

Parish Pastoral Council - Review of 2019

At the January meeting copies of the book 'Living Communion, Vision & Practice for Parish Pastoral Councils' were distributed. It was agreed that members would cooperate with other members and paraphrase the chapters of the book and give an outline of the various chapters at the next meeting. The renewal of the PPC was put on the agenda for future meetings. The importance of attracting new members was emphasised while accepting that the turnover of members at any one time might be quite small to allow for continuity and stability. The process to attract new members should also be open and transparent and should be guided by prayerful discernment. Rosemary Lavelle from the Archdiocese attended the November meeting. She said that **prayer, communication and information** are a very important part of the discernment process leading to the formation of a new PPC. Brendan (Chair of the PPC) undertook to put together an invitation to people which would be capable of forming a pitch from the altar and some information would be printed in the Sunday Message. It was agreed that the feast of Christ the King (November) would be a good date to aim for with a view to having it completed in time for new members to attend an induction course in Clonliffe on 8th February. A leaflet provided by Rosemary was distributed at all the masses on the 23rd/24th November. A small working group consisting of Deacon Noel, Mary and a few parishioners was set up to plan for the discernment event in January 2020. At our December meeting it was reported that some arrangements were already in place for the PPC renewal date of January 18th, 2020.

It was proposed to convene a meeting of the 3 PPCs in the cluster (Ballinteer, Dundrum & Meadowbrook) to foster greater cooperation, a proposal that came to fruition on December 3rd when a very useful gathering of the PPCs in the cluster was held in Dundrum pastoral centre. At the December meeting of our PPC we discussed the cluster meeting and suggestions for how we might improve communication across the PPCs. Lorna (Chair, Dundrum PPC) had suggested meeting again early in 2020. We felt that a cluster meeting with its own agenda might be a good idea. It was also felt that some sort of more formal structure across the 3 PPCs might be required to foster communication and co-operation.

Members of the PPC felt training was important and that there should be at least one in-service or retreat day each year. The majority of the members attended a Retreat Day in Clonliffe in early June.

Due to the prevalence of winter bugs and flues the matter of giving the sign of peace was suspended or made optional during the winter.

Catherine (the parish safeguarding representative), in association with Valerie and Ann, continued her important work in relation to safeguarding children. The Conference Room was packed to capacity for the information session on 30th January led by Gary Kehoe of the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee. A safeguarding audit of the parish was completed at the end of March. Catherine kept us updated on the progress made by the safeguarding team throughout the year. The safeguarding team had a meeting with the other teams in our cluster in October to improve cooperation in this area. In 2019 the Diocese issued a policy document (including guidelines) in relation to vulnerable adults and how to recognise and respond to concerns that a vulnerable adult has been abused, is being abused, or is at risk of abuse. Catherine arranged for Elaine Byrne of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team to speak on the topic of vulnerable adults at a meeting in the Conference Room.

Some members of the parish team attended a communications day in Drumcondra. The day was mostly about the use of social media and data protection. Robert worked hard to ensure that the Parish complied with current legislation on data protection. He updated the PPC on a regular basis on steps taken to ensure that the Parish complied with data protection guidelines. In relation to the CCTV a satisfactory agreement has been set up with the service provider. Fr Liam has signed a contract with the Archdiocese regarding compliance. In November Robert was in a position to report that we are now fully compliant with data protection requirements,

Robert also audited the parish from a health and safety perspective. He has set out his conclusions and recommendations in a Health and Safety Document.

Bernard Enright attended the March meeting and spoke about how he had redesigned the website in the past year building on the excellent work of Jimmy Finlay over many years. The website receives an average of 44 visitors daily, hence the importance of accurate and updated material. He prepared an interesting analysis of website usage which was made available to parishioners.

At the February meeting it was agreed that members of the PPC would put a proposal together to upgrade the Conference Room to allow it to be used for more activities. The proposal would be put to the Finance Committee. Fr. Liam reported at the September meeting that the Finance Committee had discussed the proposal but that there was no money available at present to carry out the refurbishment works.

A 'Suggestion Box' was re-instated in the Church where people could submit their suggestions and these suggestions were discussed at the PPC meetings during the year.

It was decided to invite parish groups to attend the PPC for up to 30 minutes on a rolling basis as the PPC felt it was very important to keep the lines of communication open with those in the parish most engaged with parish work. The Parish Cell Community addressed our September meeting, Maria Broderick attended the October meeting to speak about the youth group. Cathal Mac Gabhann attended the December meeting to speak about the Irish Mass. Deacon Noel also produced a scoping paper on the development of a communications strategy during the year.

The issue of the RSE Programme which intends to remove any mention of religious ethos from the RSE programme was discussed at the October meeting. Under the new proposals, parents will have no right of opt out in respect of their children and the religious ethos of the school would be ignored. Parishioners were made aware of the proposals and how to make a submission in relation to them through the Sunday Message.