

Minutes of Pastoral Team Meeting held on Thursday 12th October 2023

- **Harvest Thanksgiving Mass.** Lovely. Churches beautifully done up. Worth repeating. Leave the Church as Harvest until the Monday evening. All food from St. Mary's and Holy Cross went to the foodbank. People did comment on how the Churches looked and people did return to see the altars
- **Youth Ministry:** We now have 16 16 year olds from the 3 secondary schools. All 16 are from our Parish and they will get involved in the Parish during their training. Youthlink are going to train them in youth ministry skills and communication skills.
- **International Mass:** Beautiful. Not many locals went to the hall for the tea afterwards. We need to encourage more involvement at Mass – singing etc. Make this an annual event. Involve more of the international community in Mass at Christmas Eve. 16 names were collected on the day. Email the names to encourage them to get involved in ministries. Meet group of people and get thoughts – what we can learn from them. Meet before Christmas – help them celebrate their Christmas. Email to meet them late November / early December
- **Blessing of pets:** Positive feedback. 50 attendees. Annual event
- **Palm Sunday:** Progress? Is this going to happen? We need to generate interest – once every 3 weeks in bulletin the notice must be published. . Identify areas – town areas. Start thinking of names to be a contact for areas. *Names and areas for next meeting – bigger estates will need 2 contact names*
- **Hymn Book:** No progress. One name in to join Holy Cross choir

- **John Paul II.** Contact has been made with St. Kevins co-Ordinator, of their group of 7, only 1 is from the Parish. 53 names on baptismal register for that age. Invitation to be sent out to all to get involved. Ideas for Parish activity needed. Diocesan Youth Minister to be invited to launch the JP11 within the Parish.
- **Bereavement Training;** Last training session cancelled. Ongoing
- **John Bennett Report;** Review of work

VISION AGREED UPON

Our Vision is for Aghalurcher Parish to be one where

- There is a feeling of celebration, of community and joy
- There is a feeling of genuine welcome where all parishioners feel included equally
- There is a valuing respect of the elders, an active reaching out to the young and a genuine visible care for the vulnerable

“Care for the vulnerable”. Parents are in need – difficult to cope mentally, physically, emotionally, financially. Previous event – 400 parents invited: poor response. Can we as a Parish fund a counselling service? Make counsellors available to people in our Parish as a starting point

How do we think we are doing since the meeting and subsequent report from John Bennett in July 2022?. Are we taking ownership of the group? Are we able to bring ideas to the group?

“difficult to get volunteers so end up ‘doing’ what’s needed ourselves – not our goal”. The same people do everything. How can we change attitude – it is their Parish and their responsibility

“Trying to find a balance of change – older people can be less receptive but change needs to happen. How do we go about that?” We are doing this.

Everything we are doing is different / is change. Things only happen because of the team. Older people in general are receptive. Keep the report on our agenda

- **Information**

Annual Remembrance Liturgy. 40 deaths so far this year. Ceremony on the 26th November 2023. New Bereavement Team will hopefully take this on

- **AOB**

Question from parishioners – can St. Mary's Mass be at 10am on Christmas morning?

Date of Next Meeting:

Pastoral Team Meeting: Thursday 9th November 2023 at 7.00pm