

Pastoral Team Meeting held on Thursday 17th September 2020

A reminder about our role as a Pastoral Team: we are a Parish Pastoral Team with the best interests of all our families

Update on Church Attendance

Morning Masses: 72 today

Vigil for this weekend: 69

Sunday Morning for this weekend: 98

Along with Maguiresbridge on Friday night, people are making the daily Mass their Sunday Mass

Peregrine Mass: on average 60 / 70

People are now travelling – old faces back again and new faces now attending

Funerals: Causing concern

First Communion: Both need to be well marshalled

Quality of Liturgy: More conscious that 90% of people are online. With Winter – more people will be watching online. How do we see it? Is what we are doing good quality? Will people keep with us?

Daily Mass: Possibly a short homily now that the daily Mass is becoming the Sunday Mass Homily at the start? People are missing that

Music: Lay-led Liturgy – add music. Music enhances the Mass. Line music up with screens Improve the quality of what is there. Currently there is music when people are entering the Chapel, at the start and end of Mass. And during Communion. Screens – another possibility

Rosary: Being organised. Will be said before Mass in the month of October

Congregation responses – hard to hear when watching online. Possibility of placing a microphone somewhere?

Reaching out to Young Families: Resources bought: DVDs, books

The idea would be to put these resources in the Parish Office and place a note in the bulletin that they are available to order. Connect with schools too

Activity sheet we had available for children before didn't take off – this could be an opportunity to start again

More families are coming back

Communications and PR Meeting: Facebook and Twitter all tidied up. Names needed for Instagram page. Working on website

Covid – 19: We are also the Covid Committee

Contact Tracing

- we need to look at this again and put in place for weekday Masses
- already using for weekend Masses and Baptisms
- incident at the weekend at a Baptism. We can now only have parents and godparents

Funerals: Attendance increasing. Not all the people were family and friends. Too many also in the cemetery. No social distancing and no masks. Ushers in position at bottom of hill at cemetery from now on

Wakes: Are they our responsibility?

A note will be put in the bulletin reminding everyone of the guidelines

A discussion took place as to how we would introduce contact tracing for our weekday Masses

- a book will be used to take all names and numbers in the first week: most of the congregation are regulars and will be known
- an excel spreadsheet to be created with ID number, Name and Contact Details
- each person will be ticked off on sheet each day
- any non-regulars will be added to the list on the day
- new instructions to be announced at weekend Masses
- at end of Mass on Tuesday night people will be asked to volunteer their name and contact details to the ushers on duty
- we will start now to collect names and numbers
- a spreadsheet will then be in the Church and this will become part of the usher role

Funerals

- mandatory face coverings
- more emphasis on undertakers to tell family the regulations
- strictly family and close friends
- note in bulletin advising that only family and close friends can attend
- limit of number: 40 in St. Mary's and 60 in Holy Cross
- can only encourage social distancing outside and also have ushers standing at the cemetery
- there has been no social distancing outside – signs to now be placed throughout the grounds regarding social distancing
- place a sign saying only immediate family to attend the graveside
- get undertakers to help
- contact tracing: photo only goes so far – ushers to take names and numbers; undertaker to provide names of immediate family

Baptisms

- only parents and godparents can now attend

Doors open

- will have to happen over winter
- open windows in St. Mary's
- door is closed after Communion to stop people leaving via the main door in Holy Cross

Mass Schedule

We agreed to review the current Mass schedule after six or seven weeks
2 weeks of notice if changing
Beginning 3rd / 4th October

Church attendance has dropped
No change to Church figures
Anniversary Masses attract more of a response with regards attendance
Not a very positive experience when no Mass responses

Where do we go? We are the Parish Pastoral Team working together for the parishioners

Tickets: no need for tickets as numbers are not massive

1. Office
2. Email
3. Telephone

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Decision reached

- Saturday Vigil: St. Mary's at 6.00pm
- Sunday Morning: Holy Cross at 11.00am
- Lay-Led Liturgy: Friday night in St. Mary's at 7.00pm, preceded by Exposition
- The new schedule will be reviewed at Christmas time

The next Pastoral Team Meeting will be on Thursday 22nd October at 7pm in St. Ronan's Parish Centre