

Minutes of Ennis Pastoral Council **25th March, 2014.**

Present: John Tunney (Chairperson); Sr. Betty Curtin; Andy Tierney; Fionnuala Moran; Dan O'Connell; Fr. Fergus OFM; Séan Mc Dermott; Sr. Anne Boland; Maurice Griffin; Fr. Tom Hogan; Tikki Daly; & Canon Pat Taaffe.

Apologies: Anthony Moore; Fr. Gerard Fitzgerald; Fr. Tom O'Gorman; Fr. Fergal O'Neill; Fr. John Mc Govern (1st Penance service St. Joseph's Church).

Opening prayer was led by Dan O'Connell.

- Minutes of February meeting were read and passed.

Matters arising:

Query re contributions down in PEA. New recruitment drive for PEA in May 2014.

Correspondence: Request for 2 choir/orchestra to perform in Cathedral on Saturday 11th May and Sunday 12th May.

- **Criteria for use of Cathedral;**
- No tickets sold at door
- appropriate music
- Charity – funds

It was felt that Sunday afternoon not suitable because of Polish Mass but could go ahead later in the evening.

Saturday evening choir from Virginia USA

Sunday Chamber Orchestra in aid of Irish Wheelchair Association.

Letter re combined choirs of secondary schools on 3rd April in U.L. Concert Hall.

Parish Team Report: Important to know what is happening in the Parish and make members aware of future events.

- Confirmation Ceremonies went well with great input from Transition Year students from Rice College and St. Flannan's College - Faith Friends.
- Confirmation preparation in Educate Together took place after school at 3pm to 4pm with Sr. Betty and Tikki Daly 1st Parish Lay Catechist.
- Reference was made to an assault in the Cathedral.
- ❖ **Sunday Lenten Programme Speakers at 12noon Mass:**
 - ✓ March 29th: Joanne O'Brien
 - ✓ April 6th: Fr. Walsh, Kilkenny
 - ✓ Easter Cluster Penitential Service : Monday 14th April in Cathedral
 - ✓ Expectant Parents: Thursday 1st May.
 - ✓ Parish Visitation Group ongoing.
 - ✓ R.C.I.A. 2 candidates

Congratulations to:

Sr. Anne Boland on her Diamond Jubilee

Fr. Fergus OFM 50 years ordained and concelebrated Mass in the Friary.

Confirmation candidates – new initiative - children might consider giving a donation to charity e.g. Clare Crusaders.

Encourage children to join Pioneer Association.

Child Protection safeguards in place.

Developing lay leadership in the Parish.

Data base to be set up to develop/coordinate lay leadership in the parish/cluster.

Suggestions regarding the development of leadership in Ennis Parish – Dan O’Connell.

need: increasing shortage of ordained leadership.

Vision: church with meaningful and appropriate participation for all the baptised.

Strategy: Identify, invite and offer training to lay people with skills for active and service orientated leadership in their communities.

Parish Team to explore possibilities and put in place a plan over next 2 years.

Pastoral Council to support these initiatives,

These suggestions to be addressed at Parish Team meetings

Discussion followed re: lay involvement:

- ❖ Eucharistic Services (where no Mass celebrated) training for ministers
- ❖ Bereavement Team: more involvement around funeral services.
- ❖ Baptismal Team and Expectant Mothers group - Baptismal service involvement.
- ❖ Preparation of Sacraments: 1st Communion & Confirmation
- ❖ Liturgy Groups planning and developing more involved Liturgies with greater participation by the laity.

Fr. Tom Hogan welcomed the proposals and pointed to various initiatives already in place eg.

- Eucharistic Service in Páirc na Coille with staff and families involved. Sr. Betty took on responsibility for same.
- Blessing of expectant parents usually run and organised by lay people.
- Involvement of lay people in RCIA (Andy Tierney) preparation.
- Diocese has set up full time and part time non ordained ministers to help develop more involvement of laity in supporting the Clergy.
- Holy Communion being brought to the sick by family and friends.

A.O.B

Fr. Tom Hogan – neo Catechumens would like to set up a course - 2night a week for 7 weeks.

Meeting closed with tea and celebration cake for Sr. Anne and Fr. Fergus.

Next meeting 29th April, 2014