

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST COLUMBA AND ST THERESA, CHESTER

PARISH DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022

Adopted 28 June 2022

Nuala Keegan

Parish Secretary – St Columba's and secretary to the Pastoral Council.

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Introduction

This Parish Development Plan has emerged from the wide-ranging communication, consultation exercise and meetings held since September 2021 in response to the Synod.

The Parish submitted a response to Bishop Mark in April 2022 regarding changes in the whole church and held a series of parish meetings in May 2022 to consider changes at the Parish level. Over 200 written responses were received and approximately 70 people attended the parish meetings.

Six key themes were identified:

- A. Make the parish more inclusive and engaging to young people, children and families
- B. Increase integration and outreach
- C. Strengthen relationship with schools
- D. Make changes to liturgy/devotions
- E. Further the development of the joint parish.
- F. Improve communication

And several other issues. (G)

The parish meetings focussed discussion on the priority issues identified in the written submissions and this Development Plan seeks to lay out the actions to be taken by the end of 2022 (high priority), by June 2023 (medium priority) and thereafter (low priority).

Thanks are recorded to Fr William, Fr James, Deacon Lawrence and all members of the Pastoral Council whose tireless work has informed this document. Thanks are also given to all our parishioners who have entered this consultation with commitment and enthusiasm. We offer thanks to the Holy Spirit who has guided our work.

Nuala Keegan

Parish Secretary – St Columba's and secretary to the Pastoral Council.

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HIGH PRIORITY				
Issue		Actions/ideas/considerations	Lead by:	Timeframe
A1a.	Involve more children and young people in the liturgy and the music: As readers, altar servers, youth choir; using guitars and other instruments	Involve Children's Liturgy group and Youth group when established	Gill Blatch Denise Lusk	31/12/2022
A1b.	Involve more children and young people in the liturgy and the music: By holding youth masses or services/In leading services, including using music and art	Involve Liturgy Group, Children's Liturgy group and Youth group when established. Identify CHS pupils from the parish and make contact with Head of Sixth Form, CHS.	Liturgy Group. Mark Traynor to convene a meeting in September. Ann as PC liaison – liturgy. Helen as PC liaison – youth. (Gill Blatch & Denise Lusk) Amy O'Donnell	31/12/2022
A2.	Restart children's liturgy	Restart scheduled for 3 July. A trailer to go in newsletter for w/e 26 June	Gill Blatch	03/07/2022
B1.	Maintain online Masses (though preferably not on Facebook)	Masses continue to be live streamed on Facebook. (Use of YouTube channel involves additional cost for IT and subscription – no further action).	Tim Moore	ongoing
D3a.	Re-establish liturgy group and improve overall leadership/co-ordination of liturgy	<i>See A1b above</i>		31/12/2022

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D3c.	Encourage parishioners from ethnically diverse groups to become readers and Eucharistic Ministers	Identify a PC member or member of the Liturgy Group to make personal approaches. <i>Fr William & Fr James continue to encourage parishioners from all backgrounds to participate in parish activities</i>	Fr William & Fr James	ongoing
F2.	Improve audibility in church to understand homilies and readings by: better sound system/ better use of sound system.	Adjustments to sound system at St. C has improved audibility. New chest mics at St. T have improved audibility	Priest and sacristans	Done
F.	Improve communication through website	Identify a volunteer website Coordinator to post and refresh items on a regular basis. Provide the necessary training	Matt as PC liaison – communications Fr James Anthony Mosquera	31/12/2022

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MEDIUM PRIORITY				
Issue		Actions/ideas/considerations	Lead by:	Timeframe
A1d.	Make Mass a more joyful and more lively celebration	No specific action proposed currently	-	-
B3b.	Reach out to the wider community: Offer support for visit/phone the elderly/lonely/sick	Develop a list of older parishioners. Integrate with EMoHC visiting list. Integrate with SVP list. <i>GDPR prevents lists of parishioners being kept and used for multiple purposes without consent. SVP and EMoHC are currently visiting families and individuals. SVP recruitment drive planned)</i>	Sue McC. as PC liaison – outreach	30/06/2023
C2.	Primary schools to participate in church liturgy/ school choir to sing on Sundays	Identify 2 people to act as School liaison volunteer. <i>(St C. person to be identified)</i>	Nikki Kirkman at St. T. Ann as PC liaison – schools	30/06/2023
C3.	Parish to be more evident in school assemblies	Give talks at schools.	Priests/ school liaison volunteer	
D3b	Training for lay ministry including readers and implement a common strategy for readers to follow.	Organise a training day – Diocesan led?		

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D4a.	Introduce a collective Sacrament of Reconciliation			
F4a.	Make personal approaches to parishioners to encourage volunteers/participation.		All PC members	30/06/2023
F4d.	Minutes, agendas of Parish Council meetings to be published.	Display on noticeboards	Nuala Keegan Eileen Irwin	Done
G1.	It is of critical importance to increase number of volunteers – otherwise none of the good ideas identified can be implemented. Need to recognise that majority of people can spare <i>some</i> time/ use <i>some</i> talent and not assume that everyone else has more time/more talent/more skills	Each PC member to undertake volunteer recruitment and report back at each meeting	All PC members	30/06/2023
G5.	Need for community activities to be social as well as worshipping to attract non worshippers to the church – who may then become worshippers	Encourage parishioners to bring friends who don't go to church. Parish BBQ Summer Concert	Social Cttee. Social Cttee	Held 12/06/22

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LOW PRIORITY				
Issue		Actions/ideas/considerations	Lead by:	Timeframe
A3.	Develop more social activities attractive to young people, families and children	Canvas opinions from families. Canvas opinions from young people who come to church – what activities would they like to see?	Lynsey as PC liaison - children/families	Done
A4	Canvass opinions of young people and individual families to identify concerns and be open to change	Canvas opinions from families Canvas opinions from young people who come to church – what activities would they like to see?	Lynsey as PC liaison - children/families Denise Lusk	Done
A5	Employ a Family Worker to manage/coordinate toddler group, children’s activities, children’s liturgy, prayer services for children & families. Offer drop in/ play sessions	Cost prohibits this. <i>(No further action planned)</i>		
B2a.	Have welcome sessions; introduce and welcome new members at end of Mass			
B2b	Could Fr William/Fr James greet people in the porch before and after Mass?	Confessions before/after mass may conflict with this		
B2c	Interact more with diverse communities and put welcome signs in various languages in entrances to church and hall	Welcome signs in porches Pop Banners in porches	Anne Mosquera Nuala Keegan Nuala Keegan	Done 01/09/2022

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B3a	More involvement in local needs/ charities /refugees/homeless	Contact Sam Dixon, CWAC Councillor with responsibility for refugee families		
B4a	Show films in hall – some for families and some for older people			
B4b	Establish: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> luncheon club <input type="checkbox"/> walking group <input type="checkbox"/> youth group <input type="checkbox"/> social outings <input type="checkbox"/> monthly meetings for retired/unemployed <input type="checkbox"/> non- traditional women’s group to identify parish priorities in role of women <input type="checkbox"/> group for separated/divorced/remarried 	Re-establish Youth Group (alternate between St C and St T.) Coach trips have re-started	Denise Lusk. Margaret Curtis Paul Wrigglesworth	Done
B6	Have information available on how to become a Catholic			
C1	Make interactivity of school and church visible eg displays of art work etc.	Identify 2 people to act as School liaison volunteer	Nikki Kirkman at St. T? A volunteer from St C. (parent?)	
D1c	Have evening Mass on Sundays and Holy Days			
D1e	Hold Mass every day	Mass is already held on 5 days	Priests	Done

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D1d	Offer working people the opportunity to acquire the habit of attending voluntary liturgical activities – other than Saturday/Sunday.			
D1g	Arrange transport to Mass	Already available at St C. Need to institute same at St T. Use of Holy Trinity minibus?		
D1f	Have tea and coffee available after mid-week Masses	Provide supplies, publicise, Fr W and Fr J to invite people at end of masses	Nuala Keegan Eileen Irwin	Done
D3d	Homilies should not be too long			
D4b	Introduce: Charismatic prayer group/Prayer group /Half hour Adoration weekly/more services of Adoration/ Bible study group	Check level of interest.		
E1	Regarding the parish merger, recognise this is not complete			
E2	Use the same hymns and ways of serving in St Theresa's and St Columba's			
F1	<i>Really</i> consult with people and listen to what they say	See below F4b		
F3a	Regarding the newsletter, show names of contributors to make it more personal			
F3b	Fr William/Fr James to write item for newsletter every week			

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F3c	Invite contributions from individuals eg; on what the parish means to them and write it up in Newsletter			
F4b	Consult parishioners more effectively about changes. Listen to views of all	A model has been developed through Synod consultation and parish meetings provided extensive opportunities for participation	Pastoral Council	Done
F4c	Use the notice boards better	Noticeboards at St. C have been refreshed and are monitored weekly	Nuala Keegan Eileen Irwin	Done
G2	Revitalise Pastoral Council and clarify its purpose	PC purpose is established by its Constitution. Minutes displayed on noticeboards– see F4d above. Write a piece for the newsletter on the purpose of PC Refresh PC members list and photos		
G3	Greater transparency in funding and use of parish money	Parish accounts are displayed on noticeboards	Nuala Keegan Eileen Irwin	Done