

Minutes of Pastoral Team Meeting held on Friday 9th April 2021

Funerals: Suggestion at last meeting to have a photo of the deceased in Church and for people to sign a condolence book. Not possible at this particular time due to Covid regulation.

We provided Palm Sunday crosses (1000 provided) and Holy Water (500 bottles provided) Is there anything else we should be making available to our people?

John Paul II Awards: Suggest that they read the Prayers of intercession at the weekend Masses and ushering for First Communion and Confirmation?

Lenten Reflections: About 800 viewers every night

We should now plan monthly talks on issues needing addressed in our parish and use this medium to get messages out there.

Think of speakers we may want to approach – speakers can come to Church or can be recorded and put out as if live

Speakers who are in keeping with our vision and our ethos.

Divine Mercy: Chaplet and Rosary at 5pm in St. Mary's. This is in response to request from our last meeting.

Easter / Holy Week: Good idea to look back and remember what we said the previous year. All went really, really well considering restrictions. Full Churches on all days. We provided fantastic services during Holy Week. The Reconciliation service watched far and near. **People really felt they were in confession**. People in the age group of 60-70 who wouldn't have been used to this form of confession thought it was amazing. No issue continuing to do this as an option alongside individual confession, once a month? It may bring people back to individual confession when all over

Parish Covid Regulation: from the 12th April – allowed numbers in Church as per what can be safely accommodated

Weddings and Funerals in St. Mary's – 90

Weddings and Funerals in Holy Cross – 100

These are only recommendations – we can make our own decisions alongside the diocese and state. Our job is to risk assess.

Funerals: ushers can handle 100 – family in first to fill the front and then fill the rest within the measures of social distancing. 5 ushers – 2 at door and 3 up the aisle. Fill up the seats as necessary and once Church is full it's full. Names and contact numbers will be taken for everyone in the Church. Family will continue to provide a list of names for the basic 25 Names and contact numbers will be taken by ushers after that. Allow people into Church grounds. No need for ushers outside

Guards of Honour – same message as before, not allowed into Church grounds Family only allowed into graveyard – 25 people

Weddings will have a list of guests. Bride and Groom will complete the list and it will be checked off on the day. Review this as it happens and come back if it can't be managed

Choir – currently 2 singers and 1 musician

The Post-pandemic Church:

How do we respond to what that year meant to our parish?

What can we continue?

- Confession online
- Monthly speakers

How do we see the Church, the Church that is now very much outside the building – how do we connect?

Going forward, we need to do more outside the school for children and young people. We could train people to present sacramental programmes?

People need to be encouraged to build up their own faith, we need to affirm people in their faith – so much good happening in the community We can introduce cells of people coming together saying prayers and reading scripture, prayer groups, discussion groups.

Canon Jimmy met with Church Ministers – they are preparing to form intentional Christians, and not to get bums back on seats. Forming people in their faith – Basic Christian Communities, that should be the aim of our post pandemic Church.

We could also invite people to meet on a Monday and reflect on the readings for the following Sunday and give ideas for Sunday sermon

Plenty of programmes. DVD from last year on Catholicism – get this around the houses.

And while our numbers are still well below pre covid times, our people are still coming for baptisms, weddings and funerals, and they need to be made welcome every time they come.

We don't know enough about our faith

Our vision should be to form good Christian people with a greater awareness of what they have been doing – living the faith.

We need to establish long-term and short-term plans.

We need to survey our parishioners – what are the needs and how do we respond to them? And find out why people over the years have left the Church

Among friends, get discussing:

- How can the Church be their Church?
- How can the Parish be their Parish?
- How can they be made more welcome?

Need to reach out to people not in Church – the idea of getting out to every home.

Keep thinking about it. Can't be same as was. Plan instead of letting drift
Look at other parishes / dioceses

Hold a Mission to help people get back on feet again

- Online
- Plan early to be ready for October / November

Could involve the whole parish more and it could be the time of year to begin/launch our Christian Groups and link in with Mission – launch of Christian Group

Not going back to how it was. Financially only down 15%, other parishes down 50%-60%. Not just about finance. No issue spending money on people's faith

"The Post-pandemic Church" should be on the agenda every month

A.O.B.

Adoration in St. Mary's – include July and August for rota, do not suspend for holidays

Lay-led Liturgy – very successful in St. Mary's, both the lay-led liturgy and exposition

Not working in Holy Cross on Mondays – suggestion made if there was exposition it might bring people out. Possibility of lay-led liturgy at 10am and exposition at 12pm

If numbers attending in Holy Cross does not improve it will be suspended and the emphasis put on what is happening in St. Mary's

Lay-led Liturgy includes the Eucharist which should be a positive for many people – during lockdown / restrictions people didn't miss receiving the Eucharist. Drive by / opportunity to bring to homes was given but not taken up – another conversation

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 6th May at 7pm via Zoom

Karen to lead prayer.

