

*Parish of Saul & Ballee*

## **Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting**

Date of meeting: Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Time: 7.30pm

Location: Parish Pastoral Centre

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

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

1. **Apologies** – Anne Marie Hanvey
2. **Opening Prayer** led by Geraldine McVeigh

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting and reminded the Council of the objectives of our final meeting before the summer recess: To give further thought to the Memorial Book for the Parish and the revised Parish Registration Form, and to successfully conclude other matters arising from our previous meeting.

Vivienne also read a letter received from Anne-Marie Hanvey tendering her resignation from the PPC due to the commitment required to her university studies and said she had enjoyed her time working with the PPC.

### **3. Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

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 Gemma Sloan 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. Vivienne extended thanks to Rachel and Geraldine for taking the Minutes during their time on the Pastoral Council.

- **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. Matters Arising

### Parish Services: Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals

The new conditions for Parish Services came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017. Information leaflets giving full details were available at the back of the Church and Fr Alexander spoke about the matter from the altar.

The Cemetery Policy has been updated and sent to Amanda. The Parish has no other land suitable for a graveyard but spaces may become available in Cemetery A.

- **Action:** No further action required

### Memorial Book for the Parish

It had already been agreed to have a computer based book commencing from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 and that this could be compiled from the parish burial records and could be added to as necessary. It was agreed that the cost of reprinting pages to include historical names would justify a charge of £2 per name. It was felt a Memorial Book would not affect the River of Roses. The name of the deceased, the townland and the date of death would be included. We need to consider how we get historical names – it was thought this could be done through a notice in the bulletin. The Memorial Book will include priests who are buried in the Parish cemeteries.

- **Action:** Memorial Book to be compiled from parish burial records

### Parish Newsletter

The June Newsletter went out the weekend of 11/12<sup>th</sup> June and Vivienne is working on the September issue. We could put in an article about the Memorial Book.

- **Action:** Vivienne to work on September Newsletter

### Saul Sunday

Saul Sunday took place on 11<sup>th</sup> June and had a good turnout with about 150 attending, Fr McGrady spoke very well. We might have to look at the date for future years as it conflicts with the Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock. We may need to change to the third Sunday in June to enable the Bishop to attend. We will consider this and get ideas and go to the Bishop and see what he would say.

- Action:** To go in diary for consideration

### Parish Registration Form

The revised Parish Registration Form was discussed. Anyone registered with the Parish is entitled to have a wedding, funeral etc in the Parish. There was lengthy discussion as to who is entitled to register as a parishioner. It was suggested we need to include a column for relationship to the person completing the form and we need to consider how to do a Parish census – this would need careful consideration. Fr Alexander and Vivienne will

try to get an opportunity to discuss this further over the summer. It would be helpful if new people to the Parish were to come and introduce themselves and get involved.

- **Action:** Fr Alexander and Vivienne to consider further over the summer.

### **Mid-Summer Evening Event**

The mid-summer evening event on 21<sup>st</sup> June went ahead and a presentation was made to Fr Alan.

- **Action:** No further action required

### **Saturday Morning Mass of Reparation**

People have responded well to the Saturday morning Mass. Attendance is keeping up and there are about 20 people attending.

- **Action:** No further action required

## **5. Any Other Business**

### **World Meeting of Families**

The McLaughlin family is taking on work in the Parish for the World Meeting of Families.

- **Action:** No action required

### **New Bishop of Raphoe**

Fr Alan McGuckian is now the new Bishop of Raphoe and Fr Alexander said he is a great loss to the Diocese of Down & Connor and wished him well in his new role.

- **Action:** No further action required

### **Parish Buildings**

Reports have been done on the Parish buildings, they are old buildings and some are going to need a lot of work. There is damp in the front of the Parochial House. The front of the house and the windows will be done first and then raise the funds to do another bit. The wiring in Carlin needs tested and Ballycruttle needs painted.

- **Action:** Fr Alexander will keep the Council updated

### **Pastoral Communities Forum**

A meeting of the Pastoral Communities Forum was held on 6<sup>th</sup> June and six of the ten parishes in the area were represented. This was attended by Fr Alexander and Vivienne. The next meeting is scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> September and those attending have been asked to

prepare a presentation showing what is going on in each of their Parishes for the next meeting.

- **Action:** Presentation to be prepared

### **Columbarium**

It was pointed out that the area around the columbarium was very overgrown with weeds and Fr Alexander said he would ask the people who do the grass cutting to put down some weed-killer.

- **Action:** Fr Alexander to get weed-killer sprayed in area around the Columbarium

Fr Alexander extended thanks to everyone for their work for the Parish this year. He said we have come a long way with help from Fr Alan and Jim Deeds. There is a lot of work and it takes time and Fr Alexander thanked everyone for their services. A lot has happened in the Parish since we started: we now have Morning Prayer, Adoration and the First Saturdays. We need to get more people involved but it takes time.

Mary Burns wished the future Parish Pastoral Council well for the future and felt that a lot has been achieved since the Council commenced. Rachel thanked Fr Paul for his work in the Parish. Vivienne thanked Fr Paul and everyone for coming and for their work on the Council.

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

The date of the next meeting will be: **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2017**. Prayer Leader to be arranged.

### **8. Closing Prayer**

Meeting concluded with closing prayer.