

MEETING MINUTES

PEG



Parish Engagement Group

Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Parish of Drumbo & Carryduff

DATE:

Tuesday 10th March
2026

TIME:

7pm

FACILITATOR:

PEG Drumbo & Carryduff

IN ATTENDANCE

Colette Quinn, Geraldine Sproule,
Marion Woods, Fr Michael, Gareth
O'Hare, Jack Dazell

Apologies: Marian McKinney

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from January meeting approved

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Opening Prayer & Reflection – Gareth opened with a reflection on the Gospel reading focusing on the Woman at the Well. His reflection considered specifically the “living water” spoken about by Jesus.

Conal Gallagher stepped down from the PEG. Members expressed their thanks to him for all his work, ideas and dedication during his time on the PEG.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PRESENTATION

Two young female parishioners under 18 attended with their mothers to speak to the PEG about Parish life for those aged 14 to 18.

They gave examples of activities they have been involved in both at school and at outside events such as Eucharistic Adoration; the Alpha course and Church Camps.

They explained that they enjoyed opportunities that created a comfortable space to talk about faith. They counted at least 20 young people they know who are seeking opportunities to talk to others of the same mindset; wanting to ask hard questions and having space to discuss these (rather than writing down answers to questions on the spot).

They were very confident in expressing their opinion that Carryduff is continuing to see population growth, including young people, who will want to be involved in our Church.

They felt that weekly gatherings would encourage young people and give them something to look forward to. They did say that some might fall in and out of attendance depending on exam timetables etc but that weekly should be available as a option. They also felt that it would be useful to have input from adults but for that to be balanced with the young people being able to talk to each other as that allows for different experiences and perspectives to be brought out.

They expressed a desire for faith based sessions including prayer and worship as they felt this strengthens faith. Praise music is also of great interest.

Fr Michael suggested the bringing together of young people would be positive especially if the ideas are coming from what the young people are interested in. Weekly gathering would allow sessions to be tailored for the young people and the St Mochumma room seems to be an ideal location, especially for including hospitality.

The young people agreed that hospitality would be a good part of a gathering

They expressed a desire to see something launched sooner rather than later and it was suggested that the Mass for exam students might be the ideal catalyst for beginning.

ACTION POINT: Continue this discussion with focus on promoting at exam Mass. Safeguarding to be discussed with members attending session on 25th April 2026

18+ YOUNG ADULTS

Jack is considering starting a 18 to 25 year old “get together” after Easter. This would involve an opportunity for scripture led prayer and discussion, although to begin with the format would be relaxed to allow for the young adults to consider what they feel would work well.

Fr Michael suggested that Jack might look at the Bible Project resource for conversation ideas etc.

There is youth ministry in other parishes like Ballymena and it was suggested that contacting Fr O’Reilly might be useful also for ideas on direction.

ACTION POINT: Jack to lead and to deliver invitation at all Masses the weekend of 11/12th April. Jack will also use this opportunity to highlight the Mass for Exam Students and the gathering of names for the “Prayer buddy” scheme

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

It was agreed that the Tenebrae service would be scheduled for 8pm on Good Friday – 3rd April 2026. Parishioners appreciated this time last year as many are still at work during the day so this allows them to attend a service on Good Friday after work hours.

The practice for Tenebrae will take place on Tuesday 31st March at 8pm

ACTION POINT: Fr Michael to distribute Tenebrae booklet

MASS FOR EXAM STUDENTS

The date of the mass for exam students was discussed again with the 18th April – 6pm Saturday vigil, being agreed.

The weekend prior (11/12th) will be when the names of the students will be gathered before and after Mass – this will be first name only, no surnames are to be taken.

All the resources exist from last year and it was advised that these would be put on the resource archive.

ACTION POINT: Archive resources

Agree 2 young people as Ministers of the Word, 6 young people to lead the Prayers of the Faithful; 4-6 young people to lead the Offertory Procession; ensure bookmarks and candles are available; organise hospitality.

CONVERSATION IN THE SPIRIT

There is a need to follow up from Joe Swail's presentation.

It was suggested that Joe might run a programme perhaps some Sunday evening close to the Feast of Pentecost enabling parishioners to take part in the Conversation in the Spirit.

ACTION POINT: Fr Michael to speak to Joe Swail

WORLDWIDE MARIAN PROCESSION

This is being led this year in the Diocese of Derry on Saturday 13th June 2026.

There has been a request for other events to take place throughout Ireland.

ACTION POINT: It was agreed that this discussion should be deferred until the April meeting so there is more time to consider ideas etc

ONGOING FORMATION FOR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCILS - TRAINING

Colette and Geraldine had attended the most recent event.

It was also clear that a Parish plan is needed.

ACTION POINT: Members to check dates of further training sessions with Parish Plan to be added to agenda

WELCOMING REVIEW

Colette reported that the Welcoming Review had gone well.

200 forms were handed out to parishioners with 80 being returned. The majority of these were from parishioners aged 60+

Parishioners have noted that they appreciate a “hello” and a smile as they come into the church for each weekend mass. The welcoming team is also appreciated at events held in the church at times outside of the usual mass times, for example the advent services.

One critic felt that they didn't see the need for the welcoming team but this was a lone voice.

The rotation of the Welcoming Team leader was suggested and this will be looked into more closely closer to the summertime.

AOB

Acknowledgement of Parish volunteers event to be discussed in the April meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 29th April 2026 @ 7pm