

Parish Pastoral Council Update – June 2023

As we approach the summer holiday period, your Parish Pastoral Council thought it would be timely to provide an update on some of the activities progressed by the PPC in recent months, particularly in relation to items in our new 3-year Parish Pastoral Plan. Progress on each of the 5 core themes since the approval of the Plan in October 2022 is as follows: -

1. Open and Welcoming Community
 - Safeguarding is ongoing, with vetting and training of all adults who are involved in relevant Parish ministries with children or vulnerable adults.
 - Developing the communications strategy of our Parish is ongoing, taking advantage of our Parish website and social media through our Parish Communications Team.
 - Re-establishing relationships by providing hospitality after Sunday Masses and on other relevant occasions e.g. Advent and Lent.
 - Involvement in the Mass has been developed through the identification and training of altar servers, encouraging young families to participate in the offertory procession and recruiting new junior readers.
 - The design and construction of a Parish Welcome Pack for new or returning parishioners is underway.
 - Initial meetings have taken place to re-establish a Parish Visitation Team, with a view to visiting parishioners who may be housebound or unable to attend Mass or the sacraments. This ministry will be progressed in the autumn.
2. Faith and Worship
 - Adult Catechesis – talks and discussions were provided for parishioners during Advent 2022 and Lent 2023. A panel of Catechists is being formed to further develop this important ministry for the autumn.
 - Encouraging greater parental involvement in sacramental preparation – a meeting with parents of the P7 children being Confirmed was held, which received great feedback from those in attendance.
 - Fortnightly Prayer/Cell Groups have been re-established.
3. Our Parish Priest and Lay Ministry
 - Activities that support the sharing of faith journeys – 4 children from the Primary School and an adult talked about the relevance of faith in their everyday lives on Pentecost Sunday.
4. Lay Participation
 - Creating awareness of the need to increase lay participation – the promotion and discussion around the Diocesan Pathways to the Future programme is highlighting the need for increased lay participation going forward.
 - Facilitate a Parish Groups Open Day – arranged for 24th September and 8th October
5. Passing on the Faith
 - Meetings with parents with children taking the sacraments – this started this year with Confirmation and will be further developed next year.
 - Raise awareness of the Primary School on the Parish website – information has been provided, as well as a link to the Primary School website.

Other recent examples of activities arising from discussion at PPC meetings include the Parish Family Fun Evening on 30th June and the suggestion of starting up a Social and Entertainments Committee. Finally, just to say that Paddy Stewart will be standing down as Chair of the PPC at the end of June and Stephen Lavery will take over that role for the upcoming year. Enjoy the summer break.