



DONNYBROOK PARISH

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022 REPORT

The PPC met on 17 October 2022 and 28 November 2022. This is a combined report.

Following a period of prayer at the start of each meeting, some of the key issues discussed and decisions taken at these two meetings were the following:

1. Parish partnerships for 2023

The Archbishop will be making an announcement regarding parish partnerships in the course of Advent.

On 14 November, Fr Ciarán, Kenneth, Paul and Maeve had a very good meeting with Lorna Lynch and Clare Byrne O'Donoghue who are two members of the Milltown PPC. Milltown Parish and Booterstown Parish were two of the parishes nominated by our Building Hope Parish Response as possible future partners for our parish.

The PPC has discussed how parishes might co-operate as part of partnerships – both directly at ministry level (e.g. all funeral teams meeting and working together, or all liturgy groups working together,) and also at PPC level.

It is proposed that after the new Parish Partnerships are announced by the Archbishop, the PPC will contact the PPCs of our partner parishes to suggest a Synodal/Building Hope style gathering at which all the PPC members can meet and in small groups talk through some ideas for how to work together in this new model of being a partnership of parishes.

2. New faith development initiatives

The Parish Faith Development Worker has been involved in leading a wide range of new initiatives in recent months. Here are a few examples:

- A funeral team has now been established. Members have received training and induction so as to lead the prayers at a graveyard or crematorium. A roster is now in place commencing from December 2022.

- A liturgy group has been established. The liturgy group very successfully organized beautiful November Parish Mass for the Deceased. They are also planning a reconciliation service for 20 December 2022 and a special Mass for the families of all children baptized in 2022 to be held on Sunday 8 January 2023.
- Parish outreach to teenagers in our parish is being facilitated through: a special Laudato Si ecology project on the church grounds in connection with Transition Year students at the Teresian School; and through the training and commissioning of new Ministers of Communion from students in Gonzaga and Teresian School.
- Parish outreach to our primary school children continues in multiple ways, including: a special enrolment Mass on 27 November 2022 for all candidates for Confirmation in 2023; visits and mediation classes by Maeve with the children in the Teresian School; a special blessing of infant Jesus crib figures at the Family Mass on 11 December 2022;
- There are regular meetings of the Parish Book Club (recently a visited by Fr Brian Grogan SJ, the author of the Club's latest book: Finding God in All Things) and Craft Corner group.
- The Lectio Divina group continues to meet each week.
- There is one adult starting RCIA formation in our parish (with a special ceremony on 18 December 2022 at the 12pm Mass)

If any person would like to become involved with any of the above initiatives or any other aspect of the faith development work of the parish, please make contact with Maeve Davidson, Faith Development Worker at the Parish Office or via secretary@donnybrookparish.ie.

3. Pastoral planning for our Parish

Work continued on the drafting of a Parish Pastoral Plan for 2022/2023 and the formulation of SMART [specific – measurable – achievable – relevant – timetabled] goals to advance the five initiatives identified as priorities for coming 12 months at the previous PPC meetings. Significant progress has been made in respect of three of these initiatives as follows:

- (1) Delivering two faith development opportunities courses for adults and parents. Maeve Davidson has overseen both the Let's Talk about Faith and Alpha Programme courses in recent months. Both courses will be concluding in December. A new term of the Let's Talk about Faith meetings will run from 10 January to 28 March 2023.
- (2) Developing our ministry of hospitality (especially after-Mass hospitality): The number of volunteers assisting with providing hospitality after Mass continues to

grow. It is hoped that more will soon follow. There was a special Welcome Sunday on 18 September and another Welcome Sunday will take place on 18 December.

- (3) A communications campaign designed to reach out to baptised Catholics living in our parish boundaries who have disconnected from the Church and the practice of their faith: Thanks to the assistance of Carol O’Kelly and Maeve, a special magazine about the parish will be published around 9 December 2022 in time for distribution to parishioners and in the parish in the lead up to Christmas. After this, there will be a renewed focus on improving the parish’s use of social media.

With respect to the two other initiatives, a decision has been take to look at them further in the New Year, including in the context of partnerships with other parishes. These are

- (4) Providing a series of talks relating faith and life.
- (5) Providing opportunities for Taize-style prayer.

4. Changes to membership of the PPC

Rita Kinsella retired from the PPC in October. The Council wishes to record our profound appreciation for the remarkable contribution Rita has made and continues to make with selfless and gracious dedication to so many aspects of the life of our parish community.

In October, we were delighted to welcome Sr Joanna Flannery RSC as a new member of our PPC to replace Sr Fiona Corway RSC who retired from the PPC in September. And in November, we were fortunate to welcome two already very active parishioners as new members of the PPC: Bernie Tiernan and John Costello.

We wish all of them every blessing in their new role.

5. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the PPC is on **Monday 9 January 2023.**

Report by: Paul Brady, Deputy Chair, Donnybrook PPC

Date: 8 January 2023

If you have any comments or feedback on the above report or wish to make contact with the PPC please write to Kenneth Carroll, Chair, Donnybrook PPC at the Parish Office or via secretary@donnybrookparish.ie

Past PPC Reports can be found at www.donnybrookparish.ie/ppc-reports