

APPENDIX

The following comments were collated at two parish events organized by the Parish Pastoral Council. The first of these was a Parish Assembly, convened to communicate and consult with the people of the parish, which happened to be held on 1st of December 2009, shortly after the publication of the Murphy Report. The attendance overwhelmingly called for a forum to discuss the Report and accordingly, a special forum was organized for Jan 12th, 2010. The Parish Pastoral Council undertook to faithfully listen and convey the feelings and concerns of the parishioners to the Archdiocese. The comments are given here as they were expressed and naturally, represent the diverse views of the people in attendance at these events.

Contributions at Parish Assembly, St Patrick's Parish Donabate , 1st December 2009

- I feel shattered and frustrated. There are no democratic structures in the church. It is time for laity to be given some say. We are told mandatory celibacy cannot be discussed. It must be discussed.
- We cannot go to any forum to raise these important issues.
- I am very disappointed with the response of the Vatican.
- I find it extremely difficult as a teacher to stand in front of children every day and teach about faith.
- The church has a tradition of secrecy. The church itself forbade laity to belong to secret societies like the freemasons etc. but the church itself is full of secrecy. This is bad for the church. The church has treated all in a secretive and unjust way.
- There is a huge amount to discuss. I personally feel that the bishops let us down. The perpetrators are evil but our leaders, those supposed to help and protect us, have let the entire fabric of the church down.
- The lack of leadership is criminal. The lack of comment from the Vatican beggars belief. Do they not understand the impact of what has happened? This is not the first time the Vatican is completely insensitive to the hurt caused by these matters. Cardinal Law of Boston, who, like Dublin bishops covered up abuse was selected to say a special mass for Pope John Paul in Rome at the time of his death. There is something very sick about the church.
- I believe some priests feel if heads are kept down, this will pass by.
- All authority is in Rome. Anyone who deviates or disagrees is shot down.

- There is a similarity between the Church today and the tobacco industry. As time passes, and our knowledge of the damage tobacco does increases, the practice of smoking is declining in western, developed countries while it continues to grow and boom in poor, developing countries. Is this how the future of the church will be?
- The Church has a massive problem with admitting to being wrong. From the Reformation to the Inquisition, to the doctrine of infallibility, the central leadership of Church appears to be unable to tolerate any debate or admit it might be wrong. This underpins what happened in Dublin – underpins the need to cover up and protect the ‘reputation’ of the church.
- I have great difficulty coming to this (assembly) or going to mass. While I want my children to belong here in this parish I don’t want them to belong to this corrupt church.
- Parish Pastoral Councils are a good thing but they are limited. They have very limited powers and these need to be looked at. The position of women in the church and celibacy are issues that must be looked at also.

St Patrick’s Parish Donabate - Special Forum to discuss The Murphy Report

12th January 2010

- I was horrified by the contents of the report. The great damage caused has to be noted. Well done to the parish for organizing this forum and for giving the opportunity to ordinary people to have their say.
The event was well advertised, a pity so few turned up
Help-lines need to be set up in the parish.
An annual Mass should be said for the victims so we never forget the hurt.
- Support to survivor’s representatives is important.
Why was the Vatican response delayed?
The resignation of Bishops would not have happened without a push from Archbishop Martin.
Our demands should include strong leadership involving Priests and the Laity
Continuance of silence should be deplored.
4% of sexual abuse victims were abused by priests.
- The system has failed somewhere.
The Vatican needs to be addressed.
The Laity will be seen to be colluding if nothing is done.
We have to ask ourselves ‘What would Jesus do?’
- Lack of response from the Pope regarding findings of The Murphy Report unacceptable. It took only a few days to respond to the passing of Cardinal Daly -

but no response to the Murphy report for weeks.

- There should be a petition from the Parish requesting the resignation of the 5th Bishop. I feel utter disgust at the Report. Grave situations demand action -but 'no Mob' mentality.
- The Feast of Holy Innocents (28th December) – is a possible date for a Mass and permanent memorial for victims.
Stained glass window in church should be dedicated to survivors of abuse.
- Co-responsibility needed in our Church
The attitude of pastors suggests they see the situation like a tsunami. 'Tsunami came in and went out'
- No enthusiasm from clergy regarding change of any sort.
No faith development. What is behind this ambivalence?
No enthusiasm for Evangelization in the Diocese.
We need to raise pastoral issues regarding the renewal of the church.
- Personal holiness must be first.
By not praying 'We don't do what we should do'.
Fear of making it public -We fear censure from those we criticize.
- Young people are lost.
There should be no judgments, exclusions or distancing of minorities.
The Church should be open, friendly, accepting, forgiving and needs to show hospitality

Suggestions:

- Prayer meetings in homes.
- House masses.
- No scapegoating of priests.
- Explore Pilgrimage Masses
- Invitations to home masses.

We should approach people instead of expecting them to come to us

- I have faith in Jesus, but am struggling and finding it hard to cope
I came back to church because of the Community.
Today science is answering questions instead of religion.
- Years ago the Clergy were the Church-not the community.
I was dumbfounded by the abuse and the extent it was taking place. Never knew until The Murphy Report that abuse happened.
- Opinion of hierarchy is completely confused -We thought the clergy had a better understanding of real life, because of their position. People may know us -but do

they really know us? The same applies to priests.

- We are a small group here tonight -Why not more? Because others may feel they would not be heard.
- We need to pray that those who are hurt will forgive those who have done the hurt.