



“Come follow me” ...Join the Sacristan Team

At the last PPC meeting - held on January 26th 2022 - The role of Sacristan in Caherline Church was discussed as a matter of urgency and importance for the parish.

The role of Sacristans is an essential part of maintaining our parish faith. The Sacristan basically prepares the church so that it is ready for church services to take place. This responsibility shouldn't be placed on the celebrant ...as it is the parish who want to practice their faith? Consider the role akin to a ground's keeper ensuring the pitch is ready for the match...or an event planner ensuring the venue is ready for the concert, celebration, gathering.

We need willing members of our church to help ensure the celebration and wonder of our God continues and is alive in our parish. (In good times and bad). Father Roy consistently mentions the need for church renewal and church reform, it would be fair to say we also need parishioner reform, change of perspective.

We have been very fortunate in the past that individual parishioners have taken this voluntary role as Sacristan in our Parish, and we are blessed and we thank them for their generosity and devotion. This opportunity will always be available, but currently the role appears to be too large a responsibility, commitment for any one person to consider.

Therefore, we are actively promoting the concept of a shared role or team of sacristans. Other parishes have adopted this practice and found it to work successfully. Perhaps it can also work in our parish.

This would mean for example that people would be responsible for preparing the church for fixed periods of time (weekly, monthly) to suit those who volunteer with the back-up that other volunteers can cover if one person is not available. Training would be given to all.

We have to view this as a real opportunity for our parish and church renewal ... just like the earlier church with more local involvement. All we currently ask is for people to give it a try... the solution lies within us all.

Please give this proposal serious consideration. Please also offer any other viable solutions.

Our Church is its People

If you wish to find out more, members of the Parish Pastoral Council will be available on Wednesday 16th February at 7pm in Caherline Church and again on Sunday after our 10am Mass in Caherline and after our 11am Mass in Caherconlish. You may contact our Parish Pastoral Council secretary Phil Martin 087 1363747 or any of the Parish Pastoral Council members without obligation.



Parish Pastoral Council

Fr. Roy Donovan, Christine Madden, Philomena Martin, Margaret Casey, Valerie Walsh, Jackie Gaffrey, Colette Jenkins, Ursula Burke.