

## **Report to the Parish Parish Pastoral Council Review Evening held 1/9/2015**

The meeting drew in a helpful mixture of PPC members & other parishioners which ensured a broad perspective on the life of the parish. We were fortunate to have a very skilled facilitator in Rachel Purchase whose approach enabled us to be more creative in our thinking. We were asked to be "creative", too, in a more literal way, since, to the initial consternation of many, the tasks she set for the evening involved drawing. Possibly to the surprise of some of us, this did lead us to express ideas we might otherwise not have realised we had and showed the unusual amount of agreement between us.

Our two tasks:

1st task:- we were asked to draw *how we saw the PPC as it is at present*; then to explain our picture/diagram to the person sitting opposite us; and finally each pair then fed back what their partner had told them to the whole group.

2<sup>nd</sup> task:- we were asked to repeat the process but this time to draw *how we would like to see the PPC in the future*.

It is the feedback from the 2<sup>nd</sup> task that we recorded & is given below, sorted into 3 main issues/concerns:-

- 1.Improving the internal working & efficiency of the PPC
- 2.Developing the relationship between the PPC & the parish in general.
- 3.The role of the PPC in facilitating the achievement by the whole parish of its mission

- 1.Improving the internal working & efficiency of the PPC
  - ❖ There's a need for a less rigid hierarchy in the council.
  - ❖ There's a need for a shorter, more relevant agenda.
  - ❖ There's a need for better time-keeping in addressing items on the agenda.
  - ❖ There's a need for a quicker, more decisive approach to decision-making.
  - ❖ It would be useful if members could be briefed on the issues before a meeting.

The PPC has already begun to look at these points but, in the light of the content of this next section, it is important that we all know what the PPC is thinking about & doing.

## 2. Developing the relationship between the PPC & the parish in general.

- ❖ There's a desire for better, 2-way, communication & feedback between the ppc & parish groups/parishioners. This includes the desire for greater openness regarding the PPC's activities. Suggested means of doing this were:
  - One -to- one sharing.
  - Producing a PPC newsletter.
  - Posting PPC minutes on the parish website.
  - An invitation to the parish to evaluate the PPC
- ❖ There's a desire for a greater sense of interplay between the PPC & parish groups. The PPC needs to reach out to groups & groups need to have more direct input into the PPC.
- ❖ There's a feeling that the PPC must know the desires & aspirations of parishioners if it is to be most effective. *There was no clear idea at this point about our means of finding these out.*
- ❖ There's a need to find means of enabling parishioners to volunteer their gifts & talents.

## 3. The role of the PPC in facilitating the achievement by the whole parish of its mission in the Church & world.

- ❖ There's a need for a broader vision, to go beyond concern for "bricks & mortar", while acknowledging that this is a necessary concern.
- ❖ There's a need to look at ways of drawing people into the church & into greater involvement with its life, so that we
  - a) Enable existing parishioners to be more involved in worship.
  - b) Reach-out to people in their needs & distress. *Again the question was raised, "How do we do this?"*
  - c) Enable people to join us – both those who have drifted away, for any reason, & those who have no contact with any church.

It was also pointed-out that we should not be discouraged because we are already an active parish & have maintained our numbers better than many other parishes in this & other dioceses.

If this meeting focussed on *what* we would like to see in the future, we recognised at the end of it that, with regard to issues 2 & 3, the next step would be to look at *how* we could make our desires a reality.

*(Report prepared by Heather Ward)*