

Parish of Saul & Ballee

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Tuesday 22nd January 2019

Time: 7.00pm

Location: Parish Pastoral Centre

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

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

1. Apologies: Paul Fitzsimons.

2. Opening Prayer led by Fr. Paul Alexander

The Chairperson welcomed members to the first meeting of 2019. She also welcomed Jackie Breen, a candidate for the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese to the meeting. Jackie will be in the Parish as part of his Pastoral studies for the Diaconate. We wish him well in his studies and keep him and the other 8 men and their families in our prayers.

The objectives of tonight's meeting are to complete some of our outstanding matters and to begin initial discussions for our Pastoral Plan 2019-2020.

3. Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting – 27th November 2018.

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.

4. Matters Arising

Advent Talks:

The four weeks of talks went well with a reasonable attendance each night. The Chair offered thanks to James and the Knights of St Columbanus for facilitating the talks.

- **Action:** No further action required

Carol Service:

This was held on Monday 10th December in St Patrick's Church, Saul. There was a good turnout of families at the Service and also back at The Pastoral Centre afterwards for some light refreshments. The Chair thanked Amanda and the choirs, along with the Readers, the teachers and children of our school choirs who took part in the service and those who helped with teas etc afterwards.

- **Action:** No further action required

Christmas Masses:

There was a large attendance at the Parish's Christmas Masses particularly the Vigil Mass in St Patrick's which was good to see.

- **Action:** No further action required

Bambino Sunday:

This event proved very popular particularly with the young children in the Parish. It was an initiative that was simple but worth doing and we hope to do it again next year.

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

Fountain Foodbank:

There was a good response to our Christmas appeal. Bags and bags of non perishable foodstuffs were left at the Crib. A note of thanks to all who donated these was inserted into the bulletin after Christmas.

- **Action:** No further action required

Parish Newsletter:

Copies of the Newsletter were distributed in early December. The next issue will have a detailed article on the Pastoral Community Forum.

- **Action:** No further action required

Schools Competition:

There were 172 entries for this competition. The Riddle proved a bit troublesome for most classes. The younger pupils in Ballycruttle were unable to complete their Wordsearch due to other commitments in the school but selection boxes were given to the teachers to pick the prizewinners themselves. The other winners were:

St Joseph's Ballycruttle: Luke Russell and Tadgh Cusack, both Primary 7.

St Patrick's Saul: Lucy Curran and Caoimhe Donnelly, both Primary 5.
Ellie P2 and Leah McMullan P4 were the winners of the Wordsearch competition.

Prizes were handed out during school assembly.

The slogans the pupils wrote as tie breakers were highly commended and it is hoped to use these later on in the year.

We will run a colouring competition for the schools at Easter.

- **Action:** No further action required

Discerning Leadership Course:

Details of this course run by the Living Church Office were circulated around members of the PPC but there were no further takers. The Knights were sending Chris McLoughlin but unfortunately he had to cancel due to work commitments. It is hoped he can reschedule later in the year.

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

5. Parish Groups Retreat

We had talked about arranging a retreat for the Morning Prayer group and the Eucharistic Adoration group – we could have one retreat for all the groups and ask Fr Tom of Tobar Mhuire again – it was suggested we start at 9.00am and finish at 4.00pm. Fr Alexander will speak to Fr Tom to see what can be arranged for a retreat during Lent - Ash Wednesday is 6th March. We will draw up a list of those in the groups and see who can attend. The group would be too big to join with other parishes for this retreat.

- **Action:** Fr Alexander to speak to Fr Tom to arrange retreat.

Pastoral Plan 2019-2020

Vivienne distributed a draft Pastoral Plan.

Open/Welcoming Church – We had thought about a barbecue but the attendance at the event organised in Downpatrick for the World Meeting of Families was disappointing – we could perhaps have it on Saul Sunday – we should be able to work to make Saul Sunday a bigger day.

Lay Participation – We need to get more young people involved as readers. Fr Alexander would like to look at a course for readers - we could perhaps do a presentation to help train new readers.

Faith and Worship – We didn't get to do the Called and Gifted course or to train Catechists. We will do the Let it Be and the Strength to Strength courses – the books cost £5 each – Let it Be will be run during Lent – we would need to finish before Holy Week - we could run it on a Wednesday morning or on a Friday evening after Mass – we will think about a suitable day and time and arrange it at our next meeting on 19th February. Vivienne has posters which can be displayed. Strength to Strength could be run late

Spring or early summer – we could run it at the coffee morning and maybe on an evening as well. Chris McLaughlin is anxious to run the Alpha for Youth course for ages 13-18 – we may run this late summer. We discussed if there was any merit in having a Suggestion Box but it was thought this could be difficult as everyone would want their suggestion enacted.

- **Action:** Pastoral Plan to be discussed further at our next meeting.

7. Any other Business

Parish Graves

We will need to re-visit this as it is causing problems – we had defined a parishioner as anyone living in the Parish or registered as a parishioner and contributing by a recordable means – the problem is people who had previously lived in the Parish but are now elsewhere wish to be buried here.

Action: - To be considered further

Baptism Course

Downpatrick Parish are introducing a Preparation for Baptism course in May and parents requesting Baptism for their child are required to undertake this course. In view of the new arrangements in Downpatrick there will probably be more requests for Baptism here so we would need to arrange a Baptism course quickly and Fr Alexander thought we could put a Baptism course together ourselves. We had tried to get a Baptism course running but the organisers required 10 people and we only had 4. Baptisms in the Parish are done individually and Fr Alexander tries to arrange them for a Saturday.

Action: - To go on Agenda for next meeting

GDPR Course

Fr Alexander and Amanda attended a GDPR course on what information we need to keep and how we keep it securely. We have to advise people at all services about the presence of the webcam in the Church. Vivienne will speak to Amanda about the new Baptism Registration Forms.

Action: - Vivienne to speak Amanda re Baptism Registration Forms

Pastoral Community Forum

The Pastoral Community Forum is making progress and a Mission Statement has been agreed. This will be launched in each of the 9 Parishes over the weekend of 23rd-24th February when flyers will be handed out. The statement will be delivered by the lay representatives in their own parishes. There are a few Parishes in the area not yet involved but we cannot wait – we are going on ahead and hopefully they will come on board.

Action: - Vivienne to keep us updated

8. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader

The date of the next meeting will be: **Tuesday 19th February 2019 at 7.00pm**. Prayer will be led by Tommy McCabe.

9. Closing Prayer: Meeting concluded with closing prayer.