

# MALAHIDE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

## Minutes of meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011

**Attendance:** Fr. Peter Briscoe, Fr. Gary Darby, Sr. Margaret, Jo Morris, Daphne Greene, Regina MacCarrick, John Lynch, Noelle O'Donoghue McCaul, Oliver Whelan, Charlie Farrell, Joan Reynolds and Jean Houghton.

**Apologies:** Joe McDonnell.

**Matters arising from the previous minutes:**

No matters arising.

**Correspondence:** no correspondence was received.

## Agenda

**Prayer:** A volunteer led us in prayer. Another volunteer will do the prayer in January 2012.

**Succession planning for the current Parish Pastoral Council:** Ellie McKeown will be available for the membership renewal process for the Parish Pastoral Council in 2012.

**Fr. Paul Thornton:** The Parish is organising an evening of celebration to thank Fr. Paul for his period of ministry to the people of Malahide on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2011. The evening will begin with a Mass at 7.00 p.m. in St. Sylvester's Church followed by refreshments in St. Andrew's Parish Centre. A presentation for Fr. Paul Thornton will be organised.

**Child Protection:** An update will be available in January 2012.

**Parish Centre update:** Progress is underway. The building contract is almost complete. The insurance for the build is now in place. Building will commence early in 2012. The land purchase required for the build has also been completed.

**Four Parishes Update:** The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at 8.15 p.m. in Portmarnock Parish Centre. The Deanery for the four parishes will be discussed at this meeting. There is a consensus that St. Sylvester's Parish Pastoral Council would welcome the opportunity to be a member of either Deanery i.e. the Howth Deanery or the Fingal Deanery.

**Eucharistic Congress:** Eithne Byrnes is co-ordinating the parishes within the diocese for the Eucharistic Congress for June 2012. The Eucharistic Congress is urgently recruiting for volunteers for the upcoming Eucharistic Congress Event in June 2012. Ten volunteers are required from each parish. Volunteers should be available from 6<sup>th</sup> June 2012 to 19<sup>th</sup> June 2012. Accommodation is also required in the Malahide area in order to accommodate overseas volunteers and pilgrims coming to Ireland for the event. The volunteers and pilgrims will be over 18 years of age. The households that could accommodate volunteers and pilgrims are households that do not have children under the age of 18.

**Diocesan Finances:** A meeting on the Diocesan Finances took place on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011. The meeting focused on communicating how the income from the family offering / planned giving and envelop collections is spent and how to generate more income. The structure of Parish Finance is:

- First Collection – Common Fund.
- Christmas and Easter dues – Common Fund.
- Second Collection – Share.
- Family Offering.
- Other income.

**First Collection.**

- The first collection is for the Common Fund which is essentially a Priests Fund.
- All the money collected is pooled and the fund is shared equally between priests in ministry and retired priests after:
  - the fund pays the annual costs of Nursing Homes for sick and retired priests (Euro1.2 million) and VHI premiums (Euro1.1 million) and
  - the fund buys and maintains housing for retired priests.
- A fall in the first collection results in a fall in priest income.
- The basis income of a curate is now Euro26,460 per annum plus up to Euro2,820 for his years of service.
- Parish priests get an additional allowance of Euro5,304 bringing his maximum total to Euro34,584.
- In 2010 priests income was reduced by 6% and in 2011 it was reduced by another 9%.

**Second Collection.**

- The second collection is for Share and is a Diocesan fund.
- As is consistently reported in the annual Share Newsletter, some 75% of Share is required to pay the costs of Diocesan Services, the Irish Episcopal Conference and The Marriage Tribunal.
- The Archbishop has made a commitment to reduce this to 50% over the next three years and an income / cost review of Diocesan services is currently at an advanced stage.
- The balance is then used for parish development and to support parishes who need ongoing financial support to meet their day to day needs or to repay existing loans.

**What can parishioners do to help?**

- If we want priests – support them by donating generously to the First Collection and to Christmas and Easter Dues.
- If we want a comfortable church and good parish services and facilities – contribute to the Family Offering.
- If we wish to provide basic facilities in less privileged parishes then support the weekly Share Collection.
- If we want best practice to apply to our Diocese, then support Share generously, as it facilitates the highest standards in liturgy, child safeguarding, personnel, education, communications and finance.

**Next meeting – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at 7.30 p.m. in the Carmelite Convent, Seapark.**