

Dear Parishioners,

Attached please find a summary of PPC activities that were held from Jan 2024 to June 2024, thank you for your ongoing support and in particular the support of Fr Paul who is always receptive to new proposals and guiding us in the right direction.

### **Eco/Green initiatives**

Aideen Loftus, PPC, has invested hours of her time on our behalf, progressing all things ECO in the parish, we are firmly supporting all these initiatives to consume less of the earth's resources, and to show our commitment to climate justice, and reducing our carbon footprint.

We undertook electrical work a few years ago, changing all the bulbs to LED and already the savings are showing.

1, We have registered as part of the Eco Congregation ([www.ecocongregationireland.com](http://www.ecocongregationireland.com)). This congregation encourages us to take an eco-approach to worship, lifestyle, finance management and community outreach with the developing world. As a member of this congregation, we can benefit from idea sharing, resources and support. Please take a look at their website,

2. We have submitted a grant application for climate action projects to DCC and we hope to have some positive news by August. The projects that we have earmarked following an energy audit and other are as follows (all for parish center)

- a. Bike Shelter -
- b. Bike Repair Station
- c. Rain Planters
- d. LED lighting
- e. Solar Panelling Installation
- f. EV Charging
- g. Raised Flower Beds
- h. Growing Spaces
- i. Seating
- j. Signage

All the projects required 3 quotations, so you can imagine the work that was involved, so thank you Aideen.

All the above projects should be ready to go pretty quickly once grants are approved, as the quotes are valid, so fingers crossed.

The governance of successful grants will be overseen by the Parish Finance Committee.

A new bike rack was installed in the church to encourage more cycling to church service, The blue is a very attractive colour and has been very favourably commented upon, by all living locally. It's lovely to pass by and see it being used. It was supplied and fitted by an Irish company from Waterford.

### **3. Hedging**

New hedging was planted along the Albany Road side of the community center. The hedging is a native Irish Species and will promote biodiversity. Please keep an eye

on it as you walk by, and encourage people to respect it, as it will take a few months to bed down.

#### **4. Church Garden**

As you will see this is flourishing and the seating is being used by old and young which is lovely to see. We have maintained the link with Gonzaga and the TY students help out during the year which is fantastic, they really enjoy it and the extra hands are great. The volunteer gardening group meet every week, and really keep on top of everything. The group would really welcome new volunteers, this is a very enjoyable morning and instant rewards.

Dogs need to be kept on leads, as a lot of the beds are being destroyed by dogs running through the, Children welcome also, but not on bikes or kicking balls, again not to damage the gardens, but welcome to hang out, chat with pals on the seating areas etc,

#### **5. Screening of The Letter**

The screening was held during Easter Week, as part of the Laudato Si messaging with regard to the environment. This film has been shown in a lot of secondary schools and other churches. A representative from Trocaire came along and there was a good turnout in the Parish Center.

#### **6. Community Outreach**

We organised first holy communion for families in our community , whose children have autism, and do not attend the schools in our area. This was a very special, tailored ceremony, and the children and their families enjoyed every minute of their special day. All children are equal and the PPC would like to endeavour to treat everyone the same, and that Beechwood is seen as a very inclusive church. Fr Paul went out of his way to ensure that each family felt welcomed and we hosted a lovely party in the church after the event

#### **7. School Liaison Officer**

We are exploring the idea of a SLO to link the schools together for the ceremonies and RE throughout the year. This is work in progress.

#### **8. Schools Programme**

We are very thankful to the parents on the PC who liaise with the schools with regard to Do this in memory masses, communion and confirmation ceremonies. This is a busy role but vital to maintain strong links with the local schools.

#### **9. Hope Foundation Collection**

We liaised with Gonzaga and facilitated a talk at 3 masses for local boys travelling to India with the Hope Foundation. It is lovely to see boys standing up in their local church, saying their piece. They feel so honoured to be supported by their community and the donations will be put to good to those less fortunate

#### **10. Garden Party**

The garden party hosted last Saturday, with some lovely strawberries, cream and wine was a big hit, The sun shone, the bunting was up and a sing song helped to foster good relationships within our community. The gardening group had a table

with free daisies etc to take home to be replanted in local gardens. Another offering of rose petal syrup was well received, made from a recipe from our Syrian friends.

### **11. Website**

The newly refurbished website, has a lot of new up to date information so please refer to same

[www.beechwoodparish.com](http://www.beechwoodparish.com)

### **12. WhatsApp Group**

The PPC launched a WhatsApp group for notification only. There are only 2 admins in the group and the objective is to let you know when church related activities are happening. So far going very well. If you would like to be added please text 086-8529647 and we will add you to the group.

### **13. Parish Partnership Camino**

This has been very successful with a visit to each church within our partnership group. We hosted in Beechwood in May with a lovely history of the church delivered and a walk through the gardens followed by evening prayer, Refreshments were served afterwards, the feedback was wonderful and our visitors felt very welcomed.

### **14. Book Swap Table**

An absolute continued success. Please leave any books you are finished with here and take any books for yourselves and families. A donation of c400 books was practically gone after a month, so an indicator of the avid readers here in Beechwood. Let's keep this going,

### **15. Clustering Update**

We have attended meetings with our partnership group in order to progress the clustering. The Camino was one initiative from that group, and there are other initiatives in the pipeline

### **16. Parish Center Availability**

We are seeking to ensure that one evening per week is kept free in the community center for community once off events. We feel this is the hub of the community and while bills have to be paid, it's very important that our community has access. We have been assured that this will happen in Sept, so we can advertise and say to our various groups who need once off evenings that it's there.

### **17. Housekeeping**

One piece of housekeeping that is brought up at every meeting, and that is of dogs in the church grounds. Despite notices and the goodwill of being able to walk dogs on leads, many people are ignoring this. Ongoing problems with dog waste, which is a health hazard, especially to younger children, is causing concern to many. The notices put up recently by Albany Road residents are being completely ignored, and people are coming in throwing balls for large dogs to catch, the dogs are bounding through flower beds that cost money to plant and time to maintain. We are not sure how to resolve this problem amicably but unfortunately it is getting worse. Just so you know we are aware of it and the complaints but suggestions from you the community how to resolve this would be welcomed. There are notices on every

railing requesting that dogs are kept on leads and no football games, but unfortunately these signs are ignored. So all suggestions welcomed!!

Thank you to our committee for tireless input and attending meetings to ensure that our committee is a progressive functioning one

**Fr Paul Taylor**  
**Eithne Walls- Child Protection Officer**  
**Eugene Mc Loughlin- Secretary**  
**Claire Moran**  
**Sarah Byrne**  
**Armele Michelle**

Wishing you and your families a very restful summer and looking forward to getting back together in Sept 2024,

Yours sincerely,

Rita Lovett- Chairperson PPC.