

JOINT PARISHES OF MALAHIDE & YELLOW WALLS

Summary of Joint Meeting of parishioners relating to the 'Murphy Report'

held on December 2nd 2009.

The following were the main themes which emerged at the meeting: -

Accountability & Responsibility

Shock and horror were expressed at the damage to children caused by clerical sexual abuse. Anger was also expressed at the lack of accountability and unwillingness to take responsibility in relation to the handling of child sexual abuse by church leaders. Fundamental values of right and wrong were put aside. The question must be asked – **why** did this happen?

Leadership

Lack of leadership has been evident. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin's efforts are appreciated and he has our support. Greater effort is required from all the hierarchy and the Vatican. Apologies are not enough. Forgiveness and closure will only come if there is an acknowledgement of past failures.

Change

This is **our** Church. True Christian values must be reflected in the management of the Church. A Code of Ethics enshrining best practice should be put in place for all involved in ministry. A formal structure (e.g., Council of the Laity, Diocesan Pastoral Council) should be established involving all the People of God (i.e., parishioners, priests and religious) in the management of all diocesan affairs.

Hope for the Future

For the Church to have a future there must be fundamental reform in culture, structures and procedures. Young people are watching. They have a keen sense of justice and honesty. Our response must be credible to the young who are the future of the Church. How we act now is critical.

A more detailed record of the meeting will shortly be available on –
www.malahideparish.ie & www.yellowwallsparish.ie