

Dear parishioners,

The parish of the future will be very different to the parish as we've known it until the present. One of the core differences will be the existence of a Parish Pastoral Council, made up of the priest(s) of the parish and a number of parishioners who will work together to discuss, organise and arrange for the provision of pastoral care to the whole parish.

Some weeks ago we spoke at weekend Masses about the establishment of the Parish Pastoral Council and the steps leading to it. We also asked you to fill out questionnaires relating to the life of the parish at the present time. Over 500 questionnaires were returned, and the responses have been analysed and are presented in percentage form in this booklet, along with some of the additional comments made.

The next step is our Parish Assembly Day which will take place in the Greencastle Community Centre on Saturday 28 April 2012, beginning at 11am and continuing until 4pm. There will be a break for lunch. Those attending are asked to bring along a packed lunch. Tea/coffee will be provided.

The Day will be facilitated by the members of the Diocesan team who are working to establish similar Councils in every parish in the diocese.

This is your invitation to attend the Assembly – a day of prayer and reflection, of discernment and planning for the development of the parish in the immediate future. By the end of the Assembly Day the first six lay members of the Parish Pastoral Council will have been elected, and the work of establishing the Council will be well under way.

The parish of Moville has a tremendous tradition of faith and involvement in the parish. The Assembly Day, and the Parish Pastoral Council, will be an opportunity to build on the past and secure a vibrant parish for the future.

We hope to see you at the Assembly. If you're intending to come you might let us know by calling (074) 9382057 before Thursday 26 April 2012.

With every good wish and blessing,

Fr. Pat O'Hagan

Fr. Patrick McGoldrick

PARISH OF MOVILLE SURVEY - 2012

RELATIONSHIPS AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE PARISH

The quality of Relationships between Priests and People is

% VERY GOOD	% GOOD	% FAIR	% POOR	% DON'T KNOW	Questionnaires Completed
56.56	32.09	9.59	0	1.76	511

Relationships between the People and the Schools are

% VERY GOOD	% GOOD	% FAIR	% POOR	% DON'T KNOW	Questionnaires Completed
31.87	33.67	8.17	3.59	22.71	502

The Work of the Parish Organisations is

% VERY GOOD	% GOOD	% FAIR	% POOR	% DON'T KNOW	Questionnaires Completed
28.71	47.72	11.09	2.77	9.70	505

Co-operation between Parish Organisations is

% VERY GOOD	% GOOD	% FAIR	% POOR	% DON'T KNOW	Questionnaires Completed
16.83	35.84	18.02	2.97	25.15	498

Involvement of Women in the Parish is

% VERY GOOD	% GOOD	% FAIR	% POOR	% DON'T KNOW	Questionnaires Completed
28.32	52.87	12.28	3.17	3.96	508

Involvement of Men in the Parish is

% VERY GOOD	% GOOD	% FAIR	% POOR	% DON'T KNOW	Questionnaires Completed
20.79	49.31	21.39	3.17	4.16	499

The Process of Decision Making in the Parish is

% VERY GOOD	% GOOD	% FAIR	% POOR	% DON'T KNOW	Questionnaires Completed
9.90	35.05	19.60	11.29	21.58	492

RELATIONSHIPS AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE PARISH

Involvement of Youth in the Parish

% VERY GOOD	% GOOD	% FAIR	% POOR	% DON'T KNOW	Questionnaires Completed
9.50	26.93	26.34	19.41	16.63	499

The level and range of Parish based Social Activities are

% VERY GOOD	% GOOD	% FAIR	% POOR	% DON'T KNOW	Questionnaires Completed
6.73	28.71	24.16	21.98	15.05	488

Relationships with other Christian Churches locally are

% VERY GOOD	% GOOD	% FAIR	% POOR	% DON'T KNOW	Questionnaires Completed
15.25	50.30	14.46	4.75	14.85	499

Support for Families in the Parish is

% VERY GOOD	% GOOD	% FAIR	% POOR	% DON'T KNOW	Questionnaires Completed
25.74	44.36	10.89	3.56	13.86	503

Support for Bereaved people is

% VERY GOOD	% GOOD	% FAIR	% POOR	% DON'T KNOW	Questionnaires Completed
24.16	46.93	11.88	4.55	11.29	497

Support for Elderly People is

% VERY GOOD	% GOOD	% FAIR	% POOR	% DON'T KNOW	Questionnaires Completed
25.66	47.52	13	4	10	499

Support for People with Disabilities is

% VERY GOOD	% GOOD	% FAIR	% POOR	% DON'T KNOW	Questionnaires Completed
17.23	36.63	16.24	7.52	22.18	504

Support for Sick People is

% VERY GOOD	% GOOD	% FAIR	% POOR	% DON'T KNOW	Questionnaires Completed
28.32	50.30	5.15	5.35	8.71	494

RELATIONSHIPS AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE PARISH

Support for Marriages in difficulty is

% VERY GOOD	% GOOD	% FAIR	% POOR	% DON'T KNOW	Questionnaires Completed
6.53	20.99	13.47	9.11	48.71	499

Support for Teenagers and Young People is

% VERY GOOD	% GOOD	% FAIR	% POOR	% DON'T KNOW	Questionnaires Completed
5.74	27.92	22.57	15.45	27.33	500

Support for Single Adults in the Parish is

% VERY GOOD	% GOOD	% FAIR	% POOR	% DON'T KNOW	Questionnaires Completed
7.52	22.77	20.99	9.90	35.45	488

Relationships among parishioners are

% VERY GOOD	% GOOD	% FAIR	% POOR	% DON'T KNOW	Questionnaires Completed
17.82	52.28	16.44	3.37	9.11	500

SACRAMENTS IN THE PARISH

Baptism Arrangements and Support

% NO CHANGE NEEDED	% COULD BE IMPROVED	% MUST BE CHANGED	% UNABLE TO COMMENT	Questionnaires Completed
66.87	4.65	0.81	27.68	495

First Holy Communion Arrangements

% NO CHANGE NEEDED	% COULD BE IMPROVED	% MUST BE CHANGED	% UNABLE TO COMMENT	Questionnaires Completed
66.93	8.17	1.79	23.11	502

Arrangements for Confirmation

% NO CHANGE NEEDED	% COULD BE IMPROVED	% MUST BE CHANGED	% UNABLE TO COMMENT	Questionnaires Completed
63.83	6.44	1.25	28.48	481

SACRAMENTS IN THE PARISH

Support for Marriage Preparation

% NO CHANGE NEEDED	% COULD BE IMPROVED	% MUST BE CHANGED	% UNABLE TO COMMENT	Questionnaires Completed
47.11	12.97	1.20	38.72	501

Arrangements for Marriage

% NO CHANGE NEEDED	% COULD BE IMPROVED	% MUST BE CHANGED	% UNABLE TO COMMENT	Questionnaires Completed
50.41	11.43	0.61	37.55	490

Support for Couples after Marriage

% NO CHANGE NEEDED	% COULD BE IMPROVED	% MUST BE CHANGED	% UNABLE TO COMMENT	Questionnaires Completed
26.49	24.64	3.70	45.17	487

Arrangements for Funerals

% NO CHANGE NEEDED	% COULD BE IMPROVED	% MUST BE CHANGED	% UNABLE TO COMMENT	Questionnaires Completed
74.45	7.78	0.40	17.37	501

Arrangements for Sacrament of the Sick

% NO CHANGE NEEDED	% COULD BE IMPROVED	% MUST BE CHANGED	% UNABLE TO COMMENT	Questionnaires Completed
70.77	5.24	0.20	23.79	496

Times of Weekend Masses

% NO CHANGE NEEDED	% COULD BE IMPROVED	% MUST BE CHANGED	% UNABLE TO COMMENT	Questionnaires Completed
63.05	25.68	1.25	10.02	495

Participation by Lay People in Mass

% NO CHANGE NEEDED	% COULD BE IMPROVED	% MUST BE CHANGED	% UNABLE TO COMMENT	Questionnaires Completed
87.07	6.26	3.43	3.23	479

PARISH RESOURCES

Involvement of Laity essential part of Parish Life

% YES	% NO	% UNABLE TO COMMENT	Questionnaires Completed
69.53	6.64	14.45	464

Would be prepared to become more involved in the Parish

% YES	% NO	% UNABLE TO COMMENT	Questionnaires Completed
22.85	55.86	19.92	505

Am well informed about Parish activities, events and news

% YES	% NO	% UNABLE TO COMMENT	Questionnaires Completed
69.92	15.63	8.40	481

Find the Weekly Bulletin helpful

% YES	% NO	% UNABLE TO COMMENT	Questionnaires Completed
100			505

I contribute regularly to Church Collections

% YES	% NO	% UNABLE TO COMMENT	Questionnaires Completed
89.26	6.64	2.73	505

Am eligible for and have entered Gift Aid Scheme

% YES	% NO	% UNABLE TO COMMENT	Questionnaires Completed
		100	505

Understand how and where my contributions are being used

% YES	% NO	% UNABLE TO COMMENT	Questionnaires Completed
26.56	52.15	16.21	505

THE PARISH IN THE FUTURE - By the year 2020 I would like to see

An Active Parish Pastoral Council

% TICKED/YES	% NOT TICKED	Questionnaires Completed
69.53	30.47	512

Adult Religious Education Programmes

% TICKED/YES	% NOT TICKED	Questionnaires Completed
47.07	52.93	512

Supports for Marriage and Family Life

% TICKED/YES	% NOT TICKED	Questionnaires Completed
70.70	29.30	512

Widespread Family Prayer

% TICKED/YES	% NOT TICKED	Questionnaires Completed
57.62	42.38	512

Involvement of Youth in the Life of the Church

% TICKED/YES	% NOT TICKED	Questionnaires Completed
80.86	20	512

Links with other Christian Churches Locally

% TICKED/YES	% NOT TICKED	Questionnaires Completed
59	41	512

Greater involvement of people in Parish Organisations

% TICKED/YES	% NOT TICKED	Questionnaires Completed
63	37	512

THE PARISH IN THE FUTURE - By the year 2020 I would like to see

A Vibrant Parish Community which Deepens Faith

% TICKED/YES	% NOT TICKED	Questionnaires Completed
57	43	512

A Vibrant Parish Community which Hands on the Faith

% TICKED/YES	% NOT TICKED	Questionnaires Completed
51	49	512

A Vibrant Parish Community which Encourages all Vocations

% TICKED/YES	% NOT TICKED	Questionnaires Completed
59	41	512

A Vibrant Parish Community which is an Inclusive Community

% TICKED/YES	% NOT TICKED	Questionnaires Completed
51	49	512

A Vibrant Parish Community which is a Caring Community

% TICKED/YES	% NOT TICKED	Questionnaires Completed
65	35	512

A LITTLE ABOUT YOU

Are you Male/Female?

% Male	% Female	Questionnaires Completed
42.09	53.32	471

Are you a Native of the parish?

% YES	% NO	Questionnaires Completed
77.55	22.45	481

Age

% 12-18	% 19-30	% 31-55	% 56-70	% Over 70	Questionnaires Completed
13.92	13.08	34.60	25.11	13.29	474

Do you attend Weekday Masses?

% NEVER	% SELDOM	% OFTEN	% EVERY DAY	Questionnaires Completed
20.19	54.06	19.26	6.50	431

Do you attend Sunday Masses?

% SELDOM	% OFTEN	% EVERY WEEK	Questionnaires Completed
2.46	11.19	86.35	447

Do you feel you belong to this Parish?

% YES	% NO	Questionnaires Completed
94.69	5.31	476

Are you a member of any Parish Organisation?

% YES	% NO	Questionnaires Completed
24.52	75.48	473

A LITTLE ABOUT YOU

Are there any Issues making it difficult for you to belong?

% YES	% NO	Questionnaires Completed
6.81	93.19	426

Are you in a Relationship not recognised by the Church?

% YES	% NO	Questionnaires Completed
1.94	98.06	360

There are teachings I am uncomfortable with

% YES	% NO	Questionnaires Completed
23.13	76.27	354

As a Woman I feel undervalued

% YES	% NO	% NOT APPLICABLE (MEN)	Questionnaires Completed
5.52	47	46.48	417

Have experienced Hurt in the Church

% YES	% NO	Questionnaires Completed
7.01	92.99	328

FURTHER COMMENTS FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Regular Bible studies for parishioners introduced

Every effort should be made to support the people and the businesses in the immediate area of the church

Collections should always be used in the parish

Could support our 12 to 17 ages group although not easy

School Children should wear school uniform for Holy Communion and confirmation

More involvement from the congregation

I think there could be a special day in the month for first communion to go to confession. If they had a special day it would help parents and children

People would pay more if they were more informed where money goes.

A new graveyard should be bought for Ballybrack instead of revisiting existing graves regardless of cost.

Priests are allowed to be married

Hope to see improvement in paths in Ballybrack Graveyard lower. Suggest special collection if necessary.

Sunday school for kids like some Protestants faiths, to provide more knowledge of the bible and faith

Too many masses

Christmas Eve mass should be earlier for young kids. They don't want to leave their toys on Christmas morning.

Financial statement to see where money goes.

It would be great if the the church and its priests don't treat people as if they didn't exist

I would like to see more children and teenagers involved in parish activities like collecting, readings etc

Parish Bulletin could be used better to spread information about month's mind and anniversary masses

Go back to using the previous after bread

In Ballinacrae please end the reversing of people when they come out of seats for Holy Communion. Also talking in church when leaving mass it is very disrespectful and talking in graveyard when a burial is taking place

If possible local resources should be used for upkeep of church

School uniform for Holy Communion and Confirmation children.

Excellent effort has been made recently to involve the community

An evening mass on Saturdays at teatime – 5:30 or 6pm or a new evening Sunday mass –either would be better

Cement footpath in Ballybrack graveyard.

Parking at Ballybrack masses need to change for Emergency vehicles if access was need to upper Ballybrack during mass times. Cars are parked at both sides of the gates which inhibit vehicles immensely.

Political parties to have no collections at parish gate.

Housing estates to be blessed

Support for lonely people confined to home.

A yearly donation to each of the schools-primary.

Needs to do more for poorer countries.

I thought parish collections went towards some of the running costs of the local schools but have found out that is not true!!! A certain school claims they have no money for resources!!!

A children's choir should be formed for each church that would bring a lot more children to mass.

Priest homily should be shortened to 5 minutes

More involvement with youth in parish

Youth group should be set up.

Trips to eg- Lourdes, etc should be organised by the parish.

Better choir @ 9:30 mass on Sunday morning.

Please remove gospel choir from the altar. It is a big distraction. Need more young people involved in the mass.

The way the church handled child abuse has been shocking.

I feel information on parish finances is not good on macro or micro level and is very limited (apart from data on weekly collections) in frequency e.g. Once a year.

Ballybrack chapel- benediction

Hymn books provided for the Congregation.

Has austerity affected the parish and if so-how?

Young people need the parish to support their needs more. As a parent it is hard to encourage regular attendance to the sacraments that they don't feel are relevant to them, that encourage or support them. The usual Sunday statement is that mass is boring.

Reconsider changing Saturday night vigil mass to 7:30 change was only taken by show at hands very confusing as vigil mass for holy days are at 7:30.

The same children making noise upstairs all Saturday night mass, not children's fault- parents fault. No keeping them under control. Same at 9.30 mass on Sunday. If they were going out they would get a babysitter, but not for mass.

Christmas eve mass could be early and be child friendly as we have to go to Carndonagh mass every Christmas eve.

Less singing of responses and during communion time. What is happening to silence ? Two part singing does not encourage people to join. Are suggestion boxes still in use?

Its very sad that the answers by the people have been changed. The new missalette has been changed for the sake of change. Words like circumstantial come to mind.

More women involved in all aspects in the running of the parish.

I think it's great work and communication between priest in this parish regarding home visits (communion and confirmation children).

Would love to see a children's mass (once a month maybe?) or at least an earlier Christmas (vigil). Evening mass – 6.30 or 7 pm.

Parish events and organisations should be more advertised and open about how to join. Young people should have own organisation where they can discuss issues they face that can then be brought to council.

Is there a help fund in the parish for those in funeral difficulty apart from supplementary?

I think a children/family mass with a Sunday school element would greatly benefit this community. Often people struggle with children- feeling pressure to keep them quiet. It would make the experience more inclusive and more simple terms help children to understand their faith (includes pre-school)

Gospel choir not on the altar

Stress arriving for mass before the priest walks to the altar. Teach young children the proper way to make the sign of the cross after communion.

Should both priests be away from the parish I would like to see Eucharistic service daily so we can receive Holy Communion?

Steps to altar could be improved by handrail, heating is very poor, needs to go on earlier for masses. More awareness of gods promises particularly before and after weddings and other sacraments.

Secondary school become more involved

Collection during most important phase of mass is disgusting

More use of St.Eugene's Hall. Arrange fund raiser for money for lift then more people might attend bingo woo 😊

Do not like new changes in mass extra standing does not suit elderly or ill people.

We have no idea where money is spent especially how much goes to unnecessary training. There seems to be unnecessary level of heat in chapel on week days, heating was supposed to be zoned to save fuel. Waste

of money doing up chapel if defects are not followed up on plaster falling off the wall going up stairs at Our Lady's side.

That children's masses should not have adult sermons. That sermons are not compulsory – people do not need a lecture two or three minute quiet reflection would be more beneficial after the gospel. That no choir is considered better than any other. That no choir should be on altar looking down and obviously commenting on people coming in to chapel. That the chapel will not be split at communion time. Everyone should have the opportunity to approach the altar.

Seats are very narrow.

I would welcome a parish directory of services/activities/groups

I would like to see gospel choir sing at mass more often especially at Christmas. I think married priests should be brought back active service

More information on the parish by websites for people who live abroad and want to keep up to date with the parish.

Please find resources to improve lighting on chapel steps(Pius X)for winter months-priest at our parish must find a way on getting families who don't attend mass to contribute money towards church and schools as it seems to be the same people contributing all the time- could our school or "new parish council" help with this?? This would be a priority!!

Personally I find our priests very efficient and good in our parish but I attended confirmation last weekend and was very shocked to see so many children being confirmed who do not attend sacraments (some of whom told me it had been years since they were in the church) surely this is wrong- the priests are preaching a homily to the convicted- would like big change concerning sacraments.

Times of mass displayed outside church and the names displayed outside each church clearly.

The year 2020 is much too slow i.e. Deadline- in my view the programme could be achieved in 3 years not 6. Lay involvement in parish decision making needs to be stepped up.

For religion to be a part of 'normal' life and not just something that is 'done' on a Sunday.

It would be nice to see more altar servers at all Sunday masses and vigil mass.

It is essential that all weekend masses have some musical elements-too dull for young people at the moment.

Close doors.

Would like to see better training re: church e.g. genuflecting and blessing should be taught at school.

We are lucky to have such good priests.

Women Priests

I think it is vital that parish based programmes for parents and children preparing for sacraments in imperative- also further work on faith support for children at parish level, outside the Education system.

No hand shaking at mass it is not useful to anyone.

Why our donations go to Derry. Put real Candles at Ballybrack.

Less preaching about the readings and try and make sermons more about the difficulties facing the young people it won't be an easy task but encourage them to come by making sermons shorter and to the point

But I feel that the prayers at the conversation should be said aloud so that young people can learn them and realise what is taking place and cut out singing hymns at the offertory and say prayers aloud also keep up the good work!!

New candelabra needed for St. Anne, disgrace it has not been replaced and St. Anne put on a proper shelf again.

No lectures to people who come to mass about those who don't.

A new choir for 9:30 mass. Children's liturgy programme- this could help to involve young parents. Training programme for altar servers. Involvement of youth in reading at masses-training for their.

Regular community gatherings e.g. Tea/coffee after Sunday mass to build relationships.

If parents wish to have their child baptised then they should be attending mass. This applies to first Holy Communion, if you are not attending regular mass why are parents allowed to dress their children up for a day out and pretend to be a part of church. This also applies to confirmation. Some children are in the chapel so rarely; they do not know what it is other than attending communions, confirmations, weddings and funerals. There can be no involvement for the youth of the parish when they are not brought in to it by example of their parents.

Have a mass once a month without hymns as times they are like a sing song if I want a sing song I can go to a concert or listen to radio. Sunday mass leaflets, keep doors closed, singing before mass.

Suggest there is some message of understanding faith in the weekly bulletins. Suggest some message of witness is given in bulletin or sermon (from parishioners as to how their faith helped them overcome adversity).

Altar breads should be purchased in Merville.

Young people to collect. It's just the same people reading. If your doctor, teacher not the normal people. Marriage should not be allowed to marry until go to mass at least 6 months a year.

Churches don't have disabled toilets or approachable seating.

I find mass where prayers or readings are in Irish confusing. I think that monthly or bi-monthly exclusively said in Irish for Gaelic speakers would be a better way of embracing these parishioners.

I would suggest that the sound systems in the churches of the parish should be involved to ensure that the tele-roof system is working efficiently and that the sound system in the graveyards are upgraded.

That there is better heating in Ballinacrae church its very cold at Sunday mass.

Have a special effort not to include people that has been involved in the parish down the years, we need new faces

I got to mass because I am made to. Sermons are long and boring.

New lights outside Ballybrack, very dark and dangerous at night time masses. Thanks.

Try to encourage young people to mass.

It would be nice if the priests visited each home at least for 10 minutes

I think more people would be involved in parish work, etc. if approached by priest of parish or his deputy. We are not very good at offering our services- takes modesty.

Wider use of social media.

Money wasted on too much heat. Plaster needs fixed going up stairs.

Clergy need to get to know normal people.

On the occasion that information is given out it lacks any detail or clarity. Miscellaneous is too vague.

Gospel choir should not be on the altar either we are there for mass or a concert, not both.

Could we not get rid of shaking hands at mass. 99% of germs are passed through hands.

I would like to see a general confession at least twice a year it would make it easier for both young and old.

Also station masses where possible to be held in the mornings.

God's house is for prayer not a talking shop.

Better use could be made of existing facilities e.g. Mass, vacant schools.

Schools could be used more after school to integrate old and younger. No appreciation of some groups giving of their time voluntarily on a weekly basis to the parish doesn't encourage those who try!

Children's liturgy. Hymn sheets for everybody. Bereavement group.

Against numbering envelopes.

Music elements must be improved.

Contributions not for paedophiles

How much of my money leaves the parish?

If you are a regular contributor to the parish, funerals should be free let our other parish community bury each other. If not a giver pay more. A parish hall at Ballybrack for after funerals for tea/coffee etc