

## FOXFORD PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

<b>Attendees</b>	Fr Padraig Costello, Michael Lavin, Geraldine Carroll, Annie Burke, Annie Murray, Geraldine Brett, Angela Neary, Willie O'Hara and Katheleen Ruane.
<b>Apologies</b>	Laura Giblin, Donal Reilly, Helen Clarke, Aoife Bourke and Mary Doherty

### Parish News:

#### **Recent events held in the parish and diocese were discussed:**

- Ash Wednesday fell on 5<sup>th</sup> March and ashes were brought to the Secondary School, the Nursing Home and the Alzheimers Unit by Fr Padraig.
- The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated on Sat 8<sup>th</sup> March in St Michaels Church, 20 children were confirmed and as this was Bishop Doran's first time to visit St Michaels Church, he was presented with a Foxford blanket to mark the occasion.
- St Patricks Day masses were celebrated on the eve of St Patricks Day in Toomore Church and in St Michaels Church on St Patricks Day.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation was celebrated in all parishes of Achonry on Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> March. This was part of the Jubilee Year Celebrations.
- A retreat for Ministers of Holy Communion took place in the Fr Peyton Centre on Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
- The installation of Bishop Kevin Doran as Bishop of Achonry took place in the Cathedral on Sun 30<sup>th</sup> March. Representatives from each parish were present at the mass. This marked the beginning of the union of the Elphin and Achonry diocese under Bishop Doran's leadership.

#### **Upcoming events in the parish and diocese were discussed:**

- First Confessions for the First Holy Communion children will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 34 children will be receiving their First Holy Communion in May.
- Easter Ceremonies:
  - Chrism Mass will be held in the Cathedral on Mon 14<sup>th</sup> April, during the mass, Bishop Doran will bless the oils used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders and the Sick. Priest renew their commitment to the priestly ministry.
  - Holy Thursday mass will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> April.
  - Good Friday ceremonies and Stations of the Cross to Braid on 18<sup>th</sup> April.
  - Blessing of Polish food, consisting of 3 blessings: bread of life, lamb of God and eggs (symbolising coming out of the tomb) will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> April.
  - Easter Sunday ceremonies will take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> (6pm in Toomore and 9pm in Foxford) and on 20<sup>th</sup> April (7am in the graveyard, 9am in Attymachugh and 11am in Foxford). Holy water bottles will be distributed as in other years.
- First Holy Communion will be celebrated on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

- The 6<sup>th</sup> Year Graduation Mass will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.
- Fr Padraig's Golden Jubilee Celebration mass will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> June.
- A celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation 'Penance at Pentecost' will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**Other Items:**

- A new ramp to facilitate wheelchair access is placed in position prior to masses in St Michaels Church. The overall opinion is that it has improved accessibility greatly.
- It is planned to have allocated parking areas adjacent to St Michaels Church for disabled drivers or drivers with reduced mobility.
- There is a new email address for the Foxford Parish Council – [foxfordparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:foxfordparishcouncil@gmail.com)