

ENNIS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
26th January 2010

Opening:

The regular monthly meeting of the Ennis Parish Pastoral Council was called to order at 8.00pm on 26th January 2010 in the Chapter Room by Sarah Malone (Chairperson).

Present:

Sarah Malone	Fr Tom O’Gorman
Miriam O’Brien	Mary Hanley
Fionnuala Moran	Tina Queally
Andy Tierney	Sr De Montford
John Tunney	Fr John McGovern
Fr Martin Blake	Emer Healy
Daniel O’Connell	Fr Fergal O’Neill
Maurice Griffin	Sean McDermott

Apologies:

Fr Tom Hogan	Sr Anne Boland
Canon Pat Taafe	Nick Scullion
Maureen Hand (Secretary)	

A. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

B. Approval of Minutes

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

C. Parish Report

Looking back:

Fr Martin Blake provided the meeting with an update on parish events since the last meeting. These included both the Ecumenical Carol Service as well as a Penitential Service. These events were well attended, notwithstanding the unkind weather conditions. (Best wishes were passed on from the meeting to Sr Anne and Canon Pat Taafe, both of whom sustained injuries). The New Year’s Eve celebration in the Cathedral was well attended, and a blessing of babies took place which was organized by the Baptismal Team. The Mass for All Nations took place on Sunday 18th January and was a vibrant event at the Cathedral with the input of parishioners who have moved in to the parish in recent times. This latter event was organized primarily by Sr Anne.

To mark the end of Christian Unity Week, Evensong was celebrated at St Columbas which had about 80 attendees. There was an input at this Liturgy by Deacon Martin Browne.

Preparation for reception of First Holy Communion has taken place at Masses and again here, there was excellent family participation in the Liturgy.

The Parish Collection for Haiti has prompted a very generous response with circa €40k being collected at the date of the meeting.

Looking forward:

Fr Martin then spoke about upcoming events in Parish Life including the celebration of St Brigid's Day (1st February) as well as Lenten Preparations. The Parish Team has decided to host 3 speakers after Mass on a Tuesday evening during Lent, as opposed to doing a Tridium Event. It is hoped that this approach will attract larger attendances. Inputs will be provided by Andrew O'Connell, Catherine Wiley (founder of Grandparents Day) and Helen Toner who is involved in the Youth ministry at Knock.

Sarah (on behalf of the Pastoral Council) conveyed Congratulations and Thanks to the Liturgy Group and to all who worked in creating vibrant Christmas Liturgical Celebrations.

D. Cluster Activities

The Cluster consists of Doorra, Barefield, Quin, Clarecastle and Ennis parishes.

Attention was drawn to the following upcoming events:

- 8th February: Parish Council Members Awareness evening facilitated by Eamonn Fitzgibbon. The objective of this event is to explore the vision of the Cluster and to plan further cluster initiatives.
- 10th Feb: Play & Pray Group Leaders – Cluster Training / Information Sharing
- 26th Feb: Closing date for submitting a design for the Cluster Logo by Senior cycle students from Secondary Schools. There is a prize of €100 for the best logo.

E. Ennis Parish Council – Action initiatives

A number of initiatives were discussed which will hopefully improve the faith life of parish. It is hoped to review this list at future meetings in 2010.

These are summarized in the table below:

No.	Action	Owner	Timelines / Next Steps
1	Include 3 or 4 bullet points on next week's Gospel in Newsletter in easily understood language	Emer Healy	Emer to provide text to Parish Office staff by Tuesday morning weekly.
2	Include Play & Pray artwork by children on Parish Website on (perhaps) Sundays	Fr Martin Blake	Check no copyright issues with using photocopied material.
3	Email Gospel Message to those names collated within the parish Database	None yet	Review @ next meeting
4	Have focus groups in the Chapter Room involving those who have lapsed from practicing their faith.	Sarah Malone John Tunney Daniel O'Connell	Owners to meet to plan for facilitated Wednesday evening groups during Lent.
5	Completion of a Questionnaire regarding parish life to establish what is working well, what are the weak	None yet.	Internet based questionnaire may prove easier to collate. It is recognized that this initiative will

	areas and to generate ideas to improve faith life in Ennis.		require fairly considerable effort to co-ordinate.
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F. Reflection

Sarah provided the meeting with the text of a thought provoking reflection regarding the Roman god Janus who had 2 faces, so that we could look ahead towards the future and back to the past at the same time.

The reflection at the next meeting will be prepared by Tina Queally.

G. Parish Response to the Murphy Report – Book of Expressions.

Bishop Willie and 10 members of the laity are preparing a liturgy to give expression to the thoughts and sentiments expressed in the Books of Expression which have been updated in the Cathedral. The priests of the diocese are meeting on the 1st February 2010 at the Clare Inn to discuss the matter.

H. Any Other Business.

Fionnuala provided an update from the Finance Committee regarding the funding for the facilities at the Ennis National School.

Mary Corey provided the meeting with the nominees for recipients of “People of the Year” awards. These were endorsed by the Ennis Parish Pastoral Council.

Agenda for Next Meeting

List the items to be discussed at the next meeting.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 9.30p.m. by Sarah Malone. The next meeting will take place at 8p.m. on 23/02/10 in the Chapter Room.

Minutes submitted by: Mary Hanley

Approved by: