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| LOCATION: Parish Zoom  TIME STARTED: 19.00 TIME FINISHED: 21.00 | |
| **Present:** Fr Michael Sheehan, Angela Brady, Maire McGrady, Kristin Neeson, Martin McLaughlin Ollyn O’Neill, Pascal McCulla, Aidan Walker | |
| **Apologies:** Niall Cullen, Patrice Mahon | |
| Item 1 **Opening Prayer** | |
| Martin McLaughlin |  |
| Item 2 **Minutes of Last Meeting** | |
| Notes of Discussion | Action/s |
| Minutes of December meeting agreed with no changes. | Aidan to arrange loading to website |
| Item 3 **Promoting HOPE within the Parish** | |
| Notes of Discussion | Action/s |
| Aidan is continuing to post “Hope” themed messages on Parish Facebook page.  There was a short discussion about content and material available. | Members will continue to send suggested messages to Aidan via WhatsApp. |
| Item 4 **Supporting & Connecting with Parishioners cut-off due to**  **Covid19** |  |
| Notes of Discussion |  |
| Members discussed further communication with these parishioners. Options included phone calls from the priests, gifts, etc.  The discussion expanded to plans for Lent and using Lent as an opportunity to reach out to those parishioners who are cut-off from the church due to the pandemic.  A proposal to introduce Stations of the Cross outside the Church building for parishioners was debated.  It was agreed that we could send Stations of the Cross information to the sick and cut-off parishioners so that they would feel included through this new Parish initiative. | Fr Michael to investigate Stations of the Cross options.  Aidan to investigate QR code for Stations. |
| Item 5 **Supporting Women through the Pandemic through Outreach** |  |
| Notes on Discussion |  |
| **International Women’s Day - Speaker Proposal from Pascal.**  Members discussed the proposal from Pascal for a speaker event on International Women’s Day 2021, see appendix.  It was agreed that this was a great idea and that Pascal would confirm the speaker and other arrangements before we start to promote the event via the Parish facebook page.  The event will be held vis Zoom. | Pascal to confirm speaker plus date and time.  Aidan to announce event on facebook once arrangements confirmed by Pascal |
| Item 6 **Any Other Notified Business** |  |
| Notes of Discussion |  |
| Electric Charging Points in Church carpark / Government Grant: | Aidan to put item into April agenda. |
| **Date of Next Meeting** |  |
| **Monday 22 February 2021 7.00 – 9.00pm** |  |

Chairperson’s signature Date

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APPENDIX.



***'Women Taking The Lead”***

*‘Defending Human Rights and the Environment'****.***

To mark International Women’s Day[[1]](#footnote-1) Drumbo and Carryduff Parish warmly invite you the above talk, online on the Parish Zoom.

The talk by **Jeannie McCann** (Trocaire Campaigns Officer for NI) will be, as the name suggests, about international stories of women taking the lead. It will start at **7.30pm on Monday 8th March?** Save the date/applications should be made to**….!**

1. **BACKGROUND**

The theme for this year’s International Women’s Day is challenge and from challenge comes change. We can choose to challenge and call out gender bias and inequity. We can also choose to seek out and celebrate women's achievements. Collectively, we can all help create an inclusive world.  The Parish Council saw women being a theme this year for several reasons.

1. **ACROSS THE WORLD**

In 2020 the **UN** policy brief: The impact of **COVID-19** on women stated, that across every sphere, from health to the economy, security to social protection, the impacts of COVID-19 are exacerbated for women and girls simply by virtue of their sex.

**Learn more here** <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women>

In another **UN** paper, women were increasingly being seen as more vulnerable than men to the impacts of **climate change**. This is mainly because they represent the majority of the world's poor. The difference between men and women can also be seen in their differential roles, responsibilities, decision making, access to land and natural resources, opportunities and needs, which are held by both sexes.

Worldwide, women have less access than men to resources such as land, credit, agricultural inputs, decision-making structures, technology, training, and extension services that would enhance their capacity to adapt to climate change.

**Learn more here** <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/womenin-shadow-climate-change>

1. **CLOSER TO HOME**

The impact of the pandemic has also been felt closer to home.

Many more **women face losing their jobs** than men here due to Covid-19 and the impact on females has been greater due to major issues such as childcare. Roseann Kelly, chief executive of Women in Business, says female entrepreneurs are suffering badly as a result of the crisis, with childcare issues becoming the biggest barrier for businesses.

In the months since lockdown began, **reported domestic violence incidents have surged and three women have been murdered** by their partners.

The latest report by the Police in Northern Ireland shows a stark increase in the number of **Learn more here**  [domestic abuse calls](https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics/covid-19/domestic-abuse-calls-to-30.06.20.pdf) received since Covid-19 lockdown measures were introduced on 23 March 2020 compared to the previous year.

The level of **Learn more here** [domestic abuse incidents and crimes](https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics/2019-20/q4/domestic-abuse-bulletin-mar-20.pdf) have been the highest ever recorded since the start of the data series in 2004/05. Homeless women, women with insecure immigration status have been particularly vulnerable, as regular support structures are limited during the lockdown. Ordinarily, the window for women to seek help is extremely limited.

1. **THE TALK**

Jeannie’s talk will be about a response to these crises from women. The talk will contain stories from across the world where women are doing something about the situation, they find themselves in. It will be based on a report that was launched last year at Stormont. She will share more about the women on the frontline who are bravely defending their communities' environment and human rights.

[**NOTE FOR PPC DECISION]** There is also a short documentary - **Women in their Place. -** that could be watched before the talk or afterwards. Streaming through zoom can be problematic.

1. **VIDEO - WOMEN IN THEIR PLACE.**

Trocaire can share the file with us if we want to upload it directly to the Parish Facebook page or we can share the Vimeo link below.

This fifteen minute documentary is about women in Honduras who are defending their communities and environment from abuse by big business. In doing so they face criminalisation, assault and even murder. Their courage is not just an act of defiance against corporate greed; it is an act of defiance against the very system that tries to keep women in their place.

View Women in their Place on Vimeo**Learn more** [*here*](https://vimeo.com/392682615)*.*

This documentary is part of a wider campaign by Trócaire which calls for companies to be held to account for land and human rights violations. **Learn more** [here](https://www.trocaire.org/campaigns/business-human-rights/).

Attacks on women human rights defenders have increased every year, with 137 attacks on women related to business and human rights recorded last year. Almost half of these attacks were against indigenous women and affected rural communities.

Jeannie’s talk complements the documentary but anyone who has not had a chance to watch it will not be left out. Jennie has slides to share.

Jeannie and Trocaire will also outline some ways that Parishioners from Drumbo and Carryduff can help in practical ways.

**NOTE:** Marked annually on March 8th, **International Women's Day (IWD)** is one of the most important days of the year to:

* celebrate women's achievements
* raise awareness about women's equality
* lobby for accelerated gender parity
* fundraise for **Learn more** [female-focused charities](https://www.internationalwomensday.com/Fundraising)

1. ## This IWD event is organised by the Parish Pastoral Council <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

   [↑](#footnote-ref-1)