

Minutes of Pastoral Council meeting held on Tuesday

25th June, 2013

Present: John Tunney (Chairperson); Fr. Tom Hogan; Sr. Betty Curtin; Andy Tierney; Fionnuala Moran; Sr. Ann Boland; Seán Mc Dermott; Fr. John Mc Govern; Fr. Fergus OFM; Fr. Tom O’Gorman; Anthony Moore; Maurice Griffin; & Fr. Gerard Fitzgerald.

Apologies: Jomon Joseph; Fr. Fergal O’Neill; Dan O’Connell.

Opening Prayer: Fr. Gerard Fitzgerald

Council welcomes return of Maurice Griffin who had been in hospital.

Correspondence:

- Letter from Bishop Kieran accompanied by booklet on “Sharing the Good News”. Various topics to be looked at by the Pastoral Council in the future.
- Letter from Fr. Tom Hogan outlining the various Parish possibilities in the Diocese with the setting up of places of Prayer & Meditation. These “Sacred Spaces” to reflect the spiritual heritage of the area. Each Parish to write a short account in the form of a book eg. Blessed Wells; Abbeys; Shrines; Graveyards etc.
- Preparation for the “Faith Gathering” in St. Flannan’s College beginning September 13th. Various workshops; Youth & Taize style prayer.
- **Celebration of Choirs:** Bishop Kieran Sunday Mass celebration for the Diocese involvement of Cluster.

Parish Team Report:

- ❖ Sr. Rita Gilmore conducted an “End of Year” review for Parish Team.
- ❖ Prayer cards for examination students were very well received.
- ❖ Offering of membership of Pioneers to Confirmation students – 25 candidates.
- ❖ Blessing of pre school children organised by Play & Pray group.
- ❖ Ennis National school Open Day, before move to new school.
- ❖ Young people sponsored by Parish : Lourdes:2; Taize: 3; Lough Derg:
- ❖ Pilgrim Walk to Drumcliffe was very well received, large attendance & beautiful weather.
- ❖ Graduation Masses for school
- ❖ Child Protection Report: Garda vetting almost complete.
- ❖ Tony Larkin to represent Abbey Cluster on Diocesan Pastoral Council

✓ **“The Church in the Modern World” discussion led by Fr. Gerard Fitzgerald.**

- a. How does the Church speak to us in the Modern World.
- b. How do we see the Spirit working in our World.
- c. Emphasis on “Save the Earth” – recycling; protecting wildlife and the environment.
- d. Spirit working in the gentleness of people
- e. Spirit working in the concern for less fortunate.
- f. Spirit working in the energy and vitality of Youth; Faith Friends etc. and also in the people who work hard at the various ministries in the Parish. 7 gifts and 9 fruits of the Spirit always there.

▪ **Thought for next meeting.**

What inspires you or brings you hope in the Church today?

✚ Fr. Gerard gave an account of inaugural meeting on proposed Bible Study programme. 27 people attended - follow up in Autumn.

✚ Discussion on what “Sacred Space2 idea might be highlighted in Ennis Parish – various proposals – Sr. Ann to give it consideration.

✚ *Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance, contributions and their willingness to participate in Parish Projects and wished members a good holiday.*

Meeting ended with a cup of tea.

Next meeting Tuesday 24th September, 2013