

*Parish of Saul & Ballee*

## **Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting**

Date of meeting: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Time: 7.30pm

Location: Saul Parochial House

**Attendees:** Fr. Paul Alexander, Vivienne McCormick, Geraldine McVeigh, Gemma Sloan, Mary Burns, Paul Fitzsimons and Paul Kelly.

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

1. **Opening Prayer** led by Mary Burns
2. **Apologies:** Anne-Marie Hanvey and Rachel Hamill
3. **Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting** – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016

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 Mary Burns and seconded by Paul Kelly 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 so they can be published on the Parish website.

- **Action:** Vivienne/Geraldine to update noticeboard in St. Patrick's Church.

#### **4. Matters Arising –**

##### **PPC Retreat Day**

It was agreed to arrange a Retreat Day for members of the Parish Pastoral Council in conjunction with any other PPCs in the local area who wish to attend, to take place in October. Vivienne agreed to speak to Tobar Mhuire to see what Saturdays towards the end of October or early November are available, excluding 8<sup>th</sup> October, which is the date of the Pilgrimage to the Holy Door at St Patrick's Church, Belfast. When the date has been arranged Fr Alexander will speak to priests in other parishes in the area to invite their PPC's to join us on our retreat day.

- **Action:** Vivienne to contact Tobar Mhuire to arrange date for Retreat

### **Vice Chair Position:**

It was agreed to leave this position vacant as no-one present wished to put themselves forward for the post. In any case, our three year term on the PPC is coming to an end in March 2017, when a new Committee will be formed.

- **Action:** No further action necessary

### **Parish Newsletter:**

The June issue of the Newsletter has been sent to Amanda. She is having some problems with it but hopes to get it out by the weekend. Vivienne has started work on the September Issue. Fr Alexander suggested that the Newsletter should contain one Sacrament at a time as most people will not read a lengthy article and it was agreed that the next issue has an article on the Sacrament of Confirmation only. Other small articles can also be included.

- **Action:** Vivienne to speak to Amanda re June Newsletter

### **Door of Mercy Pilgrimage:**

It was not possible to get a Saturday in September due to weddings in St Patrick's Church, Belfast. The Pilgrimage has been arranged for Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October, leaving St Patrick's Church, Saul car park at 10.00am to arrive at St Patrick's Church, Belfast at approximately 11.00am. The Door of Mercy Pilgrimage will take approximately 15 minutes and confessions will be available from 12.00 noon followed by Mass at 1.00pm. A tour of St Malachy's Church, Belfast has been arranged for 3.15pm. The bus should leave Belfast at 4.15pm returning to Saul at approx 5.15pm. St Malachy's are unable to offer refreshments due to a lack of volunteers on a Saturday. The Clayton Hotel can do tea, coffee and sandwiches for £6.95 or a light lunch of soup and sandwiches or salad for £9 per person. It was agreed that we take the tea, coffee and sandwiches at £6.95 per person. A local historian, Jim O'Hagan, will give a talk on the history of the churches and asks only for a donation to the renovation fund at St Malachy's. A donation will also have to be made to St Patrick's Restoration Fund. Newcastle Bus Company charge £160 for a 30 seater bus, £170 for a 33 seater and £200 for a 53 seater. Kilmore Coaches charge £180 for a 24 seater and £220 for a 33 seater. Eamon Rooney charges £175 for a 30 seater and £195 for a 50 seater. It was thought that a 30 seat bus would be adequate and it was agreed that Vivienne book a 30 seat bus with Newcastle Bus Company and if necessary we can get a larger coach. Vivienne has prepared a notice for the bulletin to go in this weekend.

- **Action:** Vivienne to book bus with Newcastle Bus Company
- **Action:** Vivienne to see Amanda re Notice in Bulletin.

### **Extension of Ministry of Praise**

Fr Alexander has spoken on the altar about the Ministry of Praise to encourage new members and application forms have been left at the back of the Church but no applications have been received. Fr Alexander will speak about it again from the altar.

- **Action:** Fr Alexander to speak about Ministry of Praise

## **Saul Sunday**

Saul Sunday went ahead despite heavy rain and Vivienne extended thanks to all who made the day possible. Fr Alexander said an appeal has gone out to raise funds for necessary work to repair the statue and the bridge, and renovate the toilets which have been closed down. The necessary work could cost between £25,000 and £30,000. The appeal was handed out at the Mass on Saul Sunday and will go into the Bulletin and on Facebook as soon as possible.

- **Action:** Notice of appeal to fund repairs to go into Bulletin and on Facebook.

## **5. Family Prayer Ministry**

A draft of the Family Prayer Book was given to Mr. McGrath, Principal of St Patrick's PS, Saul, to obtain his views on the contents but Vivienne has received no response from him yet. Vivienne will speak to him again this week before school breaks up for the summer. He had thought that the proposal to have a Family Weekend was a good idea and we hope to arrange this for the third or fourth week in September. A flyer advertising the Family Prayer Guide will be distributed through the schools in September. Details of the Family weekend will be circulated to the schools and into the bulletin and Facebook once these have been finalised.

- **Action:** Vivienne to speak to Mr. McGrath.
- **Action:** Family Prayer Ministry to go on Agenda for next Meeting.

## **6. Consultation with the Parish Community**

We need to consult with parishioners to get their views on the needs of the parish and to let them know what the Parish Pastoral Council does. Vivienne has prepared a power point presentation which could be presented to a meeting with parish representatives and will e-mail this to everyone. We need to cover how the Parish Pastoral Council was formed and what we do, the meaning of co-responsibility, the pastoral themes we are led by, what we have done to date and the reason we are meeting with the Parishioners. Fr Alexander suggested that everyone in the parish be invited to the meeting and it was felt the Power point should be kept to about 5 slides to hold peoples interest. We need to get someone to facilitate the meeting and those attending could be divided into groups and get feedback from each group. We would report back on the findings following the meeting and when people know the work the Parish Pastoral Council does we may be able to recruit new members. Such a meeting would have to be held in the school as there is no planning permission for the mobile yet. It is hoped to have this Parish Consultation in October. In order to have the preparation work done before this, it was felt we needed to have a specific PPC meeting to focus solely on this issue. As we break for the summer months, our next meeting will be in September.

- **Action:** Vivienne/Fr Alexander to speak to Living Church Office re facilitator
- **Action:** Vivienne to e-mail Powerpoint to PPC members
- **Action:** To go on Agenda for next meeting

## 7. AOB

### **Prayers Leaders Meeting**

The meeting for Prayer leaders was rescheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> June but no members were available to attend on that date. Vivienne will speak to Living Church office to see if any other date is available.

- **Action:** Vivienne to speak to Living Church Office.

### **Music Ministry Together**

This is a 5-day Summer course. Vivienne will put Notice on the Notice Board so that anyone interested may register for the course.

- **Action:** Vivienne to put notice on Notice Board

### **Lectors for the Lord**

Fr Alexander advised that there is a 10 session course, for Readers of the Word, being given by Fr Oliver Treanor in St Michael's Parish Centre, Downpatrick. The sessions will take place between September 2016 and April 2017 and the cost would be met by the Parish. It was felt that as the Readers in the Parish had already attended a very successful Reflection Day in Tobar Mhuire it would not be necessary for them to attend this course but details will be displayed on the Notice board in St Patrick's Church Saul, and a copy of the enrolment form will be available at the back of the church in case anyone is interested in attending.

- **Action:** Information to be displayed on Notice Board

### **Parish Centre:**

Planning Permission is not yet available for the mobile. It is with the planners and Fr Alexander and the architect will attend an Appeal meeting in Newry at the end of the month to fight our case. If we do not get the necessary planning permission the mobile will have to be sold.

### **Site at School**

The site is on the market at £55,000 having been valued by an estate agent. One offer has been received but it was well below the asking price.

### **Ballycruttle House**

We are awaiting planning permission for a septic tank

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

### **Disabled Access**

Fr Alexander advised that he has applied for and obtained planning permission for a ramp to give disabled access to the Parochial House. The ramp will go from the side of the Parochial House to the office.

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

### **Cemetery Sunday**

We have Cemetery Sunday coming up on 31<sup>st</sup> July in Ballycruttle and on 7<sup>th</sup> August in Saul. The River of Roses will again be in place. This has proved very popular since it was started in the Parish though it involves a lot of work by the Flower arranging group.

- **Action:** No action required

### **Missionary Group**

A Missionary Group from the Holy Land will visit the Parish on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> July to speak briefly about the plight of Christians in the Holy Land and to sell religious articles to help and support them. A Notice of the visit will go in the Bulletin.

- **Action:** No action required

### **8. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader**

The date of the next meeting will be: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016. This meeting will focus on arrangements for consultation with parishioners. Prayer will be led by Geraldine McVeigh.

### **9. Closing Prayer**

Meeting concluded with closing prayer.