

Parish of Saul & Ballee

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Tuesday 1st December 2015

Time: 7.30pm

Location: Saul Parochial House

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

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

Apologies: Anne-Marie Hanvey

1. Opening Prayer led by Geraldine McVeigh

2. Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting – 10th November 2015

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 Paul Fitzsimons 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:** Vivienne McCormick to email minutes to Parish secretary so they can be published on the Parish website.

3. Matters Arising –

Fr Alexander extended a welcome to Paul Fitzsimons and Paul Kelly. Ciaran Harney is unable to join the Council due to other commitments but Fr Alexander will continue to look out for new members. Thanks were extended to Peter Mullan and Fionnuala Murray for their hard work during their time on the Parish Pastoral Council. Living Church are willing to come to discuss roles and responsibilities which would be helpful for new members.

Thanks were extended to Rachel Hamill for her support and help during her time as Secretary and it was agreed that Geraldine McVeigh take up this role.

- **Action:** Fr Alexander/Vivienne to ask Jim Deeds from the Living Church Office to come down to a meeting in the New Year to refresh us all on our Roles and responsibilities within the Council

Volunteer forms: Amanda, the Parish Secretary, has tried to ring the person interested in fundraising but has been unable to contact her.

- **Action:** No further action required

Training for Extra-Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: Training has been arranged for Saturday 5th December. Approximately seven Ministers will be attending including a number of new Ministers. A new form has been designed and a new rota will go out after the training. A training course for Readers will be arranged hopefully in Lent.

- **Action:** Amanda to draw up a new Rota to go out after training.
- **Action:** Fr Alexander to arrange course for Readers of the Word

Parish Newsletter: 60 copies of the last Newsletter were printed but not all were used. It was decided to print 50 copies of the December issue. This issue will cover the Year of Mercy and upcoming events including the Cake Sale and Carol Service. Fr Alexander advised that the Carol Service will be shorter than last year and is being written up at present. There will be refreshments in the Church after the Carol Service. Vivienne has asked Patrick Curran who is currently President of the Saul Conference of St Vincent De Paul, to do an article on their work. Other Parish groups and the schools will be asked to contribute to the next issue in March. It was suggested that the Newsletter should go on the Parish website.

- **Action:** Parish Groups and schools to be asked to contribute to Newsletter.

Saul Mountain Committee: The Saul Mountain Committee is still meeting and is in the diary for February/March. Fr Alexander thanked the Committee for their work on the upkeep of the mountain.

- **Action:** No further action required

Morning Prayer of the Church: Morning Prayer commenced in St Patrick's Church, Saul on 2nd November and is going well. Morning Prayer is followed by the Rosary and all is finished in good time for Mass. When it is properly established Fr Alexander will source and buy Morning Prayer books.

- **Action:** No further action required.

Eucharistic Adoration: Fr Alexander thanked all who had helped in all the churches with invitations. There were 108 replies which is a good response. None of the persons who had ticked to help are still interested. Following requests from parishioners Adoration will be extended to 10.00pm. Books have been ordered to the value of €150. Some will be placed in the Church for use during Adoration and further copies will be

available to purchase from the Parish Office. The number of people who have committed to each hour is as follows:

10.00am - 11.00am	10
11.00am - 12.00 noon	3
12.00 noon - 1.00pm	5
1.00pm - 2.00pm	8
2.00pm - 3.00pm	6
3.00pm - 4.00pm	3
4.00pm - 5.00pm	3
5.00pm - 6.00pm	5
6.00pm - 7.00pm	4
7.00pm - 8.00pm	21
8.00pm - 9.00pm	22
9.00pm - 10.00pm	5

Co-ordinators will ensure each hour is covered and there will be people dropping in during the course of the day. When established in Saul it is hoped Adoration will be extended to the other two Churches of the Parish in the New Year.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Inaugural Mass for Adoration would be the Vigil Mass in Saul on 7th December for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Mass will be followed by Benediction. There will also be Mass in Saul at 10.00am on 8th December followed by the commencement of Adoration in the Parish.

A notice of the arrangements will be inserted in the Bulletin with a notice thanking those who have committed to the Adoration and those who have helped in the organization. It is hoped the Invitations will go out tomorrow if possible.

An Adoration Committee has been formed in the Parish to oversee the running of the Adoration with the office bearers being as follows:

Chairperson: Geraldine McVeigh

Vice-Chairperson: Maureen Fitzsimons

Secretary: Eugene Gallagher.

The next meeting of the Adoration Committee has been arranged for Wednesday 13th January 2016.

- **Action:** Notice of arrangements to go in Bulletin
- **Action:** Amanda to send out Invitations

4. Jubilee Year of Mercy –

The Year of Mercy will commence on 8th December 2015 and end on 20th November 2016. Pope Francis has said that it is his burning desire that Christians rediscover the corporal and the spiritual works of mercy. A message from Bishop Treanor with the Diocesan Programme for the Year of Mercy is available in the Church. On 8th December Pope Francis will open the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica and in our Diocese a Holy Door will be opened in St Patrick's Church, Belfast and in Clonard. A Day of Mercy will be observed on the last Friday of each month beginning on 29th January 2016 and

Missionaries of Mercy, who will be commissioned by Pope Francis on Ash Wednesday 2016, will be available in St Patrick's Church Belfast for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on specified dates throughout the Year of Mercy.. Different events are planned for Lent and Easter including 24 hours of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament with the Sacrament of Reconciliation being available during the 4th/5th March (the 4th week of Lent) and we have to focus on how to do this in our Parish.

A 3 day Mission in the Vicariate for the Year of Mercy similar to the Jubilee Year was suggested by some priests but rejected by the VF of the Vicariate. The possibility of a 3 day Mission in our Parish was discussed and Fr Alexander is to look into this further.

- **Action:** Fr Alexander/Council to discuss this further at next meeting.

5. Christmas Masses –

Last Year the Christmas Vigil Mass was 9.00pm in Saul and 11.00pm in Ballycruttle. It was agreed last year that Carlin would have a vigil Mass this year. The Christmas Mass times this year will therefore be:

	Saul	Ballycruttle	Carlin
Christmas Eve	9.00 pm	---	11.00pm
Christmas Day	9.30 am	11.00am	--

There will be confessions in Saul after Mass on Monday and Wednesday of Christmas Week. Fr Alexander suggested Confessions in Ballycruttle after Mass from 11.30 to 12.30 on Sunday 13th December and in Carlin after Mass on 20th December.

Notices of the arrangements for Christmas Masses and Confessions will be available in the Churches.

- **Action:** Christmas Mass and Confession times to be displayed in all Churches

6 AOB –

Faith and Life Convention: Vivienne attended the Faith and Life Convention held on 26th September in Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock. The Keynote speaker was Fr Alan McGuckian and his theme was "What Hope for Faith?" Participants were invited to reflect on some of the ways that Catholics are called to personal renewal today.

Fr McGuckian spoke of the challenges ahead for the diocese as a Living Church to reverse the trends of falling numbers attending Sunday Masses and to look to the future as a more spiritual Church, a Church for the Poor.

Participants attended two workshops one of which Vivienne found particularly inspirational. Hidden Pearls was a workshop on the talents of a girl with special needs and taught us the concept of not judging people by what we first see.

- **Action:** No action required

Jeff Cavins Talk: Vivienne attended “A Day with Jeff Cavins” on 21st November in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast. Jeff is one of the most effective and engaging speakers in the Church today. He has dedicated his time to developing “The Great Adventure: A Journey through the Bible” course which helps people read and understand the Bible and its meaning for their lives. During Lent a number of parishioners also attended his course “A Quick Journey through the Bible held in St Michael’s Centre, Downpatrick.

- **Action:** No action required

Pastoral Centre: Fr Alexander advised that the application for Planning Permission is with the Planning Office. The school it came from was being demolished so he had to take it at this time. It comprises 2 rooms and a kitchen and toilet.

Ballycruttle House: Needs to be fenced off from the Church and work is needed to the sewers and septic tank. Planning permission is required and Fr Alexander thinks we should hopefully get it without too much hassle.

Site at school: This would be a more valuable site with outline planning permission but it is an infill. Road Services have been out and Fr Alexander thinks there is a 50/50 chance of getting outline planning permission.

- **Action:** Fr Alexander to keep us advised of developments in these matters.

Confirmation: The date of Confirmation is Monday 16th May 2016. Fr Alexander explained Bishop Tony is doing a lot of the work and so we have accepted this date. First Communion is 14th May 2016 in Saul, and 21st May 2016 in Ballycruttle.

- **Action:** No action required.

Columbarium: The capacity of the Columbarium was discussed as each unit is supposed to hold two remains but it is thought there is not room for two. There is a need to review the policy on the Columbarium and this will be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

- **Action:** Put on Agenda for next meeting.

7 Date of next Meeting/Prayer Leader

The date of our next meeting will be: **Monday 18th January 2016 at 7.30pm** in Saul Parochial House. Prayer will be led by Mary Burns.

Meeting concluded with closing prayer.