

Parish of Saul & Ballee

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Wednesday 27th June 2018

Time: 7.00pm

Location: Parish Pastoral Centre

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

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

1. Opening Prayer led by Tommy McCabe

The Chairperson welcomed members to the last meeting before the summer break.

Fr Alexander said he wished to record his thanks to Vivienne and to congratulate her for all her work in preparation for the visit of the WMOF Icon to Downpatrick. People have to learn that there is now a pastoral community. The next venture is the Community Celebration on 24th August.

The objectives for tonight's meeting are to complete matters arising from our last meeting.

2. Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting – 29th May 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 Fitzsimons 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

WMOF 2018

A Community Celebration will be held in Downpatrick on Friday 24th August 2018 between 6.30pm-8.30pm. This will be open to all parishes in the Downpatrick Community area. A finger buffet will be provided by Tony Crane. It was thought

Downpatrick would have about 200 people attending. The event will be held on the green in front of St Patrick's Church Downpatrick. Fr Murray had suggested the crypt. It was suggested we use the RGU if the weather was wet – it was thought there would be no charge for the use of their premises and there is parking for 200 cars at RGU. The proposed change of venue would need to be run past Fr Murray. Paul Kelly will check if RGU is available on that date. Health and Safety is a big issue so RGU would be the best option. We need to know the venue so that we can let parishioners know. This will be a ticketed event. There will be a notice in the Bulletin asking people to register their interest with the Parish Secretary and this will help with numbers. Suggestions were made about what entertainment could be provided, face-painting, a children's farm, Disney costumes etc. Vivienne will speak to Fr Murray and see if he agrees. It would not matter then whether it was wet or not.

-Action: Vivienne to speak to Fr Murray to finalise venue.

-Action: Notice to go in Bulletin.

Eucharistic Adoration Corpus Christi Vigil

The vigil of Eucharistic Adoration went well and was a success with people arriving throughout the night particularly for the guided prayer sessions and a good number attended the 6.00am Mass. Thanks were extended to Fr Alexander for the use of the Pastoral Center throughout the night and to those who organised the Vigil.

-Action: No further action required

Saul Sunday

Saul Sunday was held on 10th June. It was held at the Grotto and people seemed to like this - there was a good turn out – there were about 250 people there. We had hoped to change the date for Saul Sunday from the second Sunday in June as the date clashes with the Diocesan pilgrimage to Knock. There are areas which need to be discussed with Downpatrick Community Forum. Vivienne extended thanks to all who helped prepare the mountain for the event.

- Action: No further action required.

4 Parish Pastoral Plan 2018-2019:

The Pastoral Plan is now available in the Churches and on the website.

Parish Fun Day

It had been agreed to look at having a Parish Fun Day and getting new Readers. It was thought we could hold the Fun Day in the last week of September – we need to avoid a clash with GAA fixtures– we could wait and see how the one in Downpatrick works. There is no guarantee of good weather and we will discuss this further after the one in Downpatrick. It could be held in the Parish Centre on an afternoon to suit families. Due to Health & Safety we would rule out a bouncy castle. There were suggestions of face-painting, balloon making and a magician and families could be asked to bring their instruments for a music session. We could ask Jim Deeds and he might do MC for a sing

song. We could invite someone to speak, perhaps from the Living Church Office – this would need to be short if there are families coming and we could produce a prayer card as a memento. Vivienne will email suggestions out to us for consideration.

- **Action:** Vivienne to email suggestions for consideration

November Mass

We will have a Mass for those in the Parish (including Carlin and Ballycruttle) who have died between 1st October 2017 and 30th September 2018. We could have candles with the name of the deceased for each of those who have died during that time and an invitation could be sent to the next of kin. A Notice will go in the Bulletin and Fr Alexander will check the Diary to see if 9th November suits, if not we will go for the following Friday.

- **Action:** To go on Agenda for September

Pastoral Council Retreat

Fr Alexander would like to join up with the Pastoral Council from another Parish for this retreat – he has spoken to Fr McManus and he has agreed to join us. Fr Alexander will speak to Fr Mel to see if this can be arranged for a date in October.

- **Action:** Fr Alexander to arrange a date for retreat with Fr Mel

5 Any other Business

Downpatrick Community Forum

Vivienne advised that a Downpatrick Community Forum meeting had been held last night and they are working on a Mission Statement and Pastoral Plan which is almost complete thanks to the work of Vivienne and Maeve. A service to present certificates to children baptised during the year is being arranged. Every Parish has been requested to have a prayer service to coincide with the opening of the WMOF in Dublin – Fr Alexander suggested we could compound the two and present the certificates at this prayer service- it would need to be held on the Wednesday as there is Adoration on Tuesday and we don't want to disrupt this – we will see what this involves and adjust it to suit the Parish.

- **Action:** Vivienne will keep us updated

Parish Registration Form

Amanda is still working with Fr Alexander on updating Parish Registration Form

- **Action:** Fr Alexander will keep us updated

6. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader

The date of the next meeting will be: **Tuesday 4th September 2018 at 7.00pm.** Prayer will be led by Paul Kelly.

7. Closing Prayer

Fr Alexander thanked everyone for their service to the Parish and wished everyone a good summer.

Meeting concluded with closing prayer.