

Parish of Saul & Ballee

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Tuesday 4th September 2018

Time: 7.00pm

Location: Parish Pastoral Centre

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

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

1. Apologies Paul Kelly

2. Opening Prayer led by Paul Fitzsimons

The Chairperson welcomed members back after the summer break. The objectives of tonight's meeting are to move on with some elements of our Pastoral Plan and to brainstorm ideas for Parish fundraising to secure the future of our Parish Centre.

3. Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting – 27th June 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 Fr Alexander and seconded by Paul Fitzsimons 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 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

WMOF 2018

The World Meeting of Families is now over. The Opening Service for the pastoral community held in St Patrick's Church Downpatrick on 19th August was poorly attended. Different people have said that the events in Dublin were very successful. The venue for the Pastoral Community Fun Evening on 24th August was changed to the RGU because of the weather. It was a good evening with music, food and entertainment for children. 250 free tickets for the event were given out – 160 attended but 80 or 90 people did not turn up - the food ordered had to be paid for and the parishes will be charged. The surplus

food was given to the Simon Community in Downpatrick, a homeless shelter in Belfast and traybakes were given to the buses going to the final Mass in Phoenix Park.

Vivienne suggested we continue to pray for families – we could use the same prayer and just change the title as people now know it. We could choose different people from families to say it – the altar servers enjoy doing it.

-Action: Copies of the Prayer for Families will be made available and said after Mass

Parish Fun Day

We have a provisional date for the Parish Fun Day as 30th September. After the poor attendance at the event in Downpatrick it was thought it might not be worth the effort. It was agreed to leave it for now and think about it at a later date.

- **Action:** To go in diary for future consideration

November Mass for the deceased

A Mass for those who have died in the Parish during the past year has been booked for Friday 9th November. The WMOF had a Mass for the deceased last November – Vivienne will try to source the invitation. We will have candles with the name of each of those who have died. We have the names of those in the Parish who have died but we will need a few extra candles for those from outside the Parish who are buried here. The name of each of the deceased will be called out and a family member will be invited to come forward to light a candle. Following discussion it was agreed an open invitation would go in the Bulletin and on Facebook - we could ask family members to confirm with the office that they will attend so that they can be advised about the lighting of candles for the deceased.

- **Action:** Notice to go in Bulletin and on Facebook

Pastoral Council Retreat

Following discussion on who we should ask to take the Retreat it was agreed that Fr Alexander will speak to Fr Mel to arrange a date. The PPC in Strangford will be invited to join us for the Retreat. We will try for a date in October - Paul Fitzsimons will not be available on 13th October. It was agreed to leave the retreat for the Morning Prayer and Adoration groups until December, around the third anniversary of Adoration in the Parish. Fr Alexander has asked P4 to drop in to Adoration on the way home from school for a few minutes and will speak about it some Sunday.

- **Action:** Fr Alexander to arrange a date for retreat with Fr Mel
- **Action:** Retreat for Morning Prayer and Adoration Groups to go in Diary

Parish Registration Form/Baptism Forms

We will leave this for a few months as Amanda is busy working on a new computer programme for Gift Aid. One of the changes was to get permission for names to go in the

Bulletin – the new data protection laws are causing difficulty as we need to be very careful about disclosing information.

- **Action:** To go in Diary for December.

Parish Newsletter

This month's Parish Newsletter covers what is already going on in the Parish to try to encourage more people to get involved. The River of Roses was great this year and Fr Alexander said that all who helped need to be congratulated and thanked for their work, it could not have been done without the help that was put in– there are 2060 names in the River of Roses book. The Marie Curie Coffee morning is from 10.00-11.00am on 26th September – Wednesday was chosen because we have tea on a Wednesday after Mass. We have 3 new readers on the rota with possibly another one coming on and Teresa Cheetam is now a Eucharistic Minister. We need to involve younger people and we would hope if we get them involved they will keep coming.

- **Action:** no further action required.

5. Fundraising for Parish

Fr Alexander advised we have been granted planning permission for the Pastoral Centre for a further two years – there were objections because the Church is a listed building. It would cost £20,000-£30,000 to move it to a new site so we would prefer not to do this. Fr Alexander had a meeting this morning and there might be a way around it if we don't have the money – once its up 5 years it is accepted as being permanent - we have to submit a plan before they will talk to us and Fr Alexander has to write to the Diocesan Office with a proposal. If people see the need for a Pastoral Centre they would support it but we would need people to commit to fundraising – it was thought a golf day would raise a few thousand pounds but we would need £150,000-£200,000 for a permanent building. At the same time we have three listed buildings in the Parish to maintain, as well as the parochial house. Previous fundraising efforts were not well supported but it was decided we would keep ideas for fundraising in mind.

- **Action:** To keep ideas for fundraising in mind.

6. Any other Business

Family Prayer Ministry

Vivienne will send out application forms to the new P1's for enrolment in the Family Prayer Ministry.

- **Action:** Vivienne to send application forms out to schools

Beloved Disciples Course

Fr Alexander had a meeting yesterday with a Deacon from the Diocese of Raphoe and Caren Collins from the Living Church Office. It has been agreed to run the Beloved Disciples course from Wednesday 19th September, after the coffee morning – it is for over 55's and will start at 11.00am. Each session consists of a 30 minute DVD with small

group, and then whole group discussion. They might do up a booklet for it but the proceeds from the coffee morning would cover the cost. We will invite people from other parishes to join us. People who have participated have found this course helpful and there are a few other courses Fr Alexander would like to run. Posters will go out tomorrow.

- **Action:** Posters to go out and details to go in the Bulletin

Pastoral Community Forum

Vivienne advised that the Forum was beginning to look at the provision of Masses in the Downpatrick Pastoral Area. There is a 6.30pm and an 11.00am Mass in both Strangford and Saul – we need to look at the Mass provision and perhaps change the Mass times so that one priest could do both churches. Fr Alexander and Fr McManus have been working together whilst Fr McManus has been off due to an accident. The age profile of clergy in the area is quite high. The next Community Forum meeting is on 25th September. We will do a count to see what attendances are at each Mass – we will do all Masses for a month and this will be done at the same time as a count is being done in the other churches in the community area. There are now more young people coming to Mass in the Parish.

- **Action:** Vivienne to keep us updated
- **Action:** date of count to be arranged

Review of Anniversary Masses

There are already Masses booked well ahead. It was suggested we could do away with anniversary Masses and have a Mass offered for all deceased and that this arrangement could commence from 1st January 2019 but we would need to give at least 6 months notice before doing this so the date mentioned above would need to change.

- **Action:** Fr. Alexander to give further consideration to this.

Faith & Life Convention

The fifth annual Faith and Life Convention will take place on 29th September 2018 in Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock from 9.00am to 4.30pm. The Living Church will hold a Faith Development Conference on 27th October in the Crowe Plaza Hotel, Belfast – the theme is building community through small groups – there will be taster sessions on 5 different courses one of which is the Beloved Disciples course which we have already agreed to run but we need to look at different courses. Vivienne will get further details on this event. Fr Alexander said the Parish will cover the cost of anyone who wishes to attend.

- **Action:** Vivienne to get further details on Faith Development Conference

7. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader

The date of the next meeting will be: **Tuesday 2nd October 2018 at 7.00pm.** Prayer will be led by Paul Kelly.

8. Closing Prayer: Meeting concluded with closing prayer.