

Organisations & Contacts

Sunday Club	Yvonne Hutchinson	057 9354554
Boys Brigade	Avril Strong	086 1088032
Mothers' Union	Ena Wilson	057 9336279
Table Tennis		
Junior	Yvonne Drought	057 9324148
Senior	Adrian Bagnell	057 9351550
Indoor Bowls	Barbara Wallace	057 9351711

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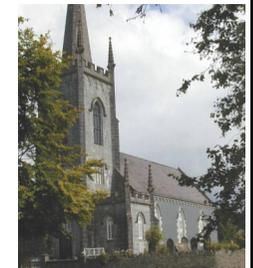
In conjunction with the Select Vestry

For the Tullamore Union of Parishes



The Tullamore Union of Parishes Church 21 Parish Development Programme

“A Church for All”



Introduction

St Catherine's, Tullamore, St. Brigid's, Clara, St Sinian's, Tyrrellspass and St. Carthage's, Rahan - four churches, but with a shared vision of the future.

We are a Union of Parishes with a long history, built on generations of faithful service. We are a church that values our past and seeks to build on the noble tradition of serving our community through ecumenical co-operation, our Church School and hosting community meetings and events.

We are on a journey, working out, step by step, what it means to be a community of ordinary people of faith. We are committed to helping each other explore what it means to believe, and to grow together in our experience of God and in our service of him, in a world that is ever changing.

"We, in the Tullamore Union of Parishes, seek to support and encourage one another in our Christian journey through Sunday worship and private prayer. We welcome all to worship with us, so that as a church family we are able to make friendships with God, and with each other, in a spirit of thanksgiving, service and love." (Vision Statement)

We are a church that seeks to move forward under God's direction. We look to the future with confidence believing that God has much more in store for us.

Our Call

Our primary call is to love and serve God, but an important part of doing that is also to encourage and support one another.

We seek to become an ever more prayerful, caring, welcoming church, with a commitment to listening to God's will in the Bible at the core of all we do.

keep an eye out for these details and invite you to come along to whichever is most convenient for you

They will be held in November, December and January in three of the parish churches, with a final service in February.

None of this will be possible without God's help so we ask you to pray with us. We would also value your response and any other thoughts you may have with regard to the suggestions mentioned above.

At a final service all the ***My Response*** forms will be brought forward to signify our commitment.

We are a parish with a big task but with an even bigger God. May our response show to him and to people who pass by every day of the week that we are indeed ***"A Church for All."***



Parish Community Care Project:

The Simon Community here in the Midlands delivers support and service to individuals and families who experience - or are at risk of - homelessness. Among their range of services is the provision of emergency accommodation and support providing people with a place of welcome, warmth and safety.

As part of our witness and service to the local community we are placing boxes at the back of each of our churches into which you are invited to place tea, coffee, sugar, toilet rolls, toothpaste and tooth brushes, shower gel, single size bed linen as frequently as you feel able to when you come to a church service. Each month these items will be delivered to the Simon Community here in the Midlands.

Service Times:

Sunday Worship -

St. Sinian's Tyrrellspass: 9.15am 1st & 2nd 10.00am 3rd & 4th Sunday

St. Brigid's Clara: 10.30am

St. Catherine's Tullamore: 11.45am (Family Service 2nd Sunday)

St. Carthage's Rahan: 7.00pm 4th Sunday May - September

Morning Prayer is said daily at 10.00am in Tullamore (*Monday, Wednesday & Friday*) Clara (*Tuesday*) Tyrrellspass (*Thursday*)

- ◆ review our means of communication, and set up a team to co-ordinate a policy and implement practical improvements to help us communicate our message more effectively with each other and with the wider community (*e.g. by relocating church notice boards nearer the roadway and making them big enough to include posters*).

THE CHALLENGE OF “A CHURCH FOR ALL”

To do all of this presents our Union of Parishes with a big task. We believe that if we rise to the challenge not only will it make a vital difference to the lives of many people in our community, but it will add much to the life of our Union of Parishes and safeguard the future for the next generation of our church.

We believe that this is God’s calling for our Union of Parishes today.

Not everything will happen at once. Some of the projects mentioned above are already beginning to happen, some will start soon and others emerge over the next few years.

We believe that with God’s help we can achieve the task. But to do so we need your help. Every one of us - younger and older, a member of the church for many years or new to it, can be part of this vision.

Please take a moment to consider what you can do to help us achieve the task

Along with this booklet is a simple form, **My Response**, with some suggestions of ways to play your part. We’d be grateful if you’d complete the form and have it ready for collection by one of our Parish Team.

Over the next few weeks we will publicize on our weekly Pew Sheets, in the Diocesan Magazine and on our parish website (www.tullamoreunionofparishes.ie) special services and events that will help us think about the part we can all play in helping our Union of Parishes to be **“A Church for All”**. We would ask you to

Our Task

We face a big task, to make real and share the unchanging love of God in an ever changing world. We want to take seriously the Christian challenge to reach out to a broken and needy world.

But we are also a church with a big God, a God who is able to do far more than we can imagine, and a God who calls all of us to know him, to follow him and to be part of his family.

Our Priorities

Here are some of the ways we believe that we are being called to care and share so that we can be **A Church for All**:

1. BY DEVELOPING OUR WITNESS IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY AND IN THE WORLD

Jesus called his followers to be “...*the salt of the earth*” and “...*the light of the world*” (*Matthew 5. 13-16*)

Like those first disciples we too are called to make a difference because of who we are and what we can bring to our neighbours.

- ◆ Over the next year we will run a number of fun events for people of all ages and backgrounds to come together and get to know one another better.
- ◆ We will encourage existing church members to “invite and bring” so that others can share in this. The first of these will be a Parish Social & Dance on 23rd November at 8.30pm in the Tullamore Court Hotel.
- ◆ We are looking into the setting up of a *Parent and Toddler Group* where parents with young children can get out of the home and come together for a few hours a week.
- ◆ We aim to offer people opportunities to explore the relevance of Christian belief in a changing world by running regular faith discovery courses. The first of these will probably be during the season of Advent, with others following in 2013.

- ◆ We wish to support the local branch of the Simon Community through a *Parish Community Care Project*. (Details on p7)
- ◆ We will seek to build relationships with the groups using the Charleville Centre, and develop its use. There will be notices in the Centre giving church service times and an invitation to join us. We will also explore the use of the coffee dock area for parents collecting children from our National School between 2 & 3pm during term time.

2. BY CREATING A PLACE OF WARMTH AND WELCOME

Sometimes it's easy to feel that our contribution won't make much of a difference. We want everyone to feel that they can be part of the church family in our four churches, and that they have a role in helping others feel that they too belong. We provide a range of activities and organisations for all ages. At the back of this booklet is a list of these along with the contact details of people who'll be glad to help if you're interested in exploring what they're about. There is something for everyone and room for all.

Among our priorities for the next twelve months are:

- ◆ Developing our youth ministry in particular by setting up a forum for young people to meet together in an informal style of worship with supper, possibly on a Saturday evening.
- ◆ The developing of a Pastoral Team. Our hope is to involve more church members in visiting people in their own homes, particularly those who are alone or no longer able to participate in community events. We need people willing to make God's love real through their presence to others.
- ◆ Working harder to make sure that everyone knows how best to welcome others who come to share in our worship. Part of that will be in equipping teams of people to welcome people to church in our four parish churches.

3. BY INVOLVING EVERYONE IN WORSHIP

Our desire is to offer a full range of different types of worship service, both on Sundays and weekdays. Some services are quiet and reflective and others full of praise and celebration. Some are targeted towards a particular range of people (though open to all!) and others intended to bring all ages together. Our aim is to provide something for everybody but also to allow space for people to experience God's presence in ways that are fresh and unexpected. You'll find details enclosed, and we encourage you to come just as you are.

Our priorities are:

- ◆ To build on what we've already done to make our worship engaging for people of all ages by:-
- ◆ Providing space for younger members of the parish to worship in fresh ways
- ◆ Developing our own book of resources to make it simpler for visitors to engage in worship
- ◆ Offering regular monthly healing services, with a Prayer Request Board in each of our churches.
- ◆ Offering help and support for those who are willing to offer their gifts in worship e.g. in reading, leading intercessions, music and artistic gifts.

The first of these will be a Healing Service on St. Luke's Day (18th October) in St. Catherine's, Tullamore at 8.00pm, with a view to repeating this on a monthly basis in each of our churches in turn.

4. BY BEING FAITHFUL IN MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT

We feel that, in order to be faithful to our stewardship to God and to develop as he wants us to develop, we should:

- ◆ develop the church building in Clara by providing for a social area at the back of church with small kitchen and toilet facilities
- ◆ undertaking the conservation work necessary to maintain the church buildings in Tyrrellspass and Tullamore