

Minutes of Pastoral Team Meeting held on Thursday 11th January 2024

Dr. John has taken a break from the Chair and Margaret was elected as Chair until the AGM in June. John's role for the past 5 years was great acknowledged and appreciated.

- **International Community.** How is that contact developing? Suggestion made to appoint a member of the team as a contact/co-ordinator for events. Spiritual events throughout the year we could help with. Meet with Donna and Beena to strengthen our relationship with the International Community.
- **Palm Sunday: Plan C:** Process to each Church with blessed Palm. Saturday evening: St. Mary's – walk from top car park to Church. Sunday morning: Holy Cross – walk from cemetery to Church. Fermanagh Fun Farm to be spoken to ref regarding donkey. Child to be dressed up and sit on donkey.
- **Youth Ministry:** Very few available for last gathering. No contact with YouthLink who had promised training, etc., in November. No new people and one dropped out. 25 pupils from St. Kevin's going to Africa, 6 of them will be assigned to Parish work so there is potential in this. We wrote to the 4 secondary schools inviting local pupils to join but this was unsuccessful. Youth Ministry will happen but it is difficult work. Invited 18 people that were recommended and got 3 involved.
- **John Paul II:** Eamon is going to St. Kevin's to talk to the pupils about the John Paul II Awards. He also hopes to reach out to the Enniskillen schools and invite local pupils from there. When we have young people on board, James, the Diocesan Youth Worker will attend a meeting with them to speak about John Paul II Awards and give more details, etc. Suggestion made to reiterate to pupils that John Paul II Award looks good on a CV. It is looked on favourably by St. Mary's College. Hopefully more movement in the next few weeks.

- **Bereavement Team: Team met and agreed:**

1. Accompany Fr Jimmy initially to wake. Assist in prayers in the home. Bring funeral booklet and assist family in choosing readings and prayers of intercession
2. Put together a funeral booklet with a sympathy note in it, helplines and readings, etc.
3. On the day of the Funeral Mass assist Priest at door with the Holy Water and assist at the graveside with prayers of intercession and decade of the rosary
4. All members to be vetted.
5. All to carry Parish ID when visiting wakes and to wear a black ribbon

Everything to be completed within a month. Team to be commissioned on the weekend of Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th February.

- **John Bennett Report:** John to talk to John Bennett re referral pathway and to have a counsellor regularly available, possibly one counsellor in the Parish once a month and people make appointments. Appointments would be held in the Parish Office.
- **Advent Prayers:** St. Mary's – successful, all names taken. Holy Cross – all names taken very quickly. Next year introduce the 1st week of November to give people a chance to leave their name in the basket. Worthwhile continuing.
- **Penitential Service:** Very well attended. People from other parishes attended. Content all there, but maybe very short. A lot of families in attendance. Canon Jimmy received criticism from fellow clergy for the format. Individual confessions were also being provided. 8 people attended individual confessions in Holy Cross 0 people attended individual confessions in St. Mary's. Approximately 400 people attended

the penitential service. Only difference is no individual absolution. Evidence of changing needs and the way needs can be met in a different way.

- **Carol Service:** Beautiful. School choir carried it perfectly, do we need the parish choirs? St. Mary's have their own nativity play and carols. Possibly have St. Ronan's on their own next year. Handout of 3 to 4 hymns for congregation to join in – inclusivity very important so give people the option to sing. Have parish choir members in the congregation to encourage other members of the congregation to sing. Plan well in advance next year and ensure no clash of dates. Keep on agenda to discuss again.

- **Christmas Masses**

Christmas Eve 2023: Massive crowd. Well enjoyed. 85 in gallery. Earliest Mass in the area. Biggest family Mass in Parish. 30 people standing outside

Christmas Day 2023: Both Churches looked beautiful

Christmas Eve 2024: 6pm Mass in Holy Cross – emphasise as children's Mass
Midnight Mass – St. Mary's

Christmas Day 2024: 11.30am Mass in Holy Cross

- **Holy Family Sunday:** Lovely in both Churches For procession at the beginning: symbols need to be held up and shown to the congregation. Next year – rehearsal / someone to guide on the morning
- **New Years Day Mass:** 60+ in attendance. Worth doing

6th January – poorly attended 40 people in Holy Cross

AGENDA

- **St. Brigid's Day – 01.02.2024**
- **Candlemas Day – 02.02.2024**
- **St. Blaise's Day – 03.02.2024**

Celebrate all 3 feast days in one weekend. Weekend of children's mass – people will be out. Invite all 3 schools to make crosses and hand out. Charity to contribute to – Lourdes fund. Put on a class to show how to make St. Brigid's Crosses – open to all. Invite international community. People to bring their own rushes.

Blessing of Throats – Eucharistic Ministers to be contacted and told they are blessing throats.

- **Lent 2024:** Ash Wednesday 14th February 2024. Stations of the Cross. St. Mary's – Wednesday night. Holy Cross – Thursday night. Involvement of John Paul II pupils. Involvement of pupils going to Africa. Lenten Talks think of speakers, possibly hold in Parish hall. Cornerstone – connect and see if they are putting on talks / anything we can promote. Plan now for Good Friday Mime of the Gospel – Anne to contact Ciara O'Flanagan.
- **Blessing of Babies Baptised:** Baptismal Team. St. Patrick's Day at 11am in Holy Cross. Invite parents from the previous year

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 8th February 2024