

Parish of Saul & Ballee

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Tuesday 19th February 2019

Time: 7.00pm

Location: Parish Pastoral Centre

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

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

1. Opening Prayer led by Tommy McCabe

The Chairperson welcomed members to the meeting.

The objectives of tonight's meeting are to complete some outstanding matters and have further discussions on our Pastoral Plan 2019-2020. We will also look at reviewing our Cemetery Policy.

2. Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting – 22nd January 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 Paul Kelly and seconded by Paul Tommy McCabe 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:

Vivienne will send the Newsletter to Amanda so that we can get it out next weekend before the commencement of the Strength to Strength course.

- **Action:** Vivienne to send Newsletter to Amanda for printing.

Retreat for Parish Ministries

Vivienne had tried to arrange a retreat for the PCF with Tobar Mhuire but they were fully booked so we will leave our retreat for the present and Fr Alexander will try to arrange a

date after Easter. It was suggested we include the choir as one of the Parish groups to attend the retreat.

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

Forthcoming Courses

- **Strength to Strength Course**

This is a 6 week course on prayer and it was thought we could run it during Lent at the Wednesday coffee morning after 10.00am Mass – quite a few elderly people don't like going out at night so the morning suits them. The course will commence on Ash Wednesday, 6th March and run each Wednesday until 10th April. It consists of an Opening Prayer and a DVD which runs for 35-40 minutes followed by a Closing Prayer – there is a small book for which there is a charge of £5. We will e-mail the parishes in the Pastoral group so they can join us.

- **Let it Be Course**

This course which is based on Marian sites around the world, is penciled in to run from 3rd to 31st May after the 7.00pm Mass on a Friday evening. There is an accompanying book for which there is a charge of £5. Hopefully this will be well supported.

- **Alpha Youth**

Chris hopes to run this course in September probably in the Gaelic Club. Caron Collins has advised that Living Church are running it in Dundrum and we could attend a few sessions – also Laura Whinnery of Alpha has offered to come down to assist the running of this course if we wish.

- **Baptism Course**

There is a Baptism Course starting in Downpatrick - they are no longer giving a letter of release to allow people to have their child baptised outside the parish – we had hoped to get people trained but they required 10 people and we had only 4. CAFÉ are producing a Baptism course over the summer which might be useful – we will have to look at this and see if we can train a small team.

- **Action:** Look at CAFÉ Baptism Course when available

Cemetery Policy

The Cemetery Policy is due for review. At present a grave is £300 but some graves have been presold and there are only about 50 graves left. A request has been received from people who formerly lived in the Parish but who now live elsewhere, to be buried here. A parishioner has been defined for the purposes of the Cemetery Policy as 'An individual living within the boundaries of the Parish of Saul and Ballee' 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.’ We could add in ‘someone who regularly worships in the Parish.’ The Council was asked to think about the Policy and whether the cost should be reviewed. We will look particularly at the definition of a Parishioner and discuss this further at the next meeting.

- **Action:** To go on Agenda for next meeting

Baptism/Registration Forms

Changes have been made to the Baptism Form – we will put a notice in the Bulletin welcoming children to the Parish and permission can be given on the Baptism Registration Form – this covers us for GDPR. Because of GDPR we now need to notify people there is a webcam in the Church before a service. The Parish Registration form now includes a field for the relationship of anyone named on the form to the person filling in the form, what areas of Ministry they would be interested in, how they wish to contribute to the Parish and which Church they attend. We will include a paragraph stating what the information will be used for.

- **Action:** No further action required

4. Family Prayer Ministry Lenten Prayers

Vivienne hopes to have the Lenten Prayers out to the schools by 1st March.

- **Action:** Lenten Prayers to go out to schools

5. Bishop/Parishioner Report

It was agreed these could be sent off to the Bishop and copies prepared to be left in the Church for Parishioners.

- **Action:** Bishop’s and Parishioners Reports to be sent out.

6. Pastoral Plan 2019-2020

The draft Pastoral Plan has been updated as follows

Open/Welcoming Church:

- Organise a Parish Fun Day/Picnic/Barbeque to coincide with Saul Sunday
- Encourage more young people from P5 upwards to become altar servers and to read the Family Prayer. (There are a lot of girls but we need to try to get more boys on board. Young people are the future of the Church and Fr Alexander will try to get more of the young people to become readers)

Lay Participation

- Encourage/support existing initiatives of Morning Prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, Padre Pio Group.
- Encourage/support Family Prayer Ministry through issue of Prayers for Special Liturgical Seasons.

- New Readers/Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to serve in all Parish Churches to include younger members if possible.

Faith and Worship

- Retreats for Morning Prayer Group/Adoration Group, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers
- Advent Talks.
- November Mass for the Deceased.
- Called and Gifted Course.
- To train Catechists (they could be trained at Maryville – this would cost a few thousand pounds – we have to try to get suitable people to be trained. Their role would be preparation for the Sacraments)
- Baptism Course
- Let it Be Course
- Strength to Strength Course.
- Alpha Youth Course
- Mass for young people at exam time. (The young people responded to this and the examination candle was lit until the end of June. We will keep this going)

We will also continue with Bambino Sunday – we had prepared a prayer for Christmas morning but we could also prepare a prayer for the evening of Christmas Day.

Communication

- Maintain close links with the Parish schools
- To update website – (we need to get more information on the Parish website. Amanda can update the website but at the moment is busy with the accounts)
- Increase usage of Facebook Page i.e. Thoughts for the Day, Short Prayers.
- To keep the Parish updated with Pastoral Community Developments.

Clergy

- To continue our help and support for Fr. Alexander.
- To liaise with PCF where necessary.

- **Action:** Pastoral Plan to be adopted at next meeting

7. Any other Business

Saul Sunday

Saul Sunday will go on the Agenda for our next meeting. Bishop Treanor had suggested changing Saul Sunday to a later date as it clashes with the Annual Pilgrimage to Knock. Cemetery Sunday is the last Sunday in July in Ballycruttle and Fr Alexander suggested this could be changed to after Mass rather than the afternoon. The weather is usually poor on the second Sunday in June so it would help if we changed to July - Fr Alexander will write to Bishop Treanor to try to arrange a date.

- **Action:** Saul Sunday to go on Agenda for next meeting
- **Action:** Fr Alexander to write to Bishop re date for Saul Sunday

Dawn Mass

Easter is late this year but we will still have the Mass on the mountain at 6.00am.

- **Action:** No further action required

Confirmation

Bishop Farquhar will confirm the children from the parish schools on 3rd April. There are 42 children being confirmed this year so the Service of Light will be in Saul.

- **Action:** No further action required

Pastoral Community Forum

The launch of the Pastoral Community Forum will go ahead this weekend, 23rd-24th February. Lay representatives from each of the seven parishes will give a talk and leaflets will be handed out as people leave the Church - everyone will say the same thing. Vivienne will give the talk in Saul and Fr Alexander or Paul Fitsimons will give the talk in Ballycruttle. Loughinisland and Drumaroad did not attend the PCF so the launch has been postponed in these two parishes. Vivienne and Paul McCormick will go out some weekend to deliver the talk there if Fr Murray gives permission – as a pastoral community we have to help these parishes. The next meeting of the PCF is on 19th March. The Secretary from Drumaroad will be notified of the next meeting.

Action: - Vivienne to keep us updated.

Eucharistic Adoration

Tobar Mhuire are running a course on Eucharistic Adoration led by Fr Tom Scanlon. The course will run from 3.00pm to 5.30pm each Sunday from 24th March until 11th April.

- **Action:** No further action required

8. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader

The date of the next meeting will be: **Tuesday 26th March 2019 at 7.00pm.** Prayer will be led by Paul Kelly.

9. Closing Prayer: Meeting concluded with closing prayer.