

Parish of Saul & Ballee

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Tuesday 12th November 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 tonight's meeting.

The objectives of tonight's meeting are to discuss the Christmas Schools Competition, Christmas Masses and Christmas Appeal.

2. Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting – 15th October 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

- **Drugs in the area – Newsletter article**

Paul Fitzsimons has received e-mail this afternoon regarding this matter, he will have a look at it and it can be discussed further at our next meeting.

- **Action:** E-mail received by Paul Fitzsimons to be discussed at next meeting.

- **Parish Retreats for Volunteers**

Fr. Alexander has mentioned the Pastoral Council Retreat to Fr. McManus but will speak to him again and we will arrange a date for a Retreat for the joint Pastoral Councils. We will arrange a separate retreat for the other groups perhaps in the springtime. We need

to consider carefully whom we ask to the retreat – do we ask all groups or the groups working on pastoral matters?

- **Action:** Fr. Alexander to speak to Fr. McManus

- **Family Prayer Ministry**

Vivienne has sent out copies of the Advent Prayers.

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

- **November Mass for the deceased**

The November Mass for the deceased is next week and Fr. Alexander said the numbers are big – we have had one request from outside the Parish – we can only include those who have died or are buried in the Parish graveyards. Fr. Alexander has asked the choir to come as this adds to the service. We should be able to get people to do the Prayers of the Faithful etc.

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

- **Head Count at weekend Masses**

Fr. Alexander thinks we should do a count this weekend or the following weekend. Fr. Alexander spoke to Fr. McManus and they will work together on the count – Fr. Alexander will see Fr. McManus and give him a counter and will arrange to do a count at Masses the same weekends. We need to do this to try to arrange Mass times to suit both Parishes.

- **Action:** Fr. Alexander to arrange weekends for count with Fr. McManus

- **Carol Service- change of date**

The Carol Service has been changed from 11th December to the following week – because of the election the schools have had to re-arrange their Christmas plays.

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

4. Schools Christmas Competitions

Vivienne has prepared separate competitions for P1, P2 and P3 with a slightly harder one for P4 and a Competition for P6 and P7. The prizes will be a selection box. Fr. Alexander thanked Vivienne for all her hard work.

- **Action:** Vivienne to send competitions out to the schools.

5. Christmas Appeal

Last year we supported the local food bank in Fountain Street. Fr. Alexander has posters about keeping the faith in Christmas – he has one for each Church. We need to reach out to those in need and it was agreed to support the Food Bank again. Fr. Alexander will put up the Crib for the first Sunday in Advent – items for the food bank can then be placed in

the Crib on the first and second Sundays in Advent. Vivienne will put a notice in the Bulletin. Marian will collect the items from the Crib after each Mass. We could keep a count of the number of bags placed in the Crib and this would give us an idea of how successful it is. St. Vincent de Paul refers people to the food bank.

- **Action:** Notice to go in the Bulletin.

6. Any Other Business

- **Penitential Service**

The Penitential Service will take place in Downpatrick on Sunday 8th December at 5.00pm.

- **Action:** Notice to go in the Bulletin.

- **Christmas Masses**

Last year we had Mass in Saul at 9.00pm and in Ballycruttle at 11.00pm, so this year the Mass will be in Carlin at 11.00pm. and in Ballycruttle at 11.00am on Christmas Day. There will be Mass on Monday and Tuesday of Christmas week and then Mass on New Year's Day. There will be no Adoration on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve. There will be Confessions in Saul on Wednesday 18th, Saturday 20th, Monday 22 and Tuesday 23rd December after 10.00am Mass.

- **Action:** Christmas arrangements to go in the Bulletin.

- **Bambino Sunday**

We will do this again this year. It was very popular last year. Parishioners will be invited to bring the Baby Jesus from their Crib to be blessed in Ballycruttle on 15th December, in Saul on 21st and 22nd December and in Carlin on 22nd December.

- **Action:** Notice to go in the Bulletin.

- **Advent Talks**

The Living Church is having training tonight for Advent Talks but Vivienne was unable to get anyone to go. Vivienne has asked Jim to send us the literature for the course – we would like to do something during Advent – we could ask the Living Church if they could get someone to run the course.

- **Action:** Living Church to be asked if they could run Advent course.

- **Phil Coulter Concert**

The Concert was a great success and people enjoyed it. A lot of hard work went into it. The success was due to the hard work of the fundraising Committee but it was worth it and made a good profit - Fr. Alexander extended his thanks to the fundraising Committee. Fr. Alexander is awaiting the Solidarity Account and when he gets it he will let the Parish

know how much has been raised. The Christmas Raffle is very popular so we will go ahead with it but that will be the last fundraising event this year.

- **Action:** Fr. Alexander to let Parish know the result of fundraising when available.

7. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader

The date of the next meeting will be: **Tuesday 7th January at 7.00pm.** Prayer Leader will be Tommy McCabe.

8. Closing Prayer: Meeting concluded with closing prayer.