

Minutes of Pastoral Team Meeting on Thursday 11th July 2019

Patricia Donnelly and Sr. Phil Flynn from Enniskillen Bereavement Team spoke to us of their work as we prepare to set up a team in Aghalurcher Parish.

A review of the Pastoral Team took place. This is the report;

Looking back over that 6 months of our work, you may remember we began by putting together 4 aims/visions, these included:

- 1. We aimed to respond to the spiritual needs of the people of the Parish through liturgies/establishing new ideas/new ways of reaching out to people as a Parish Community..... We have done that with for example your good work for St. Bridget's Day, the Feast of St. Blaise, St. Valentines Day,**

Ash Wednesday, St. Patrick's Day, Lent and the Stations of the Cross, all the Easter Ceremonies. We also planned the Padre Pio Mass, the Mass for our Students, the Babies Memorial Mass, and now we are planning Cemetery Sunday and the Mass for all our Sick.

That list, it just highlights the amount of outreach that has gone on in that short period of time.

2. The second vision/aim was to involve more people within Parish life. And to invite more of our people to take ownership of their Church, their Parish. Remembering at all times that it's our role as the Team to get people, to invite people, and not necessarily to do the work ourselves. We would like in particular to see

more young people invited and involved within
Parish life.....

We once again we have successfully lived up to that aim in how we have involved so, so many people in all those liturgies to date. And now we have launched our Baptismal Team, and soon our Bereavement Team, PR/Communication Team and our Children's Mass Team.

3. Our third aim at that first meeting was to communicate with all Parishioners, through an improved bulletin, by e-mails, by Text, through a Parish Website- Parish Facebook Page-Parish Twitter Page and Instagram Account.....

And once again as a team, we have done that, we introduced the new bulletin, we set up the Parish

Website, the Parish Facebook Page and Twitter Page and Instagram account. We will need a more comprehensive survey/census of Parishioners before we are able to contact them by email or text. But the people are now quite well informed of what is happening at Parish level.

4. The fourth aim/vision was to assist and collaborate
and work as part of the team.....

I think this has been done very successfully. There is a great work ethic amongst the team, members seem to happily take on roles, and there is a good atmosphere at our meetings.

5. Our final aim/vision was to support the Priest in his role of leadership within the Parish.....

Nothing more to be said about that.

It's important that you hear all that, hear all that you have done after a short 6 months, and of how faithful you have worked at all of those aims and visions for that we set back at our first meeting of the team. So it can only be onwards and upwards.

Where from here?

We need to agree to a term of office, 2,3 or 4 years and to begin to bring new people on board the year before the team steps down and to ensure continuity.

I want to see the team grow and mature and take root. I want to see you take more ownership of your team and bring to our meetings the issues, the needs that you see out there, and as a team, we will try and respond in whatever manner we can, keeping in mind always, that it's not about us doing the work, but about us finding others to do the work and respond to those needs.

I would also like to see the further development of all those teams that we have, or will establish very soon.

I want to see the development of a Parish Youth Ministry, to support and encourage our young people in their faith.

I would also like to see Paul, our trainee permanent deacon claim his own space in all of our activity within the Parish, Paul plans to come to the Parish from September on Wednesday and Friday from 10am – 1pm. We have agreed that he will plan a mass with all 3 Primary Schools and out of that hopefully form a children's choir in Holy Cross and St. Mary's. He will be liaising with Karen about all that. Paul will also go into the Primary Schools early September and establish the Do This In Memory Programme for the First Communion Children. He is also going to look at setting up a Confirmation Programme with the P7 young people. He will also visit some of our housebound and terminally ill.

It's important that the Parishioners now know who you are as the team. So I am proposing to publicly commission you at a public mass. Date: Sunday 22nd September at the 11.30am in Holy Cross.