

Parish Pastoral Council end of year report for 2018

St Margaret's Parish Pastoral Council was established at the beginning of 2017. Its current membership consists of Paul Cavadino and Gerald Soane (Joint Chairs), Nuala Llewellyn and Yumna Joubelly (Joint Secretaries), Nuala Garvey, Eamonn O'Domhnaill, Richard Thomson, Geoff Balls, Paul Sharp, Estella Begley, Gerry McGinley and Chris Da Cruz.

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meets every six weeks. It has sub-groups dealing with Liturgy, Evangelisation, Communications, the Social Life of the Church and the Young Church. The parish has a separate Finance and Maintenance Committee which has representation on the PPC.

In the course of 2018 the PPC and its sub-groups have taken the following actions:

Communications

- Updated the parish's Welcome Booklet containing details of services, activities and contacts in the parish.
- Produced 1,000 postcards with the times of Easter services and distributed these to households throughout the parish.
- Produced and distributed 2,000 leaflets with Christmas and New Year Mass Times. Attendance at the Christmas Masses totalled over 500.

Social Life of the Church

- Arranged a successful Shrove Fair in February which raised nearly £1,200 for the church.
- Arranged a successful Summer Fair in July which raised over £1,500.
- Arranged a Quiz Night in October which raised over £1,400 and which – like the Shrove and Summer Fairs - was also a great social success.

Young Church

- Organised a series of Youth Masses which have involved an enthusiastic group of young people in prayer, music, readings and worship.
- Arranged a successful Young Church social event – a Family Picnic – in September with games, sport, music and refreshments.
- Organised a Harvest Mass in September which collected 14 boxes of food for the Sutton food bank.

Liturgy

- Produced a revised booklet on the duties of Eucharistic Ministers and arranged a meeting of Ministers in May to launch and explain the booklet.

- Produced a new booklet on the duties of Readers and arranged a meeting of Readers in June to launch and explain the booklet.
- Organised a pre-Advent “Deep Clean” day in November to improve the appearance of the church benches, furniture, windows and interior.

Evangelisation

- Represented the parish at the National Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool at September and participated in a wide range of preparatory and follow-up meetings.
- Arranged a successful Deanery Day of Recollection for Ministers in October.

Looking forward ...

It has been an exciting year for St Margaret’s. In addition to the PPC’s work, the parish’s long-standing Finance and Maintenance Committee has also taken a range of key initiatives during the year including the installation of new blinds at the back of the church and the replacement of the glass panels in the meeting area doors. Other parish initiatives have included Fr Patrick’s Silver Jubilee celebrations, a 24 hour Adoration and the Big Picture course.

The PPC believes that 2019 will prove an even more fruitful and stimulating year for our parish community. Initiatives which are in the planning stages or under consideration include a Summer Fair, a Christmas Fair, taking a group to the Flame national youth event, a parish pilgrimage to Aylesford, extended Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays, an annual Mass for widows and widowers and a pilgrimage to Lourdes.

The PPC always welcomes suggestions from parishioners for new initiatives and offers of assistance with the activities of its sub-groups. All the sub-groups are open to interested new members - in particular, the sub-group on the Social Life of the Church which organises our social and fund-raising events.

Please feel free to approach any member of the PPC if you have any suggestions or would like to offer assistance.