



DONNYBROOK PARISH

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)

FEBRUARY 2023 REPORT

The PPC met on 20 February 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

As outlined in recent reports, the parishes of Donnybrook, Booterstown, Milltown and Merrion Road will now be working together in partnership.

On 30 January 2023, a special meeting took place in Booterstown Parish Centre between the members of the Parish Pastoral Councils from each of the four parishes. The meeting was assisted by the work of a facilitator to assist all gathered in working through some of the questions and ideas contained in a number of guidance documents provided by the Archdiocese.

After this meeting there was some further communication between the respective Chairs of the four PPCs with a view to establishing an Inter-Parish Partnership Council, as recommended by the Archdiocese. The Partnership Council will be made up of representatives from each of the four parish PPCs and will meet approximately 5 times a year. Each meeting will be hosted by a different parish in rotation.

Arrangements for the first meeting of the Partnership Council are being finalised, but it appears likely it will take place on Monday 20 March 2023 in Donnybrook's Parish Pastoral Centre. The Donnybrook PPC will be represented at this first meeting by the Chair Kenneth Carroll, the Deputy Chair Paul Brady and PPC Member Marion Mulhall.

2. Revised Mass times

As requested by the Archdiocese, a priority task for the Partnership Council (in collaboration with each parish PPC) in the next two months is to identify a sustainable and appropriate revised schedule of Mass times across all four partner parishes that will take

account of the reality of the very reduced number and/or availability of priests across these four parishes at this time and in the foreseeable future.

The Archbishop is asking all parishes and parish partnerships across the whole diocese to aim at introducing revised Mass time schedules during May 2023 if possible.

It is the hope and belief of the Donnybrook PPC that changes to Mass times and a move to a consolidated, smaller number of Masses will be grasped by every member of the parish community as a positive opportunity to reflect on how we can each step up to do more to participate in and to enhance the welcome, prayerfulness and quality of every celebration of the Eucharist that takes place in our parish church. We will all need to cultivate a positive mindset towards the changes that may be required in our schedules and routines and to see how, with God's grace, we can convert our experiences of sadness, discomfort or adversity into a stimulus for growth in the generosity of our service to the Lord and each other.

3. On-going pastoral initiatives during Lent

There are a number of initiatives this Lent which are open to all of our partner parishes, including:

- Fr Kieran O'Mahony is beginning a weekly series of talks each Tuesday on the upcoming Sunday readings in Lent at 7.30 pm in Booterstown Parish Pastoral Centre.
- At 7pm on Thursday 9 March, a short film entitled *The Letter, a Message for Our Earth* (based on Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si*) will be screened at Booterstown Parish Pastoral Centre followed by a panel discussion.
- A new Alpha Course (a twelve-week programme for anyone interested in learning more about Jesus and the Christian faith) will commence on 15 March 2022 (from 7.30 – 9pm in the Donnybrook Parish Pastoral Centre).
- *Lectio Divina* – continues each Monday in the Donnybrook Parish Pastoral Centre after 10am Mass.
- Book Club – continues each Tuesday in the Donnybrook Parish Pastoral Centre after 10am Mass.

In addition, Maeve Davidson is currently involved in programmes of catechesis and faith formation in respect of 17 individuals, including both children and adults, who are on a path towards either Baptism, Confirmation or reception into full communion with the

Catholic Church. The prayers of all our parish community are requested for this important work in forming and encouraging new disciples for the Lord.

4. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the PPC is on **Monday 27 March 2023.**

Report by: Paul Brady, Deputy Chair, Donnybrook PPC

Date: 25 February 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