

Skerries Parish

Pastoral Council

**Information Booklet and
Faith Development Plan**



WELCOME

Welcome to St. Patrick's Parish, Skerries.

We are very blessed and lucky to be living and sharing life together in such a beautiful coastal with a very vibrant community.

We are also very fortunate to have so many facilities and resources available to our community for all ages to share and build a great sense of community and belonging.

We hope you will find this booklet helpful and a source of information and a means to help your growing participation in our parish family.

Fr Melvyn Mullins

Skerries Parish Pastoral Council

Our Parish Pastoral Council commenced it's work in September 2023, we have spent our time listening to our ministry and volunteer groups so we could understand where possible improvements could be made to our Parish life and Faith. We have outlined our Mission and Vision below.

In this booklet we are providing Parish information and outlining our Faith Development Plan.

Mission

Our Encounter with Jesus defines our identity and guides our actions. Serving this encounter is central to our mission. The living Christ calls and empowers our Parish to become a more welcoming and compassionate community, embodying the power, hope and joy of the Gospel

Vision

Together we build a Parish that is:

Faith-filled.

Co-responsible through active participation and volunteering.

Active in social justice.

Welcoming and inclusive.

We are called to develop new ways to support the people of our time which will require new thinking and a shift in mind-set in everyone.

BUILDING HOPE



The Archdiocese of Dublin began a process of renewal in 2022. Following consultations and many reviews a plan named 'Building Hope' emerged as a direction/vision for the future development of the diocese.

Archbishop Dermot Farrell sees the Building Hope plan as a direction to follow to revitalising the parish communities of the diocese.

This initiative is designed to foster a sense of community and ensure the Church remains a vibrant and supportive presence in people's lives.

The Parish Pastoral Council has defined three Key Categories on which to focus, these are the headings in which we hope to bring change to our Parish.

Communication

Improve how we communicate to our Parishioners on all aspects of Parish Life

The Engagement of Young People

Finding new ways to involve our Youth in the Church and Parish activities

Faith Development

Bring a revitalised energy to developing Faith, through Parish Ministries and programmes.



Communication

We are dedicated to enhancing our communication efforts by utilising a variety of platforms to keep everyone informed.

These platforms include:

- Ministry group details
- Website
- Notice boards
- Church screen
- Parish bulletin
- Skerries News
- WhatsApp
- Facebook



By using these channels, we aim to ensure that all members of our community stay updated and connected.

The Engagement of Young People

Young people are essential to the future of our Parish and play a key role in our plans. We have identified several focus areas to work on together. To encourage the youth of our Parish to engage and get more involved in day-to-day Parish activities, we plan to utilise the following groups:

- Youth Choir
- Altar Servers
- TY Students
- Youth Readers
- Youth Forum
- 3rd Level Link
- School Ceremonies
- Children's Mass
- Clubs Mass
- Youth Eucharistic Ministers
- Youth Prayer Group
- World Youth Day
- Youth Pilgrimage
- Intergenerational initiatives



By involving young people in these groups, we aim to foster a vibrant and active community. The development of the Parish Pastoral Centre at number 42 Strand Street will play a part in this strategy.

Faith Development

A key part of our strategy is to increase participation in Parish Ministries. We aim to nurture faith and create a welcoming, engaging environment for everyone. We will support and develop our Ministries through Scripture Talks, Faith Learnings, and Reflection Days.

To become more inclusive, we will use Outreach to engage with other groups in our Parish and collaborate with our Parish Partnerships (Rush and Lusk).

We will also arrange an Annual Celebration Mass for all Ministries and work on the initiation of adult members into our Church (RCIA).



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

We have many wonderful ministries and volunteer groups in our Parish, we have listed these below in the hope that there may be some of the groups that might be of interest to you. If you feel that you could give some time to the groups please make contact with the Parish Office, Email address; info@skerriesparish.ie

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.

Articles for Parish Bulletin email; skerriesbulletin@gmail.com

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 6th 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 – RCIA abbreviation for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults 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.

Skerries Parish Mass Times and Sacraments

Mass

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
10.00am

Saturday
10.00am and Vigil Mass at 6.00pm

Sunday
9.30am and 11.00am

Bank Holiday Mondays
11.00 am

Confession

Saturday
after 10.00am Mass or on request

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

At various times throughout the year

Padre Pio Mass

1st Friday of every month

Divine Mercy

Fridays
at 3.00pm

Schools in our Parish

We have some wonderful schools in our Parish, please see contact numbers below for each of these.

St Patrick's Junior National School	01 849 0836
St Patrick's Senior National School	01 849 0945
Scoil Realt Na Mara National School	01 849 0049
Scoil Moibhi Milverton National School	01 849 2467
Skerries Community College	01 849 0011
St Michael's House	01 849 0976



Contact Us

St. Patrick's Parish Office

Office Hours:

Mon, Wed & Fri: 9.00am – 1.00pm

01 810 6771

info@skerriesparish.ie

Parish Priest

Fr. Melvyn Mullins

01 962 9662

089 205 3460

Parish Committees

The following groups can be contacted
via the Parish Office on 01 810 6771

Communications and Hospitality Committee

Faith Development Committee

Liturgy Committee

Outreach Team

Parish Pastoral Council

email: ppcstpatricksskerries@gmail.com



St Patrick's Church Skerries

www.stpatricksskerries.ie

