

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June around 25 members of our Parish community responded to an invitation to attend a Living Church facilitated meeting in our Parish Centre. The purpose of the evening was:

To gather together as a community in prayer

To draw from the experience of our Parishioners

To discern what the next steps in this process are re Lay Participation and Passing on the Faith

To explore the views of all present regarding a Parish Pastoral Council

We began with a period of prayer led by Sr. Anna Byrne. This was a quiet and reflective time which set the tone beautifully for the rest of the night.

We went on to honour the suggestions made in our listening evening and our recent Living Church event in St. Michael's Hall- both of which highlighted that there was a call for us to consider setting up a Parish Pastoral Council. We heard some description of what a Pastoral Council would be and how it would work.

We were facilitated in looking at what the benefits of such a council might be and to consider what we would look for in a successful Parish Pastoral Council. The group concluded that it would be a council with vision; that it would be co-responsible with clergy, religious and lay people working as a team; it would have sound values; and that it would be a prayerful group.

After a discussion, the group present agreed that we had a consensus to explore further the possibility of setting up a Parish Pastoral Council. The evening was full of prayer and energy and everyone there participated well.

There is a follow up meeting to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> June at 7 p.m. in the Parish Centre. The purpose of this meeting is to explore in some more detail the workings of a Pastoral Council and also to explore ways to go about electing or selecting members for the Council. If you are interested in participating in this meeting- even if you do not want to be a member of any Council that may be formed- we would benefit from your attendance and your input into what should after all be a whole Parish process.

