

What Makes an Effective Parish Pastoral Council?

What makes an effective PPC



Prayer

- A praying body that makes decisions, not a decision making body that happens to pray
- Responsibility rotated around the sub-groups
 - Different themes, different approaches,
 - Helps individuals in their approach to developing liturgy
- Harder to have a row after praying together!

Purpose

- *The mission of Dungannon Parish Pastoral Council is to build up the local faith community by witnessing to the values of the Gospel. Guided by The Holy Spirit we seek to respond to those in our community so that everyone feels valued with a sense of belonging to a vibrant, enriched and caring community.*
- The challenge is to develop the balance between delivering the purpose through doing, as opposed to through coordinating the doing by others in the parish
- 5 Sub Groups to deliver the purpose
 - Faith Formation; Liturgy; Outreach; Youth; Communication
 - Action Plans for each group

People

- Selecting the right people and securing the right mix of people
- The OPRFM selection template is an excellent template,
 - Recommend a vice-chair role in addition to chair and secretary
- Take the time to discern the gifts and talents of the council members and to organise the group make ups mindful of the talents and the needs to be met
 - Leadership, Facilitation and Organisational capabilities, all vital here. Chair must demonstrate these capabilities

Priests

- Priests must be involved with the Parish Priest having a gentle hand on the tiller
- Strike a balance between running everything past the PP for approval and the PP keeping a watchful eye out and intervening where necessary
- Two watch outs
 1. Clericalism (overly respectful laity) can inhibit the potential of a PPC
 2. Clericalism (priestly power) and Canon law...the double padlock on the gate
 - Keeping the laity in or keeping the laity out?

Patience

- PPC members are volunteers, not employees
- Priests are human, change is difficult for many humans
- “Let us plant seeds though we may never see the fruit...Love for their grandchildren has given revolutionaries, prophets and saints the courage to die for the future of their dreams”
- A praying body that makes decisions, not a decision making body that happens to pray