

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ST. BRIGID'S GISBORNE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Pastoral Council shares in the responsibility for the ongoing life and development of our parish community, working together with parishioners to provide support for their efforts to live as followers of Christ.

The Parish Pastoral Council seeks to:

- Provide support for our Parish Priest, working collaboratively with him and with each other.
- Listen and respond to the hopes, ideas, needs and concerns of parishioners and respond to these identified issues.
- Encourage harmony, participation and support for the continuing good works of existing and new groups within our parish.
- Provide opportunities for parishioners
 - to grow in their relationship with God and with each other
 - to support and encourage them in their continuing efforts to be a Christian influence in the wider community.
- Set realistic and achievable short-term and long-term pastoral goals for our parish community within the framework of diocesan priorities and oversee the implementation of these goals.
- Contribute towards making parish decisions that reflect the values of the Gospel and the teachings of the Church.
- Report to the parish community regularly and seek the input of parishioners through various means, e.g. parish consultations, focus meetings, conversations.

MEMBERSHIP

There are nine members consisting of the Parish Priest, six members chosen by parishioners (two from St Patrick's, St Ambrose's and St. Brigid's) and two chosen by our Parish Priest. In addition, ex-officio members **may** include the Principals of the Parish Schools, a member of the Liturgy Team and a member of the Finance Committee.

The Council will have as broad a membership as possible, with a diversity of age, gender and ethnic origin. Each Pastoral Councillor is a representative of the whole parish community and not a representative of a specific parish group only.

The term of membership is two years

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

In a spirit of prayerfulness each member of the Parish Pastoral Council will:

- Attend meetings of the Parish Pastoral Council (minimum of four meetings each year).
- Support and encourage other members of the Pastoral Council and provide input to deliberations of the Council.
- Develop a spirit of enquiry and the ability to listen and understand the issues affecting the lives of parishioners.
- Actively participate in the implementation of finalised plans of action.
- Embrace opportunities for personal faith development and for gaining skills to assist with effective participation in the Council's operations.
- Represent the Council in other Parish meetings, deanery or diocesan meetings