

Parish of Saul & Ballee

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Monday 23rd May 2016

Time: 7.30pm

Location: Saul Parochial House

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

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

1. **Opening Prayer** led by Geraldine McVeigh
2. **Apologies:** Anne-Marie Hanvey
3. **Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting** – 14th March 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 Paul Kelly and seconded by Rachel Hamill 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. The parish now has a new e-mail address: saul@downandconnor.org.

- **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.

4. Matters Arising –

Review of the Roles/Responsibilities of PPC

A meeting facilitated by Jim Deeds was held on 4th April to review the Roles and Responsibilities of the Parish Pastoral Council. He used the theme of "Building Blocks" explaining what being a member of the PPC entails, we reviewed the 3 R's (review, reflect and recommend) and the 4 C's (commitment, consensus, collegial and calling). The meeting with Jim Deeds has helped the Council to refocus and we thank him for his help.

- **Action:** No further action required

Parish Newsletter:

The March issue of the Newsletter went out before Easter and the copies left in the Church all went. Vivienne has received a letter of thanks from the Principal of St Patrick's PS, Saul, for allowing the school children to design our front covers for our next four issues. Vivienne will get the next issue to Amanda as soon as possible. Fr Alexander asked that this be sent in Word format to make it easier for Amanda to work with. The item 'Reclaim Your Family' is to be signed by Fr Alexander to emphasise the importance of family prayer and it is felt the Newsletter is a good place to put this article. The June Issue covers the first three sacraments explaining what happens and how to prepare for each sacrament and is a refresher for everyone. Vivienne to insert day and time of Baptism as Saturday at 12.30pm and that a long Birth Certificate is required from everyone being baptised. There is a collage of some of the entries from the primary schools, the ones in pencil did not come out well so could not be included as they could not be enhanced.

- **Action:** Vivienne to make amendments and get Newsletter to Amanda

Jubilee Year of Mercy:

The Day of Mercy in April had a good attendance. There will be no Mass in Ballycruttle on Friday 27th May as the school is off. It was in the Bulletin and Fr Alexander announced at the week end Masses that there will be no Mass in Ballycruttle on Friday morning.

It was thought that a Saturday would be best for the proposed visit to the Holy Door in St Patrick's, Belfast maybe leaving at 9.30 am and returning at 4.00p.m. Vivienne has spoken to Patrick Curran of SVP who advised that they use Kilmore Coaches who have coaches for 25, 30 or 50 people and charge about £10 a head and that SVP might make a contribution and he suggested we include a visit to St Malachy's. We need to contact St Patrick's to see if a Saturday would suit. We would try to arrange to be there for Mass. Vivienne is to contact St Patrick's and St Malachy's and we can work out the itinerary and the cost for a Saturday in September, Paul Kelly will contact Kilmore Coaches to get dates and prices etc. We will make enquiries and see whether St Malachy's can arrange refreshments.

- **Action:** Paul Kelly to contact Kilmore Coaches for dates and prices
- **Action:** Vivienne to contact St Patrick's and St Malachy's

Easter Ceremonies

The Stations and the Dawn Mass on the Mountain were well attended. Fr Alexander had received positive feedback and felt he would do it again next year.

- **Action:** No further action required

5. Saul Sunday

Saul Sunday will be held on 19th June and not 12th June as stated earlier in the year due to an Ordination that day. The Mountain looks well and Fr Alexander suggested using the altar at the Grotto. He will speak to the Bishop tomorrow. Fr McCloskey can not come as they have Cemetery Sunday. Fr Alexander will arrange the readers on the day.

- **Action:** Fr Alexander to speak to Bishop re Mass at Grotto
- **Action:** Fr Alexander to arrange readers for Saul Sunday.

6-. Extending the Ministry of Praise

We have been approached by some parishioners about joining the Ministry of Praise and Fr Alexander said they could be commissioned after Mass. Vivienne prepares a prayer leaflet each month for this Ministry and this could go to any new members. Fr Alexander to draw up an appropriate notice for the bulletin seeking new members.

- **Action:** Fr Alexander to draw up bulletin notice.

7. Family Prayer Ministry

Vivienne has added prayers for teenagers to the Family Prayer Guide. We have to consider carefully how we promote this. The Principal of St Patrick's PS would be willing to promote it and Vivienne will speak to him to see what he thinks, we could have a Family Mass. we could pick a Sunday and make it a Family Day, we could have 'Lemonade on the Lawn'.. We can think about it and discuss it again at the next meeting. We need to promote it carefully. We could start at the beginning of the new school year in September the weather is usually good and have a Mass on the Mountain and have the school choirs. We could have a family weekend where all the Masses would be dedicated to the family.

- **Action:** Vivienne to speak to Mr. McGrath.
- **Action:** Family Prayer Ministry to go on Agenda for next Meeting.

8. Consultation with the Parish Community

Mary, Gemma and Paul were tasked with looking in more detail at how we can move forward with this proposal. Mary thought we should call a meeting to get suggestions from people and Paul said we have a successful Gaelic Club and SVDP – if they were to get together and see what their views are. These are the people who have needs and interacting with people and hearing their comments can give us feedback. Paul suggested he arrange a meeting between them. Fr Alexander thought we should start with the people who go to Church. It was thought we try every method and see who turns up. Fr Alexander suggested we notify the leaders of the different groups through the Bulletin and by flyer and see who comes. The meeting would have to be structured, youth, ministers etc. We need to consult with all. We could go direct to all the parish groups. The PPC would need a meeting to organise this. What do we hope to achieve? We want to find out what the people want from us. It would be an opportunity for us to let people

know what we do and we would hope to attract new members to the PPC through the meeting.

We could let people know how we evolved. It is a work in progress. We would need a good facilitator. Do we ask the Living Church? It is an opportunity to get ideas from people on what they would like us to do. Mary, Gemma and Paul will have a meeting and get back to us.

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

9. AOB

Retreat Day for PPC

It is proposed to try to hold a retreat day for members of the PPC in September but this may have to be deferred until October to facilitate other events in the Parish. Fr Alexander suggested we join up with other Parish Pastoral Councils in the area, Killough, Ardglass, Crossgar and Downpatrick – we could ask Loughshore again as we did last year. The one held last year in conjunction with Loughshore Parishes was very successful. We could ask Jim Deeds and Fr Alan McGuckian to facilitate it. We could go to Tobar Mhuire as we did last year. Fr Alexander to enquire if other parishes would be willing to attend a joint retreat day.

- **Action:** Fr Alexander to check if local PPC's would attend joint Retreat Day.

Vice Chairperson

The position of Vice Chairperson is vacant. We should pray about this and see if anyone feels they could take on the role.

- **Action:** No further action required

Prayer Leaders Meeting

There will be a prayer leaders meeting at Good Shepherd Centre on 23rd June at 7.00pm if anyone wishes to attend they should let Vivienne know.

- **Action:** No further action required

Vigil Mass on 15th August.

There will be no vigil Mass for the feast of the Assumption, 15th August as it falls on a Sunday.

Site at School

We have outline planning permission and the site is on the market at £55,000 having been valued by an estate agent. Any decision on a sale will be made by the Bishop's office and is out of Fr Alexander's hands.

Ballycruttle House

Fr Alexander advised we are still awaiting planning permission for a septic tank but Gerry Gilchrist will give permission for a soakaway on his land and the site lines remain where they are. A building control form from the Diocese has to be completed and the house will then go on the market.

Parish Centre

We have not yet got planning permission. The application went to review and should be heard this week. The Head of Planning cannot understand why it has not gone through but the problem is, that the church is a listed building. If we don't get planning permission we would have to sell the mobile as there is no where else it could go. Fr Alexander has also applied for disabled access to the Parochial Office.

- **Action:** Fr Alexander will keep us updated on developments

10. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader

The date of the next meeting will be: Monday 20th June 2016. Prayer will be led by Mary Burns.

11. Closing Prayer

Meeting concluded with closing prayer.