

Parish of Saul & Ballee

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Monday 12th September 2016

Time: 7.30pm

Location: Saul Parochial House

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

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

1. **Opening Prayer** led by Geraldine McVeigh
2. **Apologies:** Mary Burns and Paul Kelly
3. **Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting** – 20th June 2016

The minutes from the above meeting were circulated to all members via email prior to tonight's meeting. All were largely in agreement with the minutes although Gemma proposed that the Lectors for The Lord information should be displayed on St Patrick's Church noticeboard to allow any of our Parish Readers to avail of this course if they so wish. It was agreed the Minutes would be amended accordingly. A proposal was then made by Gemma Sloan and seconded by Paul Fitzsimons to adopt the minutes as amended. 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.

4. Family Prayer Ministry

A flyer advising parents of the introduction and availability of the Family Prayer Guide went out to the schools on 5th September to be returned no later than 14th September, by those who wish to have a copy. Response has been slow but when the responses are back Vivienne will arrange to run off the required number of copies.

To mark the launch of the Family Prayer Ministry a "Family Weekend" will be held in the parish over the weekend of 1st/2nd October. It was decided after further discussions that a "Family Mass" in St Patrick's Church, Saul will be held at the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 2nd October. Mr McGrath is happy for St Patrick's P.S. to be involved and Vivienne will speak to him to arrange the school's participation at this Mass. As this will

be the weekend Mass in Ballycruttle on Sunday 2nd October, Mr Gilchrist will be asked to arrange St Joseph's P.S. participation in the 11.00am Mass.

The Parish Pastoral Centre should be open at the end of the month and it was agreed to have light refreshments in the new Centre after the 9.30am Mass in Saul, and also in Ballycruttle Hall after the 11.00am Mass.

A notice will be put in the bulletin advising parishioners of the arrangements for the Family Weekend.

- **Action:** Vivienne to run off required copies of Family Prayer Guide
- **Action:** Vivienne to speak to Mr McGrath re 9.30am Mass in Saul
- **Action:** Fr Alexander to speak to Mr Gilchrist re 11.00am Mass in Ballycruttle
- **Action:** Vivienne to prepare notice for the bulletin.

5. Consultation with the Parish Community

Vivienne has asked Jim Deeds, and he has agreed to do the presentation to the Parish. We need a structure for the meeting with parishioners, ie what is our primary aim for the meeting, what result we would like to get from it, when and how long it will last, and do we need refreshments etc.

We need to structure the meeting beginning with an introduction and what we hope to achieve at the meeting. Followed by information on how the Parish Pastoral Council was developed and what we have done. The meeting will cover the five pastoral themes. We could then divide into groups to discuss ideas followed by a break for tea to enable the suggestions to be collated. The ideas which emerge will be included in the new Pastoral Plan.

The Pastoral Centre should be ready by the end of the month so the meeting can be held there and we have a notice board and facilities for displays. It was agreed that a Wednesday night would be best and the meeting would last no longer than 2 hours. October is a busy month already so it was agreed to arrange a Wednesday night in November. Vivienne will speak to Jim Deeds to check his availability and what visual aids he needs, and when the date is arranged a notice will go in the Bulletin and on Facebook.

- **Action:** Vivienne to speak to Jim Deeds to arrange date for consultation meeting.
- **Action:** Vivienne to check what visual aids Jim Deeds will need.
- **Action:** Date of consultation meeting to go in bulletin and on Facebook when arranged

6. AOB

PPC Retreat Day

A Retreat Day for members of the Parish Pastoral Council, facilitated by Jim Deeds, has been arranged for 22nd October 2016 at Tobar Mhuire and Fr Alexander would like all members to attend.

The day will commence at 9.00am with Morning tea/coffee/biscuits being served. A Reflection for one hour will then be held followed throughout the day with a review of our role as a Parish Pastoral Council. There will be time for personal retreat built into the

day and Fr Alexander will try to arrange Mass in the afternoon - we may be able to ask Fr McGuckian to say Mass for us.

There will be a break for coffee at 11.15am with lunch at 1.00pm. In the afternoon there will be a coffee break at 3.30pm with dinner at 5.30pm.

- **Action:** Members to confirm their availability for this Retreat as soon as possible.

Faith and Life Convention

The third annual Faith and Life Convention will be held in Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Belfast on Saturday 24th September 2016. Sarah Teather, Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service (UK) is the keynote speaker, and there are 23 workshops to choose from. Fr Alexander can get a discount for a group booking and anyone who is available to attend should leave their name with the Parish Office. Vivienne confirmed that she has booked a place at the Convention.

- **Action:** Those available to attend should contact the Parish secretary.

Parish Newsletter

The Parish Newsletter is ready to print to go out the weekend of 24/25th September.

- **Action:** Newsletter to go out weekend of 24/25th September

Door of Mercy Pilgrimage:

The uptake for the Door of Mercy Pilgrimage has been poor with only 10 names to date. A notice has been sent to Ardglass, Bright, Strangford and Downpatrick Parishes. Vivienne has spoken to Newcastle Bus Company, they can get us a smaller bus and Paul Kelly will price a smaller bus from Down Community Transport. The hotel wants to know numbers by 30th September. The time has had to be changed due to a wedding in St Malachy's. The bus will now leave at 9.30am and return at 4.30pm. Mass will be at 1.00pm in St Patrick's Church, Belfast followed by lunch at the Clayton Hotel.

- **Action:** Paul Kelly to price bus from Down Community Transport

Saul Mountain Appeal:

There have been a few responses to the appeal for funding to carry out essential repairs to the statue of St Patrick and to enable the toilets to be replaced.

- **Action:** No further action required

Prayers Leaders Meeting

Vivienne spoke to Living Church re training for Prayer Leaders. Colette Corrigan who was arranging this has been off so no further training has been arranged. She is due back shortly but her contract is due to expire in March.

- **Action:** No further action required

River of Roses

We extend our thanks to all the flower arrangers and to all those who helped make the River of Roses a tremendous success. There were 1500 roses and they ran out on Cemetery Sunday. Next year again the Mass for all those remembered in the River of Roses will take place on the Saturday following Cemetery Sunday.

- **Action:** No further action required

Parish Pastoral Centre

Extra expenses have been incurred in getting the Pastoral Centre ready. The repairs required to the whiteboard would have been too expensive. We will get a projector and a dropdown screen and we have two computers which will be sufficient. The ramp has been installed and inspected by the planners, and will be treated with a special surface. The heating is working and the water is connected. Fr Alexander has been able to source tables and chairs. It is hoped to have the floor covering down within the next week. Fr Alexander will arrange a date for the official opening. A diary will be kept of its use to justify its necessity.

7. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader

The date of the next meeting will be: Monday 3rd October 2016. Prayer will be led by Anne Marie Hanvey.

8. Closing Prayer

Meeting concluded with closing prayer.