

Parish of Saul & Ballee

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Wednesday 15th November 2017

Time: 7.30pm

Location: Parish Pastoral Centre

Attendees: Fr. Paul Alexander, Vivienne McCormick, Geraldine McVeigh and Tommy McCabe.

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

1. Apologies: Paul Kelly and Eimear Curran

2. Opening Prayer led by Geraldine McVeigh

The Chairperson welcomed members and reminded the Council of the objectives of tonight's meeting: To have given further deliberation to outstanding issues, to have discussed and agreed the Christmas Masses for the Parish, and our preparations for WMOF 2018 will have begun.

3. Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting – 4th October 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 Fr Alexander 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 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

Retreats for Lay Ministries

A Retreat for Readers and a retreat for Eucharistic Ministers have to be arranged. Fr Alexander has been very busy with other matters and Vivienne has agreed to ring Tobar Mhuire and try to arrange dates for the retreats led by Fr Mel. It is hoped these could take place during Advent but Vivienne will see what dates are available and let Fr Alexander know.

Action: Vivienne to contact Tobar Mhuire to arrange dates for retreats

Social Gathering for Volunteers

We had discussed having a special Mass for the intentions of all volunteers on a Saturday evening followed by light refreshments in the Pastoral Centre. Paul Kelly had agreed to meet with Marian Magee and Teresa Cheetam and they met on 20th October. As it is too close to Christmas to arrange anything now, they suggested it be held on 20th January and it will go in the diary for that date. We need to put out an open invitation to all volunteers to ensure that everyone is invited as there are many volunteer groups in the Parish including SVP, Finance Committee, PPC, Readers, Ministers of the Eucharist, caretakers, office staff, counters, cleaners, Adoration team, choir, flower arrangers, WMOF volunteers and there may be others so it needs to be an open invitation to ensure no one is excluded. It was suggested we approach The Oakley Fayre, Daily Grind, Tony Crane or McCarthy's Crossgar to get quotes for refreshments. Vivienne and Teresa will get quotes for refreshments. We could invite Jim or Paula from the Living Church Office to speak in the Church about volunteering and Fr Alexander agreed to speak to them about this and let them know the proposed date. It would be an opportunity to promote volunteering in the Parish. Fr Alexander proposed we get a few prizes and give all volunteers present a raffle ticket and it was agreed to do this.

- **Action:** To go in diary for 20th January 2017
- **Action:** Vivienne and Teresa to get quotes for refreshments
- **Action:** Fr Alexander to speak to Jim and Paula

Memorial Book for the Parish

Amanda is working on the Memorial Book and historical names are trickling in. A page had been displayed at the back of the Church so people could see what was proposed. The first volume will be printed for 1st December and it is hoped it will become more popular when parishioners see it.

- **Action:** First volume to be printed for 1st December.

Parish Newsletter

Vivienne will get the December issue to Amanda and it will go out the weekend of 2nd /3rd December. Fr Alexander said he has a poem which he would like to be published in the Newsletter and will get this to Vivienne to be included in a later issue. Vivienne will include an item on Lourdes in the March issue with information on WMOF and other relevant information.

- **Action:** Vivienne to send December issue to Amanda for printing

Family Prayer Ministry

There are 28 new pupils in St Patrick's PS, Saul. We received 14 requests to join the Family Prayer Ministry – 9 new ones and 5 who already have siblings in the school. There are only 3 new pupils in Ballycruttle – we have received no applications but the new pupils may already have siblings in the Family Prayer Ministry. The Family Prayers for Advent had been circulated to the Council prior to this meeting and all present were in agreement to these going out – they will be sent out to the 58 families participating in the Family Prayer Ministry. The Family Mass has been booked for 16th December at 6.30pm

and the Pastoral Centre has been booked for refreshments afterwards. We will have tea/coffee and juice with biscuits and traybakes. Chris McLaughlin is to liaise with the schools to get their participation.

We have a good relationship with the schools and normally run a competition for the pupils. Vivienne suggested in view of the WMOF next year P1-3 could be asked to draw a picture of "My Family at Christmas". P4-P7 to enter a poem using this same title. This poem should be no more than 12-16 lines.

- **Action:** Family Prayers for Advent to go out to schools
- **Action:** Vivienne to send details of competitions to schools

5. Christmas Masses

Last year the Vigil Masses were 9.00pm in Saul and 11.00pm in Ballycruttle so it was proposed to have the Vigil Mass in Carlin this year, but they also have the Sunday morning Mass on 24th December as well. As changing the rota for the alternating Sunday Masses caused confusion last year it was agreed to have the Sunday Masses as on the rota and to have the Vigil Mass in Carlin at 11.00pm and the 11.00am Mass on Christmas Day in Ballycruttle. Mass will be as normal on 23rd and 24th December. The arrangements for Christmas Masses are as follows:

	Saul	Ballycruttle	Carlin
Christmas Eve	9.00 pm	--	11.00pm
Christmas Day	9.30 am	11.00am	--

There will be no Mass during Christmas week except on Friday at 7.00pm. Normal Masses resume on Saturday 30th December. There will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesday 26th December.

Confessions will be as follows:

	Saul	Ballycruttle	Carlin
10th December	--	--	After 11.00am Mass
17th December	--	After 11.00am Mass	--
18th December	After 10.00am Mass	--	--
20th December	After 10.00am Mass	--	--
22nd December	After 7.00pm Mass	--	--
23rd December	After 10.00am Mass	--	--

- **Action:** Notice of Mass and Confession arrangements to be displayed in Churches and go in December Newsletter.

6. WMOF 2018

The official prayer is now said after Communion at all Masses. Chris, James and Vivienne along with over 80 delegates from around the Diocese attended training for a 6 week programme, The Joy of Love, for parishes and this will be run in the Parish during Lent.

There is also a programme "Practical Activities for Popular Moments" from which we can choose activities for key moments throughout the year. There are 4 sacramental

moments, Baptism, Marriage, Communion and Confirmation and 9 seasonal moments to choose from. For First Communion there is the Amoris Cube and 40 have been ordered between the two schools and these will be given at First Communion. For Confirmation there is “100,000 Acts of Kindness” and Chris will advise the schools about this. For seasonal moments we can do a Family Prayer Service in November although it was agreed it was too late for this year to do this. Copies of the WMOF icon are being distributed to all parishes and parishes are asked to distribute these to all who attend Mass on Christmas Day to display in their homes. The WMOF icon is going round the parishes and we will try to get it here. In January we can do Family New Year’s Resolutions – a sheet can be printed from the website to decide what activities to do. At Easter, families can be given a small bottle of Easter Water to bless their homes, and in May we could do the May altar initiative. These are some of the activities which can be carried out in the Parish. It had been hoped some activities could be run in conjunction with the Community Forum but this is not feasible, although some Strangford parish representatives have indicated they may want to join us for the talks. Vivienne had suggested to the Community Forum that we are prepared to run the Joy of Love programme in Saul and if any of the parishes wish to join us they would be quite welcome. The final Mass of the WMOF is on 28th August so we would need to book buses and get tickets now for those wishing to attend. Vivienne will speak to Chris about organising buses so we can let people know what the cost will be. The WMOF prayer has been sent out to the Ministry of Praise and copies are being sent to the schools. 1000 copies have been left in the Church.

- **Action:** Chris to advise schools of Confirmation activity
- **Action:** Vivienne to speak to Chris about organising buses for the final Mass.

7. Any Other Business

Carol Service

The Carol Service will be held on 11th December at 7.00pm and Amanda, from the choir, will speak to the schools about participating. There will be tea/coffee, juice and biscuits afterwards in the Pastoral Centre.

- **Action:** Amanda to speak to schools regarding Carol Service

Pastoral Centre

Information about the Parish Pastoral Council and photographs of Parish activities are now displayed in the Pastoral Centre.

- **Action:** No further action required

Beloved Disciples Course

Fr Alexander has obtained information about a course which can be run over four sessions, entitled ‘Beloved Disciples’. He proposes running it on the coffee morning as it is for older people. He is making enquiries from the Living Church Office and would be keen to run it.

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

Anniversary Masses

The number of requests for anniversary Masses is causing problems. Downpatrick Parish has issued a notice stating that due to the volume of requests for anniversary Masses the following norms will apply: Saturday and Sunday Masses will be available for those wishing to book a Month's Mind or 1st Anniversary Mass only. Weekday Masses will be shared Masses. Armagh have a book for anniversaries. This year in particular we had a lot of Month's Minds. Due to the demand for anniversary Masses we need to decide how to do it and when to start. We need to set up a norm, as at the moment we are having difficulty coping with the number of anniversary Masses. It was felt that the introduction of our Memorial Book may help with this issue and members were asked to go away and pray and discern further about this, prior to our next meeting. Fr Alexander has a brass bookstand which can go inside the altar rails to display the Memorial Book, so parishioners can have a closer look at it.

- **Action:** To consider further for next meeting

8. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader

The date of the next meeting will be: **Wednesday 6th December, 2017**. Prayer will be led by Vivienne McCormick

9. Closing Prayer

Meeting concluded with closing prayer.