

Parish of Saul & Ballee

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Wednesday 4th March 2015

Time: 7.00pm

Location: Saul Parochial House

Attendees: Vivienne McCormick, Peter Mullan, Geraldine McVeigh, Gemma Sloan, Rachel Hamill, Anne Marie Hanvey.

Chair: Vivienne McCormick / **Vice Chair:** Peter Mullan / **Secretary:** Rachel Hamill

Apologies: Fr Paul Alexander, Mary Burns & Fionnuala Murray

1. Opening Prayer led by Anne Marie Hanvey

- **Action:** Anne Marie Hanvey to lead opening prayer at next meeting.

2. Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting – 4th February 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 Gemma Sloan and seconded by Peter Mullan to adopt the minutes as presented. The minutes were adopted and signed off by the Chairperson and the Secretary. In Fr. Paul's absence the Vice-chair added his signature. A copy will be held on file in the Parochial Office and a copy will also be published on the Parish website. The Parish noticeboards will also be updated.

- **Action:** Rachel Hamill to email minutes to Parish secretary so they can be Published on the Parish website.

3. Matters Arising –

- **Parish Pastoral Plan Census:** 100 copies of current volunteer forms have been distributed within the Parish and to date 50 have been returned filled out. The information on these forms will all be collated and held on the Parish database, this information will allow Fr Paul to know how many volunteers we have in the Parish, what their role is and their contact details.

- **Lay Participation form:** These have been distributed within the Parish but only a few have been returned, we are still waiting on the majority of forms to be handed back. Vivienne and Gemma have agreed to work together to collate all the information on the two forms onto manageable spreadsheets.

- **Action:** Vivienne & Gemma to collate information onto spreadsheets

- **Donation boxes:** There are five photo frames ready to go up in the Chapels to highlight the donation boxes but these will probably not go up until Fr Alexander returns.

- **Action:** No further action until Fr Alexander returns.

- **Parish Newsletter:** Vivienne has drafted the newsletter with articles on the Commissioning service, creating Pastoral Communities, arrangements for Fr Meaney's anniversary Mass and the upcoming Easter ceremonies. The articles on the Parish Safe Guarding committee and the John Paul II award will go into the next edition of the Newsletter. It was suggested that the front cover should have a photo of St Patrick's monument on it given the time of year.

- **Action:** Peter to get a photograph of St Patrick's Monument for the front cover of the newsletter.

- **Action:** Vivienne to get the Parish Secretary to print off copies of the Newsletter to be distributed within the three Church's.

-**Saul Mountain Committee:** The committee has had their third meeting on Monday past and has now a formal committee set up, Sean Taggart is Chair, Gerard Hanvey is Vice Chair, Eugene Gallagher is Secretary and Mark Curran is responsible for IT. It has been arranged that the monument will be lit up green for St Patrick's Day and this is to be funded by Down Council. A facebook page has also been created called, 'Friends of Slieve Patrick' and key dates for celebrations can be announced via this page. Preparation on the mountain has begun early this year and 2 Papal flags will be put up for St Patrick's Day. An application has been sent to the council to get dog fouling bins as this is still an issue on the mountain. There are a lot of ideas in the pipeline for the mountain so the group is moving on well, all on the Parish Pastoral Council were impressed with how much the group had achieved to date.

- **Action:** Peter to keep the Parish Pastoral Council updated as and when required.

- **Handrail at Saul:** Sean Taggart is to give Fr Alexander a quote for the works; this will be delayed now in Fr Alexander's absence.

- **Action:** Review again upon Fr Alexander's return.

- **Notice boards:** The notice board in Saul has been erected so we can now display posters and information leaflets in this.

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

- **Commissioning Service:** Went ahead on the 6th February, all agreed it was a lovely service and Fr Alan McGuckian SJ did a wonderful job and the food supplied afterwards was beautiful.

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

- **Fr Meaney's Anniversary Mass:** Fr Treanor is to say Fr Meaney's anniversary Mass and Mark McGrath is allowing us to use the school hall afterwards for a cup of tea. All members on the Parish Pastoral Council have agreed to make sandwiches for the occasion.

- **Action:** PPC members to make sandwiches and leave into school before Mass

- **Easter Ceremonies:** Fr Treanor will be leading the Easter ceremonies in the Parish, specific details will be arranged closer to the date but the proposed Mass times are as follows;

Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper in St Patrick's Church, Saul at 7.30pm.

Good Friday: The Passion of Our Lord in St Patrick's Church, Saul at 3.00pm.

Stations of the Cross on St Patrick's Mountain at 5.30pm weather permitting. If not, these will be said in St Patrick's Church, Saul at 5.30pm.

Easter Vigil Mass: St Patrick's Church, Saul at 9pm.

Easter Sunday: St Patrick's Church, Saul at 9.30am

St Joseph's, Ballycruttle at 11.00am

-**Creating Pastoral Communities:** Fr Alexander, Vivienne and Peter attended a meeting held on the 23rd February in the St Michael's Centre in Downpatrick. They reported that it was a lively session with a lot of engagement between Parishes. They were asked what their hopes and fears were for the future of the pastoral communities. Some hopes that came out of discussions were: a better sharing of Personnel/Resources and facilities within the Pastoral Community, working together as one Community rather than apart and a strengthening of the life and Ministry of each Parish. The fears highlighted were that the process was moving too fast, the boundaries were too big, smaller parishes being swallowed up by the bigger ones and the fear of Churches closing. Bishop Treanor did his best to answer any queries on the night but it was agreed that all the hopes and fears gathered throughout the Regional Meetings would be collated and taken into account when the Bishop makes his final decisions after Easter.

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

- **Report to the Bishop:** Vivienne has the report and a covering letter ready to be sent to the Bishop.

- **Action:** Vivienne to post the report to the Bishop this week.

4. 2nd Year Pastoral Plan: The first years plan is nearly completed so we now need to plan for the next 12 months. All who were in attendance tonight came up with some new ideas for our pastoral plan for the next twelve months, these will be collated and

discussed at our next full meeting to see if we have any new ideas and then we will decide on which ideas we will take forward in the next yearly plan.

- **Action:** Rachel to collate all the ideas from tonight's meeting
- **Action:** Rachel to put this on the agenda for the next PPC meeting.

5. Pastoral Council Retreat: Is going ahead on the 11th April 2015, it has been provisionally booked in Crossgar. The Parish Pastoral Council from Lough Shore are going to join us for the retreat. Jim Deeds and Fr Alan from The Living Church are going to facilitate the event.

- **Action:** Vivienne will meet with the chair of Lough Shore PPC to organize the the running of the day.

6. AOB –

- **Bible study course:** Going ahead in Downpatrick, 108 people attending the course in St Michael's.

- **Painting of Ballycruttle Chapel:** Peter was approached by a parishioner who asked if the PPC could look into the possibility of Ballycruttle Chapel getting painted. Fr Alexander agreed that the Parish could get quotes to see how much it would cost to be painted but that these quotes will have to be put to the finance committee to see if the Parish can afford it. There are no promises at this stage as there are a lot of other jobs needing done around the Parish and the Parish can not afford to do them all so they will have to be prioritized.

7. Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 8th April