

Parish Pastoral Council- Activities Update September 2023 to December 2023

Dear parishioners,

On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council, I would like to outline the activities we have completed to date. Firstly, I would like to thank Philip Daly, outgoing chairperson, for his contributions to the Council over the past number of years and his guidance to this year's Council. We purchased a bench to mark Philip's retirement and it is situated in the grounds for all to use, especially volunteers from all our committees- past and present.

1. **Child Protection**-The nominated Child Protection Officer attends meetings and receives ongoing training from the Diocesan Child Safeguarding and Protection Services.
2. **Blessing of Schoolbags**- to mark the beginning of the school year last September, children were invited to bring their school bags to the 11.00am Sunday Mass so that their bags could be blessed by Fr Paul.
3. **Blessing of Pets**- early in October there was a good turnout of pets and owners to mark the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. All pets were blessed by Fr Paul.
4. **Parish Website**- the parish website has been completely relaunched and a cake sale was organised to contribute to the cost. Thank you to all who supported the event.
5. **Mass for Deceased Parishioners**- This annual mass in November is very special to those who have lost loved ones during the year. Refreshments were provided after the mass
6. **Special Ministers of the Eucharist**- training and induction took place in November and five new special Ministers were commissioned. This will enable more house visits to those who are unable to attend mass and also to assist at weekly masses
7. **Christmas Toy Collection for Our Lady Immaculate Senior National School, Darndale** - this toy collection to assist a Grade 1 DEIS school means so much and our delivery is eagerly awaited each December. The support is fantastic from our community. Transition Year students from Gonzaga assisted with the delivery of toys to the school. Thank you to everyone who donated.
8. **Volunteers**- the parish hosted an appreciation meal in December to thank all our volunteers who support the daily life of the parish and the church.
9. **Crib**- we changed the location of our outdoor crib and improved the lighting thus making the crib more visible from the road.
10. **Eco initiatives**- two members of the PPC attended the 'Caring For Creation' Seminar which was facilitated by the Diocese last November. An 'eco-corner' has been introduced in the newsletter and more strategic greening plans are being developed. We are registering for a complete energy audit of all the parish buildings (the church, parish centre, parish office and the parochial house) and then will look at recommendations to develop a more sustainable parish.
11. **Gonzaga College Sleepout for Peter McVerry Trust**- Gonzaga College students spoke at all Masses one weekend about their annual sleepout in aid of the Peter McVerry Trust. A leaving collection was taken up after each Mass.
12. **Mental Health**- we organised a talk in the Parish Centre of the benefits of having One Good Adult in a child's life- hosted by Jigsaw
13. **Gardening**- The group of volunteers who maintain the church gardens all year round are doing wonderful work. This year we organised Transition Year students from Gonzaga College to provide more assistance.

14. **Parish Partnerships-** we attended a meeting in Rathmines with representatives from each church in our new partnership to begin the development of this structure.
15. **Christmas Ceremonies and Concerts-** The Christmas ceremonies were very well attended. We thank all those who enhanced our liturgies with their music - the children's choir, the Irish choir, the Dublin Consort of Voices and the Master of the Music.
16. **Instagram/Newsletter/Website** – we have 267 followers on Instagram, and approximately 250 on our newsletter circulation list. We would like to enhance our communication with our community so we can inform more people what is happening here in Beechwood Avenue. Please email the parish office (parishoffice@beechwoodparish.com) if you would like to be added to our newsletter list. You can follow us on Instagram at [church.of.the.holy.name](#)
17. **Parish Book Table-** We started this last year and it is great to see people leaving books and taking them. Books are a joy and can be expensive, so feel free to leave as many books as you like as they are snapped up.
18. **Thursday Coffee-** Fr Paul has continued to host the coffee morning after mass on Thursday mornings using our lovely kitchen. This is a great opportunity to take time out of a busy day.
19. **Sunday Evening Mass-** Fr Paul has introduced a monthly Sunday evening mass to facilitate families and this has been well attended to date.

Fr Paul has been a tremendous support to the Council and he will listen to all ideas and works tirelessly to keep Beechwood the vibrant, active church it is.

If you would like to communicate with with the PPC, please do so by email to the Parish Office at parishoffice@beechwoodparish.com

Happy New Year to everyone,

Rita Lovett -Chairperson PPC

2023/24 Committee Fr Paul Taylor – President, Armelle Mitchell, Eugene Mc Loughlin (secretary), Eithne Wall (CPO), Claire Moran, Sarah Burns, Aideen Loftus.