

*Parish of Saul & Ballee*

## **Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting**

Date of meeting: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Time: 7.00pm

Location: Parish Pastoral Centre

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

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

**1. Apologies:** Paul Fitzsimons.

**2. Opening Prayer** led by Tommy McCabe

The Chairperson welcomed members to the meeting. The objectives of tonight's meeting are to complete some of our outstanding issues, discuss and agree our Easter Ceremonies and to give some thought to our Pastoral Plan for 2018-2019

**3. Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting** – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

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 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**

**Retreat for Lay Ministries**

The Retreat for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers has been arranged for Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> February. 12 people have signed up and the retreat will be facilitated by Fr Mel. Fr Alexander feels that the fee paid to Tobar Mhuire should include something for the priest conducting the Retreat.

Fr Alexander is considering a Retreat for the Adoration and Morning Prayer Groups – following discussion it was agreed to arrange a Retreat for all who attend Adoration and

Morning Prayer. Vivienne will draw up a notice and it can be discussed at the next meeting.

- **Action:** Vivienne to draw up notice re retreat for Adoration and Morning Prayer groups

### **Social Gathering for Volunteers**

The social gathering for volunteers was held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January. 29 volunteers attended but 5 others had to cancel due to illness. Fr Alexander extended thanks to Vivienne for all the work she put into organising the function. The 6.30pm Mass was offered for all volunteers and Vivienne extended thanks to all who participated in doing Readings etc.

- **Action:** No further action required

### **Parish Newsletter**

A copy of the Newsletter was circulated to all members prior to tonight's meeting and all were in agreement with the content. Details of the Easter Ceremonies will be included when agreed at tonight's meeting and Vivienne will get the Newsletter to Amanda for printing in good time for it to go out the first weekend in March.

- **Action:** Vivienne to send Newsletter to Amanda for printing

### **Family Prayer Ministry/Schools Competition**

Vivienne has printed some Lenten Prayers for families and will get these to the schools before they close for half term on Friday.

Vivienne advised that the Principal does not wish to keep the entries for the Christmas competition.

Easter Competition – There will be a colouring competition for P1-4 – Vivienne has printed off some pictures and the children will be given a choice of picture to colour in. P5-7 will be asked to draw pictures of each of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. These will be sent out to the schools on 12<sup>th</sup> March to get them returned and judged before Easter.

- **Action:** Vivienne to get Lenten Prayers to schools
- **Action:** Information about the Easter Competition to go out to the schools on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Review of Anniversary Masses**

The number of requests for anniversary Masses is causing problems so we need to review the arrangement for anniversary Masses. Fr Alexander will talk to other priests to see how anniversary Masses are managed in other parishes and come back to us. It was agreed to put this item in the diary for September.

- **Action:** To go in diary for September

## WMOF 2018

The two training sessions in Downpatrick on 24<sup>th</sup> January and 7<sup>th</sup> February, on taking the six week course, The Joy of Love, during Lent have had to be cancelled as Fr McGinnity is having problems with the videos, so we will be unable to run this course as planned. Chris and James might do talks anyway as the Advent talks went well. Vivienne will speak to Chris about doing talks during Lent.

It has now been decided that the final Mass at which the Pope is expected to attend will be held in Phoenix Park. Blessing of homes with Easter water - Fr Alexander will order 500-1000 bottles. Chris is to speak to the schools about the Amoris Cube which will be presented to the children on First Communion Day – Chris should have the cubes ordered.

- **Action:** Vivienne to speak to Chris about doing talks during Lent
- **Action:** Chris to speak to schools about the Amoris Cube

## Review of 2017 Pastoral Plan

Baptism Registration Forms and Parish Registration Forms are being updated -Vivienne will discuss these with Amanda but will leave this until the end of the month as Amanda has a lot of work on at present. At the end of March we send a report to the Bishop – Vivienne has this drafted and will send a copy to the PPC to review. The Report to the Bishop last year has been passed to the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

- **Action:** Vivienne to speak to Amanda at the end of the month re Baptism/Parish registration forms
- **Action:** Vivienne to send report to Bishop to PPC for review

## 5. Easter Ceremonies

Following discussion the Easter Ceremonies have been agreed as follows:

<b>Easter Triduum</b>	Morning Prayer in St Patrick's Church Saul at 9.30 on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.
<b>Holy Thursday</b>	7.00pm. St Patrick's Church Saul - Mass of the Lord's Supper - Exposition until 9.00pm.
<b>Good Friday</b>	3.00pm. St Patrick's Church Saul - The Passion of Our Lord 5.30pm. Stations of the Cross on St Patrick's Mountain (weather permitting)
<b>Holy Saturday</b>	9.00pm St Patrick's Church Saul – Easter Vigil Mass
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	6.00am - Dawn Mass on St Patrick's Mountain 9.30am - Mass in St Patrick's Church Saul 11.00am – Mass in St Tassach's Church, Carlin
<b>Confessions</b>	Monday and Wednesday of Holy Week after 10.00am Mass in St Patrick's Church, Saul Good Friday – After Ceremonies at 3.00pm Holy Saturday – 12.00-1.00pm in St Patrick's Church, Saul.

The date of the Penitential Service in Downpatrick has yet to be confirmed.

- **Action:** Details of Easter arrangements to be displayed in the Churches and to go in the Bulletin

## **6. Pastoral Plan for 2018**

We need to look at ideas for our new Pastoral Plan under the headings Open and Welcoming Church, Lay Participation, Faith Development, Communication and Clergy.

### **Open and Welcoming Church**

We had talked about arranging a parish fun day or family picnic. This could be on Saul Sunday if the weather was good. We will have to review the date of Saul Sunday as June is too early and the weather can be wet. We have to try to avoid a date which would clash with local Cemetery Sundays. Some Parishes have a Welcoming Committee – we could consider this.

### **Lay Participation**

We will continue the Family Prayer Ministry and the Ministry of Praise but we need to get someone to take over the running of the Ministry of Praise. We need new readers and Eucharistic Ministers – we could have a day in the Pastoral Centre and invite new people.

### **Faith Development**

Fr Alexander spoke about a DVD course he had been sent by CaFÉ (Catholic Faith Exploration) called Let it Be – this is a course of five sessions and could be run in the Pastoral Centre – Council members will have a look at the video to decide if we could run it. The Advent talks were very successful and we can run these again – we can also have Lenten talks and the November Mass for deceased. We would like to run a Baptism course but there is difficulty getting training at present. All baptisms are done individually and Fr Alexander is trying to get all Baptisms done on a Saturday but there will always be exceptions.

It was proposed we base our next meeting on the 2018 Pastoral Plan and concentrate on that.

- **Action:** Council members to view 'Let it Be' DVD
- **Action:** Pastoral Plan to be main item on Agenda for next meeting.

## **7. Any Other Business**

### **Confirmation**

Fr Murray has advised Fr Alexander that he will be doing Confirmation in the Parish this year.

- **Action:** No further action required

### **Pastoral Centre**

Fr Alexander is looking to upgrade the tables in the Pastoral Centre but will wait until planning permission is confirmed.

- **Action:** No further action required

### **Pastoral Community Forum Update**

The next meeting of the Pastoral Community Forum has been arranged for 13<sup>th</sup> February. Officers have to be appointed to get it up and running and we need to pray for its success.

**Action:** Vivienne will keep us updated.

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

The date of the next meeting will be: **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.00pm.** Prayer will be led by Paul Kelly.

### **9. Closing Prayer**

Meeting concluded with closing prayer.