

Minutes of Ennis Parish Pastoral Council meeting

25th September, 2012

Attendance: John Tunney (Chairperson), Sr. Ann Boland, Maurice Griffin, Fr. Tom Hogan, Fr. John McGovern, Fr. Ger Fitzgerald, Fr. Dariusz Plasek, (Polish Chaplain), Tikki Daly, Canon Pat Taaffe, Sr. Betty Curtin, Finuala Moran, Sean McDermott (Sec), Fr. Fergus OFM, Dan O'Connell, Jamon Joseph.

Apologies: Fr. Fergal O'Neill, Anthony Moore, Andy Tierney, Fr. Tom O'Gorman.

Donal Griffin of Ennis Parish Finance & Property Committee gave an outline of projects and plans for the future development of parish buildings.

1. Ennis National School:

Work progressing well on the new school at Ashline. Parish paid for the site but the Dept of Education cover all the building costs and fees but **not** playing field, dressing rooms and full size assembly hall (school is busy fund-raising).

Parish has arranged a 15 year loan on behalf of the Board of Management of Ennis National School. Parish to contribute €60,000 towards the cost of extra facilities at the school.

Completion date: 15 months approx.

2. Relocation of Parish Office

Present office too small. Maria Assumpta Hall in bad state of repair (*the floor collapsed*).

Recommend: Demolish and rebuild to include hall, office and extra meeting rooms.

Estimated cost: €700,000, which will be met out of parish resources.

Proposed plan to be presented at next meeting.

3. The Cathedral Spire

Cathedral spire showing signs of damp from seeping water. Ongoing negotiations with contractors who refurbished the spire, to rectify the problem. The Pastoral committee thanked Donal Griffin and the Finance & Property Committee for their dedication on behalf of the people of the parish.

Sr. Anne Boland conducted the prayer time – based on Lectio Divina.

Fr. John McGovern proposed vote of sympathy to John Tunney on the death of his mother Julia, in Donegal. A Remembrance Eucharist to be arranged for Tuesday, 9th October at 6.30pm in The Chapter Room, followed by cup of tea.

Correspondence: 2 requests for the use of the Cathedral

- a) Ennis Brass Band
- b) Brian Mooney – Poet’s Circle Concert on Sunday evening at 7.30pm in October, based on Celtic Spirituality with input from various Celtic groups, Faroes, Corsica etc. Council gave a provisional ‘yes’ but would like more information as to the content of the programme, as there are criteria and guide lines, which ensure that concerts are in keeping with the ‘sacredness’ of the Cathedral.

Parish Report – Fr. Tom Hogan

1. Fr. Tom welcomed the new Polish Chaplain Fr. Dariusz Plasek, who will be with us for 3 years, looking after the Polish community, in the diocese of Killaloe.
2. Also Michael Geraghty, a 4th year student in Maynooth, who will work in the parish for the next 4 months. Thursday – Sunday.
3. New Pastoral Year with school masses in Primary & Secondary schools. Parents Talks for children preparing for 1st Communion & Confirmation enrolments; Do This in Memory; Faith Friends etc.
4. Meetings of Abbey Cluster ‘planning’
5. Planning Parish Mission
9th to 16th March, 2013 – leading up to St. Patrick’s Day.
- to be run by the Redemptorists & link person is Fr. Fergal O’Neill.
Redemptorists to meet Pastoral Council prior to the Mission.
- A new approach to Mission is envisaged.
6. Parish Team, - Diocesan Meetings
‘Year of Faith’ – Share the Good News and internet use and abuse.
7. October Parish Link will be available this weekend.
8. Child Protection Programme – the 3 new Parish Reps (*Sr. Angela McMahon, Josepha Quigley & Mary Corey*) to address Pastoral Council at the October meeting.

John Tunney gave a short review of the Pastoral Councils activities over the past year.

- 1) New Parish Mission Statement
- 2) Atonement service on Good Friday
- 3) Listening Process – ‘Cluster’ in St. Flannan’s College.

A draft plan for the coming year was discussed based on ‘The Year of Faith’, covering such topics as:

Lay Leadership, The Incarnation, Adult Catechesis, Conversation on Renewal, Irish Faith Tradition, Parish Mission, Youth Evangelisation, The Creed – Our Creed, Maryville Institute Programme (Eithne Gleeson), Sharing and embracing the Faith Training Courses, Adult Faith Formation - Franciscan Programme.

Overall to create an appetite, a hunger and a curiosity for all aspects of our Faith.

To invite high profile/’celebrities’ etc., who give public witness to their faith and their belief in the Almighty eg Katie Taylor.

Meeting concluded at 9.30pm.

Next meeting: 30th October, 2012