

What can I do as a parishioner?

Think about how you would like to become more involved in the pastoral life of the parish and remember, there are many parishioners already involved in important pastoral work. One of the aims of the Parish Pastoral Council is to support this work, especially in areas where more help is needed.

You may prefer to get involved in a quiet, anonymous way while others are happy to take on a more high profile role. Perhaps you have an idea or interest in a particular aspect of pastoral care which you would like to discuss.

We welcome your involvement in any of these ways and you can contact us through the Parish Office:

Telephone: 02871349490

E-mail: ardmoreparish@btconnect.com



ARDMORE PASTORAL COUNCIL UPDATE



Introduction

Ardmore Parish has been involved in the work of Parish Pastoral Councils since the year 2000. Over those years a lot of great work has been achieved and is still ongoing. During this Year of Faith we have a perfect opportunity to take a closer look at the activities of our Parish Pastoral Council and continue to develop its work in the Parish.

This leaflet provides you with an update and answers some of the questions you may have about our Parish Pastoral Council.

Ardmore has a long and proud tradition of faith. We need to protect and nourish that faith by encouraging involvement. We are very fortunate that our Parish has dedicated people who are very supportive of Church activities. The Parish Pastoral Council can provide a focus for this involvement and we hope you will be able to assist in its future work.

Why do we need a Parish Pastoral Council?

The Second Vatican Council some fifty years ago expressed the importance of the role of lay people. It is in this context that Parish Pastoral Councils are being formed, to encourage and promote the involvement of more people in supporting our clergy in their pastoral ministry.

Who are the Parish Pastoral Council?

The current membership is:

Fr. Neil Farren
Josephine Mc Dermott
(Chairperson)
Joe Brolly (Vice-Chairperson)
Sara Baber (Secretary)
Marti O’Kane (Vice-Secretary)
Anne Doherty
Kevin Mc Laughlin
Paddy Mc Laughlin
Teresa Mc Cormick
Catherine Montgomery
Anne Mc Elhinney



Parish Pastoral Council Training

Formal training of Parish Pastoral Council is now on-going in the Diocese of Derry. Members attended a residential weekend course in late October 2012 at Ards Retreat Centre, Donegal along with other parishes from the Derry Diocese. An additional follow-up meeting took place in the Ardmore Pastoral Centre on 6th January 2013. Further training will be carried out over the course of this year in the following areas:

- Being and building a community of Faith as a parish
- Marriage and family life
- Children and young people

The Parish, in this Year of Faith will also continue the Turas Padraig as begun in October 2012.

What about finance, care of the buildings and the general administration of the parish?

There are many important issues in running our parish that are currently dealt with by our Parish Priest and his staff. In addition, there are those within the parish with specific skills who assist in parish matters.

For example the Finance committee deals with issues relating to parish income and expenditure.

However, the Parish Pastoral Council’s remit is specifically in relation to pastoral care and does not include matters such as finance or administration.



How will we know what is happening?

We intend to provide the outcomes of our meetings through our parish bulletin.

What are the next steps for us as a parish?

Our aim is to encourage everyone to be involved in a way that they are comfortable with, so that they can be enriched spiritually and in doing so, strengthen the faith of our parish.