

Parish of Saul & Ballee

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Tuesday 30th October 2018

Time: 7.00pm

Location: Parish Pastoral Centre

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

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

1. Opening Prayer led by Geraldine McVeigh

The Chairperson welcomed members to the meeting. The objectives of tonight's meeting are to look at moving on with some of our outstanding matters and to begin discussion on the Parish Christmas Masses.

2. Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting – 2nd October 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 Paul Kelly and seconded by 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

November Mass for the deceased

The November Mass for those who have died in the Parish during the past year will take place on Friday 16th November. A notice has been in the Bulletin over the last few weeks and on Facebook. Amanda will record each funeral in the diary so we will have all the information regarding deceased there. There are about 14 families of deceased parishioners coming.

- **Action:** Notice to continue in Bulletin

Family Prayer Ministry

Vivienne will send the Advent Prayers to Amanda to have them sent out.

- **Action:** Vivienne to send Advent Prayers to Amanda to send out to families.

Beloved Disciples Course

The Beloved Disciples course has now been completed with approximately 17 people attending the last two sessions - each session consisted of a 30 minute video with small group and then whole group discussion. Vivienne extended thanks to Deacon Anthony Briody of the Diocese of Raphoe and Caren Collins of the Living Church Office who delivered the course. They have also delivered the course in Newcastle and Lisburn. We will consider running this course again, perhaps next year. Deacon Anthony and Caren Collins brought Rosaries for the children in the schools with copies of Youcat and Fr Alexander has distributed these to both schools. It was thought Youcat would be useful for a Children's Liturgy.

- **Action:** No further action required

Precious Life Campaign

200 Precious Life cards addressed to the Minister and Secretary of State were left in the Church and they have all gone. Fr Alexander has given a donation to Precious Life and will leave a copy of their newsletter in the Church. We need to support this campaign to ensure abortion is not introduced here.

- **Action:** No further action required

Faith Development Conference

The Faith Development Conference was held in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Belfast on 27th October and Vivienne and Geraldine attended. The day was facilitated by Paula McKeown, Caron Collins and Deacon Anthony Briody of the Living Church along with Laura Whinnery of Alpha NI, Tim Stevens of CaFE and Johnny Sommerville of Scripture Union Ireland. Following a Welcome delegates attended a taster session followed by a second taster session after lunch. There were 5 different courses Let it Be, Alpha, Youth Alpha, Nua and the Beloved Disciples course which we have already delivered.

Vivienne attended a taster session on the CaFE course Let it Be – this was filmed in Rome, Ephesus, the Holy Land, Lourdes, Knock, Montserrat and Walsingham – the programme consists of 5 sessions lasting 25 minutes with a video and group discussion – we could buy the books for those attending – the course plus 20 books costs £40. Vivienne and Geraldine attended a taster session which covered both Alpha and Alpha Youth – Alpha film series runs for 15 weeks and Alpha Youth runs for 13 weeks – this course can be downloaded free but Vivienne was able to get a copy from Paula McKeown - each session consists of food, talk and discussion. This course could be run in churches, schools or sports clubs – we could perhaps run Alpha Youth in the Gaelic Club. Fr Alexander said we should try to get a team together now to enable us to run this course in the springtime – we need to ask people to join the team and it would be good to

get young people involved – there are young men in the Knights of Columbanus who would be helpful and we will talk to them – Vivienne will make a copy of the Alpha Youth programme and give it to Chris to have a look at - we could do a presentation to invite young people along as there are a lot of young people coming to the Church now and we could also invite people from the pastoral community- Laura Whinnery said she would be available if we required assistance.

Geraldine attended a taster session on the NUA programme – this is aimed at 18 year olds but is suitable for any age group – this is a course based on Scripture. It consists of eight 15 minute film sessions covering questions many ask about our beliefs: How did we get here, Jesus Fact or Fiction, What about the Resurrection etc. The programme also comes with a training video for each session and a training manual for those leading the course.

CaFE have now produced further courses, the Joy of Hope – 4 sessions filmed on the island of Patmos which is suitable for Lent costing £29, The Big Picture, 12 sessions on the Bible, and Strength to Strength, a course on the practical benefits of daily prayer, costing £25, which would be suitable for the coffee morning group.

- **Action:** - Get team together to run Alpha Youth.

Ministry of Praise

The Ministry of Praise is a Ministry for the sick and housebound where they are asked to pray for the Parish so even if they do not get out to Mass they are involved in the Parish. This month members are asked to pray for the dead. The intention was they would get a birthday card on their birthday but this has fallen by the way as we have no one to run it. We could do a presentation on this Ministry at the Wednesday coffee morning

- Action:** Consider presentation at coffee morning

Advent Talks

Living Church are doing training from 7.00-9.00pm on Wednesday 14th November in Good Shepherd for four Advent talks on prayer but the Knights of Columbanus are doing talks for us anyway commencing on 30th November and then each Friday after 7.00pm Mass. We had a good turnout at the Advent talks last year. Fr Alexander will speak to Chris this week to see what he thinks.

- **Action:** - Fr Alexander to speak to Chris re Advent talks

Carol Service

It was agreed to hold the Carol Service on Monday 10th December at 7.00pm. The service will last approximately 40 minutes and will help people take time out from the Christmas preparations. Tea/coffee etc will be available in the Pastoral Centre afterwards – a good crowd came to the Centre for refreshments last year. We had talked about changing the format as some people thought there were too many readings and we need to lighten it up– Fr Alexander will speak to Amanda of the choir– Fr Alexander would like a medley at the end with carols and Christmas songs as people would really enjoy it.

- Action:** Fr Alexander to speak to Amanda re new format for Carol Service

4. Christmas Masses

At Christmas we have a vigil Mass at 9.00pm and 9.30am Mass on Christmas morning in Saul and alternate between Carlin and Ballycruttle with a Mass at 11.00pm. This year the 11.00pm Mass will be in Ballycruttle with Mass at 11.00am on Christmas morning in Carlin. There will be no Mass in the Parish the rest of Christmas week and no Adoration on Christmas Day. Fr. Alexander is to look at Confession arrangements for Christmas.

Action: Details of Masses to go to Parish Secretary
Fr. Alexander to look at Confession arrangements

5. Any other Business

Christmas Gifts

St Vincent de Paul feel there is not the need for presents for distribution in the Parish – Fr Alexander will speak to them again to see if gifts could be used outside the Parish. We could perhaps do something for the Food Bank.

Action: Fr Alexander to speak again to SVP.

Christmas Crib

Fr Alexander said that Paula McKeown of Living Church suggested that on the first Sunday of Advent families could be asked to bring the figure of baby Jesus from their Crib to the Church to be blessed, it could then be taken home and wrapped up and be the first present opened on Christmas morning. It would help people understand that this is what Christmas is about as we often forget – people respond to visual things. We will decide on this at our next meeting. If we are doing it we need to include the figure from the Church crib.

Action: To go on Agenda for next meeting

Pastoral Council Retreat

Fr Thomas in Tobar Mhuire will lead the Retreat on 24th November. Fr Alexander and Fr McManus will meet with him tomorrow to discuss the format. We will pay for 6 people from Saul and Fr McManus will pay for 10 from Strangford.

Action: Fr Alexander and Fr McManus to meet with Fr Thomas

Bethany Support

Bethany Support training is available and they will come to Downpatrick to facilitate it there if they can get the numbers. Bethany support should be for the family at the time of bereavement but the Bethany group would not do the funeral.

Action: No action required

Computer Scams

Richard Gill of Ulster Bank does a course on protection against computer scams. He will come to a venue and give a talk on how to protect against such scams. It could be open to all in the Parish. Vivienne will speak to him to see what can be arranged – we could hold it in the Pastoral Centre or the Gaelic Club.

Action: Vivienne to speak to Richard Gill

Schools Christmas Competition

Vivienne is working on a Word Search for P1-P4 and a riddle plus a tie breaker of no more than 3 sentences for P5-P7. Vivienne will e-mail this out before the next meeting. Fr Alexander suggested asking for a 10-15 word slogan about Christmas as a tie-breaker.

Action: Vivienne to emails details of competition

6. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader

The date of the next meeting will be: **Tuesday 27th November 2018 at 7.00pm.** Prayer will be led by Paul Fitzsimons.

7. Closing Prayer: Meeting concluded with closing prayer.