

ENNIS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes 30th November 2010

Opening:

The regular monthly meeting of the Ennis Parish Pastoral Council was called to order at 8.00pm on 30th November 2010 in the Chapter Room by Sarah Malone (Chairperson).

Present:

Fr Tom Hogan	Fr Fergal O'Neill
Sarah Malone	Mary Hanley
Tikki Daly	Andy Tierney
Daniel O'Connell	Fr Martin Blake
Sr Anne Boland	Fionnuala Moran
Canon Pat Taafe	Sean McDermott
John Tunney	Fr John McGovern
Maureen Hand	Miriam O'Brien

Apologies:

Emer Healy, Tina Queally, Sr De Montford, Maurice Griffin, Nick Scullion, Fr Tom O'Gorman, Fr Joe Condren

A. Opening Prayer by John Tunney.

- A Winter Prayer was shared by John with the group, taken from Prayer for Parish Groups.

B. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed. The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Congratulations were passed on to Dan & Amelie O'Connell on the birth of their baby son James, and to John Tunney on completion of his Degree in Theology.

C. Parish Report

Fr Tom Hogan provided the meeting with an update on parish events since the last meeting.

These included:

- Launch of Abbey Cluster with beautiful liturgy in Clarecastle Church. People have connected well with the concept of clustering and this holds much promise for the future.
- Megan McKenna – Scripture Scholar and Storyteller – recent evening held in St Flannan's as a Cluster Event. Organised at very short notice. Megan brought the Gospel alive with her very interactive presentation style.
- Enrollments for the Sacraments have been completed. New feature this year with families presenting for first sacraments, particularly from Nigeria. Visitation done by Sr Anne to families of Confirmation candidates. First Communion programme includes adult faith formation dimension with parental involvement in the Enrollment Masses.
- Liturgy for those who died from the parish took place on the 2nd November (organized by the Bereavement Group) as well as Remembrance Liturgies on the 11th November and on the 14th November for those who lost a child at a young age or in pregnancy.
- Advent – 10.30a.m. Mass preparation by students from 2nd level schools. St Flannan's students prepared Mass for 28th November, Rice College and the Colaiste involved other Sundays of Advent. Speakers invited to the Saturday 7p.m. Vigil Mass at St Joseph's for Advent. The Giving Tree is in the Cathedral with non-perishable food produce being donated to Clarecare for

hampers for families in the area at Christmas time. Carol Service in St Joseph's on the 8th December at 7.30pm.

- Ecumenical Carol Service taking place on 19th December at 7pm at the Cathedral. This year it is the responsibility of St Columbas to host the service. All are welcome.
- Penitential Service on Monday 20th December at 7.30pm.
- Liturgies for Christmas being prepared currently by the Liturgy Group / subgroups. This year a Children's Mass is taking place at the Cathedral, St. Joseph's and in Barefield Church.
- Proceeds from the sale of Christmas Triduum Mass Cards from the Cathedral this year will go to Fr John Molloy's Mission in Equador.
- Sr Anne and Fr Martin updated the meeting on the progress of the Visitation Group. They have just completed visitation of Westfields and will shortly be visiting Hawthorns. The group of 14 is in existence for 11 years and has visited in the region of 5,000 homes in the parish over that time. This quietly done ministry was the subject of much appreciation and praise from the meeting for its work in making the connection between home and parish. Well done to all involved.

D. Correspondence Received

- Sarah Malone has resigned as Chairperson of the Pastoral Council, providing, in her words, the opportunity for a new year to bring new energies to the Council. Her distinguished leadership was acknowledged by the group.

E Pastoral Council – Role for the future

- Discussion took place regarding the role of the Pastoral Council and its purpose. Modern day challenges for Church and parish were discussed. It is proposed that a facilitator be invited to work with the group on the 22nd / 29th January 2011 to identify goals and priorities for the next 3 years. Details of this gathering will be circulated once available.

G Any Other Business –

Cluster Launch – Tree to be planted in parish. Suggestions as to where were discussed.

7.45a.m. Daily Mass Start Time at Cathedral – Survey to be carried out on the suitability of its time following requests that this be moved to 8am.

Reception of Holy Communion – Request for this to be improved by people receiving via the centre aisle and returning via the side aisle. To be discussed by the parish team.

G. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 9.50p.m. by Sarah Malone. Details of the January meeting to be circulated in due course.

Minutes submitted by: Mary Hanley

Approved by: