

## CHANGE OF PARISH COORDINATOR AT COROROOKE

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L-R: Fr. Dan Arundell (Visiting Priest), Carmel Finlay, Bishop Connors, Veronica Roache, Lucy Darcy.

The pilot project in Parish Leadership is now in its third year in the Parish of Cororooke.

Since the departure of Sr Margaret Carmody sgs as Parish Leader in January 2008, the coordination of the parish pastoral life has been entrusted to three laypersons - Lucy Darcy, Marita O'Shea and Veronica Roache. In conjunction with the Parish Leadership Team the coordinators have continued to lead a parish awash with involvement and vitality.

As part of the pilot, a review of the Leadership Model was undertaken by Rev Dr Philip Hughes of the Christian Research Association.

Phillip was very positive in his assessment of the leadership model and his first recommendation to the Diocese was:

**“Other parishes in the diocese should be given the option of adopting this model.** It may well contribute to higher levels of participation of lay people, to greater participation of young people, and a greater ownership of the life and mission of the parishes.”

The tenure of this initial Coordinating Team ended in April 2010. Marita O'Shea finished her term as a Coordinator. There were eight nominations from the Parish Community for the Coordinator to replace Marita. At an evening of discernment on April 11<sup>th</sup> facilitated by Sr Jill McCorquodale sgs, the decision was made by the community that Carmel Finlay would become part of the Coordinator Team for the next three years.

At the Saturday evening Mass on May 1<sup>st</sup>, Carmel Finlay was commissioned by Bishop Peter as a new coordinator with Lucy Darcy and Veronica Roache recommissioned for the next one and two years respectively. It was also an opportunity for the community to thank Marita O'Shea and to present her with a gift for her committed and generous contribution as a Parish Coordinator over the past two years.

Attending the Mass was the Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator, Stef Lloyd. Stef was asked to present certificates of appreciation to approximately twenty five young people who had assisted in various ministries in the parish over the previous twelve months. Ministries included, Leading the Sunday Assembly of the Word and Communion, Leading the Children's Liturgy of the Word, Reading, Special Ministers, Projector Operators and Welcomers. It was a most impressive sight to see so many young people prepared to be involved in their parish. Stef Lloyd's comment was, *'it was amazing, they just kept coming'*.



Although only a small parish located close to a regional centre, the Cororooke parish community continues to expand its vision, invites commitment and involvement from all, takes seriously their young people and as a result is a community full of hope and joy.

*Vin Dillon*

