**THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL AND ITS MISSION STATEMENT**

 **By Michael Foley**

An important aspect of the nature and functioning of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is its Mission or Vision Statement.

Mission Statements, very briefly, inform us why a group, or an institution, exists; what it is they hope to achieve for a particular constituency; and what difference they may make to the functioning and well-being of that body.

A Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is ‘a leadership group through which priests and people work together as partners in furthering the mission of Christ in their own place’ [ICBC, *Parish Pastoral Councils*, 2007].

The PPC is envisaged as a means whereby parishes can express their identity and exercise a sense of co-responsibility, both for their own growth as a vibrant Christian community, and for their mission of evangelisation and outreach to the wider community or neighbourhood.

The PPC’s Mission Statement, therefore, is intended to articulate the essential nature, and address the mode of operation of the Council in the parish.

As such, the Mission Statement will help the members of the Council to:

* Focus on the *raison d’être* of the PPC
* Explain the aspirations of the PPC
* Be an important means for inviting widespread participation in the parish
* Provide a sound basis for planning the work of the PPC
* Allow for the regular appraisal of the progress of the PPC.