

Cong, Cross & the Neale Pastoral Council

2014-2018

Newsletter - Spring 2015

Members of Council

Core Group: Fr Paddy Gilligan (President), Teresa Higgins (Chairperson), Brid Mylotte (Assistant Chair and Child Safeguarding Rep.), Kathleen Conroy (Secretary), Enda Noone (Assistant Secretary), Tommy Murphy, Padraic O'Halloran, Damian McGrath, Gerard Farragher, Kathy Carney, Kathleen Langan, Cathy McGrath, Mary Ann Naughton, Martin Kennedy, Mary McGovern (Finance Committee Rep.)

Youth Sub Group: Gerard Farragher, Marian Luskin, Kathy Carney, Martha Naughton, Martin Kennedy, Kathleen Lynagh

Maintenance Sub Group: Tommy Murphy, Padraic O'Halloran, Fintan Carney, Gearóid Harte, Damian McGrath, John Donoghue, Cathal Harte, Eamon Walsh.

Community Care Sub Group: Margaret Keane, Kathleen Langan, Teresa O'Malley, Breege Morrin, Mary Ann Naughton, Cathy McGrath, Helen King, Nora King.

Liturgy Sub Group: Teresa Higgins, Brid Mylotte, Lisa Moran, Marie Molloy, Enda Noone, Kathleen Conroy

The new Pastoral Council (2014-2018) was formed in the Autumn of 2014, with Fr. Pat Farragher as facilitator. Three meetings have been held so far. As you can see from the composition of the council, it has a Core Group and four subgroups: Youth, Maintenance, Liturgy and Community Care.

Youth Group

The Youth sub-group is guiding the John Paul II (JP II) participants this year, with ten active members involved. The objective of the group is to get involved in parish and community based activities. Eight members aim to achieve a Gold John Paul II award for their contribution to parish life. Forty hours of volunteer work/tasks must be completed to receive a gold medal award. Two of the group received a Gold Medal last year and this year are participating in a Papal Cross award based on sixty hours work/tasks. To date members have been involved in helping with teas, snacks and raffles at card games, prep work and socialising at senior citizens parties, in Church duties such as readings, collection of baskets, participating in church choirs and over Holy Week other duties such as Washing of feet on Holy Thursday and Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. They will take an active part in various aspects of the Easter Sunday Dawn Mass. Aside from these, behind the scenes members also help out with the cleaning rota in our churches. The largest event to date undertaken by this group has been the organising and running of the very successful Mega Bingo night at the Crossroads Centre. While the goal of this night was a fundraiser for future projects to be undertaken by the group, it was also a fantastic social occasion enjoyed by young and old in our community who attended.

Maintenance Group.

The Maintenance Group looks after the maintenance of all three churches and two priests houses, carrying out regular checks on heating, boilers, electrics, leaks and general clean-ups outside including lawn cutting and maintenance. Cong church has been recently painted and Cross church will be painted after Easter.

The fuse board in Cross church has been updated and new altar cloths have been purchased. A Christmas tree was erected and lit outside Cross church.

The Neale church urgently requires a complete new wiring system. As this is a Listed Heritage building, planning requirements are quite stringent. The architect has submitted approved plans for same and work will commence after Easter.

The outdoor boiler in The Neale Priests house has been replaced. Safety statements for all three churches are currently being drawn up and a safety officer to oversee same will be appointed.

Community Care Group.

The members of the Community Care group will liaise with the steering committee of the 'Young at Heart' club which meet every Thursday 12.30-2.30 in the Crossroads, engaging in different activities every week. This is a new venture for the parish and anyone who is in a position to attend will be welcomed.

The Community Care Group is currently researching the idea for emergencies- A 'Bottle in the Fridge' which has details of personal health and medicines to provide information for Ambulance or medical persons attending.

Liturgy Group.

The liturgy group organised the three Lenten talks given by Mary Trench, Robeen. She presented the 'VISION' programme which was warmly received by all. Over forty people attended for each of the three nights. The programme is based on a way of living the Christian life based on the eight Beatitudes and powered by the 'Abundance Prayer'. New cleaning rotas in all three churches are now being revised and the formation of a choir for Cross church is currently taking place. Members of the Liturgy Group are co-ordinating the ceremonies for Holy Week and Easter.

Easter Ceremonies

The Easter ceremonies start on Holy Thursday with all three churches having Mass with the help of Fr. John Hughes. Cross at 7.00pm; Cong at 8.00pm (Fr. John Hughes) and the Neale at 8.30pm. Some members of the JP II group will be washing their feet along with other volunteers.

The Stations of the Cross will take place in all three churches on Good Friday at 3.00pm led by the JP II group. Evening ceremonies on Good Friday in Cross at 7.00pm and Cong at 8.00pm

Holy Saturday ceremonies will be in The Neale church at 7.00pm and Cong church at 9.00pm. The Dawn mass takes place Easter Sunday morning at 6.30am at the Chalet along with the usual Sunday masses in Cross and Cong.

Synod on the Family

The Core Group of the Pastoral Council devoted a whole meeting to a consultation carried out in every diocese of the church to prepare for the second session on the Synod on the Family in Rome next October and sent on a report.