

## Minutes of Pastoral Team Meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022

- 1. Covid:** Ushers now wearing jackets. Ventilation is still important to ensure. No changes needed Baptisms – number increased to 40 and people are starting to bring the 40
- 2. Parish Mission:** The final part of the posters is now displayed. Volunteers will be needed to help prepare the Parish Centre for the final night refreshments, if any of you are available. Information Leaflet Drop will take place on the last weekend in August. Plenary Indulgence will be conferred on all families on final evening. Each family will receive a paper record on this. Counselling/Advice Service/Listening Ear will be made available in Holy Cross each afternoon as it proved very beneficial at the previous mission. The Art Work and Prayers from the three Primary Schools to be displayed in both Churches at least one week before the Mission begins. Fr Seamus Quinn PP Belcoo will make himself available as the “standby” should Plan B be required. The next meeting of the Mission Team is on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm in the Parish Centre.
- 3. Baptism Team:** Three new members. Meeting agreed to begin the Ministry October. Meeting agreed to continue to cap the number of baptisms at 4 in Holy Cross and 2 in St. Mary’s and 40 max guests and maybe review that as time goes on and Covid disappears. Meeting acknowledged that not all parents were interested in a preparation course for their child’s Baptism, but as a Parish we were making this a condition for the Baptism to happen. The team asked that a letter would go out with the application form to emphasise the role of the team’s visit. Meeting agreed to discontinue the Baptism DVD to parents. Commissioning of Team Members will take place December/Early January. Christine Rice was appointed as Co-ordinator of the team.
- 4. Bereavement Team:** met on the 26th July. The meeting spoke about the changing world post covid, and of the greater bereavement needs that each Parish now faces, with so much delayed grief because of no wakes, no public masses, etc. for the deceased family members. The meeting

also acknowledged the amount of children who have been bereaved, and of their unique need of help. Visiting the bereaved family after a death to arrange the liturgy is now acknowledged as a minor role for the team, and can be done happily and easily by Fr. Jimmy. Meeting wished to create a Bereavement Friendly Parish where the real needs might be addressed. To ensure that this could develop, the Meeting acknowledged the need to expand the team to at least 10. Each member is now asked to recruit one new team member, and to bring them to a meeting on Tuesday 23rd August at 8pm in the Parish Centre so that agreement might be reached on a way forward. 'Cruse', an organization that helps people with bereavement are willing to train our team. An organization called 'Rainbows' that is dedicated to providing support for all youth as they navigate grief, is also to be contacted. We will be blessing all our cemeteries on Sunday 11th September. The members will look after the three cemetery blessings. The training will give the Team more confidence in what they can do. We need 3 more members for the Bereavement Team. Next meeting Tuesday 23rd August at 8pm in the Parish Centre with each member inviting another person to join the team.

**5. 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Mary's Church and of Fr McGonnell's death;** Celebratory Mass will take place on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 3pm in St Mary's Church. All native born Priests and former curates will be invited to attend. Children's Memorial: A headstone style of memorial has been agreed to. The appropriate area for the memorial has also been chosen. A Mass of remembrance for the babies will be held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 3pm in St Mary's Church. Parents who have lost a child will be invited to leave in the children's names to be included on the day. The Plaque in memory of Fr. Andrew will be refreshed in St. Mary's. A plaque also in memory of all past Parish Priests will be erected in both St. Mary's and Holy Cross. Local historian John Cunningham will give a talk in St. Mary's during the week of the celebrations. Errigal Truagh Parish, the birthplace of Fr. Andrew, have been approached, follow up to take place ref any local memories and an underage challenge match in memory of Fr. Andrew. All 3 Primary schools have been invited to get involved with the celebrations. Next Meeting will take place in Lisnaskea Parish Centre on Thursday 1st September 2022 @7pm.

**6. Review of work with John Bennett:** It is important that we keep John's review and your thoughts very much alive and brought up at each monthly meeting. The full report is

now on our Parish Website and a hard copy is available for all in the Parish Office. The vision that should influence all that we do as a Pastoral Team. That vision stated that as a Parish there should always be:

- a feeling of celebration, of community and joy.
- a feeling of genuine welcome where all parishioners would feel included equally.
- there would be a value and respect of the elders, an active reaching out to the young and a genuine visible care for the vulnerable.

A beautiful vision to keep before us. In your discussions you spoke about the need to take more ownership of the team and be less dependent upon Priest. You would come up with more thoughts and ideas on what the people are wanting and get new people involved. How might that happen? As a Team you saw the need to keep the strengths and address the weaknesses. Weakness? There was talk of creating more direct links with Church groups and our Pastoral Team- Faith and Light- St. Joseph's Young Priests Society - Legion of Mary. How do we do that? Promoting the work of the Team publicly: Parishioners don't see the Pastoral Team doing all the work- Put date of meeting in bulletin each month - Minutes from our meetings are on the website – highlight this in the Bulletin. Note in bulletin about the team - Summary of what we are doing / what we have done - Publicize the report from John Bennett on the website and add a summary to the bulletin - Names of the Pastoral Team in the bulletin - Ask people for a response to the report. Commission the whole team again in both churches – use this as an opportunity to speak about the Team. *The Pastoral Team is 4 years* in existence – a link with the public. Email suggestions to the Parish Office to be sent to the Pastoral Team for review. Working group, not looking for publicity. List of team members on website. Allow the Pastoral Team to be contacted via the Parish Office. *Consent to names and photos on website.*

**A.O.B.** Net Ministry – no house. Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 4pm – Mass in Rosnowlagh, Letterkenny or Donegal. Team of 25+ commissioned. Our team will be in the Parish from 8<sup>th</sup> September.

**Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022**  
**We will discuss John Bennett's report at our next meeting**