thursday 8 January 2015 at 8:00pm.

The meeting opened with a prayer and reflection facilitated by the Communication Group.

### **Matters Arising**

PPC thanked Mary for providing a summary of the minutes of the last meeting and acknowledged the importance of sharing minutes on the Parish website.

PPC acknowledged the success of the Christmas candlelight concert in the church.

Following discussion with the PPC re Questions for Future Development in the Archdiocese, Dean Curry has shared the summary response from the Dungannon group with Archbishop Eamon Martin.

The Archbishop will collate all responses and provide a summary.

This may highlight an area for future development.

Mary will post summary response from the whole archdiocese on the website when available.

### **Correspondence**

The chairperson of Cookstown PPC has requested that a representative join the Dungannon group for one of the monthly meetings to gain an understanding of format etc.. PPC consented to the request.

Each member of the PPC had received an anonymous letter from a concerned parishioner. Members considered the concerns and after discussion formulated a policy to deal with the matter.

The PPC cannot provide a response to anonymous letters but welcome signed correspondence from Parishioners relating to any Parish matters.

## **Interest Groups**

### **Outreach**

The Outreach group have been made very welcome on their visitation of the Drumcoo area and hope to have a review meeting in January. They hope to make final visits towards the end of January / beginning of February. The group have extended invitations to some parishioners who may wish to avail of the first Friday home visits by the priests to the sick and housebound.. It was suggested that all parishioners be made aware of the first Friday visits through the Parish website, bulletin and for it to be announced at masses.

It was again stressed how rewarding the experience had been for all those who took part in the visitations. It was noted that the group were welcomed by people from other faiths - an affirmation of their policy - to knock every door.

Geraldine issued a request for a priest to accompany her on her visits to Geannan Care home and Loane House.

Fr Radosław visits the Nightingale and said mass there on Christmas Eve.

### **The Liturgy Group**

The Liturgy group had enhanced the celebration of masses over Christmas.

On the feast of The Holy Family, children, parents and grandparents, participated in a procession at the beginning of mass and the offertory procession.

Paul from Halo Youth Group had composed an introductory prayer reflection which was read at the beginning of the 10:30 and 12:30 mass.

At the New Years' Day mass, the congregation were encouraged to pass on paper scrolls to the person sitting beside them as a way of getting to know other parishioners. The scroll contained a message from Mother Theresa.

Members of the Halo Youth group distributed sweets as parishioners left the church at the end of mass.

Father White led community singing at some of the masses and the response was very encouraging.

The Mass for readers held in the Convent chapel in early December was well received and very much appreciated.

There are currently three volunteers to lead the children's liturgy. (Brian McGahan, Marie Loughran and Roisin Campbell.)

In line with Safeguarding Policy volunteers will be subject to Access NI checks.

The volunteers will attend a meeting with the Liturgy group on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January to discuss possible format.

## **Youth**

The PPC expressed their gratitude and congratulations to Paul following the very successful Christmas Craft Fayre.

The Halo group also raised funds through a Christmas bag pack at Tesco.

Sufficient funds have been raised to cover travelling expenses in Rome for the youth pilgrimage in the summer.

Further fund raising events are planned eg Table Quiz and Fashion Show.

The group have also begun their spiritual preparation for the pilgrimage.

Each member of the group has been given a responsibility for researching details about various places of interest in Rome and the Vatican and then will present their newly acquired information to the rest of the group.

This will hopefully make the visit more interesting and meaningful.

The Halo group facilitated an Advent retreat for altar servers.

This was another successful event in a very busy month for the youth group.

The PPC acknowledged the commitment and enthusiasm of the youth group in Dungannon parish. The possibility of a church gate collection for the Youth group was discussed. Paul would discuss this with the Youth group with the possibility of approaching the finance committee.

## **Adult Faith Formation**

The 1st Cell evangelisation group held two sessions during Advent and these were quite well attended.

The group may set up a bible study class and have someone with the appropriate background and knowledge to lead the class.

## **Communication**

Mary will continue to publish a summary of the minutes on the website and will archive previous summaries.

## Parish Matters

The outreach group have engaged with parishioners throughout their visits and have fed back any requests /concerns to the PPC.

The PPC discussed current arrangements for funerals.

Following a discussion with Dean Curry it was proposed that on the occasion of a funeral all people, including family and relations, move directly in to the church as soon as they arrive rather than waiting outside - often in very bad weather.

Chief mourners should occupy the seats at the front of the church on both sides allowing those people who might be involved with Readings, Prayers or Offertory Procession to have ease of access. The only people waiting outside should be the coffin bearers. Dean Curry would speak with the undertakers and inform parishioners through the parish bulletin.

The possibility of facilitating funerals at a later time than 10:00am was discussed. It may not be possible to facilitate this due to availability of priests, wedding bookings etc. It was also acknowledged that at some funerals there may be only a very small family circle or indeed no family to mourn the deceased so having the funeral at 10:00am weekday Mass is appropriate.

Re: Requests for Prayers for the deceased at Weekend Masses. Most parishioners are complying with the new arrangements for requesting names to be prayed for at mass.

All Parishioners are to be encouraged to follow the policy on this. Some concerns were raised that some children and indeed some adults were not receiving communion in a very reverent and dignified way. Some felt that to receive communion directly on to the tongue may be a more appropriate way and avoids the issue of unclean hands or dropping the host.

After discussion it was agreed that all parishioners should be reminded to receive communion in a very reverent, dignified and respectful way.

An Ecumenical service will be held in St Patrick's Cathedral Armagh and in St Anne's Church at the end of January. All are welcome to attend.

PPC considered that the focus for the opening prayer for each meeting should try to reflect the liturgical calendar and Saint of the Day.

Next meeting of the PPC will take place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of February at 8:00 p.m.

Liturgy Group will prepare opening prayer.

Meeting ended at 10:40pm