**Parish Groups**

Have you often felt a desire to contribute to the parish community in accordance with your talents, but were unsure as how to go about this? Why not become involved in one of the many groups in the parish or form a new one.

Speak to one of the main contacts or Fr. Philip and Deacon Antony. The parish would welcome you with open arms.

**Altar servers**

**Main Contacts: Deacon Antony or the parish M.C.’s John Stephenson and James Stephenson**

This ministry has an important place in the life of our parish and is integral to the Church’s liturgy. The main function of the server is to assist the clergy in the Holy Mass and other services but also the liturgy is the expression of our worship to Almighty God and it is important that this ministry is undertaken with seriousness, dignity and respect. Training is given before the newly appointed server can serve at Mass and once trained and developed, they are recognised with a medal of the Archconfraternity of St. Stephen.

**Missio (formerly known as the APF Red Mission Box)**

**Main Contact: Loretta Stowers**

Through the red boxes members support the work of the missions abroad. Through prayers and collecting money in these red boxes a valuable contribution is made to the missionary outreach of the Church.

**Bereavement Support Group**

**Main contact: Moya Evans**

The aim of the bereavement group is to support those individuals or families who are grieving for their love ones at a time of loss. Individual support is given to ensure that person(s) are comforted, given help if needed and to be there at times of loneliness.

**CARITIS**

**Main contact: Moya Evans**

This is the social and community agency of the Diocese. Its main aim is to provide the necessary support services for children, families, refugees/asylum seekers, homeless and other groups experiencing social and health problems such as mental health, domestic abuse, mental and drug addiction. There are various diocesan projects

**Gift Aid and Counting Team**

**Main Contact: Mick Fee**

This group ensure all monies collected at all the masses, gift aid and other sources of income are recorded and accounted for. This group can also report to the parish on the amount monies and what charitable donations have been made throughout the financial year.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.)**

**Main Contacts: Fr. Philip, Deacon Antony, Peter and Delores Gordon Smith**

For more information refer to the web site page entitled “Interested in the Catholic Faith?”

**Choir (Sunday Mass) and Music Group (Saturday Vigil Mass)**

**Main Contacts: Stella Woolley (Organist) and Christine Royle (choir leader); Phil Murphy (Music Group)**

In our parish we have two music groups that cater for different tastes. On Saturday evening Vigil Mass, the Music Group lead the congregation in their worship. The group warmly welcomes anyone with musician talents who can play an instrument or sing.

On Sunday mornings and other occasions our choir lead the singing at the 11 a.m. Mass. Their focus in on our more traditional hymns and are happy to welcome any additional voices and new members. The choir practice on a Tuesday morning every week for approximately 1-2 hours.

**Confirmation Catechists**

**Main Contact: Fr. Philip, Deacon Antony and Martin Brennan (Catechist, Co-ordinator)**

Every year our young people from Year 8 onwards are invited to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. The aim of the programme is for the candidates to focus on their faith at a crucial time in their lives where changes are constantly being made as they reach adulthood and to help them grow with confidence to equip them with a better understanding and the sharing of the mission of the Church.

If you would like to join the programme, lookout for notices (after Easter) in the parish newsletter. During this time an application form will be left at the back of church or it can be requested by contacting the parish office.

**Prayer Group**

**Main Contact: Anne Fletcher**

The prayer group meets in the chapel once a week on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm to share in prayer together. The meeting tends to last for about thirty minutes then we all enjoy some refreshments and a chat.

**First Holy Communion (parish)**

**Main Contact: Stella Brennan (Catechist in collaboration with parish schools)**

Parents who wish their children to make their First Holy Communion are prepared by our two Catholic primary schools, however, sometimes this is not always possible and through a short preparation programme arrangements can be made to help and support families whose children do not attend any of the parish schools but would like their child(ren) to receive this sacrament.

**Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

**Main Contacts: Father Philip or Deacon Antony**

This important ministry is exercised by a team of parishioners who have been specially commissioned to assist with administering the Host and the Chalice during Mass. They also have a special ministry in taking Holy Communion to the sick and housebound. Each year before the priest and the people of the parish these ministers are asked to renew their commitment and newly appointed ministers are commissioned.

Training for this special ministry is co-ordinated by Fr. Philip or Deacon Antony.

**Readers**

**Main Contacts: Father Philip or Deacon Antony**

Readers exercise their ministry on a rota basis at every Mass. The liturgy of the Word is at the heart of all our liturgical celebrations. Their main function is to make Christ present among the worshipping community. This strong team of dedicated readers are always looking more volunteers.

**Church Cleaning**

**Main Contact: Parish Secretary**

The team of Church cleaners carry out a very important function within our parish to ensure we worship in a clean and safe church, the House of God. Cleaning usually takes place on a Thursday morning, We are always looking for new volunteers for one to two hours a week.

**Flower Arrangers**

**Main Contact: Sue Heath**

The purpose of this group is to ensure that there are appropriate floral displays to enhance the sanctuary of the Lord and to add to our liturgical celebrations. The group work on a rota basis which means that each member arranges flowers for the altar every few weeks. Flowers are a form of offering our prayers and worship to Almighty God.

**Piety stall Team**

**Main Contact: Teresa Gunning**

There is a Piety Stall which is open after Mass on Sundays for the sale of Mass cards, greetings cards, rosaries, statues, holy pictures, etc. Special items can be ordered if they are not in stock. Please speak to Teresa or the Parish Secretary if you would like to see a catalogue.

**Uniform Groups**

**Main Contact: Pat Fleming**

Come along to one of our Uniformed Groups held in the parish hall during the week. We have groups for all ages, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides on Mondays 6pm-9pm, Beavers, cubs and Scouts on Wednesdays 6pm-9pm. We also have a monthly Uniformed Group Parade in Church.

**Local Missionary Area representative (formerly LPA)**

**Lay Parish Representative: Pat Fleming**

**Society of St. Vincent De Paul (S.V.P.), Food Bank**

**Main Contact: Bernard Sutton (President)**

Our aim is to tackle poverty in all its forms through the provision of practical assistance to those in need. The concept of need is broader than financial hardship, so the essence of our work is person-to-person contact and spending time with people is our greatest gift. We offer additional practical support such as food, furniture, youth work, holiday provision or financial help where needed and overseas aid. We also offer DBS checked home visits, so contact us for information.

We meet every other Friday morning after the Mass or Service for prayer and mutual support and encouragement. For more information on the work of the SVP see the website on our link page.

**Union of Catholic Mothers**

**Main Contact: Pat Fleming (Chair), Eileen Smith (Secretary) and Stella Mackie (Treasurer)**

The UCM meet every second Wednesday of the month. Mass is held at 1pm, followed by a meeting in the parish hall at 1.30pm. usually there is a guest speaker on a wide variety of subjects to suit everyone’s taste, lively discussion, refreshments and support. Our membership is one of the strongest in the Diocese of 60 plus members. The UCM contribute much to the social scene of the parish organising events or simply providing tea and biscuits. Come along and have some social time and fun.

**Third World Group, Fundraising Group/Gambia and Mary’s Meals**

**Main Contact: Phil Murphy, Alan and Mary Pickles and Rob White (Mary’s Meals)**

We regularly raise money for ongoing projects in Gambia, Ecuador and India. From time to time, they contribute to pan-national aid agencies such as CAFOD, Mary’s Meals and Missio - who are involved in long term world-wide projects. Our main aim is to help small charity projects that do not take a large percentage for administration costs therefore providing a greater aid where it is needed. Funds are raised by social events, sponsorships, collections and raffles. We meet three times a year. New members and ideas are always welcome.

**Website Administrator**

**Main Contacts: Deacon Antony and Rachel Swanick**

**Children’s Liturgy**

**Main Contacts: Dolores Gordon Smith, Kath Marshall, Mary Pickles and Honor Murray**

**Church Registrar**

**Main Contact: Cath Leach**