

Notes From Parish Assembly

5th June 2011

Following a presentation by Sr Katherine on what each group had achieved over the last year some key issues were raised by Parishoners. Below are a the key issues along with the points raised about each issue by the groups and by individuals in discussion and feedback

1 How to improve communication even more?

- Develop systems not produce info
- Groups in the Parish need to provide info
- Groups need to ask the Parish how do you want us to serve your group?
- Need people with skills to help with the web and to share ideas
- Posters – printer?
- Communication has to be a key part of each group
- The PPC should write a communication strategy

2 Fundraising

- Parish lottery
- More drive for gift aid – this is income for Parish funds not fundraising
- Parish show – all groups participating
- Quiz nights
- Sponsored events
- Summer and Christmas fairs

3 Activities for Older Teenagers

- Establish a youth club
 - Friday evening?
 - Year 9+ (age 14 – 18)
 - Contact Christine Humphreys
 - SVP – involvement in wider community
 - Ronan Lavery
 - Youth activities in the diocese
- Social aspects of youth club
 - Movie nights
 - Games night
 - Seminars – invite a speaker
 - Quizzes
 - Fundraising
 - Book Club
 - Trips – picnic
 - Music Group

4 Do we need a Parish Council?

- Yes
- All groups need to be represented on the council to ensure coordination
- Representation from young people
- Work with the Parish Priest for the good of the Parish. This is a two way process
- Try to ensure every parishioner has a voice
- Contact with external bodies
- Should the PPC be elected? – Reps from each group that the groups elect and then an elected chair and secretary

5 A choir for the 9.30 mass

- Focus on young people/others/school
- Get members of 11am choir to support/join
- Newsletter advert for membership
- Practice after 9.30 mass
- A list of 12 names were then drawn up

6 Church, environment and creation - what is the interest?

- Justice, peace and integrity of creation (JPIC) – one day workshop on this
- Be the change
- Is the Parish
 - recycling?
 - Using energy efficient light bulbs?
 - Using fair Trade tea and coffee?
 - Responding to injustices?
 - Fair Trade stall in church
 - Using eco friendly heating – solar panels
 - Playing its part in thought leadership
 - Raise awareness in homilies
- Parish projects – collecting rubbish off the beach
 - Teenagers may respond?
 - Show the Catholic Church cares
- Responding to injustices eg dumping of waste in other people's countries eg electrical waste in Ghana
- This could possibly be developed by Adult Faith Formation group

7 What the Parish would like to have in Adult Faith Formation

- Theology/ethics
- Astronomy/cosmology/existence of God
- Sacraments – why? How to receive them – the meaning of sacraments in modern day
- The meaning of faith
- Organising of retreats
- Coaching / suggested reading/ courses – on website
- Environment and the Church
- Life of the saints

8 Community centre needed with a good kitchen

- Toilet facilities with access for disabled people
- Heating
- Possibility of raising some income from letting as meeting rooms
- Should we borrow money to fund a community centre?
- Are there any grants available?
- Are there any skilled people available to help with the work or is it only to be done by professionals?
- The work should go to tender if necessary, but can parishioners help a little?

9 Family and younger childrens activities

- Games night – everyone brings a game
- Improve the links with school to encourage more families and young children (letters to school children)
- Youth Club – for children to meet 11+
- Fairs – could be on field or in school hall
- Film nights – films suitable for all ages, bring popcorn
- Quiz nights – people could pay so we could raise money
- Trips – Swimming pool, bowling alley
- Parish BBQ – July 9th 1 – 2, people bring own food

10 Post Confirmation Education

- Support and help with prep for exams, wait for results and the actual results themselves
- Guidance for the step from school to university
- Offer support and help when needed
- Facebook page about how to get help eg contact numbers and also to give
- encouragement

Following the groupwork the Parish grouped some topics together and identified the following priority areas (priority scores given are noted in brackets);

- 1 Community centre and fundraising (68)
- 2 Post confirmation education, family and younger children activities, activities for older teenagers (41)
- 3 Parish Pastoral Council and improved communication (34)
- 4 Adult faith formation , church environment and creation (19)
- 5 Choir for 9.30 mass (6)
- 6 New recruits to groups eg SVP and Legion of Mary (4)

The following groups were agreed for 2011 until next years Parish Assembly. The contact name is given and a date for the next meeting where planned. Group contacts must advertise dates for next meeting to all the Parish so new members may join if they wish. Old members of groups do not need to continue in the groups they were in if they don't wish to. Other groups such as Legion of Mary, Knights of St Columba etc. will continue as they have been but will welcome new members. Dates of all meetings to be advertised.

Finance Committee – Dermot Ryan – Thursday 4th August 2011

Sacramental Preparation – Linda Williams

Children's Liturgy of the Word – Juanita Colville

Communication – Ian Scott

Adult Faith Formation – Brian Tehan working under the umbrella of AFF - Religious Education – Bill Fortin – 16th June 2011

Social committee – Millie Evans

Altar Servers – Chris Iwobi – 19th June after 11am mass

Parish Pastoral Council – Anne-Marie Furse, Moyra Carlson

Youth – Monica – 18th June 2011

Fund raising and Parish Centre – Fr Declan

