

## St Patrick's Parish Renewal Plan 2014-2015 (Agreed at AGM on 19/10/14)

"I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty, because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security," said Pope Francis.

Our purpose for St Patrick's and the challenge of having workers for the harvest is expressed in the following taken from **Evangelii Gaudium**:

I am aware that we need to create spaces where pastoral workers can be helped and healed, "places where faith itself in the crucified and risen Jesus is renewed, where the most profound questions and daily concerns are shared, where deeper discernment about our experiences and life itself is undertaken in the light of the Gospel, for the purpose of directing individual and social decisions towards the good and beautiful". At the same time, I would like to call attention to certain particular temptations which affect pastoral workers.

### [Yes to the challenge of a missionary spirituality](#)

Today we are seeing in many pastoral workers, including consecrated men and women, an inordinate concern for their personal freedom and relaxation, which leads them to see their work as a mere appendage to their life, as if it were not part of their very identity. At the same time, the spiritual life comes to be identified with a few religious exercises which can offer a certain comfort but which do not encourage encounter with others, engagement with the world or a passion for evangelization. As a result, one can observe in many agents of evangelization, even though they pray, a heightened individualism, a crisis of identity and a cooling of fervour. These are three evils which fuel one another.

### [No to selfishness and spiritual sloth](#)

The problem is not always an excess of activity, but rather activity undertaken badly, without adequate motivation, without a spirituality which would permeate it and make it pleasurable. As a result, work becomes more tiring than necessary, even leading at times to illness. Far from a content and happy tiredness, this is a tense, burdensome, dissatisfying and, in the end, unbearable fatigue. This pastoral acedia can be caused by a number of things... Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of the joy of evangelization!

### [No to a sterile pessimism](#)

The joy of the Gospel is such that it cannot be taken away from us by anyone or anything (cf. *Jn* 16:22). The evils of our world – and those of the Church – must not be excuses for diminishing our commitment and our fervour. Let us look upon them as challenges which can help us to grow. With the eyes of faith, we can see the light which the Holy Spirit always radiates in the midst of darkness, never forgetting that "where

sin increased, grace has abounded all the more" (*Rom* 5:20). Our faith is challenged to discern how wine can come from water and how wheat can grow in the midst of weeds.

#### [Yes to the new relationships brought by Christ](#)

The Gospel tells us constantly to run the risk of a face-to-face encounter with others, with their physical presence which challenges us, with their pain and their pleas, with their joy which infects us in our close and continuous interaction. True faith in the incarnate Son of God is inseparable from self-giving, from membership in the community, from service, from reconciliation with others. The Son of God, by becoming flesh, summoned us to the revolution of tenderness.

#### [No to spiritual worldliness](#)

Spiritual worldliness, which hides behind the appearance of piety and even love for the Church, consists in seeking not the Lord's glory but human glory and personal well-being. It is what the Lord reprimanded the Pharisees for: "How can you believe, who receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?" (*Jn* 5:44). It is a subtle way of seeking one's "own interests, not those of Jesus Christ" (*Phil* 2:21). It takes on many forms, depending on the kinds of persons and groups into which it seeps.

#### [No to warring among ourselves](#)

Let us ask the Lord to help us understand the law of love. How good it is to have this law! How much good it does us to love one another, in spite of everything. Yes, in spite of everything! Saint Paul's exhortation is directed to each of us: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (*Rom* 12:21). And again: "Let us not grow weary in doing what is right" (*Gal* 6:9). We all have our likes and dislikes, and perhaps at this very moment we are angry with someone. At least let us say to the Lord: "Lord, I am angry with this person, with that person. I pray to you for him and for her". To pray for a person with whom I am irritated is a beautiful step forward in love, and an act of evangelization. Let us do it today! Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of the ideal of fraternal love!

Our discussions and feedback from the parish have really focussed on the need for spiritual renewal and listening to the Voice of God to help us forward. This plan and its proposals does not have to be finalised but is a working document that will undoubtedly change over time, the important thing is to step forward in faith and to be ambitious for our parish. All of this requires discernment and risk taking in faith, some of it will bear fruit and some won't but we won't know until we try,

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>By whom</b>	<b>Resources required</b>	<b>Evaluation of outcomes</b>
<b>To respond to the call from Pope Francis for a New Evangelisation</b>	To have joy and enthusiasm and to be ambitious in seeking the Gifts of the Holy Spirit for the transformation of our Community	Ongoing	Every member of the community	Faith the size of a mustard seed	You shall know them by their fruits, joy, celebration, radical conversion, healing and all the Gifts of the Spirit
<b>Governance</b>	To revise the written constitution to reflect the changes below	Discuss final document at November meeting and agree at January meeting	PPC Chair to lead and draft	Meeting time	Agreement by PPC and wider community
	The PPC comprises of 12 members and the parish priest with volunteers for service received at AGM. Each member of the PPC will have involvement with one of the sub groups below and attend PPC meetings.	Agree at October 2014 AGM	PPC Chair to organise	Communicate to the parish that volunteers are needed for 6 new members	Objective achieved and is working satisfactorily. A wider group of people involved in the running of the parish
	To review official roles within the parish	Discuss at November meeting of PPC	Agenda for PPC meeting	Volunteers to take on roles	To share the workload fairly and to provide opportunities for participation for all
	The term of office is 2 years with the option to stand again	From the 2014 AGM	Volunteers to come forward	Each new person will have to go through DBS process	A well functioning PPC
	The PPC meetings are open meetings held 6	The first meeting will be in November	PPC Chair to organise	Utilise the Church for the meeting and to	At the end of 12 months that the

	weekly. Any member of the parish can participate and vote. Having volunteer reps gives continuity and stability within wider decision making body			accommodate larger numbers of people	community are satisfied that they have a say in the proceedings of the PPC and that decision making is open and accountable
	Each of the groups below to use the parishioner feedback to inform decisions	Over the next 12 months	The chair of each group to ensure this is included in discussion and reported back to PPC/wider community	Copies of parish feedback at each meeting	The community is satisfied that its opinions have been responded to.
<b>Liturgy</b>	Establish a Liturgy Team	Within the next 2 months	Father Abraham and Chair of the PPC will convene a meeting with all those involved in the liturgy to agree the best way of responding to parish feedback to establish a group and a Chair		The liturgy reflects different settings and styles and meets the need of the community
	To explore a range of creative options in the liturgy including the use of musical backing tracks, video screens	Options to be established by Liturgy Team	Options to be established by Liturgy Group	Funding for any new innovations	Greater community participation in the liturgy and the gifts of the spirit being vicariously distributed
	The Family Mass will return to 10 am Mass on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month	With immediate effect	Musicians	Changes to be clearly communicated to the parish and wider community	Levels of participation by families in the parish
	To have a monthly fast day for the parish to support and pray for its	Begin in Advent	Whole parish involved	Father to preach on the importance of fasting	The fruits of the Spirit

	work				
	Thursday Mass will be at 7.30 pm. To be specifically dedicated to the growth and outreach work of the parish. Build a prayer group around it?	Starting in November	Father Abraham and liturgy group	Purpose and rationale to be clearly communicated to the parish and wider community	Reaching working people/families who do not have an opportunity to get to weekday/weekend mass
	Mature Muncher's Mass midday every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	Starting in November	Social group	Social group volunteers	Attendance by participants
	Food Bank 2nd Sunday of the month and to continue in August	Ongoing	Whole parish	Parish giving	Generous and consistent giving
	Fair Trade to continue 2nd Sunday of the month	Ongoing	Whole parish	Continued provision	Aim of becoming a Fairtrade parish (are our refreshments after Mass/Mature Munchers Fairtrade? If not why not?)
	Christmas 2015 will see a return to Midnight Mass at St Patrick's	Christmas 2015	Father Abraham and the Liturgy Group	Communication to the parish and wider community	Attendance
	To recruit more Altar Servers	Over the next 12 months	All involved in Liturgy to encourage people to come forward, especially first communicants	Training on the job	More Altar Servers both young and older
	Establish a Sacrament and Ministry Team to ensure engagement with families involved in baptism, post first	Over the next 6 months,	Worked on by the whole PPC	This probably needs to be the main focus of our evangelization	All people coming into contact with St Patrick's via the sacraments are welcomed, engaged with and supported on

	communion, post confirmation, post marriage and post funeral and also communion for the sick and housebound				an on going basis.
<b>Young people</b>	To revise the liturgy to appeal to families and young people	As per liturgy above	All involved in Liturgy to encourage people to come forward	Changes to liturgy	More young people involved in the liturgy
	To think differently about young people's involvement and what this might mean	Over next 12 months	To talk to groups of young people in the parish to ask their view's on what is required	Respond to feedback however difficult. Observe safeguarding procedures	Feedback from young people informs any proposed developments
	Collaborate with community organisations to engage with young people	Over next 12 months	Aaron Pycroft to discuss with Churches Together, Scouts, Guides etc	We will see what emerges	Young people engaged in parish activities
	Engage with the Diocesan Youth Worker to help develop our engagement with young people	In the next 6 months	Aaron Pycroft to organise	Invite to a PPC meeting	Knowledge of resources available from Diocese
	To build on the Bishop's visit and meeting with young people to build some momentum	Bishop's visit 8/9 November	Father Abraham/PPC to discuss with the Bishop	Have a focus on the Feast of Christ the King and its celebration in the Parish (International Youth Day)	Build young people's involvement in parish life
	To ensure that all safeguarding requirements are	Over next 12 months	Parish Safeguarding Officer	Training for all those involved	Safeguarding requirements are met

	observed and implemented				
<b>Social activities</b>	There will be a diary of events published in the newsletter	Ongoing	Social group and Parish Office	Planning for the whole year	Good communication of events
	TV and DVD at Mature Muncher's Lunch	When set up	Social group	Films?	By participants
	To look at expanding our St Patricks night celebrations with a focus on outreach to the wider community.	Start planning after Christmas	Social group in consultation with wider PPC	Depends on what is agreed	Did it do what it said on the tin
	To develop some activities that appeal to younger families over the course of the liturgical year	Over the next 12 months	Social group	Discussion with families and also suggestions from the parish feedback	Wider range of activities established
<b>Admin/communication</b>	Review newsletter A4 size	Already underway	Father Abraham and Jan	Different templates from around the diocese	Feedback from Parish
	Review the website/social media	Over the next 12 months	Father Abraham, Jan and Mike Peacock + other volunteers	Look at Facebook, Twitter, more use of e-mail etc	Feedback from the Parish
<b>Finance/property</b>	Updating on finances each quarter	Starting with first quarter after AGM	A member of the finance committee at each mass	The most up to date accounts available	The community are more informed about parish finances
	Establishing a fund raising strategy including increased giving through standing orders and gift aid and appealing for legacies	Ongoing	Finance committee and others as required	Regular appeals to current and new parishioners	Increased giving
	Replace speakers/PA in	Asap	Finance committee to	Funding	New PA/speakers

	church		identify sources of funding		
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