

*Parish of Saul & Ballee***Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting**

Date of meeting: Tuesday 15th October 2019

Time: 7.00pm

Location: Parish Pastoral Centre

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

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

1. Opening Prayer led by Jackie Breen

The Chairperson welcomed members to tonight's meeting following the summer break.

The objectives of tonight's meeting are to complete some outstanding matters. We will discuss Baptism preparation further and ideas for promoting our Parish in the area.

2. Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting – 18th June 2019.

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 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 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**• Saul Sunday**

Saul Sunday was held on 30th June with Mass on the altar at the Grotto – the lower altar worked well – Bishop Treanor had suggested the altar be lower down but the new altar works well and numbers were up on last year. Fr. McManus was the preacher at the Mass. No one brought a picnic.

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

- **Corpus Christi All Night Vigil**

The All Night Vigil for Corpus Christi was held on 22nd/23rd June and was well attended but we will try to promote it more in adjoining parishes next year. The Corpus Christi procession in Downpatrick was not well attended.

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

- **Drugs in the area**

An article for the Newsletter was to come from Gary Doherty. Gary is not with the Club any more but Paul Fitzsimons will see if he can get something for the next Newsletter. It was suggested we do an article on the 'Need to Talk' but it was agreed we leave this for the moment, at least until after Christmas.

- **Action:** - Paul Fitzsimons to try to get article on drugs for the Newsletter

- **Baptism Preparation Course**

We had talked about running a Baptism preparation course and Vivienne has prepared a draft booklet. CAFÉ have now produced a booklet for Baptism but Fr. Alexander did not feel it was suitable for us. There have been 46 Baptisms so far this year in the Parish and there are more to come – some are from outside the Parish but wish to have their child baptised here. There have been about 15 weddings this year so far. Fr. Alexander now takes Jackie to the home of deceased parishioners and introduces him – Jackie can then return later to arrange the service with the family. Fr. Alexander will now get Jackie to join him for Baptisms to give him experience. Many marriages now do not have Mass so the Deacon could do those services. We will put Baptism preparation in the diary for the New Year.

- **Action:** To go in diary for the New Year.

- **Promoting our Parish**

We are all aware of the need of the Church to move from maintenance to mission – we had talked about doing a welcome brochure and Vivienne has prepared a draft booklet. Some of the information she was able to get from the website. Fr. Alexander felt we should not include too much information but keep it short and sharp. Following discussion it was felt there is a need to review the whole area of marriages and Baptisms and it was agreed to put this on hold for a few months to give us time to consider it to ensure we get it right.

- **Action:** To go in diary for the New Year.

- **Parish Retreats for Volunteers**

Fr. Alexander went to Tobar Mhuire and penciled in a date for the retreat but it may be gone now - it would help if we had numbers. Strangford Parish Pastoral Council had a meeting last week and they would like to join us again for a retreat – Fr. Alexander will speak to Fr. McManus. It was suggested we ask the Finance Committee and the

Safeguarding Committee to join us for the retreat. Fr. Alexander feels such a retreat would be an investment in the Parish.

- **Action:** Fr. Alexander to speak to Fr. McManus re joint retreat.

4. Family Prayer Ministry -New Primary 1's

There are only four or five new P1's in Ballycruttle but there are twenty-five in Saul and we have received thirteen replies back, which gives us 60 families in the Prayer Ministry. We could add the Family Prayer to the Prayer booklet. The altar servers now want to read the Family Prayer.

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

5. Extra Ordinary Month of Mission October 2019

We have been inundated with things this month. We have Mission Sunday coming up. Vivienne has put the October Mission Prayer in the Newsletter.

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

6. Any Other Business

Parish Newsletter

The September Newsletter has gone out.

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

November Mass for the deceased

This is in the diary for Wednesday 20th November at 7.00pm. Fridays are booked for anniversaries. It was agreed we would also have candles for those from outside the Parish who have died this year and who are buried in the Parish cemetery.

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

Carol Service

The Carol Service will be held on Wednesday 11th December.

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

Living Church

A training programme has been arranged by the Living Church – the Lenten programme is on Saturday 18th January 2020 - Vivienne will speak to Living Church to see what is involved.

- **Action:** - Vivienne to speak to Living Church

Mass Attendance

Fr. Alexander feels we should do a count of Mass attendance. It is hoped Fr. McManus and Fr. Alexander will be able to cover each other but we need to arrange Mass times so that the one priest can cover both parishes. There are only 4 Masses in Downpatrick. Fr. Alexander will speak to Fr. McManus so that he can do the count at the same time. If there is a month's mind this would skew the figures – it would need to be done over a number of weeks to allow for this and funerals etc. We will then have to try to arrange suitable Mass times on Saturday evening and Sunday morning then the suggestions for new Mass times would have to be put to parishioners.

- **Action:** - Fr. Alexander to speak to Fr. McManus

Faith and Life Conference

Vivienne attended the 6th Annual Faith and Life Convention held on 28th September. The keynote speaker was Michel Camdessus former managing director of the International Monetary Fund – the Conference was well attended but Vivienne felt the keynote address on the topic Faith in a Better World was a bit too heavy – Fr. Alexander said she should advise the Living Church how she felt about this. Vivienne also attended a Workshop on teaching faith in the family that she found helpful.

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

Fundraising

We now have 200 subscribing to the Parish Draw and all tickets for the Phil Coulter concert have sold out.

Action: - No further action required

7. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader

The date of the next meeting will be: **Tuesday 12th November at 7.00pm.** Prayer Leader will be Paul Kelly.

8. Closing Prayer: Meeting concluded with closing prayer.