

Parish of Saul & Ballee

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Tuesday 3rd March 2020

Time: 7.00pm

Location: Parish Pastoral Centre

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

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

1. Opening Prayer led by Vivienne.

The Chairperson welcomed members to the March meeting.

The objectives of tonight's meeting are to complete some outstanding matters, review our current Cemetery Policy and discuss Parish Plans for Easter.

2. Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting – 4th February 2020

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

- **Parish Retreats for Volunteers**

Fr. Alexander met with Fr. McManus – they are looking at their diaries and Fr. Alexander will speak to Fr. McManus tomorrow. Tobar Mhuire is busy but we will try to get fitted in.

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

- **Head Count at Mass**

A head count was not done the week of Sonia's Months Mind or this weekend, but we have a good idea of numbers attending. 9.30am in Saul and 11.00am in Kilclief are alright but Strangford and Saul both having a Mass at 6.30pm on Saturday is a problem – we have a lot of young people come to the 6.30pm Mass. There would need to be more than an hour between the Masses to enable a priest to travel between the Churches – Fr. Alexander will discuss it with Fr. McManus. Fr. McCloskey is off at the moment and this makes extra work. - Fr. Alexander and Fr. McManus will have to work together.

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

- **Pastoral Plan 2020/2021**

Vivienne has drawn up a final draft and it was agreed to go ahead with it - it will go out in the Newsletter and be uploaded to the Parish website - Vivienne will leave a few copies at the back of the Church.

- **Action:** Pastoral Plan to go in Newsletter and website and copies left in Church.

- **Lenten Talks/Family Prayers**

The Lenten Talks begin tomorrow for 5 weeks until 5th April. Each talk will last one hour and will be facilitated by Aisling of the Living Church. This course 'No Greater Love' is being given in 31 parishes. We will have to consider whether we should hold it in the evening at another time – we will get a copy of the video so we will have it. We also have the 'Joy of Hope' course which we can run in May maybe – we may be able to encourage different people to attend. Family Prayers for Lent were sent to the schools on 24th February. Vivienne has Easter prayers ready and will send them out the week before Easter.

- **Action:** Vivienne to send out Family Prayers before Easter

- **PPC Annual Report**

The Parish Pastoral Council Review for the Bishop and Parishioners is with Amanda to be run off when she gets an opportunity. When available Vivienne will send it off to the Bishop.

- **Action** Annual Report to be printed and sent out.

- **Parish Newsletter**

There is an article in the Newsletter on Lent and an excellent article on Mental Health and Wellbeing from Gary Doherty. It also contains our updated Pastoral Plan. Vivienne will get it printed off and sent out as soon as possible.

- **Action:** Parish Newsletter to be printed and sent out.

4. Cemetery Policy Review

The copy sent out to Council members is not the most up to date policy. Most parishes in the area are looking £300-£350 for a single grave – very few parishes now do double graves. Funerals are expensive - we need to consider this when pricing graves and feel it is reasonable to keep the price at £300. If the price increases in other parishes, we will also increase the price here. Vivienne tried to get a printout of what other parishes are charging and if she gets it she will let us know. The toilets in the cemetery have been refurbished by a generous parishioner.

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

5. Easter Ceremonies

	Holy Thursday	Good Friday	Holy Saturday	Easter Sunday
St Patrick's Saul	7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper	3.00pm Solemn Ceremonies	9.00pm Easter Vigil Mass	9.30am Mass
Carlin	--	--	11.00pm Easter Vigil Mass	--
Ballycruttle	--	--	--	11.00am Mass
Saul Mountain		5.00pm Stations of the Cross Weather Permitting		6.00am Dawn Mass Weather Permitting

There will be a Penitential Service in Downpatrick – Fr. Alexander will let us know the date. Confession in Saul after Mass on Monday and Wednesday in Holy Week. Vivienne will arrange the rota for readers and get Eithne to arrange Eucharistic Ministers

- **Action:** Vivienne to arrange rota for readers
Vivienne to ask Eithne to arrange Eucharistic Ministers

6. AOB

- **Holy Water Bottles:** Fr Alexander will get 1000 more bottles.
- **Action:** Fr. Alexander to order bottles for Holy Water.

- **Schools Easter Competition**

Vivienne has prepared Easter competitions for the schools and will send these out so that they can be judged in time to get prizes to the children before schools close for Easter.

- **Action:** Vivienne to send Easter competition to schools

- **Adoration Promotion**

The speakers at the weekend were very good and there are about 19 people from the Masses in Saul who have committed to spend an hour in Adoration. We are awaiting the numbers from Carlin and Ballycruttle. The Committee will meet to decide whether there will be Adoration on Easter Tuesday and let Fr. Alexander know.

- **Action:** Geraldine to meet with Committee and let Fr. Alexander know about Adoration on Easter Tuesday.

- **Coronavirus Regulations**

The Sign of Peace: We did not resume this after last winter

Receiving Holy Communion: There are only a few people who receive Communion on the tongue

- **Action:** No action required.

7. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader

The date of the next meeting will be **Tuesday 31st March at 7.00pm**. Prayer Leader will be Paul Kelly

8. Closing Prayer: Meeting concluded with closing prayer.