

**Our Lady of Furness parish consultation group.
Report from the meeting dated 21st January 2025**

Attendees, Fr Manny, Fr Nithin, P.Burden, M.Mancey-Jones, L.Nugent, J.Newby, P.Hurley, K.Johnson, S.O'Neill, A.McEwan. (also V.Warner in attendance - Parish Finance Team)

- The group considered the additional submissions which had been received from parishioners.
- The group received and considered the detailed valuation reports which have been received following inspection visits in December by an independent chartered surveyor.
- Additional census information and analysis was examined related to mass attendance both at a diocesan and parish level. This clearly shows a declining trend.
- A consensus was reached in the Group that the appropriate response to the situation will be to develop a plan, financial circumstances permitting, through which a phased reduction to one church can be sympathetically pursued.

Next Steps

- Further information is being sought related to predicted maintenance costs for the churches in the Parish.
- A sub-group will meet to itemise questions and suggestions received in the parishioner submissions to enable all of these to be answered and published to all parishioners.
- A meeting will be arranged in EACH church in the parish at which the whole consultation group will be present in order to continue the conversation with a wider group of parishioners.
- The consultation group will meet again on 4th March.

Members of the group advised that it has been mentioned to them at their home churches that decisions have already been made. Please be assured that this is not the case. One of the recent submissions concluded with a very apt verse from Corinthians.

“By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, I appeal to all of you, my brothers and sisters, to agree in what you say, so that there will be no divisions among you. Be completely united with only one thought and purpose”