

## St. Patrick's Parish Groups/Ministries – What they do

**Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)** – The role of the council is to collaborate with the Parish Priest in building the parish into a vibrant Christian community that promotes Gospel values of love, justice and peace.

**Finance/Parish Properties Committee** -The Committee is responsible for generating and maintaining church funds to support the mission and vision of the church. Compiling and submitting an annual budget and to developing plans to raise funds to support the parish. The Committee is also responsible for the care and maintenance of parish properties including security, health and safety.

**Ministers of the Eucharist** – The Ministers of the Eucharist distribute Holy Communion at weekday and Sunday Masses. A number of Ministers visit the sick and house-bound parishioners and bring them Holy Communion on a regular basis.

**Ministers of The Word** – This group proclaims the Word of God to his people. They do this at weekday and weekend Masses. They follow the readings set in the church's calendar. This also includes special celebrations that occur in the liturgical seasons of the church year – Easter, Christmas etc.

**Adult Choir** – An Adult Choir has been singing in Skerries Parish for over 50 years. Membership is composed of men and women. They provide musical accompaniment for Sunday Masses and enhance the celebration of the special feasts/church celebrations following the Church calendar.

**Children's Choir** – The Children's Choir is composed of boys and girls from our parish national schools. The choir sings at 11am Family Mass on Sundays throughout the year. The choir offers another opportunity to the children of our parish to participate in the celebration of Mass and to share their talent with our community.

**Church Collectors/ Stewards** – The Church Collectors/Stewards collect the financial offerings given by the congregation at weekend Masses, Holy Days, Easter and Christmas time. They welcome those attending at Mass and help with the distribution of the Parish Bulletin and Mass missalettes, and when necessary help parishioners with seating. The group co-ordinate and add to the celebrations and special days in our parish church throughout the year.

**Liturgy Group** – The Liturgy Group is a group of representatives of Ministers of The Word, Ministers of the Eucharist, Choirs, Hospitality Team and those who help with the decoration and presentation of the church for the various liturgical seasons – Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter and St. Patrick's Day.

**Church Hospitality** – This group aims to create an inviting environment in our parish church. This can be to weekend Masses and special parish events. In doing so they offer a sense of belonging ensuring visitors, members and guests feel welcome and at home in our church.

**Church Carers** – Church carers play a vital role in maintaining the cleanliness of the church. This helps to create a warm and inviting church environment.

**Baptism Team** – The Baptism Team assist parents and godparents by hosting a preparation meeting for them before the celebration of the sacrament. They aim to advise on the practical and spiritual celebration of the sacrament. The team also attend and assist at the celebration of the sacrament of Baptism which usually take place twice a month.

**Altar Servers** – This group supervises, manages and trains and arranges the altar servers group. The co-ordinator has a special role to ensure our young altar servers are confident and prepared for this special ministry. The co-ordinator also ensures that all church child safeguarding regulations and policies are observed.

**Funeral Team** – The Funeral Ministry Team represent the church as they help those who mourn the loss of a loved one. They support families to prepare and celebrate the funeral Mass for their loved one. All team members receive training and support from the parish.

**Parish Bulletin** – This group consists of volunteer editors who compile, type and prepare the weekly bulletin for the Parish. The bulletin is in continuous operation since 1979 and a complete record of all Parish Bulletins since that date is kept for us by Skerries Historical Society.

**Bridge Programme** – is a parish-based programme of preparation for First Communion centred in the parish celebration of the Sunday Eucharist, school and in the home. The programme resources are designed to facilitate parents, families, school and the parishes' active involvement in the preparation for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion. The programme takes place once a month for nine months before First Eucharist and concludes during the parish celebration of the Feast of Corpus Christi. These monthly masses include involvement of children and parents preparing for the sacraments.

**Confirmation Rituals Programme** – This is the parish-based programme to assist our children to prepare for the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation. The parish co-coordinators liaise with the schools and parents/guardians of those who intend to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation. They invite the children and parents/guardians to active participation in 3 rituals celebrated in the church during the course of the 6<sup>th</sup> class year. The rituals are based on confirmation themes and aim to enhance the children's and parents understanding of the sacrament.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** is a spiritual process for adults who inquire about the Catholic faith and may seek to become a member of the catholic church. RCIA is also for those who may be baptised and wish to prepare for the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. The process includes several stages marked by study, prayer and rites at Mass.

**Child Safeguarding Representatives** – These are representatives who volunteer to promote, monitor and ensure the safety and protection of children and vulnerable adults in the church generally and involved in church activities/ministries. Along with the Parish Priest they ensure Archdiocesan policies, procedures and administration is followed.

**Parish Administration & Communications** – The team includes the Parish Office staff and volunteers who provide support and a welcome to parishioners and new members. They also provide church information to parishioners regarding the request, enrolment and celebration of the sacraments and church events. This service to parishioners includes the arranging of celebration of Masses for various occasions and the issuing of certificates and Mass cards and other information when necessary.

**St Vincent De Paul**

The Society of St Vincent de Paul provide a wide range of services for vulnerable people through our local offices, shops, resource centres, housing, day care and holiday schemes amongst other things.