

Minutes of Ennis Parish Pastoral Council meeting

26th June, 2012

Present: John Tunney, Tikki Daly, Seán Mc Dermott, Maurice Griffin, Anthony Moore, Sr. Anne Boland, Sr. Betty Curtin, Fr. John Mc Govern, Fr. Gerard Fitzgerald, Andy Tierney & Jamon Joseph.

Apologies: Fr. Tom Hogan; Fr. Fergal O'Neill; Mary Hanley; Dan O'Connell; Fr. Fergus OFM & Fionnuala Moran.

Opening Prayer: was introduced by Sr Anne, based on "Do this in Memory".

Minutes of previous meeting: accepted and seconded.

No correspondence.

Matters arising:

Included a discussion on the 50th International Eucharistic Congress in Dublin. *Various people contributed their own memories of this event. " a great feeling of togetherness, friendliness; a feeling of the presence of God; excellent talks; wonderful liturgies; better than expected; surpassed expectations; RTE presenters for the Mass were excellent; EWTN coverage excellent; warm atmosphere; great use of technology".*

Parish Team report: Fr. Gerard Fitzgerald

- Fr. Tomasz returned to Poland – course on Family Ministry.
- Columban Missionaries visit
- Radio Mass from St Joseph's
- Blessing of preschool children
- Prayers for exams – Triduum of Masses – Prayer cards- Prayer candle.
- Graduation Mass in Primary and 2nd level schools

Parish Report:

- Turning of the sod for new Ennis National primary school .
- Pilgrim walk to Drumcliffe – great success; well organised; beautiful day.
- Eucharistic Congress
 - Busses organised for Taizé Day;
 - Diocese day and Croke Park "Statio Orbits" Mass.
 - Ennis Gospel Choir performed at RDS.
 - Local primary school children participated at 10.00am Mass in the Cathedral linking local children with the Eucharistic Congress.

- Bishop Kieran celebrated Mass for parishioners with chronic illnesses and disabilities.
- Ennis Parish now has a Facebook page on internet.
- Confirmation schedule for 2013 now fixed
- Child Protection Team received certificates.
- Possibility of African/Nigerian Mass.
- Next year marked as “Year of Faith”.
- Redemptorist Priests to conduct Retreat in Spring of 2013.

◆ Ennis Cathedral is 180 years old. Fr. Ger; Paul Ryan; Michael Conlon & John Tunney to organise exhibition of Historical photos; letters etc. and events in Autumn 2012.

180th Anniversary; harnessing the spirit of the past – not just celebrating the church building, but connecting people, connecting Parish Families. A Festival of Faith. (c.f. Congress) involvement of other denominations.

- *A discussion on how Year of Faith might be celebrated.*

Talks on the Faith through the various parts of the Creed.

Testimonies of people’s Faith journeys both lay and religious.

Talks on our rich spiritual heritage and festivals: Mass Rocks; Lough Derg, Croke Patrick etc.

Limerick experience Jamon – pray for return of Faith.

Suggestions made about how we prepare for “The Year of Faith” – Prayer programme;

We must first pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit.

- Ennis chosen for “The Gathering Celebrations in 2013.

Return of immigrants and their descendants and the faith they brought with them - a sense of renewal , Celtic Roots and Spirituality.

Next meeting 25th September, 2012