

Parish of Saul & Ballee

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Monday 14th March 2016

Time: 7.30pm

Location: Saul Parochial House

Attendees: Fr. Paul Alexander, Vivienne McCormick, Geraldine McVeigh, Rachel Hamill, Gemma Sloan, Mary Burns, Anne Marie Hanvey, Paul Kelly and Paul Fitzsimons

Chair: Vivienne McCormick / **Vice Chair:** Post vacant / **Secretary:** Geraldine McVeigh

1. **Opening Prayer** led by Anne Marie Hanvey

2. **Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting** – 15th February 2016

The minutes from the above meeting were circulated to all members via email prior to tonight's meeting. All were in agreement with the minutes and a proposal was made by Mary Burns and seconded by Gemma Sloan to adopt the minutes as presented. The minutes were adopted and signed off by the Chairperson, Secretary and Fr Alexander. A copy will be held on file in the Parochial Office and a copy will be published on the Parish website. The Parish notice boards will also be updated.

- **Action:** Geraldine McVeigh to email minutes to Parish secretary so they can be published on the Parish website.

- **Action:** Vivienne/Geraldine to update noticeboard in St. Patrick's Church.

3. **Matters Arising** –

Review of the Roles/Responsibilities of PPC

Vivienne has written to Jim Deeds, and will ring him after Easter to confirm Monday 4th April is suitable for him to come down for a talk on the Roles and Responsibilities of members of the Parish Pastoral Council. Rachel offered apologies as she is not free on that date.

- **Action:** Vivienne to confirm date with Jim Deeds.

Day of Renewal for Ministers of the Word

A Day of renewal for Ministers of the Word was held on 20th February in Tobar Mhuire and was facilitated by Fr Mel. It was agreed it was a worthwhile day and a follow up meeting will be held on Wednesday to arrange readers for Holy Week and the Easter Vigil. A Renewal Day will be held each year.

- **Action:** No further action required

Parish Newsletter:

Articles have been received from St Patrick's PS, Saul, St Joseph's, Ballycruttle, Saul Gaelic Club and Adoration Committee,

The Schools Competition received 77 entries from P6 and P7. P1 - P5 in Saul also entered. The front cover on the next issue is by Lauren Magee. Vivienne has done a picture collage which will go in the Newsletter. Fr Alexander presented the prizes to the winners in Ballycruttle and Vivienne and Geraldine were invited to Assembly in St Patrick's Saul to make the presentations there. The winners received cinema tickets and a framed copy of their entry. A winner was picked from each class in P1 – P5 who received an Easter Egg. All entries from P6 and P7 in Ballycruttle were entered in a draw for an Easter Egg.

The next issue due out in June will include articles on the first Three Sacraments of the Church, namely Baptism, Confessions and Holy Communion.

Vivienne will try to get the March Newsletter to Amanda tomorrow

- **Action:** Vivienne to get Newsletter to Amanda

Eucharistic Adoration:

Eucharistic Adoration is going well and numbers are keeping up. Flyers to parents have gone out to the school for distribution.

- **Action:** No further action required

Jubilee Year of Mercy:

The '24 Hours for the Lord' from the evening of Friday 4th March to the evening of Saturday 5th March had reasonably good attendance but it was felt that Eucharistic Adoration on any future occasion should finish earlier in the evening.

The Day of Mercy on the last Friday of each month is going well and the length of Adoration after Mass is just about right.

We are considering doing something as a Parish for the Year of Mercy. Vivienne has made enquiries regarding the Holy Door in St Patrick's Church, Belfast. The opening times are as follows:

Weekdays:	10.30am to 8.00pm
Mass	10.00am and 1.00pm
Saturday	10.30am to 7.00pm
Mass	1.00pm and 7.00pm
Sunday	8.30am to 7.00pm
Mass	8.00am; 10.00am; 12.00 noon; 7.00pm

It is felt there would be a lot of interest in the Parish in going Fr Alexander felt we should go to **St Patrick's** rather than Clonard as St Patrick's is an historic church being the second oldest in Belfast and parishioners would have an opportunity to see the John Lavery painting. Vivienne is to speak to Patrick Curran who organises the Knock

Pilgrimages on behalf of Saul's St Vincent de Paul Conference, to see if he can advise us on the best way to do this and who to speak to, in arranging the transport etc. We can then insert a notice into the Bulletin when details of the trip are confirmed.

The Day of Mercy in March is Good Friday. Fr Alexander had suggested we could have Prayers around the Cross at 7.00pm but it was decided this could not be fitted in with the Ceremonies and the Stations.

- **Action:** Vivienne to speak to Patrick Curran
- **Action:** Suggested trip to Door of Mercy to go on Agenda for next meeting.

Easter Ceremonies

The times of Easter Ceremonies were again discussed and were agreed as follows:

There will be Morning Prayer of the Church at 9.30am during the Easter Triduum. There is already Morning Prayer Monday to Friday so the only additional day will be Holy Saturday and Fr Alexander will prepare copies of the prayers for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

Holy Thursday: Mass in St Patrick's, Saul at 7.00pm with Exposition ending with Night Prayer of the Church at 9.00pm.

Good Friday: The Passion in St Patrick's, Saul at 3.00pm
Stations on the Mountain at 5.30pm (weather permitting).

Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil in St Patrick's, Saul at 9.00pm

Easter Sunday: Mass in St Patrick's, Saul at 9.30am
Mass in Carlin at 11.00am

There will be Dawn Mass 6.30am on the mountain on Easter Sunday depending on weather and ground conditions. This will be announced the week before and confirmed on Facebook. There will be no transport up the mountain for the Dawn Mass.

There is a Penitential Service in St Patrick's Downpatrick on Palm Sunday for the area and there will be Confessions in St Patrick's Church, Saul, after 10.00am Mass on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week.

- **Action:** Dawn Mass to go in bulletin and confirmed on Facebook
- **Action:** Vivienne to prepare notice of Easter Ceremonies for Churches
- **Action:** Fr Alexander to provide Morning Prayer for Easter Triduum

Cemetery Policy/Columbarium review:

The Cemetery Policy has been sent to Amanda. It has to be proof read and will go out as soon as possible.

- **Action:** No further action required

PPC Review/Bishop's Report

The Pastoral Review was distributed last weekend and all copies left in the Church went. A copy of the Bishop's Report was sent to the Bishop and Jim Deeds on 8th March.

- **Action:** No further action required

4. Family Prayer Ministry

We are considering how we can introduce this. Vivienne has done an Introduction about the concept of Prayer. Fr Alexander feels we should take our time – forms of prayers have changed and we need to involve the children. Vivienne had already discussed the idea with the principal of St Patrick's who provided the prayers the children say each day in school. These were then included in the Family Prayer Guide, copies of which were given to all present. After further discussions, it was suggested we include some prayers specifically aimed at teenagers so Vivienne was to source some of these prayers eg at exam times, times of stress to include in a teens section of the Guide. Fr Alexander has a book of more modern prayers which might encourage teenagers. We will discuss this again at the next meeting.

- **Action:** Family Prayer Ministry to go on Agenda for next Meeting.

5. Consultation with the Parish Community

We need to discuss the pros and cons of consulting with the parish. It was thought a meeting after Mass would be best. Vivienne thought a few of us need to get together to discuss. We could invite people and see how many come. Vivienne requested volunteers and Paul, Mary and Gemma are to meet and discuss and get back to the Council.

- **Action:** Paul, Mary and Gemma to report back following discussion

6. AOB

Saul Sunday is 19th June 3 months away. To go on Agenda for next Meeting

- **Action:** Saul Sunday on Agenda for next meeting

Bright Parish Mission

The Parish of Bright invited the Chairs of the local Pastoral Councils to the opening night of their Mission the theme being One Parish. Vivienne was unable to attend and Geraldine attended as the representative of our Pastoral Council.

7. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader

The date of the next meeting will be: Monday 9th May 2016. Prayer will be led by Geraldine McVeigh.

8. Closing Prayer

Meeting concluded with closing prayer.