

*Parish of Saul & Ballee***Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting**

Date of meeting: Wednesday 11th January 2017

Time: 7.30pm

Location: Parish Pastoral Centre

Attendees: Fr. Paul Alexander, Vivienne McCormick, Geraldine McVeigh, Mary Burns, Gemma Sloan, Rachel Hamill, Anne Marie Hanvey, Paul Fitzsimons and Paul Kelly.

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

1. **Opening Prayer** led by Anne Marie Hanvey

2. **Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting** – 5th December 2016

Vivienne welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new year. The minutes from the above meeting were circulated to all members via email prior to tonight's meeting. All were in agreement with the minutes and a proposal was made by Paul Kelly and seconded by Rachel Hamill 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 McVeigh 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**

Christmas Masses/Carol Service

The Carol Service was well attended and thanks were extended to those who organised it and to those who provided refreshments afterwards in the Parish Pastoral Centre. There was a lot of work involved in the preparation but the organizers did a great job and the event is now well established in the Parish.

The Christmas Masses were well attended. The Vigil Mass in Saul was very crowded as was the morning Mass. There were spaces at the Masses in Ballycruttle and Carlin but the attendance was good.

Fr Alexander extended thanks to Fatima, the Flower Arranging team and all involved in the decoration of the Churches, it was time consuming and they put in a lot of work and the only cost to the parish was for the flowers.

- **Action:** No further action required

Christmas Word Search

There were 105 entries from the Primary Schools for the Word Search. The winners were:

St Patrick's PS:	Eoin McLoughlin P2 Freddie Ferguson P4
St Joseph's PS	Morgan McManus P6 Laura Magee P7

We will organize a colouring competition for the schools for Easter to keep our links with them.

- **Action:** Easter Competition for schools to be arranged

Parish Services: Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals

The joint meeting with the Finance Committee has yet to be arranged. The Cemetery Policy will be updated in due course.

- **Action:** Further meeting with the Finance Committee to be arranged

Mass Attendance

The numbers attending Mass, particularly in St Patrick's Church, Saul are increasing. The Vigil Mass on Saturday night is particularly busy and we may have to do a count to see how many are actually attending. It was agreed to do a count about the end of January.

- **Action:** Count to be taken of numbers attending Masses at end of January

4. Parish Pastoral Plan

Vivienne reminded us that our aim as the PPC is to serve the whole Parish in the promotion of our Catholic faith. In doing so we will promote belonging and community spirit, drawing on the talents of all individuals and groups within the Parish. We will develop a fully inclusive, caring Christian community where all feel welcome as part of a Living Church. Following discussion a number of suggestions were put forward: Use of the Pastoral Centre, ideas from those who attended the Parish Presentation, to encourage and support existing programmes eg Morning Prayer, Adoration and the Padre Pio Novena. P4 and P7 visiting the Church during Adoration and the Called and Gifted

course, together with possibly a 3-Day Parish Mission. It was thought we could run this Mission ourselves and have morning and evening Mass with a different speaker each day. We also have to arrange a Retreat Day for Ministers of the Eucharist and our Readers. Fr Alexander suggested that perhaps we should have a Retreat Day for the Eucharistic Adoration Group which all present, felt was a good idea. We could organise a function for volunteers in the Parish as we now have the facility for this. We could re-introduce a book of the deceased so that they can be prayed for on their anniversary, this could be computerised and printed out as necessary. A Mass in November for those who have died in the previous year could also be introduced. Under Open and Welcoming Church we could include the names of newly baptised in the Bulletin. A Hospitality Group for events in the Pastoral Centre would be of benefit. The teas currently held on a Wednesday morning are going well. There was a notice before in the Bulletin for volunteers but there was no response, we could put it in the Bulletin again to see if anyone comes forward. If we could get volunteers for a Wednesday we could maybe increase it to Sunday once a month and we could also have tea in Ballycruttle Hall too. A Family Day – we could develop this and focus on the World Meeting of Families. A team for visiting the elderly and lonely - those involved would require to be vetted but it was thought this would be worthwhile. There is a lot to consider and we can discuss it further at the next meeting.

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

5. Any Other Business

Communication:

There is a need to review the practice for communicating with the parish. We discussed how we can communicate to the Parish, information that can not be included in the Bulletin due to lack of space. It was suggested that it would be useful to have a channel of communication for all groups in the Parish and it was thought Facebook would serve this purpose but we must ensure that nothing inappropriate goes on the Parish Facebook. Fr Alexander said that if a summary of the objectives of Parish groups was e-mailed to Amanda it could go on the Parish website. It was felt that a handout after Mass might be beneficial and Fr Alexander agreed that if there was no space in the Bulletin and he was asked he would most likely approve. This would be less work than increasing the size of the Bulletin as we may not be able to fill an A3 sheet each week. The Newsletter gives a lot of information to parishioners but we have reduced the number of copies printed as they were not all being taken.

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer is going well and Fr Alexander has purchased 10 large print books for use by the Morning Prayer group and he hopes to meet with them to give some guidance.

- **Action:** Fr Alexander to meet with Morning Prayer Group

Adoration

There are Child Protection issues with regard to going into the schools to encourage children to attend Adoration but Fr Alexander encourages the children when they attend morning Mass to bring their parents in after school. Fr Alexander has a prayer for a child's visit to the Blessed Sacrament which he will locate and issue to the children.

- **Action:** Fr Alexander to locate child's prayer for visit to the Blessed Sacrament

World Meeting of Families

There will be information coming from the Diocese regarding preparation for the World Meeting of Families in 2018 to be held in Dublin.

- **Action:** No further action required

Called and Gifted Course

Fr Alexander will speak to Jim Deeds to arrange dates for this course which is normally run on a Friday evening and all day Saturday. He will arrange for Jim to speak at the Masses and then people can apply. There is a charge for the books and we would need to give Jim Deeds a donation for his work - a charge of £20 would cover this. We could run the course if we had 10/15 people and could invite people from other parishes. It was agreed it would be best if participants brought their own packed lunch on the Saturday of the course.

- **Action:** Fr Alexander to arrange dates with Jim Deeds

PPC Membership

The term for members of the PPC is 3 years and we will reach that in March 2017. If anyone wishes to resign at the end of the term please let Fr. Alexander know.

6. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader

The date of the next meeting will be: **Wednesday 8th February 2017**. Prayer will be led by Mary Burns.

7. Closing Prayer

Meeting concluded with closing prayer.