

# **NET MINISTRIES IRELAND**



## **Waterford & Lismore NET Team 2016-2017 Mid Year Report**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The main purpose of this document is to give an overall synopsis of our ministry as the Waterford & Lismore NET Team, as well as direction for where we plan to take the ministry over the next half of the year. This document, along with the Waterford & Lismore NET ministry charter, should give a complete scope of current team activities. We hope to show how the four objectives of Local ministry were ever present in our planning of all current ministry events.

These four Objectives are as follows:

1. Outreach
2. Disciple Young People
3. Form Leaders
4. Create a link between Parish, Families and Schools

We will do this by identifying parish ministry, school ministry plus any miscellaneous ministry we have been involved in. This report will also cover some of the logistics involved in the running of a local team.

## **SECTION 1: MINISTRY**

### **Parish Ministry**

Our parish ministry has been a great opportunity to encounter lots of different people from the community. We have been speaking at multiple masses in different parishes to share our mission and meet the congregations. We have met and networked with different parish councils. For example, the parish council at Sts. Joseph and Benildus invited us to attend meetings to share about what we are doing and present them with ideas of what we can do for youth in their parishes. We have enjoyed the opportunity to meet many different people in the community, and we have had received great responses to our ministry.

### **School Ministry**

Over the past few months we have worked with a local retreat team to minister to the third year boys from De La Salle College. We have lead religious classes at Blackwater Community School in Lismore and we also just finished a week of day-long retreats with the Ardscoil na Mara in Tramore with a great group of second years!

In the New Year we have many schools who have confirmed retreat dates and are interested in having us come to their schools.

### **Diocesan Ministry**

While in Waterford, we have been able to get involved with several diocese-wide events.

#### ***Regular Diocesan Events***

Mass and coffee morning at St John's Church in town on Wednesdays as well as Divine Mercy devotions and refreshments at Sacred Heart Church each Friday. Both of these events allow us to meet people of all ages from our community. We have made great connections with these people.

#### ***Pro-Life Conference***

During the year we attended a pro-life conference evening at the Tower Hotel. We met many people who are active in this ministry in our area as well as hearing about the work that is going on in Waterford.

### ***Youth 2000***

We regularly attend a Youth 2000 prayer group on Fridays in Dungarvan, and we have started our own on Wednesdays at St. Paul's Church, Lisduggan. These have been opportunities to encounter young people as well as young adults who are looking for ministry.

We attended the Munster Youth 2000 retreat, and as well as attending the fantastic talks and prayer times, the team was able help out with welcoming retreatants and leading a drama.

### ***Street Ministry***

We have been working to meet our goal of doing regular street ministry and increasing in confidence in street ministry. This ministry has given us opportunities to meet people outside of Church events and live out our Christian faith by being living witnesses.

### ***Year of Mercy Mass***

Following this we joined Archbishop Charles Brown, Papal Nuncio of Ireland, for an evening of prayer for the end of the Year of Mercy at the cathedral in Waterford. Our team felt very honoured to be welcomed by His Excellency to the congregation during his address and enjoyed meeting with him and other parishioners afterwards.

### ***Diocesan Clergy Conference***

We also gave a presentation about our ministry at the Diocesan Clergy Conference. This was very well received, and we had great feedback from the priests. We were able to join the priests afterwards for Mass and lunch.

### ***Holy Family Mission Team***

The team has been able to join the new Holy Family Mission Team at Glencomeragh House on several occasions. We attended their 'grand opening' in December which was a joyous occasion lead by Bishop Phonsie and Archbishop Charles Brown.

### ***Young Adult Coffee Group***

We have established a young adults coffee group, a prayer group, and have been a witness to our faith. The coffee group provides a good place for students and young adults to take a break from their usual routine and have fun with their peers. Being a team made up of Irish and internationals provides a great example of the universality of the Catholic faith. This has allowed young adults to find community in their faith.

## **SECTION 2: LOGISTICS**

### **Household**

Our household budget always more than meets our needs. The budget of €200 each week is split between a gift card for the supermarket and cash for food and household expenses. We are fortunate that we do not have to pay for fuel out of this budget as a separate fuel account has been set up for the team.

We are very grateful to Bishop Phonsie for opening his house to us this year. We enjoy sharing the house with him and have great opportunities to include him in our team meals and time together. We often share a Sunday meal together along with other dinner guests such as priests and religious from the diocese. Some memorable meals are our Canadian and American Thanksgiving dinners!

We have made great connections with the Apostles of the Sacred Heart: 3 Sisters recently moved in to a house just down the street from us. We often share meals and community time with them. Many priests and lay people on the diocese have also welcomed us for dinner to share fellowship together.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

Our team has been given a Toyota Avensis for the year. It did give us a couple of small problems at the start, but now the car is a great blessing to our team. Having the car allows us to minister across the Waterford-Lismore Diocese.

## **SECTION 3: FOUR OBJECTIVES OF YOUTH MINISTRY**

### **OBJECTIVE 1: Outreach To Young People**

***To engage with young people in the parish and schools between the ages of 12-25 faithfully witnessing to the person of Jesus Christ and calling others to follow Him.***

Whether it's in a cafe, a shop, or in the park, we try to engage with young people wherever we are. This has led to meeting many young people over the last few months. We hope to continue evangelising through our events and street evangelization in the second half of the year. We see great potential in the youth and young adults who attend our events and we look forward to continuing to journey with them after Christmas. We also intend to introduce more events which can help young people embrace their faith and find confidence and support in us and their peers.

### **OBJECTIVE 2: Disciple Young People**

***To encourage and facilitate the growth of young people's faith and intentionally form disciples.***

Since arriving here we have been able to find young people to disciple in different ways. Bishop Phonsie has put us in touch with some youth, and we have met a few people through home and school visits. Some have approached us wanting to help and be part of our effort, and others we have met through phone calls from a database of people who had previously gone to events similar to the ones we would be holding. We now hope to keep in contact with such people to encourage them in their faith and invite them to our events.

### **OBJECTIVE 3: Form Leaders**

***To empower and equip youth and young adults for leadership roles in ministry.***

We are constantly on the lookout for young leaders in the community. Through the prayer group, school visits and religion classes we have identified potential leaders in the community. While we haven't put on many events or activities that focus around leadership, we are encouraging people to get involved and be a part of the ministry we are working to form.

### **OBJECTIVE 4: Create a link between Parish, Families & Schools**

***To create a sense of belonging & giving the young people a place to serve and grow within the Church***

The youth we have encountered in Waterford have been wonderful, and we have enjoyed getting to know them and journey with them in their lives and their faith. We are starting to create links between the team and different parishes and schools in the Diocese. We hope to create more avenues in which to empower youth with increased responsibility in the very near future. As we continue to get to know the young people and their strengths and weakness, we will be more readily able to identify areas where they may be interested in serving and expanding their knowledge and faith.

## CONCLUSION

We are very thankful for the help and support that has been provided to the team since we have arrived in Waterford. Without the help of Bishop Phonsie, Fr. Pat Fitzgerald, Fr. Liam Power, Sr. Antoinette, Mary Dee, and dozens of others we would not have had the opportunity to minister to as many young people as we have so far this year.

We are very much looking forward to the second half of the year where we hope to continue to grow our ministry, particularly the youth and young adult's groups. We are looking forward to continuing the journey with the people of Waterford & Lismore.



Many Thanks,  
The 2016/17 Waterford & Lismore NET Team