
Welcome

Introducing the Parish of
Carrickfergus and Whitehead



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1.0 Introduction

1.1 *Welcome from Very Reverend*

Peter Owens, Parish Priest

The Directory has been produced for all who come to worship in the Parish of Carrickfergus and Whitehead, those who are new Parishioners and those who are passing through as visitors.

All are welcome.

On Sunday 17th September 2017 Bishop Noel Treanor was presented with our three year Pastoral Plan. At this ceremony Parishioners were invited to join with us, their PPC, and become involved in the opportunities it will create to enrich our relationship with Christ. We invited all Parishioners to take up the call for service. The Pastoral Plan highlights numerous areas in which we can support each other on our journey to Christ. Together we can become a truly welcoming community of believers bearing witness to our faith. If not us then who?

These words and desires now need to be put into action by each one of us.

This Directory aims to identify the many ways our Parish is taking up the challenge of sharing our Gospel in what is an increasingly secular world. The Parish Pastoral Council warmly thank all who volunteer to give their time and skills in these vital ministries.

Please take the time to read through it carefully and to select the initiatives in which you would like to participate. All Parishioners are invited to share in these areas of service.

Information will also be published in the Sunday Bulletin, the Connections magazine and on our Parish Website.

www.carrickParish.org



Very Reverend Fr. Peter Owens PP

Parochial House

8 Minorca Place

Carrickfergus

Co. Antrim

BT38 8AU

T: (028) 9336 3269

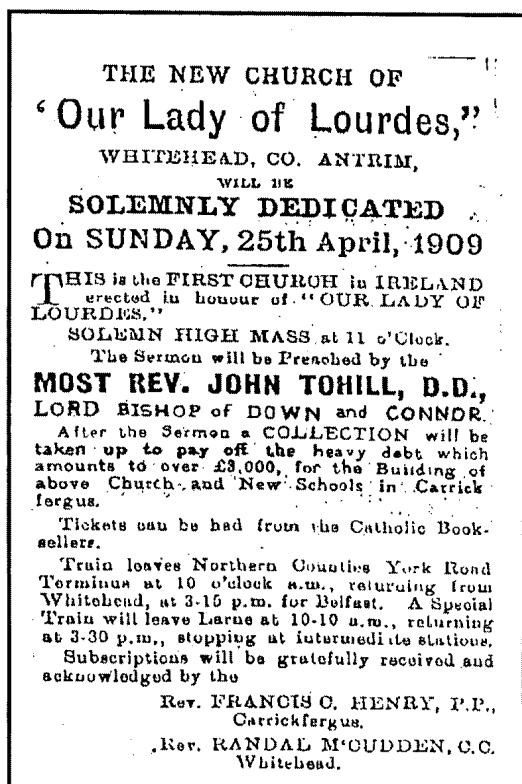
1.2 Parish Vision and Mission Statement

OUR PARISH VISION STATEMENT

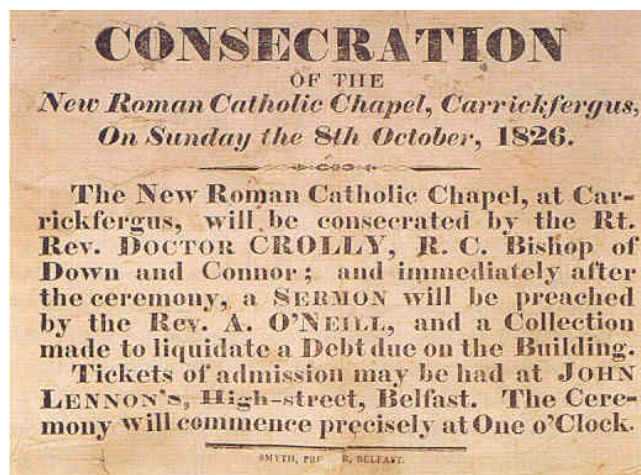
"We see our Parish in ten years time as a community, with Jesus as its centre and committed to spreading His Kingdom; where each person feels he or she belongs and has a role to play; based on Prayer, Scripture, Sacraments and Liturgy; with an ongoing programme of education and formation in the Faith, and with an opportunity for personal growth; structured and supportive, in which priests and people are partners, reaching out to those in need; tolerant and respectful of people who hold other views and philosophies and actively promoting ecumenism; a community which is a sign and source of Justice, Hope and Love."

OUR PASTORAL COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Pastoral Council of Carrickfergus Parish, inspired by the love of Jesus, will develop a vibrant and inclusive spiritual community which welcomes the active participation of everyone in the faith life of the Parish.



Original Poster from 1909



1.3 Prayer of Saint John Henry Newman

We all have a role to play in our Parish:

The Mission of my Life

God has created me to do Him some definite service.

He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another.

I have my mission.

I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.

I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.

He has not created me for naught.

I shall do good; I shall do his work.

I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place,

While not intending it if I do but keep his commandments.

Therefore I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away.

If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him,

In perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him,

If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him.

He does nothing in vain. He knows what he is about.

He may take away friends.

He may throw me among strangers.

He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me.

Still he knows what He is about.

2.0 Masses and other Liturgical Services

2.1 Mass times

St Nicholas' Carrickfergus

Sunday 11.30am

Second Tuesday of the month 10.00am

Wednesday 7.00pm

Holy Days : As announced

Our Lady of Lourdes: Whitehead

Sunday 9.30am

Wednesday 10.00am

Holy Days : As announced

2.2 Sacrament of Penance

St Nicholas' Church Carrickfergus,

1st Wednesday 6.00— 6.45pm

Our Lady Of Lourdes, Whitehead

Sunday before Mass



2.3 Weddings

By mutual agreement 3 months' notice required

2.4 Sacrament of the sick

Father Owens attends the sick and housebound monthly as announced in the Parish Bulletin or as required.

2.5 Sacrament of Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated in

St Nicholas' on the second Sunday in the month at 12.30pm

and in Our Lady of Lourdes on the first Sunday at 10.15am or 1pm.

Contact the Parish office giving a minimum of one month's notice.

2.6 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

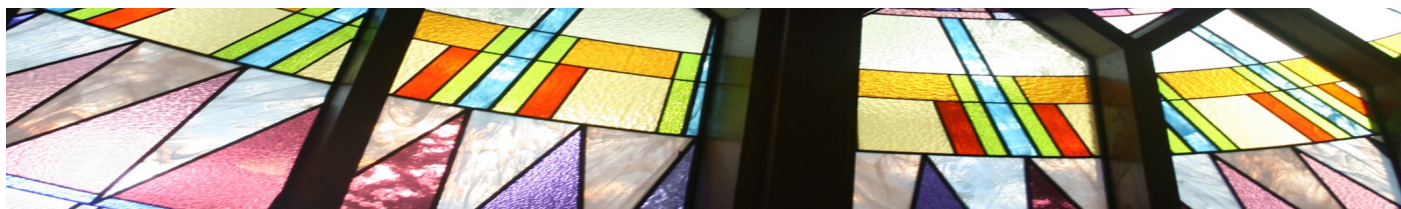
Carrickfergus: Saturday

11.00am -12.00pm

Could you commit to remaining in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament for half an hour during this time?

New volunteers welcome.

Contact Fr. Owens.



2.7 ***Rite of Christian Initiation for adults***

Thinking of becoming a Catholic? Most Catholics enter the Church through Baptism as infants and receive the Eucharist and Reconciliation (First Holy Communion and Confession) and Confirmation when young. However, there are many people who become Catholics later in life.

They decide for different reasons:

- **Some are already Christians from other traditions attracted by the teaching of the Catholic Church**
- **Some are non-Catholics who have been coming to Mass with their spouses and children and now want to become full members of the Church.**
- **Some have had no previous contact with the Church but have received an inner calling.**

If any of the above applies to you, and you wish to enquire further, please contact Fr. Owens at:

T: (028) 9336 3269

E: carrickfergus@downandconnor.org



2.8 ***First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation***

In St Nicholas' Primary School, children receive religious education concerning the Sacraments. However, running alongside this, there is Sacramental preparation in the Parish involving both parents and children. This Sacramental preparation is vital in helping parents to recognise and assume their responsibility with regard to handing on the Catholic faith to their children.

2.9 ***Children of the Parish attending other schools***

Parents are the first teachers of their children. St Nicholas' Primary School will support parents of the Parish in this task. Those who choose to send their children to other schools are at the same time accepting full responsibility for the religious upbringing of their children. This is their right and privilege. The Parish will make sure that, with the parents' co-operation, these children will be adequately prepared for the reception of the Sacraments.

2.10 ***Altar Servers***

The Servers perform an important part in the worthy and dignified celebration of the Liturgy. Any parent of a boy or girl (aged 8+) wishing to become a Server should contact Fr. Owens.

2.11 ***Penitential Services***

Parish Penitential Services are arranged during Advent and Lent. Penitential Services are also arranged for the children preparing for the Sacraments of Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation.

“ Those who choose to send their children to other schools are at the same time accepting full responsibility for the religious upbringing of their children “



2.12 Sacrament of Marriage

A minimum of three months notice is required and arrangements are by mutual agreement between the Parish and the couple.

This is to enable marriage preparation to take place and prenuptial documentation to be completed. Do not confirm wedding arrangements until you are sure the Priest and Church are available on the date and time you desire.

Couples are expected to attend a pre-marriage course. The Priest will advise when such is available and also what documentation is needed before the wedding may take place.

Should you wish to enquire further; please contact Fr. Owens.

Points to remember

- *The two documents that the couple need from the Marriage Register are:-*
- *Certificate of Notification*
- *The Marriage Schedule*
- *It is very important that all paper work for marriages, both that relating to the church requirements and that relating to civil requirements, should be completed in good time. The Church does not have the authority to waive civil procedures.*
- *In addition to all of the above, the usual procedures in Church Law must be followed.*
- *These can be explained by the Priest.*



2.13 Care of the Sick

A Parishioner who is seriously ill may receive the Sacrament of the Sick. If the person is in hospital, they should ask the nurse in charge to contact the Chaplain.

If the person is at home, or living in a nursing home within the Parish of Carrickfergus and Whitehead, they should contact Fr. Owens.

Fr. Owens attends sick and housebound monthly as announced in the Parish Bulletin, or on request.

Each year a Mass for the sick is celebrated in the Parish.

During the Mass the Sacrament of the Sick is administered.

2.14 Funerals

"In celebrating a funeral we strive to bring consolation and hope to the bereaved and pray that the dead may obtain God's mercy and have eternal peace."

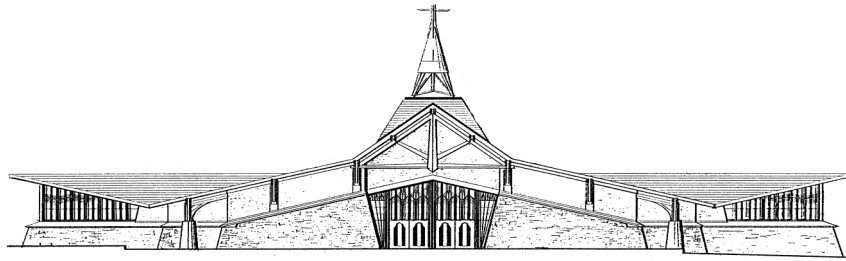
Adapted from the Statement by the Episcopal Commission for Liturgy, November 2003.

In the case of a death, contact Fr. Owens at the Parish Office or the emergency mobile to meet with him and to make funeral arrangements.

If a family wishes to have Month's Mind Mass or Anniversary Mass celebrated, please make contact through the Parish office.



3.0 Administration



3.1 *Parish Office*

Parish Secretary, Natalie Gallagher

The Parish Office is located at :

Parochial House

8 Minorca Place

Carrickfergus

Co. Antrim

BT38 8AU

T: (028) 9336 3269

Email: carrickfergus@downandconnor.org

Office Hours 10.30am– 1.30pm Mon-Thur

In emergencies contact the Parish mobile.

M: 07940002830

3.2 *Parish Website*

The Parish website is updated on a regular basis.

[www: carrickparish.org](http://www.carrickparish.org)

3.3 *Parish Registration*

It is important for administrative purposes that new Parishioners register with the Parish. This can be done by contacting the Parish Office, by telephone .

3.4 *Parish Bulletin Notices*

Please ensure that any notices for inclusion in the weekly Parish Bulletin arrive in the Parish Office by 12.00 noon on the Wednesday prior to the Sunday of publication. Not all notices submitted can be included due to the limited space available.

Priority is given to Parish notices. Advertisements are not normally published. The weekly Parish Bulletin keeps Parishioners informed about events in the Parish, our neighbouring Pastoral Area and the Diocese.

3.5 *Certificates*

Baptism, Confirmation and Marriage certificates may be ordered by telephone, email or by calling personally to the Parish Office.



4.0 Parish finances

4.1 Parish Offertory Promise Envelopes

The Parish Offertory Promise Envelopes are distributed at the beginning of March each year. A parishioner, not currently receiving a box, but who wishes to do so should contact the Parish Office.

The Maintenance Collection taken up twice a month is vital for the general upkeep of the Parish and to help reduce Parish debt.

The white weekly collection envelopes are used solely for this purpose.

The yellow voluntary collection envelope at Easter, September and Christmas and the pink 'monthly offering' envelopes are the only contributions which go toward the income of our Priests.

Special collection envelopes

There are nine blue envelopes or 'Special Collections' taken up during the year. They are as follows:-

1 Education of Diocesan Students

This collection helps fund the formation of students studying for the Priesthood in the Diocese of Down and Connor.

2 Peter's Pence (Pope's collection)

The proceeds are collected globally and given by the Church to the Pope for charitable purposes throughout the world, e.g. natural disasters such as earthquakes, famines etc.

3 Diocesan Pastoral Services

This collection supports Diocesan departments such as the Living Church and the Safeguarding Office.

4 Diocesan Cathedral

Used for the upkeep of the Diocesan Cathedral.

5 Propagation of the Faith

To help with the promotion of missionary activity throughout the world, especially in the developing world.

6 Bishop's Commissions

This collection is to assist in financing the many Commissions set up by the Irish Bishops, e.g. Justice Commission, The Family Life Commission, Ecumenism, Communications etc.

7 Diocesan Youth Commission

For Youth programmes in the Diocese of Down and Connor.

8 Sick and Retired Priests

For all the priests of the Diocese who, because of sickness or age, are no longer in active pastoral ministry.

9 Needy Parishes

This collection was set up in order that the wealthier Parishes in the Diocese could assist those Parishes in greater need.

4.2 Gift Aid

Parishioners who pay UK income tax or capital gains tax can increase the value of their weekly contribution to the Parish simply by having a Gift Aid Agreement with the Parish. This allows the Parish to claim back from HM Revenue & Customs the tax already paid on the income source. However, contributions must be paid by collection envelope, standing order or cheque. Cash put on the collection plate cannot be included. The Gift Aid scheme is simple to operate and can be done without inconvenience to Parishioners. For this reason tax paying Parishioners are encouraged to use the scheme.

Please contact the Parish office or Parish Priest for information. Gift Aid declaration forms are always available at the back of both our Churches.

4.3 Standing Order contributions

Instead of using the Offertory Promise envelopes to support the Parish, a standing order can be set up instead. Anyone interested in using this form of contribution should contact the Parish Office.



giftaid it

5.0 Management Committees

5.1 Carrickfergus and Whitehead

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

The Second Vatican council proposed the establishment of more consultative Church structures. In time this led to the creation of Parish Pastoral Councils.

Carrickfergus and Whitehead Parish Pastoral Council shares responsibility with the Parish Priest for the development and living out of our baptismal faith. We aim to ensure that every individual and group in the Parish feels welcome and rooted in Parish life. We believe that when we share our giftedness the Holy Spirit builds the Kingdom of God among us.

But what does the Parish Pastoral Council do?

Vision is knowing who we are, where we are going, and what will guide our journey. "Who we are" is our **purpose (mission.)**

The primary task of the Pastoral Council is to help the Parish identify and define its mission, at this time, within the overall mission of the Church. In this way it gives the Parish a real sense of purpose and a vision to work towards.

In order to help bring to fulfilment, this mission for our Parish, the PPC have prepared a 3 year Pastoral Plan organised into 5 distinct themes:-

- Open, Welcoming Community
- Faith and Worship
- Our Parish Priest and Lay Ministries
- Lay Participation
- Passing on the Faith

On Sunday 17th September 2017 Bishop Noel Treanor enthusiastically approved and publicly launched our first Pastoral Plan with Father Owens while celebrating the morning Masses in Carrickfergus and Whitehead. Copies were given to Parishioners afterwards.

President: Fr. Peter Owens

Chairperson: Robert Sweeney

Vice Chair: Siobhan Gilmore

Secretary: Julie Elliott

Members:

Marian Frampton

Mary McCormack

Patrick Quinn

Paddy Stewart

Petar Sego

Stephen Lavery

Jacinto Coelho

Janet Barr-Crandles

Elaine Hillen



5.2 Carrickfergus and Whitehead Parish Finance Committee

The Parish Finance Committee is an advisory body to the Parish priest. The committee assists the Parish Priest in his task of administering the Parish finances, maintaining the Parish properties, planning for future capital works and formulating strategies for raising funds. The committee meets every two months and is responsible for preparing and presenting an annual financial statement to the Parishioners.

Church Collectors and Counters

The Collectors organise the taking up of the collections at Masses.

The Parish counting teams are tasked with counting parish collections.

Members of the Parish Count teams and Collectors are appointed by the Finance Committee. All of this is done in accordance with Diocesan regulations for Parishes in regard to financial controls and related processes.

Chairperson: Patrick Quinn

Secretary: Marian Frampton

Members: Fr. Peter Owens

Paddy Stewart

Margarita Sloan

Eamon Mc Allister

Paddy O'Donnell

Patricia McKeown

5.3 Lourdes Pastoral Centre Management Committee

Contact : Ann Woods



5.4 Carrickfergus and Whitehead Safeguarding Committee

Chairperson: Amanda Stewart

Vice Chair: Fr. Peter Owens

Secretary: Sarah Collins

Members: Noleen Dempster

Diane Law

The Parish Safeguarding Committee members are individuals who have a particular commitment to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults-at-risk. Their task is to ensure best practice of Safeguarding in our Parish and that children, young people and adults-at-risk, experience the highest standards of pastoral care within our Parish, according to the requirements of the Diocesan Safeguarding Office and the National Safeguarding Board.

If you have any concerns of a safeguarding nature, you can contact any member of the safeguarding committee through the Parish office:-

T: (028) 9336 3269

You could also contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer on:-

T: (028) 9049 2783 M: 07534992124

Alternatively call your local social services office or the PSNI

6.0 Liturgical Groups

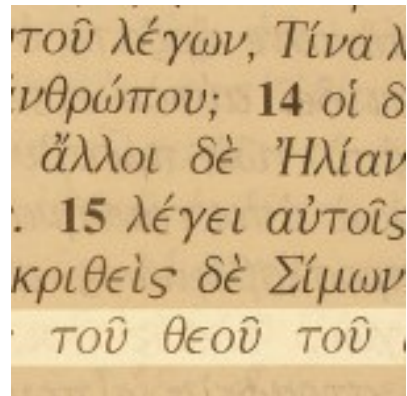
- 6.1 *Parish Liturgy Group*
- 6.2 *Ministers of the Word*
- 6.3 *Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion*
- 6.4 *Sacristans*
- 6.5 *Children's Liturgy Group*
- 6.6 *Parish Choirs*
- 6.7 *Baptismal Preparation*
- 6.8 *Sacramental Preparation*
 - *First Confession*
 - *First Communion*
 - *Confirmation*
- 6.9 *Ministry of Welcome*
- 6.10 *Rosary Group*

Introduction

In order to co-ordinate Liturgical Celebrations throughout the year there are two groups who meet to plan these.

The first group is concerned with the annual Liturgical Calendar. They meet twice yearly to organise and plan the timetable.

The second group is a standing committee representing all those involved with directing Liturgical Ministry and provision of Liturgical Celebrations. It meets regularly throughout the year to organise Liturgical Celebrations and reflect on how we can enhance our liturgical experience.



Son of the Living God is the name that Peter gave to Jesus when he confessed that Jesus was the Messiah (Christ in Greek). It is a simple declaration that Jesus is God's Son, with an emphasis on the fact that God is ALIVE.

***“ Lord Jesus Christ Son of the Living
God,
have mercy on me a sinner “***



6.1 Parish Liturgy Group

The Parish Liturgy Group came into existence in the Spring of 2018 .

Our primary aim is to enhance the Liturgy in both churches in our Parish. We co-ordinate, promote and prepare events and services which we hope will help to nourish the spiritual lives of our parishioners.

Ideas and suggestions for the various liturgies and programmes come from within our own group and the Parish Pastoral Council. Some of the liturgies are also suitable for a wider take-up throughout our Pastoral Area. The annual Lenten and Advent services are examples of times of the year where the Liturgy Group can focus on specific, relevant, topics for promotion to our parish community. We have also had sessions on Lectio Divina and are heavily involved in the preparations for the Easter Triduum each year.

Individual parishioners and groups within the parish are invited to participate in all the various services and we also have occasional guest speakers.

Chairperson: **Gerardine Stewart**

Members: **Fr. Owens**

Brid Kelly

Mary Muir

Robert Stuart

The Word of God

6.2 *Ministers of the Word*

Proclaiming the Word of God is a ministry which is very ancient. St Luke tells us that Jesus himself read the Word of God in the synagogue in Nazareth:

“ He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him a scroll of the prophet Isaiah.” (Luke 4:16)

The Word proclaimed is the “ Word of God “. The reader speaks God’s Word. The great dignity of proclamation, compared to mere reading and which makes the reading of Scripture in Church special, is that God is speaking to His people. Therefore, prayerful preparation before speaking God’s Word enables the reader to first take the Word to his or her heart. Only then can the Word be proclaimed with faith and conviction to the gathered people of God. The person who volunteers for a time to be a reader provides a life giving service to the community.



Ministry of the Word Leaders

Carrickfergus: Mary Muir

Whitehead: Patrick Stewart

Those interested are asked to contact the Parish Office:

T: (028) 9336 3269



6.3 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

The primary function of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion is to assist with the distribution of Holy Communion either at Mass or to the sick and housebound who are unable to attend Mass.

Those who undertake this service are to be always aware of their significant office. They are to be, by their exercise of this ministry, an example to others of the reverence due to the Holy Eucharist. Just as they distribute the Eucharist in the Church so are they to distribute the love of Christ in the community.

The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, by arrangement with the Parish Priest and with due regard to Parish Safeguarding procedures, bring Holy Communion to the housebound and sick of the Parish. They are only free to do so within the Parish.

As with Ministers of the Word, as required, the Parish seeks new volunteers as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and provides the necessary training.

Those interested are asked to contact the Parish Office:

T: (028) 9336 3269



Ministry of the Eucharist Leaders

Carrickfergus: Ursula Kelly

Whitehead: Gerardine Stewart



6.4 Sacristans

A Sacristan is a Parishioner appointed by the Parish Priest, to take care of the Sacristy and its contents.

In ancient times, many duties of the Sacristan were performed by the doorkeepers and later by the treasurers. The Sacristan's duty was to care for the sacred vessels, vestments, lights, etc.

The Sacristan's primary duties are to prepare the Church and altar for all ceremonies from the daily Mass to weddings and funerals.

They work with all involved in the planning and preparation of special ceremonies to facilitate the running of the occasion.

Sacristans

Carrickfergus:	Patrick Quinn
	Brid Kelly
	Mary Grant
Whitehead:	Patrick Stewart
	Gerardine Stewart



6.5 Children's Liturgy Group

The Children's Liturgy Group meet in the Church each Sunday during Masses at Carrickfergus and Whitehead.

Primary School aged children of the Parish are invited to attend following the opening prayers of the Mass to listen to and discuss the Gospel of the day. They take part in a discussion on the Word of God and how the theme of the Gospel can relate to their own lives.

The children may also complete a worksheet activity or an art project on the theme of the day.

To conclude, a number of the children will carry up the worksheet activity as part of the Offertory Procession whilst the remaining children return to their parents for the remainder of the Mass.

The Children's Liturgy group is made up of a number of dedicated volunteers from the Parish. Vetting by Safeguarding is part of the application process.

Children's Liturgy Leaders

Carrickfergus: Elaine Hillen

Whitehead: Gerardine Stewart

For enquiries please contact the Parish Office :

T: (028) 9336 3269

Liturgical MUSIC

6.6 Parish Choirs

There are three choirs in the Parish:

St Nicholas' Folk Choir (Sunday Mass)

Our Lady of Lourdes Choir (Sunday Mass)

Ministry of Sacred Music Leaders:

St. Nicholas Folk Choir:

Sarah Collins

Organist: Gary White

Our Lady of Lourdes Choir:

Claire Pollard

Organist: Claire Pollard

The congregation attending Mass is encouraged to participate in the singing of hymns.

New choir members are always welcome. You do not need to be a trained singer or to be able to read music. You simply need to be committed to helping with the celebration of the Mass through liturgical music. Over the years many Parishioners have given their time to enhance the liturgy through music and we hope this will continue for many years to come.

Interested persons can contact any member of the choirs or through the Parish Office on

T: (028) 9336 3269





6.7 Baptismal Preparation

Parents who have requested Baptism for their child are visited in their homes, by Jayne Logan. She speaks to them about:

- The importance of Baptism
- The responsibility of parents in the ongoing faith development of the child
- The role of Godparents in supporting parents and in handing on the Catholic faith
- The Rite and symbols of Baptism
- A book, candle and relevant leaflets are given to the parents

For further details contact:

Jayne Logan or Fr Owens by calling

Parish Office

T: (028) 9336 3269

6.8 Sacramental Preparation

A number of dedicated volunteers prepare children who do not attend the Parish primary school for the sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation, primarily Mary Muir.

The Childrens' "Do This in memory" programme is designed to facilitate cooperation among first communicants and their families, schools and the Parish throughout the year leading up to First Holy Communion in May or June. Children from St Nicholas' PS and other local Primary Schools attend.

Leaders

Carrickfergus:

Siobhan Gilmore

Whitehead:

Local parents

For further information please contact:

Mary Muir or Fr. Owens by calling the

Parish Office

T: 02893 363269



6.9

Ministry of Welcome



6.9 Ministry of Welcome

The Scriptures have numerous verses relating to hospitality and making people, especially the stranger, feel welcome. Our welcomers extend the hospitality of our Parish to all who pass through the doors of the Churches

What they do?

Welcomers stand in the porch of the Church and welcome people to our Sunday Masses.

If a person is new to our Parish or visiting they will help them orientate themselves providing key information as required.

Welcomers are the first point of contact with our Parish and first impressions count.

How you can help?

If you like meeting other people and have a passion for Church then consider becoming a welcomer and joining the team.

How they can help you?

If you are considering coming to our Church or new to the Church and have a question, just approach the welcomer at the door and they will be happy to help.

Welcome Leaders:

Carrickfergus: Margaret Barry

Whitehead: Mary McCormack

For more information contact Fr. Owens

6.10 Rosary Group

The Rosary is said in St. Nicholas' Church each Wednesday at 6.30pm

Contact: Jim Mullan

7.0

Parish Outreach



7.1 St. Vincent De Paul

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is an international voluntary organization in the Catholic Church, founded in 1833 for the sanctification of its members by personal service of the poor.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was founded in Ireland in 1844 when it was part of the United Kingdom. It is the largest voluntary charitable organisation in Ireland. During its history it has helped people in need through a famine, a civil war, a war of independence, two world wars, and several economic recessions. It is one of Ireland's best known and most widely supported organisations of social concern and action with over 11,500 volunteers, active in every county in Ireland.

The goal of Society of St Vincent de Paul is to fight poverty in all its forms through the practical assistance to people in need.

They offer direct, personal assistance that is non-judgemental and based on the need of the individual or family.

In addition they provide a wide range of services for vulnerable people through their local offices, shops, resource centres, housing and holiday schemes .

Carrickfergus Conference

President: Jacqueline Livingstone

Secretary: Stephen Lavery

Whitehead Conference

President: Eileen Vance

Secretary: Patrick Stewart

Contact Tel: (028) 9035 1561



7.2 Carrickfergus Church Forum

Formed in 2008, the Carrickfergus Church Forum is a group of Christians from the East Antrim area who seek to promote good relations, tolerance, trust and respect for diversity, within the church and wider community. By encouraging a spirit of friendship, openness, acceptance and reconciliation, they seek to actively respond on matters of spiritual and social concern in our community. Open meetings are held monthly.

Our Parish is represented on the Church Forum committee by Conall Lafferty, Maria Flannagan and Martin Murray.

Like to become a Forum member ?

**Contact committee member Martin Murray
at
martinmurray@live.co.uk
or
carrickferguschurchforum@hotmail.co.uk**



May 2018 Mid and East Antrim Conference

‘ Church and Community— Working towards Peace and Prosperity in Mid and East Antrim’

The Carrickfergus Church Forum and other Town Church Forums spoke about the work they do to foster good community relations.

The keynote address dealt with the benefits of active involvement and engagement, suggesting that no group of people ever live without interdependence being at the heart of common good.

Martin , in a recent Parish Connections article stated ... “The late Fr Gerry Reynolds of Clonard used to say, “ Friendship makes anything possible” It is the foundation on which great things are built...”

8.0

Parish Groups



8.1	<i>Communications Group:</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
8.2	<i>Visitation Group:</i>	<i>Mary McCormack</i>
8.3	<i>Flower Arrangers:</i>	<i>Carrickfergus: Anne Quinn</i> <i>Whitehead: Sylvia Woods</i>
8.4	<i>Craft Group:</i>	<i>Eileen Vance</i>
8.5	<i>Walking Club:</i>	<i>Paul Smith</i>
8.6	<i>Hospitality:</i>	<i>Events Team</i>
8.7	<i>Children's Drama:</i>	<i>Louise Mayne</i>
8.8	<i>Parish Retreats:</i>	<i>Ruth Bates</i>
8.9	<i>Church Cleaners:</i>	<i>Carrickfergus: Marian Frampton</i> <i>Whitehead: Gerardine Stewart</i>
8.10	<i>Young Parents Group:</i>	<i>Thomas Moore</i>
8.11	<i>Foodbanks:</i>	<i>Carrickfergus: Thomas Moore</i> <i>Whitehead : Patrick Stewart</i>
8.12	<i>Bowling Club:</i>	<i>Carrickfergus: Robin Connor</i>

Those interested in participating in any of the Groups should either contact a group member or are asked to contact the Parish Office:

T: (028) 9336 3269



9.0 Parish Cell System Of Evangelisation



Parish Cells are faith groups of 4 to 12 people who meet every two weeks in the informal setting of a home for prayer, reflection and to share their faith. The aim of a Cell group is to foster within a parish a greater sense of community spirit and an awareness of God in a more personal way. It provides a place where friendships are formed, faith is deepened and people are enabled to see the relevance of their faith in all that they do.

Pope Francis invited Cell members from around the world to an audience with him in the Vatican on 5th September 2015 to mark the decree of Papal approval.

“Meeting in homes, to share joys and difficulties, is a genuine experience of evangelisation that is very like what took place in the early days of the church”- Pope Francis (5th Sept 2015)

Further information can be found at the website parishcellsireland.ie

With so many ways to be part of Parish life, you will want to stay informed by regularly reading parish news as it is posted on the website, downloading the weekly bulletin if you have misplaced the one you received at Mass, and checking the parish calendar.

Our parish has a rich history in Carrickfergus and Whitehead. Who we are today is based on the who we were yesterday. Find out more about our spiritual forefathers as you read the history of our Parish. We hope you will also enjoy viewing photos of our Parish, including some of the many enjoyable events and programmes we host.

Parish Cell Contacts

Carrickfergus

Margaret Webb 07779 729505, Tommy Mone 07713 84947

Matt Monaghan 07428 247820, Jim Mullan 07841 428436,

Anne Murray 07809 906792

Whitehead

Ruth Bates 07876 420867

10.0 Bethany

Bereavement Support Group

The Bethany Bereavement Support Group is a voluntary Parish based ministry which aims to help the bereaved and grieving.

The name Bethany recalls the visit of Jesus to Mary and Martha on the death of their brother Lazarus.

Although grieving is a natural process which can be helped by the sympathy and understanding of friends, sometimes one may need support to work through it in a positive way.

Bethany members are trained to listen with understanding. They accept those suffering loss as they are, and support them through the grieving process.

Membership:

Eileen Vance

Margaret Jervis

Phil Cunningham

Maria Flanagan

Margo Bairsto

Pauline Cowan

Tel: 07598825187 to contact a member of the group



11.0

Parish School



School Information

St Nicholas' is a Catholic Maintained Primary School catering for all pupils, regardless of faith background, providing the highest quality teaching & learning and overall school experience.

It was opened in 1910 as a separate boys and girls school. In 1992 the two schools were amalgamated. The new school was built in 1996 and was blessed and opened on the 19th March 1998 by the Most Rev. Patrick Walsh D.D.

The school comprises eight classrooms, equipped with Interactive Whiteboard Technology and C2K computers, enhanced further by ICT & Personalised Learning Support Zones throughout the school.

Our caring ethos and attention to detail has earned us a reputation as a centre of lifelong learning and achievement, catering for Special Educational & Additional Needs as well as Newcomer pupils with English as an Additional Language.

We are a Unicef Rights-Respecting School and proud holders of The International School Award.

The layout of the school is such that learning extends into our Central Resource Corridor, further supported by our specialised Play Resource Room for use by Foundation and Key Stage One pupils.

We also have a multi-purpose gymnasium in addition to an extensive amount of outdoor play and sports equipment and specifically designed outdoor play equipment to improve Gross Motor Skills and Fundamental Movement.

We take great pride in our school and its environment and are proud holders of our third Eco-School Green Flag Award received in October 2015.



11.0

Parish School



The school has been equipped to a very high standard and utilises a wide range of reprographic and computer resources, including state of the art interactive whiteboards in every classroom.

We have invested heavily in ICT equipment as we recognise the benefits it offers to pupils and the opportunity to further extend learning.

We are a BECTA accredited centre of excellence in the delivery and use of ICT and have achieved our second NAACE Award. We have also invested heavily in iPad and Apple TV technology.

We believe the school to be a vital part of the local community.

We are firmly committed to providing a loving and caring atmosphere through our living Catholic ethos, whilst catering for, respecting and welcoming children from other denominations.



We seek to create an environment in which children can grow and develop to their fullest potential in all aspects of their life.

11.0

Parish School



We are committed to establishing close links with the home, the Parish and wider community as is evident in our extensive involvement in Parish events, our progressive After-Schools Programme and the many opportunities and invitations to Parents, Carers, Parishioners and all to participate and involve themselves in the life of the school. We enjoy a very active Parent-Teacher Association and great community support.

St Nicholas' Primary School welcomes all enquiries.

Please feel free to arrange an appointment to visit our school and experience our unique and caring atmosphere.



11.0

Parish School



Our Governors

Mrs Louise Mayne - Chairperson & Trustee

Very Rev Father P Owens – Vice-Chairperson & Trustee

Mrs P Cowan – Trustee

Mrs C Byrne – Teacher Representative

Mr Brendan Rice – Trustee

Mrs Emma Brock - Parent Representative

Miss G Doherty - Principal

What do Governors do?

Governors work as a team we call the governing body. They are responsible for making sure the school provides a good quality education. Raising educational standards in school is now a key priority. This has the best chance of happening when there are high expectations of what pupils can achieve. Governors also promote effective ways of teaching and learning when setting the school aims and policies.

Every school must have a governing body. The membership will vary according to the type of school. The governing body has some discretion of the numbers of governors.

11.0

Parish School



WE NEED YOU!!

We welcome all parents to participate in the work of the PTA through attendance at meetings, volunteering at events, donating prizes, attending fundraising functions, or in any other way you can help.

If you would like to know more about the work of the PTA or would like to get involved please contact:-

Chair: Caroline O’Kane

Treasurer: Noleen Dempster: E-Mail n.mccorrey@qub.ac.uk

St Nicholas’ Primary School

Minorca Place

Carrickfergus

Co Antrim

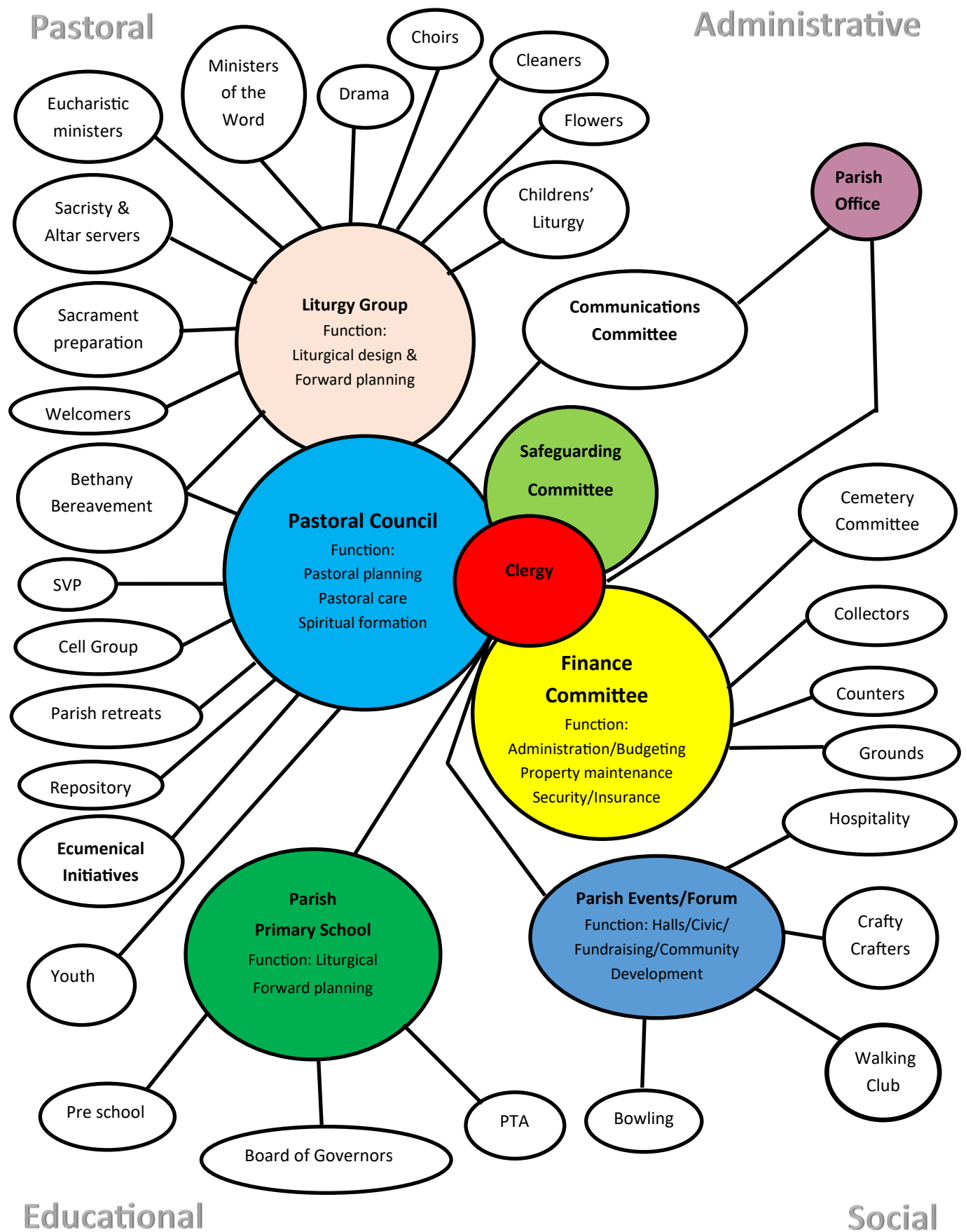
BT38 8AU

Tel: (028) 9335 1149

Email: info@stnicholas.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk

Website: www.stnicholasps.org.uk

12.0 Carrrickfergus and Whitehead Parish Map





Parish Priest

Very Rev. Fr Peter Owens P.P.

Parochial House
8 Minorca Place
Carrickfergus
Co. Antrim
BT38 8AU

Tel: 028 9336 3269

pp_carrickparish@live.co.uk