

## MALAHIDE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Notes of meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010

**Attendance:** Fr. G. Tanham, Sr. Margaret Moynihan, Charlie Farrell, Jo Morris, Joe McDonnell, John Lynch, Jean Houghton, Bob Rooney, Pauline Lynch, Dan Lucey, Joan Reynolds, Oliver Whelan, Regina MacCarrick, Noelle O'Donoghue, Fr. P. Thornton.

**Apologies:** Paddy Roche, Daphne Green.

**Matters not on the Agenda: Fair Trade;** John reported that the Justice and Peace group acknowledged the receipt of our letter supporting their aim to make Malahide a Fair Trade Parish. They ask for support for the Fair Trade event next Sunday in the village when Fair Trade products will be displayed and promoted. Noelle said that at the Malahide Forum meeting the size of the Fair Trade promotion banner at the Diamond was mentioned, they say that banners of that size take away from the village.

**Letter to Archbishop;** Jean asked how our letter to Archbishop Diarmuid Martin was received. Fr. Tanham said there had been a meeting of the clergy and that many Pastoral Councils had sent in letters and that the Archbishop had read them all and he will respond shortly. Jean felt our letter was a great and powerful letter, it was agreed that it be put on the website and the parishioners advised of this. The fact that the Bishops had to kiss the Pope's ring was mentioned, Fr. Tanham said this, genuflecting and wearing purple came down from the Roman Court. The outcome of the meeting of the Bishops with the Pope was not what the people expected; Charlie said there was no decision on the offer of resignation of the Bishops, some having resigned as long ago as last December. Fr. Tanham said the whole truth has not come out; there is a need for a Diocesan Pastoral Council and a need for change over time. Charlie is to meet with the Chairman of Sacred Heart Council and discuss the letter; they want to be associated with us on this. Joe said we should not have a meeting with the parishioners until after the Pope's letter and the Archbishop's response is received. Oliver said this was an opportunity for further discussion and to keep the process on going.

**Prayer:** Joan led us in prayer. Pauline to do prayer next month.

**Child Protection Policy:** It was the intention to have Anne and Alan with us for this meeting but this did not work out. Alan has revised every page of the policy and it has gone out to all the members of the Council, there is still some tidying up to be done on some documents, this should be completed in a week. Charlie said the Pastoral Council should be able to do the final sign off on it at our next meeting. John said there should be a schedule of audits, at short notice, and a record kept of any points not been adhered to and this submitted to the Council and a copy kept in the Parish Office. Fr. Paul said there is a tremendous amount of work involved and it would be wise to be looking for two more people to do training and supplement the work Alan and Anne do. Talk to Alan and Anne re extras to train and get their advice and agreement.

**Review of meeting with Parish Groups:** Charlie didn't think our presentation slides generated a lot of interest, could they be condensed.

While each group said what their issues were there was no real cohesion or relationship between the groups or with the Pastoral Council. These groups were task orientated groups so interaction with other groups was not strong.

Baptism Group; Noelle said there was confusion as to where babies would be Baptized, it was explained that it just meant that Baptisms would take place on alternate Saturdays in St. Sylvester's and Sacred Heart Churches. The Baptism Group need on going formation.

Church cleaning; the same four people are doing this for many years. Charlie said that it was unfair to expect the same people to do the same thing week in and week out so of course they get stagnant; you need larger groups and spaced out.

Family Mass; There is a volunteer who will start a children's choir. The 11.15 Mass time change is working out very well. Display of Mass times was discussed, should these and what is on in the Church for the week be on a notice board on the Church railings, you would probably need permission for this.

Volunteers; If we had a 'sign up' Sunday where each group set up a stall in the Church grounds we would surely get volunteers. John said it was worth while doing this, on a Sunday in June perhaps, as the groups must get their own replacement members, the Pastoral Council can not do this for them.

Meals on Wheels; They had told us they had a problem with the bollards at the well area, it was difficult to get their cars up to the Parish hall door. John and the contractor came to move the bollards in a small distance to make more space, the Fingal Co. Co. arrived and had them put the bollards back except for the one down at the entrance which is slightly changed and only giving a few extra inches. Fingal Co. Co had received a complaint from a resident of Railway Avenue.

Communication; Communication is needed between the Council and the groups. Fr. Frank put a letter in the Christmas cards which went into every house in the Sacred Heart Parish, he told them everything that had been done in the parish during the year and thanked everybody.

It was agreed that edited minutes of our Council meetings and the Agenda be put on the website and on the notice board at the back of the Church.

Charlie felt it might be worthwhile to have all the groups together for a reflection day.

Fr. Tanham said it could be an attractive day with a good speaker and a good theme; it could be an uplifting and encouraging day, perhaps in May or early June. Have the 'sign up' day after the reflection day.

As we have only three monthly Parish Pastoral Council meetings remaining and we still have to have three more group meetings we may have to have an extra meeting.

At our next meeting we should deal with the Child Protection and the Archbishop items. Because of Holy Thursday our next meeting will be on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>. March.

**Parish Activities:** The Justice and Peace Group had a meeting re head shops. It was an information meeting attended by Sergeant Cox, CAD, school Principals, and reps from Parents Associations. There was outrage at the potential danger to children. Noelle reported that TD Dr. James Reilly was very good speaking on this at the Malahide Forum meeting; Charlie said the two groups should pool their resources.

Parish Centre; John's report; Our response to Fingal County Council's request for additional information was delivered to the Council offices on 2<sup>nd</sup>. March. John, Fr. Tanham, Sean Harrington, Darragh Lynch, and Alan Whelan of Tiros Planning Consultants had a meeting with FCC officials on 9<sup>th</sup>. February. There will be a decision by Fingal County Council by 2<sup>nd</sup>. April.

**Care and Repair:** They have more volunteers than they have jobs for them to do. John told them of a project about to take place in Darndale and that perhaps they could help out there, Bob said that there was a very busy care and repair already in Darndale.

**Next meeting on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>. March at 8.00 pm in the Parish Hall.**