

St Alban & St Stephen Parish Assembly, 2021 Summary and Outcomes Report

The Parish Assembly, delayed from 2020 because of the Covid pandemic, was held via Zoom technology on 12 June and as a face-to-face meeting on 23 July 2021.

Fr Michael had presented his vision for the parish under the theme '*Welcome, Worship and Witness*' in his Advent 2020 talks and initial parish discussions were arranged after each talk. The proposals were published to the parish in February and feedback was sought from individuals via discussions at some 28 groups in the parish and in local schools in March and April. The feedback was summarised by the external facilitator and publicised to the parish in May, along with reports from the existing parish strategy groups. The considerable pre-work, which was made available on the parish website, enabled the Assembly itself to focus on future priorities, and in line with current national guidelines meant that the meetings themselves were relatively short. Notes from both meetings and all other documents relating to the Assembly are available on the parish [website](#).

Some 60 people participated in the on-line Assembly meeting and 20 people joined the physical gathering. Fr Michael's proposals were endorsed by the overwhelming majority of participants at the Assembly and by the parishioners and various parish groups that provided feedback. The proposals in full can be found on the parish website and the outcomes from the Assembly can be summarised as follows:

- 1. Parish Groups:** There was agreement to establish a Social Committee and a Communications Group, along with groups focused on Adult Faith Formation, Parish Friends, Youth & Young Families, and Justice & Peace.
- 2. Youth Worker & Volunteer Co-ordinator:** There was great enthusiasm for the recruitment of a Youth Worker, while the establishment of a volunteer co-ordinator seemed a good way forward especially as regards the inclusion of new parishioners.
- 3. Coordinating Groups for Sunday Masses:** It was agreed to form a co-ordinating group for each of the Sunday Masses to ensure that welcomers, readers, eucharistic ministers, refreshments etc are in place for each mass, as has been the practice at Marshalswick.
- 4. Parish Liturgy Group:** In addition to a musician representative from each Mass, the liturgy group will have a representative from each of the Mass coordinating groups, along with the parishioners responsible for coordinating the readers and the eucharistic ministers. It will take responsibility for the training needs of these latter groups.
- 5. Working Parties:** The pastoral priorities proposed the establishment of 4 working parties
 - To enhance the experience of new parishioners
 - To create a more welcoming and inclusive church frontage and porch
 - To consider the redevelopment of the presbytery
 - To consider the refurbishment of the church and the sanctuaryIt was suggested during the Assembly that some of these working parties, in particular the working parties on the church frontage and porch and presbytery redevelopment might be amalgamated. In light of the feedback from the Assembly two working parties will be established. One to consider the experience of new parishioners and one to consider the church plant/property as a whole.
- 6. Mass times change:** The Sunday 7pm Mass will move forward to 6pm from the beginning of September, and the Friday 10am Mass will be discontinued from the New year with the exception of First Fridays and Funeral Masses.
- 7. Parish Pastoral Council:** The new parish council will review and update the existing parish constitution. It is envisaged that in addition to the Parish Clergy, it will comprise the following members:
 - Communications Rep
 - Social Rep
 - Adult Faith Formation Rep
 - Youth & Young Families Rep
 - Parish Friends Rep
 - Justice & Peace Rep
 - Ecumenical Rep
 - Marshalswick Mass Rep
 - Saturday, 6pm Mass Rep
 - Sunday 8am mass Rep
 - Sunday 9.30am Mass Rep
 - Sunday 11.30am Mass Rep
 - Sunday 7pm Mass Rep