

## **INFORMATION CONCERNING FORMATION OF NEW PPC**

### **1. PARISH LEAFLET “OUR PARISH AND YOU!”**

### **2. SAMPLE AREAS OF WORK OF LAST PPC**

### **3. PERSONAL COMMENT FROM PAST PPC MEMBERS**

#### **(1)**

#### **OUR PARISH AND YOU!**

Over the coming weeks our parish is running a campaign to recruit new volunteers for our 4<sup>th</sup> Parish Pastoral Council. YOU are now invited to volunteer to become a member of our PPC. All you have to do is: text 086 3273584(outgoing PPC member) / 0872442542 (Fr Jim) / 0876757554 (Fr Derek), **or** email the Parish Office at [ashdon@indigo.ie](mailto:ashdon@indigo.ie) **or** print out and return the application form below, **or** you can ring the Parish Office at 8353149.

Prospective members of the new Parish Pastoral Council will have an initial period of training/orientation. Parishioners are welcome to attend the orientation meetings without commitment. Only after the orientation period, will you need to decide whether or not you wish to put yourself forward. We invite anyone who feels that they:

- Are interested in supporting existing initiatives and encouraging new ones in the parish.
- Genuinely care for our parish and its people
- Have a vision of the future of the parish and the Church
- Are able to listen to and work as part of a team
- Have openness to the Spirit to discern what God wants for the parish of Ashbourne/Donaghmore

The Parish Pastoral Council; consisting of parish volunteers, our priests and lay missionaries enables us to share in decision making, responsibility and ownership of our Parish. We together are the Church. Over the course of the last three years some of the areas the PPC were involved with included: Parish web site development, health & safety, child protection, youth initiatives, responding to the crises within the Catholic Church in Ireland and considering a vision for the future of our Parish. The outgoing PPC also gave parishioners an opportunity to air their views with the launch of a new listening initiative last March; and it is envisaged that our new PPC will provide further similar listening opportunities. The PPC essentially tries to take a bird's eye view of parish life, identify pastoral needs and seek to find ways to meet those needs.

**Timescale for Process**

March 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

Speakers at Masses

March 19<sup>th</sup>

Closing date for receipt of applications



The new council will meet once a month. Membership will be for a period of 2 years with an option of continuing for a 3<sup>rd</sup> yr. YOU are now invited to volunteer to become a member of our new PPC, all you have to do is: Text - 086 3273584 (outgoing PPC member) or 0872442542 (Fr Jim) or 0876757554(Fr Derek), or email the Parish

Office at [ashdon@indigo.ie](mailto:ashdon@indigo.ie) , or print out and return the application form below, or you can ring the Parish Office or one of our priests at 8353149.

**Orientation Evenings**

Tuesdays 8.30pm to 9.30pm  
Room 3, Parish Office  
March 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>,  
April 5<sup>th</sup>



**Come as you are, blessed with your own gifts.**

*It takes a little courage to step forward, but you will not be alone. Maybe you don't have time this year but you know someone suitable who does! Why not encourage them to go forward. If you are not in a position to offer your time perhaps you would like to offer a comment or suggestion. We welcome all thoughts and ideas*

***ASHBOURNE DONAGHMORE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL  
APPLICATION FORM***

***(CLOSING DATE: MARCH 19<sup>th</sup> 2011)***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

*You can apply by: Returning this completed form in an envelope to the Parish Office; or telephone the Parish Office 8353149; or Email [ashdon@indigo.ie](mailto:ashdon@indigo.ie); or Text: 086 3273584(outgoing PPC member) /0872442542 (Fr Jim) /0876757554(Fr Derek).*

***We look forward to hearing from you!***

## *2.SAMPLE AREAS OF WORK OF LAST PPC*

1. Liaising with the Columban Lay Missionary movement in Dalgan Park to secure the placement of our fantastic lay missionaries Marivic and Lenette with us, and then welcoming them, and working with them.
2. Article in Ashbourne News re our then new lay missionaries.
3. Compilation of Health and Safety Statement.
4. Instigating clean-ups of the Church grounds.
5. Development of the Parish Website and communications group, vast amount of information on site, Yourspace, website has been complimented by many.
6. The consideration of a parish strategy.
7. The reading at all masses by PPC members of the Bishops letter re mass times etc.
8. Letter to Bishop re Murphy/Ryan reports and events.
9. Bishops 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass in Mullingar.
10. Review of our Child Protection Policies (began very first meeting). Visit from Parish Safeguarding reps. Attendance of talk by Sandra Neville in the Ashbourne Court Hotel.
11. Supporting Car park and redecorating of Church, fixing of church gate, bell repair.
12. Keeping abreast of parish planning applications re parish development and receiving updates from building committee with visit from Buildings Committee rep.
13. Consideration of situation re parish schools and planning.
14. Pastoral worker deliberations.
15. Various seminars – Limerick, The Milltown Institute, All Hallows, Emmaus.
16. PPC training (media training especially mentioned)(Liasing withLM/FM radio re parish mass followed this).
17. Parish newsletter.

18. Parish finances considered, Annual Report and visit from Finance Committee rep.
19. Meeting with councilors re footpaths, road frontage etc.
20. Supporting Hymn books.
21. Very positive and dynamic relationship with our priests.
22. Supporting Called to Serve campaign. This was a campaign run by a dedicated group outside of the PPC to recruit new parish volunteers across all areas.
23. Youth:
  - Consideration of undertaking a parish Youth Survey
  - Come and See initiative,
  - Art competitions
  - Installing of stained glass in door of prayer room in ACS.
  - Easter Egg Competitions
  - prayer space on website – Yourspace
  - liaising with ACS and involvement of students during Easter, especially remembering the hands made by students for the Stations of the Cross, and their involvement in the seven last words of Jesus.
24. Consideration of Church T.V. and webcams in church.
25. Attending Dunshaughlin meeting “Ireland’s Wounded Church – Taking Stock”.
26. Organising our own parish meeting “Taking Stock: Our Wounded Church – A Parish Perspective”(Ashbourne House - 19<sup>th</sup> may 2010).
27. Compiling Report of our parish meeting “Taking Stock: Our Wounded Church – A Parish Perspective” and making this available to parishioners and to Bishop Smith and to the Apostolic Visitor.

*Continued below....*

### **3. PERSONAL COMMENT FROM PAST PPC MEMBERS**

When I came to the PPC three years ago, I didn't know what to expect. My main motivation was to make a contribution to the life of the parish in whatever little way I could. What I encountered was the most level and dynamic committee I have ever served on. I have learnt so much during the past three years, from how our parish functions to how the Church in Ireland operates. Every meeting was energetic and motivating. Members were free to become involved in various matters or not as they wished. Our meetings were intimate and respectful with a vigor that emanated from a common purpose: a deep concern for our parish and our Church. I can honestly say that I enjoyed every minute of my time on the PPC, I have gained so much personally, and I would highly recommend anyone considering participating to jump at the opportunity; this is an endeavor that is very worthwhile undertaking. *(LH)*

My motivation for joining the Parish Pastoral Council was "to give a little back". Not being a very "holy" person in the traditional, prayerful sense, – I considered myself to be more of a grafter!! I felt the PPC would allow me to contribute to the life of our Parish in a practical way.

I served with over a dozen people, who I can truthfully say, were a pleasure to work with. There was no hidden agenda! Each member came with their own talents and two words I could use to describe the outgoing PPC are honest & diverse. We ranged in varying age groups, backgrounds & interests; but we were united in our focus – to help & promote the welfare of our Parish.

My involvement in the PPC afforded me the opportunity to develop a friendship with our Priests & Lay Missionaries - a friendship I cherish. It provided me with an insight in the "management & business" of running a large Parish. Through the PPC I could reflect and consider the wider Church in Ireland– a Church where, I believe, the laity will have to adopt a much more active role in coming years.

My experience serving on the PPC has been completely positive! It is true that whatever you put in, you receive back "in shovels!" I would strongly urge anyone with a little time, energy & love of our Parish not to be reticent – it's a very enriching experience. *(NW)*