

Parish Liturgy Team Meeting

31 January 2012

Attendance: Fr Paul, Sr Thérèse, Deirdre Bane, Andrea Butnaru, Maeve Dolan, Gerard Lillis, Paddy Wallace, Eithne Cornally, Christy Neary, Bríd Galligan, Brian Barrett, Mary Hughes, Marie Buckley.

The meeting opened with an online prayer reflection, based on material for the International Eucharistic Congress.

1. Preparing for the Eucharistic Congress

With less than six months to the event, the parish needs to promote greater awareness of the Eucharistic Congress. It is important that we give parishioners a clear account of what this event is all about – what will be taking place, where and when will it happen, why should we take part?

The following proposals have been adopted:

- A regular feature in the newsletter with a simplified message
- Explain the different themes and events for each day of the Congress
- Adapt St Joseph's Chapel as a Congress prayer space – large framed outline of the Congress Prayer on the altar; chairs and kneelers in front of the altar; a designated table with flyers and information leaflets
- Use the Congress prayer at one of the daily Masses each week
- Information in the Cathedral porch notice board
- Briefing in local papers from 150 and 100 days to go.
- Gather photos and memories from the 1932 Congress
- Arrange to host foreign guests attending the Congress
- Primary school children to prepare art work relating to the Eucharist
- Focus on the Eucharist during Lent – weekly book review; period of Adoration in the Cathedral beginning after 7.30am Mass until 10am Mass and also in Saint Paul's Church
- Increased use of the Congress hymn
- Fr Liam Lawton will host a musical reflection on the Eucharist next month; it may provide some ideas which could be used in this parish
- Encourage parishioners to act as volunteers at the Congress.

In advance of the next meeting, Fr Paul and Eithne will look at preparing the St Joseph's Chapel and putting information in place. The newsletter and parish website will be used to provide a clear, simple outline of the Congress. There are many parishioners who will not be able to attend the Congress but efforts should be made to bring the message and spirit of the event to our community. The Congress ought to provide the focus for everything in the parish over the next six months, based on the theme "Unity in Christ and with each other". In due course, the parish should liaise with the Chamber of Commerce to promote the Congress in the public forum.

2. Season of Lent

In light of the earlier discussion, the Congress theme should provide a key message for Lent. The promotion of Eucharistic Adoration in the morning period is encouraged, as well as the reflection on a book about the Eucharist.

The Silver Jubilee at Saint Paul's Church will focus on the Sacrament of Reconciliation on the weekend before the first Sunday of Lent. Sr Consilio Rock will lead an afternoon reflection for readers, Ministers of Holy Communion, parents of children for First Confession and others on Saturday 18 February. She will speak at some of the Masses on the theme of Reconciliation at some of the Sunday Masses. Her aim is to offer a new and refreshing approach to Confession. A discussion took place on the value of Confession, especially at Christmas and in advance of Easter. Many people feel burdened at the moment and the response to Confession before Christmas indicated parishioner's appreciation of the Sacrament. The question of providing a Penitential Service during Holy Week was raised.

Two large displays are currently under preparation for the main entrance to the Cathedral. Parishioners should be informed, before they enter the church, that this is a distinct season in the year. The altar will also be dressed suitably for Lent.

3. New Translation of the Mass

The meeting reviewed the introduction of the new translation of the Mass. The Congregational Card was welcomed. Teachers explained that it has been helpful for use in schools. There seems to be a gradual improvement in the usage of the new words. It is considered helpful when the celebrant encourages the congregation to use the card or the Mass leaflet. There is some concern that the text in the newsletter is small and can be difficult to follow.

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 28 February** at 7.30pm.