

HOW WE SEE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALL SAINTS PARISH

After the formation in November 2007 of All Saints Parish, a Parish Pastoral Council was set up to “reflect upon, advise and make recommendations about the pastoral activity of the parish”.

The Council has now started to form some ideas as to how we see All Saints developing in the next few years.

These ideas are based firmly on the call from the Second Vatican Council for the mission of the Church to be carried out with the full involvement and collaboration of all its members.

We rejoice in the number of Parishioners already active and ministering in All Saints; for example, in prayer groups, in charitable works, and in preparing young people for reception of the sacraments.

The Parish Council has therefore decided that the way forward should be by encouraging the formation of more similar groups of lay people, each with their own dedicated mission of serving God and our neighbour in their different recognisable ways. We will also need to enhance these gifts and talents by training and support.

So we have given special thought and prayer to how as many parishioners as possible can be brought into this mission by building on what we have and by developing new ways of serving God and our neighbour.

Many All Saints parishioners feel a close bond to the church they worship in each Sunday. So some way has to be found of deciding which missionary work should be organised and based at each of our 6 churches, and when commonsense tells us that a parish wide group would function best. What will be the role and relationship of the Parish Council and our Community Committees in this new way of working?

Such details, and the role of our priests, deacons and sisters, in all these changes, will have to be carefully considered in the development of All Saints in the coming years.

In the coming months the Council will bring forward more detailed plans for All Saints. Then we hope that each Community Committee will arrange a special meeting, open to all, to discuss how this vision can, with the help of the Holy Spirit, become a growing reality throughout our parish.

However YOU can get in at the beginning by coming to hear Father Daniel O’Leary who will be sharing his expertise with us, on the February 5th, at 7.00 pm in St. Joseph’s High School.

These are exciting times, and once established we will be allaying the foundations for the future of our Parish and also safeguarding it for generations to come.

It is hoped that we will all be positive in our support of this vision.