



ST. COLMCILLE'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Report to Parishioners, November 2021

The Parish Pastoral Council has decided to revive the practice of issuing to parishioners a report on their discussions after each meeting. The Council meets approximately every six weeks. Current members of the PPC are: Fr. Tony, Fr. Vincent, Vince Murphy (Chair), Rose Byrne (Vice-Chair), Patricia Kernaghan (Secretary), Hans Abraham (Prayer Leader), Raju Varughese.

1. Vacancies on PPC

At our November meeting we discussed the number of vacancies on the Council, and our efforts to try and persuade more parishioners to join.

2. Covid Preventive Measures

Contact Tracing has been suspended, because we felt that the maintaining of our other preventive measures - the continued wearing of masks, social distancing and sanitising - is more effective. Another reason was that we hoped that it would offer parishioners a sign of progress towards normality! However, it was stressed that it is up to parishioners to follow the advice and direction of the ushers/stewards when moving into the pews, in leaving their pews for Communion, and in exiting the church. Occupying the middle two aisles as far as possible, before moving to the side aisles, limits the amount of cleaning to be carried out after Mass. Regarding use of the Adoration Chapel, the consensus was that those parishioners who use the Chapel should be responsible for ensuring its Covid security. Therefore, a maximum of three people should occupy it at any one time, and the internal door into the main church should be kept open to assist ventilation.

3. Readers

The return of Ministers of the Word is under consideration and will be discussed again at the next PPC meeting.

4. Ecology Group

The Laudato Si' Reading Group is proving very successful and has attracted about thirty participants, including parishioners and people from other churches. We are now half-way through the encyclical, and the presentations by the Trocaire Laudato Si' Officers have been very informative and thought-provoking. As a practical way of protecting the environment, the Ecology Group arranged a tree-planting afternoon jointly with members of Stormont Presbyterian congregation, to plant 100 trees at the Billy Neill Playing Fields. This event was very well supported.

5. Living Faith

A successful Alpha programme was run by Living Faith, between February and March. It is hoped to run another Alpha course early next year.

6. 1500th Anniversary of the Birth of St. Colmcille -2021

The PPC had intended to plan some commemorative events to coincide with this anniversary, but Covid has prevented such things as a visit to Iona and a walk along the Sli Cholmcille in Donegal. It may be possible to reconsider them in 2022. Meanwhile, an update to our Parish History, covering the last 25 years, is planned. We would be grateful if the co-ordinators of the various parish organisations and other groups or individuals would provide us with details of their activities, and their highlights and lowlights, from 1997 onwards.

7. Synod 2023

This process, initiated by Pope Francis, will eventually involve all parishes in giving their views and feedback.

8. Christmas Mass Arrangements

We will receive direction on these from the Bishop in December. The St Vincent de Paul and TAP will have their Christmas cards on sale later in November

9. The PPC meets again in early December.