

PARISH NEWS – FROM FR JIM APRIL 2021

During the week, we had our first Finance Committee (FC) meeting since last October. Here is a summary of some of the things we spoke about.

Finance While all parishes have had a drop in income due to periods of lock down, we are so grateful to those of you who have transferred your weekly envelope donations to standing orders as well as those of you who have given your donations in at the presbytery. Consequently, we have been able to draw up a tentative- budget for 2021/22.

Mass Thanks to our Health & Safety representative, James Moran and his team for making the church Covid safe for us to celebrate two Masses each weekend. We are now going to celebrate an additional Mass each Thursday at 10.30am, beginning next Thursday 29th April. Additional Masses will be scheduled as we go cautiously forward.

Parish Centre Having to close the Centre has also meant the loss of a source of income for us. Again, thanks to the work of James Moran, our Parish Administrator, Naomi and our Caretaker, John we have been able to open the Parish Centre for hire this week on a limited basis.

Streaming. We have invested in equipment for streaming Mass and other services. Grateful thanks to Richard Jennings and Simon Blackburn for their huge commitment, in so many ways, to make this work for us. It is being well very well received and we were also to stream the Confirmation Masses last week. And for those who watched it- No, I have not been promoted to the rank of Bishop – parish priests are allowed to administer this sacrament in special circumstances.

Communications. The FC members are slowly drawing me into the world of technology as we consider digital means of improving communication systems across the parish and with the outside world via social media. In doing this we would be following the trail set by many parishes in the country. So, **I will be asking for a number of volunteers** to help us to become a more “digitally enabled” (I think the words are) parish. This groups would look at all means of communication currently in use and guide us towards developing them further. More about this in the following weeks.

Parish Pastoral Council. We are looking forward to being able to invite you to come to a Parish Council meeting which we would hope to be able to hold in late June – if prevailing conditions allow. While we must plan the way forward it is essential to have consultation with as many of you as can safely be accommodated at a meeting. So please be prepared to join us when we can celebrate coming together as a community again.

Every Best Wish and Blessing

Fr Jim