



ST. COLMCILLE'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Report to Parishioners, December 2021

1. **Ministers of the Word:** Further discussions took place about the possible reintroduction of Ministers of the Word at Masses. John Barry, who has organised the Readers' rota for the past twelve years, attended the meeting and outlined the various challenges in organising new rotas. The main issue is the availability of volunteers, especially at weekends. It was agreed that former Readers should be asked to re-engage, and that additional Readers should be recruited.
2. **Covid Team:** The Parish Risk Assessment has been updated, in line with Diocesan requirements for accurate record-keeping. Changes reflect the reduced social distancing limit, from two metres to one metre. Numbers, rather than names of ushers and cleaners will be recorded. It was noted that Track and Trace has been suspended, but not abolished. This leaves open the option of adopting it again, if considered necessary or useful.
3. **Christmas Masses:** Arrangements for Christmas Masses were discussed. It was agreed that there should be seven Masses between Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, in an effort to ensure that numbers of people attending would be kept within safe limits.
4. **Parish Ecology Group:** It was noted that the Ecology Group's final session of the Laudato Si' Reading Group would be held on 8th December.
5. It was also noted that **Living Faith** was planning an Alpha course, beginning on Tuesday nights from 11th January.
6. **St. Colmcille Commemoration 2021-2022:** It was agreed that, in view of Covid, we could not yet plan any trips or visits to Colmcille-related places. Gathering of material for updating the parish history is continuing.
7. **Synod 2023:** The parish dimension to Synod preparations will unfold in the New Year. Meanwhile, the Synod Prayer has been publicised.