

Parish of Saul & Ballee

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Tuesday 26th March 2019

Time: 7.00pm

Location: Parish Pastoral Centre

Attendees: Fr. Paul Alexander, Vivienne McCormick, Paul Kelly, Paul Fitzsimons, Tommy McCabe, Jackie Breen and Geraldine McVeigh.

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

1. Opening Prayer led by Paul Kelly

The Chairperson welcomed members to the meeting.

The objectives of tonight's meeting are to complete some outstanding matters. We will also look at amending our Cemetery Policy.

2. Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting – 19th February 2019.

The minutes from the above meeting were circulated to all members via email prior to tonight's meeting. All were in agreement and a proposal was made by Fr Alexander and seconded by Paul Kelly 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 to email minutes to Parish secretary for publication on the Parish website.

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

3. Matters Arising

Parish Newsletter:

The Newsletter was distributed the weekend of 2nd/3rd March. The next one goes out in June and will include an article on the Strength to Strength course and other matters we discuss at tonight's meeting.

- **Action:** Vivienne preparing June issue of Newsletter.

Retreat for Parish Ministries

Fr Alexander has not had an opportunity to arrange anything yet but will look at it after Easter.

- **Action:** Fr Alexander to speak to Fr Tom to arrange retreat after Easter

Forthcoming Courses

- **Strength to Strength Course**

There are 3 sessions of this course left. 26 people attended the first week, 14 the second week and 16 the third week. There were problems with the DVD but we have now got a new one. We had ordered 15 books which accompany the course but this wasn't enough – Vivienne phoned for more but was told they were out of print and as a charity they could not afford to print any more. Paula from the Living Church Office contacted Tim from Café and phoned back to say Café have given Living Church permission to copy the book and Fr Alexander has taken it up to Living Church office to be copied. People were willing to buy the books so it was felt they should be available. It was available for Kindle but that would not suit the people who attend these courses. During the second week Vivienne was unwell but came and did the course anyway so we need to have at least two people available to give these courses so that we have someone to fall back on. The last two sessions of this course will be held on a Monday as there is Confirmation on Wednesday 3rd April and the Parish Draw is on the following Wednesday. Jackie will be available on 8th April if needed. We will maybe consider changing future courses to a Monday.

- **Action:** No further action required

- **Let it Be Course**

This course is penciled in for the Friday evenings in May after 7.00pm Mass. We have 20 books so we need to check if there are more books available if more people turn up.

- **Action:** Vivienne to check availability of more books if needed.

- **Baptism Course**

The CAFÉ Baptism course will not be available until the summer and Vivienne will follow this up. Vivienne has been working on a Baptism book –it is not ready yet but when it is she will let the Council see it. We would need a team of 4 or 5 people to run a Baptism course. Fr Alexander will review the practice for Baptism as there are people coming from outside the Parish looking for Baptism – he will think about doing Baptism for children from outside the Parish maybe on the first Saturday of the month and they would be all done together.

- **Action:** Look at CAFÉ Baptism Course when available
- **Action:** Fr Alexander to consider the practice for Baptism for children from outside the Parish.

Family Prayer Ministry

The Lenten prayers went out to the schools before Ash Wednesday. Vivienne has prepared Easter prayers and will send these to Amanda and get them out to the schools before the Easter break. There is a colouring competition for P1 and P2 and another for P3 and P4 and an Easter drawing competition for P5-P7.

- **Action:** Easter Prayers and Competitions to go out to schools.

Bishop/Parishioner Report

This went out to the Bishop in early March and copies of the report for Parishioners were left at the back of the Church.

- **Action:** No further action required

Pastoral Plan 2019-2020

The new Pastoral Plan was agreed and adopted. This will go on the Parish website and in the June Newsletter.

- **Action:** Pastoral Plan to go on Parish website and in June Newsletter

Saul Sunday

Bishop Treanor has agreed 30th June for Saul Sunday. Details will be sent out to other parishes. It was suggested that if the weather is good people could be asked to bring a picnic and we could ask an ice-cream van to come - there is a chance of better weather at the end of June - we will wait until nearer the date. This would keep it simple in view of the result of the Fun Day in Downpatrick where a lot of people who got tickets did not turn up.

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

4. Cemetery Policy

We were to look at the cost of a grave and also review the definition of a Parishioner. It was estimated there is about 5-6 years space left. At a joint meeting with the Finance Committee and the PPC the definition of a Parishioner was agreed as: **‘An individual living within the boundaries of the Parish of Saul and Ballee (“The Parish”) OR an individual registered as a Parishioner in the Parish who does not live within its boundaries but who contributes financially via the Parish envelope system or through the Direct Debit/Standing Order facility AND the Parish Priest or the members of the Pastoral Council consider them a Parishioner within the Parish.’** It was agreed to insert: **“and who regularly worships here”**. Fr Alexander said we would be unable to extend to the graveyard as the field behind it is solid rock. A meeting was arranged to try to have a common policy within the area but only three priests turned up. There are only 3 in the columbarium so far – the cost is £1000 for non-parishioners and £300 for parishioners. It was agreed that costings remain the same. The amended definition of a Parishioner will be included in the next Newsletter and the Cemetery policy document updated accordingly.

- **Action:** Cemetery Policy to be amended
- **Action:** Amended definition of Parishioner to go in June Newsletter

5. Easter Ceremonies

Holy Thursday:	Mass of the Lord's Supper in St Patrick's Church, Saul at 7.00pm with Exposition to 9.00pm
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 otherwise in the Church).
Holy Saturday:	Easter Vigil Mass in St Patrick's Church, Saul at 9.00pm
Morning Prayer:	St Patrick's Church, Saul at 9.30am Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.
Easter Sunday:	Dawn Mass on St Patrick's Mountain at 6.00am (weather permitting). Mass in St Patrick's Church, Saul at 9.30am Mass in St Joseph's Church, Ballycruttle at 11.00am

Fr Alexander would like to do the Holy Water this year again - he will order 1000 bottles – they will be pre-filled, blessed and distributed after all Masses at Easter. Vivienne will do a rota for Easter when the Mass booklets come in.

- **Action:** Fr Alexander to order Holy Water bottles
- **Action:** Vivienne to draw up rota for Easter Ceremonies

6. Any other Business

Pastoral Community Forum

The Parish of Drumaroad was represented at the last meeting of the Pastoral Community Forum by the Parish Secretary- this was the first time Drumaroad was represented at the meeting – she is only temporary until they appoint another representative – it is good to have them on board. Vivienne spoke to Fr Whiteford and said she would come out and do the launch in Drumaroad and Loughinisland but he said he would get a few people to do it. Fr Alexander has given copies of the PCF leaflet to the Living Church Office as they want to show it to other PCF's. They talked about keeping the profile alive by creating a new app or using the Downpatrick app to encourage the other parishes. Mourne have launched an app giving a brief history of each Parish. If there are nine parishes this would cost approximately £130 each. We would need a team responsible for it rather than one person being responsible and they would decide what goes on it. Fr Murray and Fr McManus attended a seminar in Maynooth given by Tim Nichols and he is coming to speak to the Pastoral Community Forum at Tobar Mhuire on 30th March from 10.30am to 4.30pm– it was open to the Pastoral Community Forum but only 12 could attend so it was opened up to the Pastoral Councils. Tim Nichols is staying at Tobar Mhuire and the Parish is paying for that. Fr Murray is meeting him on Friday night and Vivienne has been invited to join them.

Action: - Vivienne to keep us updated.

7. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader

The date of the next meeting will be: **Tuesday 30th April 2019 at 7.00pm.** Prayer will be led by Paul Fitzsimons.

8. Closing Prayer: Meeting concluded with closing prayer.