

CLOONCLARE/KILLASNETT PARISH
FAITH DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL PLAN 2014 - 2020

Introduction

In September 2012 the Céilí Community conducted a very successful mission in our parish. In October 2012 two members of the Community returned to brief the parish pastoral council on their findings in relation to the mission achievements and recommendations for the future. The principal recommendation was to “use the Mission and the Year of Faith as a launching pad for the development of a Parish Pastoral Plan for the future”.

The National Directory for Catechesis in Ireland “Share the Good News” was compiled by the Irish Episcopal Conference and published by VERITAS in 2010. Its acknowledged purpose was “to encourage renewal within the Catholic community in Ireland” by providing the Irish Church “a framework indicating principles and guidelines for evangelisation, catechesis and religious education”.¹ The directory advocates that each parish should “have a graduated Faith Development Plan to be realised step by step over a period of time”.²

On 9th April 2013 the Parish Pastoral Council decided to formulate a Faith Development and Renewal Plan for future years. A small sub-committee of clergy and laypeople was formed to draw up a draft for consideration. It was envisaged that the plan would be relevant and applicable to all working groups within the parish and their views would be canvassed prior to ratification by the Parish Pastoral Council.

¹Preface – Share the Good News

²Par. 131 Share the Good News

In formulating the plan the sub-committee relied heavily on the parish objectives presented in “Share the Good News”. They also took account of the suggestions made by the Céilí Community and other sources such as the Pastoral Plan 2013-2020 of Killaloe diocese.

The plan is considered to be neither a fully comprehensive list of objectives to be carried out nor a compulsory programme of action. Rather, it is envisaged that it will provide a template for the various parochial committees of desirable objectives which are achievable step by step within the timeframe of 2014 to 2020.

THE PLAN OBJECTIVES

1. <u>Adult Faith Development.</u>	<u>Action By</u>
(a) Collaborate with <i>Cois Farraiige</i> Pastoral Area Team (PAT) to identify, secure and appoint a Faith Development Co-ordinator for the P.A.T. group of parishes of Cloonclare/Killasnett, Ballaghameehan, Glenfarne/Kiltyclogher and Kinlough/Glenade	PPC PAT
(b) Initiate adult faith development programmes to accommodate specific adults, parents/guardians, single people, elderly people and people on the margins of the community, inviting them to partake in an adult conversation about their lives.	PPC PAT DIOCESE
(c) Consider forming a lay baptismal team to tutor parents/guardians in their baptismal responsibilities.	PPC
(d) Have an annual mass for couples in the parish who are infrequent church attenders.	PPC PAT
(e) Have an annual mass for immigrants living in our parish.	PPC Liturgy Group
(f) Work with the <i>Cois Farraiige</i> PAT to initiate and oversee local catechetical and other faith development projects. Some examples for consideration are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Maryvale Catechical Course • The Alpha Course which is a 10 week course for young people • Courses in St. Angela's College, Clogherevagh, Sligo • Regular talks by prominent Catholic speakers. • The Cursillo weekend courses in Mullaghmore should also be considered. 	PPC PAT

2. <u>Youth Initiatives</u>	<u>Action By</u>
(a) Develop youth initiatives in the parish to support, in a variety of ways, the faith development needs of adolescents, e.g. John Paul 11 awards which will target the transition year students in St. Clare's Comprehensive school.	PPC
(b) Work through the Boards of Management to ensure that the Catholic ethos of Catholic Primary schools is preserved and developed.	PPC

3. <u>Church Renewal</u>	<u>Action By</u>
Initiate some church renewal projects within the parish, and where practicable, in collaboration with the other parishes in the <i>Cois FARRAIGE</i> Pastoral Area Team. Some suggestions are:	PPC PAT DIOCESE
(a) Annual Lough Derg day pilgrimage in conjunction with the Diocesan pilgrimage.	
(b) An occasional pilgrimage to Clonmacnoise monastic centre.	
(c) Local pilgrimages to areas in the parish of special spiritual interest such as the Millenniumcross, the famine graveyard, Leckanarainey mass rock.	
(d) Organise small listening groups of 5-8 people to attend one or two meetings to ask their opinions on how the church at local level should renew itself.	
(e) Have a suggestion box at the rear of each church.	
(f) Conduct a survey of church attenders in the parish as to what their areas of most concern for the church are, with specific reference to the parish.	

<u>4. Communications</u>	<u>Action By</u>
Improve church communications in the parish by implementing some or all of the following:	
(a) Get an expert to have a look at the parish website with a view to improving its presentation.	PPC
(b) Make available on the website and other outlets details of the various committees in the parish as regards their purpose and membership. Also, impart information regarding <i>Cois Farraiige</i> PAT and other representative councils.	PPC
(c) Where possible for parish committees, circulate the agenda of the next forthcoming meeting and minutes of the previous meeting to the committee members a week in advance.	PPC BMC Finance Council Liturgy Group
(d) Subject to financial constraints, consider publishing an annual booklet of happenings during the year past and plans for the upcoming year.	PPC
(e) Promote more effective communications between the Parish Pastoral Council, the other parish committees and the people in general.	PPC BMC Finance Council Liturgy Group
(f) Continue to promote and publicise parish activities in the parish newsletter and local media outlets.	PPC Parochial Office
(g) Through respectful dialogue promote new ways of connecting with those who feel alienated from the church.	PPC PAT DIOCESE
(h) Continue to engage with the news media in promoting the church position on current or topical issues.	PPC
(i) Use social media as a means of spreading the message of Christ to all parishioners and especially to young people.	PPC DIOCESE

5. <u>Safeguarding Children</u>	<u>Action By</u>
(a) Continue to implement the national and diocesan policies, procedure and protocols for safeguarding children in the parish.	PPC DIOCESE
(b) Ensure that appropriate child protection training is availed of by all church personnel in the parish who are involved in either providing or overseeing activities with children or who have a designated child protection welfare role.	PPC

6. <u>Liturgy and Prayer</u>	<u>Action By</u>
(a) Promote and develop congregational singing in conjunction with the choirs during church services.	PPC Priests Liturgy Group
(b) Consider ways in which the congregation at vigil or Sunday masses can be encouraged to participate more closely in the service.	PPC Liturgy Group
(c) Continue to promote and widen the involvement of the laity in celebration of the mass by readers, Eucharistic ministers, altar servers and offertory volunteers e.g. when opportunities arise from prior involvement in <i>Be My Witness</i> and <i>Do This in Memory</i> programmes.	Liturgy Group
(d) Explore appropriate opportunities for shared prayer and worship with other Christian communities in the parish.	PPC Liturgy Group
(e) Encourage the development of liturgies that connect significantly with people's lives and experiences.	Liturgy Group
(f) Promote and develop opportunities for people to explore expressions of spirituality through existing prayer groups or other means: e.g., praying with the scriptures as in <i>Lectio Divina</i> .	PPC Prayer Groups

<u>7. Parish Administration</u>	<u>Action By</u>
(a) On an ongoing basis the parish committees consisting of the Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Council and the Building and Maintenance Committee will continue to give practical support to the parish priest in the administration of the parish.	PPC BMC Finance Council
(b) When and where necessary, consideration will be given to outsourcing some administration matters such as building maintenance.	PPC BMC Finance Council
(c) Work with <i>Cois Farraige</i> PAT to ensure that cover is available from other parishes in cases of unavoidable absence of a priest in the parish and that similar cover is given to other PAT parishes.	PPC PAT Priests
(d) Where necessary, work towards the delegation of specific administrative tasks to lay people.	PPC PPC BMC Finance Council

Abbreviations

PPC = Parish Parochial Council

PAT = Pastoral Area Team

BMC = Building & Maintenance Committee