

WHAT

IS A PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ?

- ✦ A recognised structure mandated by the Archbishop
- ✦ A group of parishioners who represent the parish as a whole
- ✦ For building a vibrant parish community that reaches out
- ✦ For priests and people to share responsibility for leading, planning and guiding the mission of the parish.

A Pastoral Council **IS**:

- ☑ At the service of the whole parish
- ☑ About priests and people working together
- ☑ Sharing their wisdom
- ☑ Planning together for realistic action

A Pastoral Council **IS NOT**:

- ☑ About the day to day running of the parish
- ☑ About finance or administration
- ☑ A talking shop
- ☑ About doing everything ourselves

AN EFFECTIVE PASTORAL COUNCIL

is concerned with:

- The prayer life of the parish
- Reflection and planning
- Enabling people to discover their call to discipleship
- Formation
- Communication
- Building up the parish community
- Reaching out to others in mission
- Evaluating and regularly reviewing the life and activities of the parish.

HOW

DOES A PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL WORK ?

- ◆ Has a spirit of prayer at the heart of all it does
- ◆ Works in partnership, building good working relationships
- ◆ Listens carefully to the needs of the people in the parish
- ◆ Reflects and discerns priorities
- ◆ Plans and decides on a way forward by identifying realistic goals
- ◆ Ensures things happen
- ◆ Reviews its work regularly
- ◆ Enables the participation of others by identifying and encouraging people's gifts
- ◆ Facilitates the ongoing formation and training for people in ministry in the parish
- ◆ Communicates well with the parish, deanery and diocese
- ◆ Tries to be the eyes and ears of the parish
- ◆ Elects a Chairperson and Secretary from within the group
- ◆ Participates in diocesan pastoral initiatives

WHO

ARE WE LOOKING FOR ?

We need parishioners who are

- 😊 Committed
- 😊 Enthusiastic
- 😊 Reflective
- 😊 Good listener
- 😊 Aware
- 😊 Open minded
- 😊 Team player



WHAT

IS INVOLVED ?

- ◆ Actively listening to the needs and concerns of parishioners, local community, the wider Church etc.
- ◆ Being a committed member of the PPC
- ◆ Attending meetings (usually 1 per month with a summer break)
 - ◆ Reading minutes beforehand & noting items needing further discussion/action
- ◆ Offering items for the Agenda
- ◆ Participating in the discussions, discernment process and decision making
- ◆ Carrying out tasks assigned
 - ◆ Possibly meeting in sub groups between PPC meetings
- ◆ Attending on-going formation and development

'The Parish Pastoral Council is a **faith-filled** leadership group through which priests and people work together as **co-responsible partners** in **furthering the mission of Christ** in their own parish.'

p29 Living Communion: Vision and Practice for Parish Pastoral Councils in Ireland Today (2011)

PRAYER is fundamental to the life of the PPC.

- In what ways do I see myself as a person of faith?
- Am I open and ready to let faith be a central part of the work of the Parish Pastoral Council?
- What do I find attractive about being part of a faith-filled group? What might I find difficult?

PARTNERSHIP is at the heart of working well as a PPC. Remember an effective group achieves its tasks **AND** looks after its members.

- In what ways do I see myself as a leader?
- Am I open and ready to working with others who may bring new ideas and ways of seeing things?
- What do I find attractive about working with others in a collaborative/co-responsible way? What might I find difficult?

PLANNING as a PPC is centred around a prayerful process for decision making - Identifying the issues, gathering information, listing all the options, seeking consensus and evaluating. It involves all members being the eyes and ears of the parish.

- In what ways do I see myself as being involved in Christ's mission?
- Am I open and ready to co-creating, sharing and enabling a vision for the parish?
- What do I find attractive about helping others to take an active role in the mission of our parish? What might I find difficult?



INFORMATION LEAFLET

