

**St Mary's Leyland
Parish Council
Wednesday 4th June 2014**

PRESENT: Fr Jonathan, Fr Stephen, Sr Veronica, Peter Barron, Sue Mills, Edward Almond, Jeremy Watson, Gaye Beirne, Christine Lemmon, Walter Courtney, Lesley Raven & Tim Sullivan.

PRAYER: Led by Christine Lemmon

APOLOGIES: Ann Ward, Alex Anthony & Liz McGrath

MINUTES: Accepted as a true record of our last meeting.

MATTERS ARISING: There was a follow up meeting regarding 'A Way of Life' which will be discussed during this meeting.

PARISH EVENTS:

1st Communion – Primary School rehearsals
Sacramental Programme Sessions
Golden Wedding Celebration
Ecumenical Service – Week of Christian Unity
60's Gig Night
Leyland Band Concert
Knights of St Columba Dinner

GARDEN PARTY: The programmes have been printed and ready. Volunteers already organised to assist setting up but more bodies always welcome which then reduces the load for everybody. The garden party will be moved into church if the weather is inclement.

PPC NOMINATIONS:

Peter Barron, Tim Sullivan, Jeremy Watson & Christine Lemmon have all agreed to continue serving on the PPC. Celia Neill & Pauline Strachan applied and have been accepted on to the PPC. Walter Courtney has stood down after many years of faithful, helpful service to the council. Fr Jonathan made a point of thanking Walter for the great contribution he has made over the years. The newcomers will be invited to the next meeting after the summer break in September.

FUTURE VISION:

A small group of PPC members and Fr Jonathan met on Thursday 15th May for a further discussion regarding Future Vision prior to tonight's meeting. The group watched the 'What Are Our Frontlines' dvd again and Fr J suggested that a future strategy to go forward with this should be agreed. The dvd was useful because it came over in ordinary language and touched everyday things and commitments. There is a pressure on people's time & on the dvd Annie had a busy life but had a realisation that she wanted to give something back. This was her interpretation of a good Christian act and wanted to make a contribution 24/7 as part of her life.

Christine spoke of the two strands/approaches to this Parish Vision. The first strand is that everyone has a "frontline" where there is an opportunity to evangelise in everything we do and say, wherever we are and whoever we meet.

The second strand is the necessity to have a real and deep relationship with Jesus in order to be true evangelisers as Fr Stephen comments below.

Edward talked through 'A Way of Life' in which we could better proclaim Jesus as Lord in our own lives and in the parish. The suggestions would all show respect for one's self & our neighbours. These simple but important points could then be ingrained into a person's way of life for the better.

Fr Stephen commented that Pope Francis has a yearning for 'spirit filled evangelisers' to spread the joy of the gospel into hearts and minds. Small groups are fundamental for a parish to work successfully otherwise it will decay. Fr S suggested inviting committed people to explore with him how this new evangelization can be carried out within the parish.

Fr J commented that the 'Frontline' is so important to build on a daily basis. Good example will result in people recognising you as a decent, trustworthy person and want to relate to you more, perhaps leading to asking questions relating to a better 'way of life'. This Future Vision for St Mary's should be gently, slowly & gradually built up. Evangelisation starts in the heart of every person and we should focus on very small things, live a good life and do the basics right. Don't try to preach to people, show by example the 'way of life' in our daily routines and this will rub off for the better.

The next step is to move this vision forward with some of the suggestions being as follows.

- Show and explain the 'What Are Our Frontlines' dvd to the Parish as a starting point.
- A parishioner to share an experience of being a Christian on the frontline in a short talk during mass.
- Small group to further this vision within their possibilities and busy life's.
- Use of the bulletin perhaps within the Word of Life section.
- Coffee morning to have a social, informal discussion.
- Use as a theme in 'Little Church' to teach the children 'A Way of Life'.
- A weekly poster in the church on the 'Way of Life' with a different strand every week as this will visually communicate with people.
- For the future possibly a number of 'spirit filled evangelisers' who could give short talks in schools, baptism preparation, sacramental preparation etc
- Involve the young people/students some of whom are spirit filled evangelists with a different Catholic, Christian energy. An example would be the group undertaking Eucharistic Minister training.

We must include everybody in the Parish, we are not all intentional disciples. We cannot be personal with everybody, the Parish is too big & we must not push people to do something. However if we stitch 'A Way of Life' into our daily routines we will continue to move forward.

AOB:

Edward Almond suggested having a Our Lady in Art Exhibition depicting Our Lady of whom the Parish is dedicated to. People to bring religious artefacts/icons from home or produce them. Edward will organise this event and put a meeting date in the bulletin for all interested parties.

DATE OF NEXT PPC MEETING: Wednesday 3rd September @ 7.30pm

PRAYER: Gaye Beirne **CHAIRPERSON:** Edward Almond