

Minutes of Pastoral Team Meeting held on Thursday 22nd July 2021

1. Funerals and Covid Regulations

We had a Parish policy not to allow guards of honour in the Church grounds. This is no longer been adhered to, nor is there any social distancing outside or mask wearing happening. More than family members are also going to the graveside. As a Parish Covid Committee it is our responsibility to keep people safe in our Church and its grounds, so we can make our own decisions based upon that promise, despite what other Parishes or the Assembly say, even Tesco in the UK are doing that. But we do not wish to see any confrontation with our Ushers. Should we plan to have one side of the Church for people who want to wear masks and the other for those who don't?

Do we follow what the Assembly say if masks are no longer a requirement, follow the assembly and go with it, but make it optional for people.

It is not a good idea to drop our guard at this stage. People feel safer in our Church because of what we have been doing.

There is also a Suicide / drugs pandemic going on within our society.

Outdoors the risk is significantly lower if standing the same distance as indoors.

Encourage people to continue to wear masks – their own decision. Observe social distancing and mask wearing in Church – people feel safer because we have been.

Outdoors – encourage people to keep their distance and wear a mask.

First Friday visits and visiting the sick – still off / not encouraged.
If a family phones requesting a visit to the sick or dying, Canon Jimmy will attend.

2. Parish Mission

Ideas for Parish Mission

*do a parish led mission. Decide on themes for each day and engage different speakers to preach. Each evening could consist of prayers, gospel, preaching, ritual (ie blessing of hands, touching the crucifix and bible or planting seeds...) different groups organise different nights.

*a parish 'pilgrimage' programme. Places of significance to visit, celebrate outdoor mass, social event etc

*festival of faith. An evening of prayer, music and local groups promoting their work. Work with schools etc. Hold a day of workshops on faith topics... finish with a celebration mass

*hold a parish gathering. A mass followed by a social event for all those involved in ministry in the parish. Part of the gathering could be unveiling a parish 'wall'. Each group ie choirs, schools, readers, Euch mins, and all community groups/GAA etc take home a cardboard box that becomes a brick in the wall. They decorate it with information about their group and work. A wall represents stability, foundation and strength.... Like the parish. As part of this parish gathering and unveiling of the wall, launch a parish directory. Helpline numbers and contacts for people who need help with mental illness, etc. Very relevant in skea right now. Have prayer

contacts/ people who are willing to pray for anyone who asks for it.
Have information about groups etc...

The decision was made to plan the Parish Mission over the next 12 months, and take a risk, and agree September 2022. This would hopefully mean people could attend the Mission. 12 months from September – time to provisionally book speakers, etc.

The team were asked to think about names for our next meeting.

3. Net Ministries

Meeting held with 3 principals – timetable organised.

The volunteers will be in the Parish from Sunday 31st October for 3 weeks.

They will then be in our Parish for a week each month until May.

A small committee will be set up to support the young people when they are in our Parish.

4. Cemetery Blessings

Prayer service and holy water bottles available at both Masses.

2000 bottles, 1000 prayers. Video of cemetery blessing will be on facebook and parish website.

5. Cycle Against Suicide: Names of those to be trained

Community Buddies.

Late August train 25 – 30 people.

Launch the programme at the end of September.

25 – 30 people available to be connected to.

Be there and be a listening voice and move on to professionals.

Responsible role to be in – not everyone will take it on.
Wait to see response from our team and then think of others.
There are qualified counsellors in our Parish – they would be
reference if people needed help immediately.

**Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 19th August at 7.00pm via
Zoom**