

## CATHOLIC MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER NORTHERN IRELAND

### Reference and Administrative Details for year

**Charity name:** Catholic Marriage Encounter Northern Ireland

**Charity Commission Number:** 101458

**N.I Contact Person:** Madeline McCully  
9, Kingsfort Crescent,  
Derry  
BT48 7TB

Tel: 02871350612

Email: [tomandmadelinemccully@gmail.com](mailto:tomandmadelinemccully@gmail.com)

### **Trustees:**

The trustees serving for financial year 1/1/2020 - financial year 31/12/2020

Madeline McCully  
Thomas McCully  
Daniel Lynch  
Kieran Casey  
Sarah Casey

**Secretary:** Elizabeth Murray

**Executive Officer** Thomas McCully

## 2020 Annual Review of Catholic Marriage Encounter Northern Ireland.

During the past year Marriage Encounter and Engaged Encounter Weekends were held as virtual weekends due to Covid -19 restrictions on social distancing.

The National Leadership team were invited to attend a European Council in Austria in February, dealing with Christian marriage, relationship education, formation, and marriage preparation and family life. Priests and religious received a parallel programme.

In May, following a selection process and ratification at a National Board Meeting, a new leadership team of a couple and a priest were selected for Marriage Encounter. They are Emmet Gerard McCluskey and Mary Margaret McCluskey with Fr. Seán Coyle, a Columban priest.

Again, to Covid restrictions, one other European Council was held virtually. The fruits of these were disseminated from the European Council to the National Board of Ireland and thence to regional areas for team workshops and group gatherings which were held by Zoom.

Catholic Marriage Encounter Northern Ireland supplied teams and interested couples for Marriage Enrichment weekends organised by our associate organisation –Catholic Marriage Encounter Ireland. Follow-up meetings were held by Zoom which allowed couples from different regions to fully participate in further enrichment programmes.

The marriage preparation programme of Engaged Encounter was particularly successful and well embraced by the participating couples even though it was a virtual experience.

Married couples continued to meet by Zoom on a regular basis across the province. These meetings were particularly valuable during lockdown when couples and families needed extra relationship support.

The participants on the Marriage Enrichment Weekends and Engaged Encounter were delighted to participate in the follow-up programmes by Zoom. These were particularly successful.

It was an unusual year and new ways of thinking are emerging for presenting the programmes. These will be discussed at National Board meetings in the coming year.

Signed:  
Madeline McCully

