



PARISH OF
KIRKINRIOLA

PASTORAL PLAN

April 2023 – February 2024

Mission Statement: - We the Parish Pastoral Council of Ballymena, inspired by the Holy Spirit, will nurture the gifts of all our people in order to grow as a vibrant, welcoming and joyful Christian Community where everyone feels called to build the Kingdom of God.

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One Year Parish Pastoral Action Plan (March 2023 – February 2024)

The Pastoral Council had partially implemented its Pastoral Action Plan (2019-21), when the world was engulfed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The impact on parish life in Ireland was immediate, resulting in the suspension of much of parish life during a series of 'lock-downs'. Here in Kirkinriola Parish, as in every parish, ministry practically ground to a halt with most, if not all parish groups, ceasing to function.

Thankfully, we are beginning to emerge from the worst effects of the pandemic. Parish life is slowly beginning to re-awaken to a 'new normal' and increasing numbers of parishioners have begun returning to Sunday worship 'in person'. While all of this is very encouraging, much remains to be done to ensure that the parish returns as fully as possible to being 'a vibrant, welcoming, joyful Christian community where everyone feels called and encouraged to build the Kingdom of God.' (Mission statement of the Parish Pastoral Council).

To elicit the views of parishioners regarding parish life and pastoral services, we carried out a Parish Listening Survey in November 2022. This Survey, along with conversations held with Parish Group Leaders and Leaders of Sporting Organisations, generated many ideas and suggestions. I wish to thank everyone who contributed.

After prayerful reflection, we have identified five key goals which we believe need to be addressed during the year ahead.

In the Pastoral Plan we have outlined the main actions, which we believe can be implemented during this year with parishioners willing to invest some time and energy in taking the Parish Plan forward. We the members of the Pastoral Council are committed to working in partnership with individuals and parish groups who wish to enrich the life of the parish for all our parishioners. We look forward to collaborating with you in the year ahead.

Kind regards,



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Lisa Hanna, Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson

Goal 1. Review and develop our channels of communication within the parish

- ✓ Establish a Communications Group with responsibility for reviewing and developing all aspects of parish communications
- ✓ Create opportunities for conversation between the Pastoral Council and parishioners
- ✓ Develop a 'Welcome Pack' for new-comers to our parish, outlining basic information about what the parish has to offer
- ✓ Produce a bi-monthly Newsletter

Goal 2. Support of Parish Groups

- ✓ Organise a 'Volunteering Event' which will provide an opportunity for parish groups to showcase their ministry and activities
- ✓ Explore ideas put forward by parishioners regarding parish groups
- ✓ Launch a booklet containing basic information about parish groups

Goal 3. Develop the spirit of welcome and outreach in the parish

- ✓ Promote greater lay participation in the liturgy
- ✓ Reach out to parishioners who have stopped coming to Mass
- ✓ Enable parishioners to identify their own personal and spiritual gifts
- ✓ Create opportunities for parishioners to meet after Sunday Masses

Goal 4. Re-engage with children and young people

- ✓ Seek the views of young people in the parish
- ✓ Explore with youth groups, such as All Saints Youth Centre, GAC, Boxing Club, schools, how we could encourage greater engagement with the parish and each other
- ✓ Support the delivery of post primary faith development programmes

Goal 5. Support Adult faith development and evangelisation

- ✓ Recruit and train more Parish Catechists
- ✓ Support the delivery of faith development
- ✓ Create opportunities for basic catechesis during Advent, Christmastide, Lent and Eastertide

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Prayer for our Parish

Father of Mercy,

We pray for our parish community.

May your Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your people and kindle in them the fire of your Love.

With the fire of your Love, open our minds to remember and give thanks for the people we meet each day.

With the fire of your Love, open our ears to really listen to others; may they know that they matter and are precious to You our Father.

With the fire of your Love, open our eyes to see your people, that we may see and encounter Jesus, in their faces, in their love and in their need.

With the fire of your Love, open our hearts to carry those who struggle or who are on the margins, knowing that when we do, we carry Jesus your Son.

With the fire of your Love, open our hearts, minds and hands to serve You and work with others, so that 'Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.'

With the fire of your Love, unite us as one in our parish family, with all our joys and blessings, our hurt and pain, so that all praise and glory will be Yours, now and forever and ever. Amen

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The Parish Pastoral Council: - Lisa Hanna, Declan Stephens, Tracey Cassidy, Paul McAuley, Rosemary Quinn, Danuta Smolinska, Bernie Ervine, Jackie Kerr, Canon McKenna, Fr. Joe Davis and Fr. Michael McGinnity