

Parish of Saul & Ballee

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Tuesday 17th April 2018

Time: 7.00pm

Location: Parish Pastoral Centre

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

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

1. Opening Prayer led by Paul Fitzsimons

The Chairperson welcomed members to the meeting.

Fr Alexander and the members of the PPC extended congratulations to Vivienne on having received a letter from Bishop Treanor commending her on the annual report which she had prepared on the work of the PPC.

The objectives for tonight's meeting are to complete some of our outstanding issues, and discuss and adopt our Pastoral Plan for 2018-2019.

2. Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting – 6th March 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 Fitzsimons and seconded by Fr Alexander 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

3. Matters Arising

Family Prayer Ministry – Schools Competition

The Easter Prayers went out to the schools before Holy Week.

The Schools Competition received 221 entries from the two schools. The winners were:

St Patrick's PS. Saul:	P1-2:	Rose Higgins	P2
	P3-4	Adam Hamill	P4
	P5-7	Casey Mulholland	P7
St Joseph's PS. Ballycruttle	P1-2:	Christopher	P2
	P3-4	Annie Rose	P4
	P5-7	Ava Ross	P6

Vivienne attended an Assembly in St Patrick's PS Saul and gave out the prizes.

It was suggested for the next competition perhaps the older children could do a riddle competition and the younger children could do a word search competition. We will consider other ideas before Christmas. Fr Alexander extended thanks to Vivienne for all the work involved in running the competition and doing the judging.

- **Action:** No further action required

WMOF 2018/Blessing of Homes

1000 bottles were filled with the help of Vivienne, Tommy and Paul Kelly and these were distributed at each of the Masses at Easter - it was a nice gesture and was well received. The Easter ceremonies were well attended and the weather was good for the Stations and the Dawn Mass – approximately 150 attended the dawn Mass. Vivienne extended thanks to all who helped in the Church over Easter and Fr Alexander thanked Vivienne for all her work.

There is no information available yet about the May Altar initiative but we could encourage families to have a May Altar in their homes. If Vivienne gets any information from the website she will let us know.

- **Action:** No further Action required

PPC Bishop/Parishioners Report

The Bishop's Report was received by the Bishop on 19th March and copies of the Parishioners Report were left at the back of the Church and it is now available on the Parish website.

- **Action:** No further Action required

4. Pastoral Plan for 2018

Following discussion at our last meeting Vivienne prepared an amended draft Pastoral Plan under the 5 Diocesan themes of Open/Welcoming Church, Lay Participation, Faith and Worship, Communication and Clergy.

Open and Welcoming Church

- **Encourage more young people to become altar servers:** It was suggested we encourage children who attend Mass in the Parish to serve Mass– altar servers have to be P5 or upwards.
- **Parish Fun Day:** We will keep this on the Pastoral Plan and we should be able to do something perhaps in September – maybe a barbecue – it would give a feel-good factor in the Parish

Lay Participation

- **WMOF:** Organise events: We will keep this in.
- **Encourage/support existing initiatives:-** These are going quite well but Morning Prayer and Adoration may need a boost. Fr Alexander feels Adoration has helped the Parish come alive. The number signing in has dropped but some people come each week without making a commitment. Fr Alexander said he would like to have an overnight vigil perhaps for Pentecost or Corpus Christi, if not this year we could do it next year. It was felt an overnight vigil might be well supported –we could have it after the vigil Mass and finish with Mass say at 6.00am. An overnight vigil would need to be structured with some guided prayer throughout the night – it would be good to have music as well. The Adoration Group will consider arranging an overnight Vigil.
 - **Action:** Adoration Group to consider arranging overnight Vigil
- **Develop Ministry of Praise:** There are only about six people now but Fr Alexander will try to get new members
- **Encourage/Support Family Prayer Ministry:** At present we have 61 families
- **New Readers/Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:** We need new readers and Ministers of the Eucharist for all Churches. Paul Kelly has agreed to become a reader. There are a few families, particularly in Ballycruttle, and Paul Fitzsimons will see if he can get readers for Ballycruttle. It is difficult to get people from Carlin as readers.
 - **Action:** Paul Fitzsimons to try to get Readers for Ballycruttle

Faith & Worship

- **Retreats:** Arrange retreats for Morning Prayer Group/Adoration Group/Adorers/PPC
 - **Action:** To go in Diary for October

- **Advent Talks:** We will run these talks again
- **November Mass for deceased:** We may be able to arrange this for November
- **Called and Gifted Course:** This is being Diocesan led.
- **To train Catechists:** We would probably have two people to train. They could take a Baptism course and also train children for First Confession, Holy Communion and Confirmation – there is a Catechist group in the Diocese – we will keep this in and work on it. Fr Alexander will get the necessary information.
 - **Action:** Fr Alexander to get information on training Catechists
- **Beloved Disciples Course:** This is to be rolled out through the Diocese.
- **Be it Done Unto Me Course:** we will keep this on.
- **Mass for young people at exam time:** We would need to do something fairly quickly on this as exams start in May. We will try for a date early in May. We could have a special Mass perhaps on a Wednesday, for the students their parents and grandparents. We could ask some young people to do readings and have a box for their petitions - we could leave the box out throughout the exam period so petitions could go in at any time– the intentions could be included in all Masses during the exam period - we could have a time after Communion when they could light a candle for their intentions.
 - **Action:** Date to be arranged for Mass for exam students and their families.

Communication

- **Maintain close links with Parish Schools** – we do this through Family Prayer Ministry and competitions at Christmas and Easter.
- **Update website**
- **Increase usage of Facebook page**
- **Pastoral Community: Keep Parish updated**

Clergy

- Continue to help and support Fr Alexander
- Liaise with PCF where necessary – we need a contingency plan in place in the event of a priest being ill – Vivienne will bring this up at the Pastoral Community Forum meeting next week
 - **Action:** Vivienne to finalize agreed Pastoral Plan 2018

5. Any Other Business

Parish Registration Form

Amanda is working on this with Fr Alexander. There is training about data protection so we may have to hold back on this.

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

Saul Sunday

Fr Alexander spoke to Bishop Treanor about Saul Sunday and will go back to him with a few dates – the options are 17th or 24th June, 1st July or 2nd September. This might be the time to change the date from the second Sunday in June. The Bishop had suggested a Saturday evening but this would not work as we have Mass at 6.30pm

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

6. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader

The date of the next meeting will be: **Tuesday 29th May 2018 at 7.00pm**. Prayer will be led by Tommy McCabe.

7. Closing Prayer

- Meeting concluded with closing prayer.