

Minutes of the PAC Meeting Mon 27th Jan 7pm - 20 Parishioners attended

Tom Jones (TJ, Co-Chair) welcomed everyone and invited Fr Michael (Fr M) to lead with an opening prayer. TJ then explained the purpose of the meeting to review the Parish response to the Diocesan Review and to identify ways forward.

Fr M gave a summary of the consultation process and said that the responses from the parish had been collated and passed on to the Bishop. Average Mass Count is 180 and the number of Catholics resident in the parish is estimated at 1,800. Tonight, we would focus on Q3 addressing future needs.

Fr M identified 8 headings:

- Welcoming
- Young Parishioners
- Ongoing faith formation/catechesis
- Prayer/Spirituality
- Strengthening the existing communities
- Assistance for those who cannot get to Mass
- Communication
- Helping those in need

He also made some suggestions on how to proceed e.g.

Welcoming: Refurbish the porch area to create a more welcoming environment and provide catechetical and spiritual information.
Involve new and younger people in a Welcoming Team.

Communication: Update the website, make greater use of social media, place inserts in local magazines, develop outreach to new communities.

Young People: He has already identified young families at Mass and is setting up a programme of home visits to look at how they might like to be more involved.

Adult Formation: Retreats and Courses could be provided by organisations outside the parish. "Pub Theology" could take an ecumenical approach whilst Catholic teaching and spirituality could be explored during convivial Thursday evenings in the Presbytery.

Comments were invited from the floor:

There was a query about the number of parishioners receiving Communion at home. Approximately 8 parishioners are regularly visited. At the convent, frailer sisters are served by other members of their community.

Taking Holy Communion to the Sick was identified as an area to be developed, inviting more parishioners to serve as Extraordinary Ministers, not only within the Parish Church but also reaching out to the community. We should also investigate further need to provide transport.

Other suggestions were made such as:

- Create a Who's Who list of parish co-ordinators, together with their photos.
- Provide a Register of Talents for people to turn to.
- Advertise the parish with a float at Carnival time.
- Organise quiz nights both within the parish and further afield.
- Building links with the Convent through mutual sharing.

Fr M then gave those present a chance to "claim" one of the 8 areas identified earlier.

As a lead person, they could then invite others to join a team of parishioners to focus on this particular area for development and share the workload. Contact details could appear in the newsletter.

The generous response was very encouraging.

TJ thanked everyone and Fr M closed with a prayer.