

Donnybrook Parish Gathering

October 2018

During our Parish Gathering on 10th October, 2018, we considered the pastoral future of our parish community.

The Parish Pastoral Council sincerely thank the 120 people who attended and participated through the process of reflection, discussion and articulation of views.

We considered core areas of parish life:
Community, Care, Prayer, Formation, Celebration.

- The Gathering provided feedback on what they were grateful for in our parish.
- The Gathering also contributed suggestions and ideas on what they would like to see developed or improved in Donnybrook Parish.



Parish Life: Here's what you said we are grateful for in Donnybrook Parish...

COMMUNITY

- Generous community strong in charitable donations
- A Church community that is from all sectors of the parish
- A friendly parish Faith Community
- New people coming into our community
- New Parish Pastoral Centre an opportunity to nurture a place of real community
- New Pastoral Centre an opportunity to encourage young people

COMMUNITY - YOUTH

- Young Adult Mass
- 10.30 Mass at children's level
- Close relationship between schools and parish
- Leaving Cert and exam students prayed for during exam time.



CARE

- Charitable works organized by active St Vincent de Paul
- Meals on Wheels
- Mother Mary Aikenhead Day Centre
- Alcoholics Anonymous Association
- Care of vulnerable people and marginalized
- Donnybrook Active Retired Association
- Sr. Fiona
- Volunteers who give their time.

PRAYER

A beautiful Church and a Prayerful Setting.

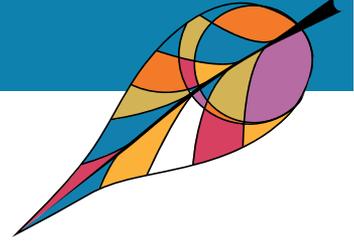
Open all day for private prayer.

Avila Centre of Spirituality and Poor Clare Community in our Parish.



CELEBRATION

- 150 Year Celebrations
- Sunday Mass Celebration is good
- Good selection of Mass times
- Quality of Homily is very important
- Short reflective sermons on weekdays
- Celebration of Sacraments
- Reconciliation. Weekly Confession
- Choir and Music
- Children's Mass and Liturgies
- Priest prepares Masses well
- Priest lives in parish. Sufficient priests to support Liturgical Celebration.



- Active Ministries and volunteers who contribute to Liturgical Celebrations and Ministries of Care
- Dedicated Sacristan
- Parish Office.

PARISH LIFE

Here's what you said you would like to see developed or improved in the parish:

COMMUNITY

- More parish community meetings like the Gathering
- Develop a sense of community, coffee mornings for groups to meet each other
- Regular Hospitality
- Opportunities to encourage ways to develop relationships
- Encourage better social interaction between priests and laity to make it easier to listen to each other.

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- More lay involvement
 - Model parish on U.S. experience and actively serve the community
 - Social activities to help with sense of belonging in parish

COMMUNITY - YOUTH

- Outreach to young people
- Get "40 somethings " involved
- Confirmation at an older age. Keep teens involved
- Youth Liaison Officer to link to schools
- Develop relationships with schools to encourage younger generation back into Church
- Discover what young people want in order to encourage them to attend
- Student Masses and hospitality
- More engagement with teenagers



- Creative inclusion of marginalized young people
- Invite UCD students to join us.
- Encourage young people to serve

COMMUNITY - PARISH PASTORAL CENTRE

- New Parish Pastoral Centre as a place of Formation, Education and Information
- New Parish Centre as a social space used by groups
- Hospitality for community in Pastoral Centre after Masses
- Activities in Pastoral Centre to encourage young people to get involved and beyond that to stay involved in Church.
- A place for Discussion, Talks and Debates and activities like Bridge.

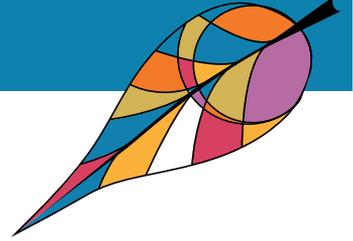


COMMUNITY - COMMUNICATION and TECHNOLOGY

- Develop a social network to share events and news with parishioners
- Use opportunities to develop relationships
- Advertise what's available and develop structures to encourage people to get involved
- Live Streaming, Social Media updated and online engagement listings
- Webcam for funerals for relatives and friends abroad.

CARE - SOCIAL OUTREACH

- Greater sense of community - social service centre reaching out to poor.
- Outward as well as inward focus e.g. homeless, refugees
- Follow Pope Francis Ways
- Develop a Centre for Peace Studies



- Adopt a parish possibly with UCD collaboration - Social Justice

CARE - ENVIRONMENT

- Formation of Environmental group
- Care of the Earth
- Inter generational link as active retired group could foster love of nature and the earth among children and young people. Develop and become involved in projects.

PRAYER and FORMATION

- More Spiritual Development- How to access help on Spirituality
- To discern what God wants V what Church wants
- Establish a Baptism Team
- Meaningful spiritual engagement with young people beyond First Communion



- Hymn Books for Congregation to encourage singing within the celebration of Liturgy
- Encourage young families attendance and not just for sacramental preparation
- Retreats, Novenas, Benediction
- Opportunities for Faith Development with small groups of people

CELEBRATION

- Invite others to give homily not just priests. Invite women also.
- Shorter homilies more in sympathy with people's day to day problems.
- More music in the Liturgy.
- Rehearsals for Readers of the Word. Particularly for Easter and major Celebrations
- More women involved in leadership roles in the Church
- Invite people of other religions to join us



- Improve Sound System to enable good homilies to be heard.
- Better use of the loop system by using the microphone properly.
- Use digital media to put words of hymns and prayers on screens.

The Parish Pastoral Council considered the responses and from them we have identified four pastoral priorities.

- Outreach to young people and young adults
- Formation and support for parents in conjunction with sacramental preparation of children.
- Make Parish Pastoral Centre a place for building Community and Formation in Faith.
- Establish better communications using modern technology.



To progress these four priorities the Pastoral Council has decided to take the following 3 steps

We will seek to form **teams** to work specifically on each of these four pastoral priorities. This is where we will need your help and active involvement through volunteering your expertise.

We will hold a **SIGN UP SUNDAY** on the first Sunday of Advent. This will offer the invitation to parishioners to share their talents and abilities in the areas in which they can contribute to accomplish our goals.

The Pastoral Council will put together a realistic **plan** at the start of the new year. This plan will include a review of our communications within the parish. It will establish an annual Review and Planning Meeting at which parishioners can consider needs and priorities for the coming year.

If you are willing to offer help and support the development of these positive initiatives within the parish

Please get in touch by contacting:

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