



DONNYBROOK PARISH

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

www.donnybrookparish.ie

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)

JANUARY 2023 REPORT

The PPC met on 9 January 2023.

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

1. Our new parish partnership

The Archbishop wrote on 30 November 2022 to confirm that the parishes of Donnybrook, Booterstown, Milltown and Merrion Road are to work together in special partnership. As the Archbishop's letter noted:

"While each parish will retain its identity, its particular sense of community and its financial independence, it will be enabled within the partnership structure, and with respectful synodal engagement, to draw strength for our shared mission. The current pastoral appointments to your parish remain. Future appointments will be considered in the context of the pastoral resources of the partnership. ... We have much to do together: supporting people to deepen their faith and relationship with God ; creating the structures that support vibrant communities of faith; advocating for those who are on the margins. ... I ask for your renewed commitment and prayerful openness to the challenges and opportunities brought about by change, as we act with resolve and become more fully a place of welcome and compassion, which embodies the power, hope and joy of the Gospel."

A meeting between each of the PCCs from each of the four parishes will take place on Monday 30 January 2023, at 7.30pm in Booterstown Parish Centre. This will be an important first step in exploring how our new partnership can enrich and strengthen pastoral life for each parish through mutual support and closer collaboration.

A number of resource documents have been provided by the Archdiocese to guide parishes and PPCs in relation to these new partnerships. These were discussed by the PPC in preparation for the meeting on 30 January with the other PPCs. This meeting will build on previous meetings which have already taken place between members of Donnybrook

PPC and members of the Booterstown PCC and the Milltown PPC during the course of 2022.

2. Pastoral planning for our Parish

As regards the five initiatives which the PPC agreed in summer 2022 to progress for a 12 month period, the following updates were provided:

- (1) Faith development: A new term of the Let's Talk about Faith meetings will be run by Maeve Davidson from 10 January to 28 March 2023.
- (2) Developing our ministry of hospitality: The Welcome Sunday on 18 December was very well received and another will take place later in 2023.
- (3) A communications campaign designed to reach out to baptised Catholics living in our parish boundaries: The "Pastoral Voice" parish magazine produced at Christmas by Carol O'Kelly and Maeve Davidson was a great success. A similar publication will also be produced for Easter.

With respect to any other steps on the above items and in respect of the two other initiatives (a talks series and a Taize prayer opportunity), it was agreed to adjourn these until May to allow time to focus on the new issues and work for the PPC that will arise in engaging with the new parish partnership process in coming weeks and months in accordance with the guidance documents provided by the Archdiocese.

3. Other items

Bernie Tiernan was appointed as Honorary Secretary of the PPC. The PPC is very grateful to Bernie for taking on this important role.

4. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the PPC is on **Monday 20 February 2023**.

Report by: Paul Brady, Deputy Chair, Donnybrook PPC

Date: 19 January 2023

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

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