

Parish Council Meeting of Tuesday, 3rd March 2015

Present: M. McGovern, Fr. Arthur, Terence Sweeney, Angela Bradley, Kath Pollard, Peter McGovern, John McHugh, Mary Wright

Apologies: James Lye, Rob Cranston

ONE-ITEM AGENDA: THE PARISH MISSION

Fr. Arthur's Summing-Up of the Parish Mission:

The Parish Mission was, on the whole, a great success and the general feeling among parishioners was a positive one. However, there has been a gradual slowdown in the parish and people now need some direction which can be identified in two main ideas namely: Confession and Devotions. These ideas are expanded below.

a) CONFESSION:

It is proposed that the times for Confession should be changed from the long standing Saturday morning time of 12noon-12.45pm since there has been nobody wanting to receive the Sacrament at this time for some substantial time. New Confession times will be offered on a trial basis before both weekend Masses, i.e. 5.45pm-6.15pm (Saturday) and 10.15am-10.45am (Sunday) to facilitate the Sacrament more readily to parishioners attending Mass. The uptake of the new Confession times will be monitored by Fr. Arthur. Another question arises from the low attendance at Confession – how do we move forward? Would personal retreats be beneficial? The format for a personal retreat would need careful consideration, but there are openings on this front and facilitation is possible.

b) DEVOTIONS:

These fall into four services of Holy Hours, Days of Recollection, House Prayer Groups and Youth Ministry. Of these four the Holy Hours have lost consistency, but are nevertheless considered as an important parish devotion.

- i.* Holy Hours – silent or with/without Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- ii.* Days of Recollection with an invited speaker
- iii.* House Prayer Groups – several groups could run in different areas of the parish and so could enable parishioners to attend a group near to their home. These House Prayer Groups would have a host who is responsible for getting out invitations to their home, of leading the prayer group and outreaching to people of other faiths and Christian denominations. Support and advice would be given to anyone willing to start their own house prayer group through “taster” Prayer Sessions in the Parish Centre and on a one-to-one mentoring partnership with a member of the Parish Council. Fr. Arthur would visit the House Prayer Groups to say a House Mass periodically. Consideration of how House Prayer Groups will operate is still in its embryonic stage.
- iv.* Youth Ministry

Fr. Arthur's Closing Comments:

The introduction of groups will emerge over time, but in the meantime pray that there are enough people who come out and say that they would like to look more at the Bible and to be in a safe environment to ask/answer questions. Fr. will say a few words about his ideas at the weekend Masses and there will also be inclusion of the same on the newsletter.

Reports:

Heating update – Peter is presently monitoring the heating system in church and reports that the water pressure is currently being maintained. The heating engineer will be meeting Angela in the Parish Centre on Thursday.

Next meeting: Thursday, 9th April at 7.00pm

Apologies: Fr. Arthur

