

PASTORAL COUNCIL BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2009



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL OVERVIEW

Pastoral councils were set up after Vatican II in order to encourage increased lay involvement in the Church. As outlined by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin the mission of the pastoral councils was above all that of animation and encouraging others to be more active in their life of faith.

The Donnybrook Parish Council was initiated in 2006 and a new council was formed in 2008 with monthly meetings. In addition officers of the council have attended deanery meetings at which an exchange of suggestions, concerns, ambitions and disappointments were expressed. Some members have attended specialised lectures and courses, most recently in the important area of Child Safeguarding. It is clearly recognised that the council must relate to all aspects and ages in the parish especially the young. The strong attendance and contribution of the previous and present council members is a source of great satisfaction and assurance of the future contribution of the Pastoral Council to the life and invigoration of our parish.

PLEASE NOTE

Copies of the Child Safeguarding Policy are available in the shop.

DONNYBROOK PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

The pastoral Council will be issuing regular information bulletins over the coming months and would welcome input from parishioners as we enter very challenging times.

Always remember this is your Parish and your involvement is essential in any changes and developments that will occur.

Many of the existing groups at work in the church are seeking new members.

More volunteers are needed as:

Ministers of the Eucharist,

Ministers of the Word,

Helpers in the Church shop,

Collectors at weekend masses.

So please give consideration as to how you can become involved in this very important Parish work.

WEEKLY SHOPPING FOR THE ELDERLY

Introduced in August 2007, The weekly shopping trip has grown significantly and we now have between 14 and 18 people who avail of this service each week.

Most shoppers have a preference for Friday afternoon / evening. Occasionally we do get requests for Thursday evenings as well. The location chosen by the shoppers is the Merrion centre.

The journey from Donnybrook to the shopping centre has allowed many friendships to develop between the volunteer drivers and the shoppers.

With 12 volunteer drivers involved in this very worthwhile activity, we have always managed to provide a weekly run. Each driver, on average, is undertaking a shopping run every 2 weeks. Shoppers, who are picked up and brought back to their homes, normally complete their shopping within an hour.

As we would like to continue developing and increase our capacity to offer more people this service, please give consideration as to whether you would like to become a volunteer driver.

Contact Tony MacDonald – 086 2456583

PARISH SHOP AND LIBRARY

Fr. Pat Carroll PP and the other members of the Pastoral Council are anxious that the Parish shop and Library be regarded as a Faith Development resource. This principle is the main emphasis which drives all our activities in Donnybrook Parish.

We have an extensive range of books and DVD's in the library and hope to expand them over time. Titles include "The Gift of Peace" by Cardinal Bernardin and "traveling light" by Daniel O'Leary. Our selection of DVD's includes "Jesus of Nazareth".

As well as selling Catholic newspapers and the Messenger, we also stock Mass cards for all occasions. Statues, Rosary beads and other religious objects are also available.

Our children's section caters for young children and items for First Holy Communion and Confirmation are on sale as well as titles such as "let's go to Mass".

We carry a selection of Fair trade items, tea, coffee and chocolate, in solidarity with Fair Trade throughout the world.

From time to time we put the emphasis on material for the main Liturgical feasts e.g. Lent, Easter and Advent. We are keen to further develop our scripture resources. At present we stock the Jerusalem Bible and the Buttonhole version of Scripture published by Partners in Faith.

We hope to upgrade the shop and improve the facilities in the near future and would welcome your ideas and suggestions. Remember this is your shop and we look forward to your continued support.

We are very grateful to our shopkeepers for their continued loyalty. Without their support we would not be able to continue

Committee members

Daragh Mulvagh – 086 9736983

Gráinne Davitt & Peter Dunn

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

In October 2004 it was decided to devote three days, i.e. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, to the Adoration of the Blessed Eucharist. Pope John Paul 11 had nominated 2005 as the year of the Eucharist and he requested that Parishes involve themselves in this special devotion.

The Church of the Sacred Heart, Donnybrook responded with great enthusiasm and it is a source of great joy and comfort to us Parishioners that as we begin our 5th year of Eucharistic Adoration, this Christian tradition has become a special part of our lives. The extraordinary thing is that in spite of all the distraction of the modern world the silence of the Adoration Chapel is still perfectly possible and in this silence and stillness we have time, energy and love to devote to the Lord.

We would love to welcome more people from both inside and outside the Parish to join us in this special devotion. Some people may only be able to make short visits and this is perfectly understandable. But please know that you are most welcome and we would love you to sign our attendance book.

To the Parishioners who help with the exposition of the Blessed Eucharist and to all who support this great devotion, The Pastoral Council is very grateful to you.

Hours of Adoration are:

Monday and Wednesday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesday 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

WORK IN PROGRESS BY THE COUNCIL

Parish Website – nearly complete.

Re-establishment of Parish Liturgy Group.

Examining the possibility of setting up Baptismal and funeral Groups to assist the priests of the Parish.

Youth Mass.

If Parishioners have suggestions as to other developments they would like to see in the Parish then please let any of the members of the Pastoral Council know.

VISION STATEMENT FOR DONNYBROOK PARISH

The living parish is one, where

Good Samaritans live

Our model Parish is one of “Loving Servant”

As in a home, all know that they are welcome and have a real sense of belonging

All feel cared for and reach out to care for others in a neighbourly spirit

All are encouraged to develop and use their talents in building this faith community

Guided by the Holy Spirit

We come together in prayer and worship to deepen our faith and to respond to the spiritual needs in our community.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS



Gráinne Davitt



Vincent Keaveny
Chairperson



Tony MacDonald
Secretary



John Holohan



Fr Pat Carroll PP
President



Lil O'Leary



Marie Brady



Fr Declan Gallagher CC



Kenneth Carroll



John Donnelly



Sr Bertha Lee
Pastoral Sister



Deirdre Leonard



Geraldine Frame