

**DIOCESE OF CASHEL, FERNS AND
OSSORY
(Church of Ireland)**



The Diocesan Review Commission
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27th May 2022

RE: Meeting of Diocesan Review Commission with Baltinglass Group of Parishes on
Wednesday 15th June 2022 at 8pm.

Dear parishioners,

The Diocesan Review Commission is delighted to be in a position to commence meetings with parishioners across the Diocese. As reflected in our letter to you last February, our ability to begin these meetings has been severely hampered by lock-downs and high Covid case numbers. As Commission members, however, we remained convinced that the opportunity for face-to-face meetings was worth waiting for!

What will happen?

The Commission members are coming primarily to LISTEN to you. We are not coming with a pre-fixed agenda or with ready-made solutions. The meeting has been designed as a workshop, so as to allow the ideas and opinions of each and every person in attendance to be heard.

It will provide an opportunity to consider:

- what are your hopes for your Group/Union; what is working well and how can this be built upon?

- what are your fears for your Group/Union; what are the challenges and how can these start to be addressed?
- What is your vision for your Group/Union into the future?

It is hoped that the meeting will be seen as much more than an information-gathering exercise, but rather as an opportunity for parishioners to come together to plan for a shared future; and to begin to have conversations which might not have been had before, and which might be continued within the local context after the Commission's visit.

Who will be there?

Mrs Phyliss Grothier and Mr Eric Driver will be in attendance on behalf of the Commission. The Commission have already engaged with clergy within the Diocese, so these meetings are for parishioners and it is not envisaged that clergy will attend. It is hoped that as many people as possible will be in attendance from the parishes. In other words, we do not wish to simply meet representatives, or Vestry members, but *everyone* who has an interest in the life of the parish. Please, therefore, spread the word!

When will it be?

Wednesday 15th June 2022 at 8pm.

Where will it be?

The venue will be chosen and provided by each Group/Union, so this will be notified to you locally. We would simply request a room that is comfortably large for the expected numbers. In addition, there should be sufficient wall-space as to allow the securing of three large poster-boards which we will bring with us (each measuring 4-foot x 4-foot) – these can be attached with Blu-tac. The meeting format will require everyone to be able to write some notes, so that should be borne in mind in choosing a venue. Whether Groups/Unions wish to provide hospitality at the meetings is a matter entirely at their own discretion. Once a venue has been selected, please notify Eric Driver of the Commission team at ericgjdriver@yahoo.ie so as to make arrangements for the Commission members to get access to the venue about half an hour before the meeting commences.

Conclusion:

We are frustrated that our efforts to meet in-person with parishes have been hampered for so long. We see these meetings as being entirely central to the work of the Commission. The discernment of the best way forward for the Diocese can only arise from honest sharing, attentive listening and a genuine willingness to work together as faithful stewards of God's grace. We greatly look forward to meeting with you.

Yours sincerely,

Eric Driver

For and on behalf of the Diocesan Review Commission

To: Revd Mairt Hanley and all parishioners in Baltinglass Group of Parishes.