

*Parish of Saul & Ballee*

## **Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting**

Date of meeting: Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019

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. Apologies:** Jackie Breen

**2. Opening Prayer** led by Paul Fitzsimons

The Chairperson welcomed members to the last meeting before the summer recess.

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

**3. Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting** – 21<sup>st</sup> May 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 Fitzsimons 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 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**

- **Let it Be Course**

This course concluded at the end of May and received excellent feedback –about nine people attended and all enjoyed it. The video did not play from the DVD but ran ok from the pen-drive. It was felt it was worthwhile running the course.

- **Action:** No further action required

- **Saul Sunday**

Saul Sunday will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> June with Mass at the altar at the Grotto on the mountain at 3.00pm. James is preparing the mountain. Fr McManus will preach at the Mass. Cemetery Sunday in Downpatrick is on that day but it was not possible to avoid a clash. We will put a notice in the Bulletin this week inviting people to bring a picnic if the weather is good.

- **Action:** - Notice to go in Bulletin inviting people to bring a picnic if weather is good.

- **Exam Time**

The Exam Mass went ahead although only two students attended. We will have it on the second Friday in May next year. Thanks go to Leona Murphy who did the singing, it was lovely. The students who attended took part and enjoyed it. Fr Alexander will burn the petitions in the Petition Box which is full.

- **Action:** - Exam Mass to go in Diary for 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in May 2020.

- **Drugs in the area**

Paul Fitzsimons has arranged an article for the next Newsletter and Gary Doherty who is working with the young people will send it to Vivienne before mid-August. It would be good to see a follow-up to the recent meeting. If the clubs have a leaflet it could be left in the Church. Jackie left the cards with contact numbers in the Church and some have been taken.

- **Action:** - Gary Doherty to send article on drugs by mid-August

## **5. Baptism Preparation Course**

Vivienne has been working on a booklet which maybe could be used as a basis for running our own course – the Booklet will be available to those doing the course. All Baptisms are in Saul Church – the webcam is here so those not attending can watch - there are none in Ballycruttle or Carlin – people seem happy with Baptisms on a Saturday rather than on a Sunday. Once we start a Baptism course it will stop those from outside the Parish requesting Baptism here.

- **Action:** To go on Agenda for next meeting.

## **6. Promoting our Parish**

We are all aware of the need of the Church to move from maintenance to mission – should we be thinking about promoting our Parish? We could do a mail-drop to the new housing estates – there have been a few Baptisms from the new houses – we could draw up details of Mass times, Baptisms, schools etc and get a few young people to deliver such a leaflet. We could encourage people to register with the Parish and if possible sign up for Gift Aid. Such a mail-drop could ask people to volunteer for Parish groups. It could probably go out in September – we will think about this over the summer.

- **Action:** To go on Agenda for next meeting.

## **7. Any Other Business**

We have proved we have a use for a new Pastoral Centre by the use of the temporary centre which we now use – the new building will be in the yard of the parochial house.

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

### **Diocesan Mid-Summer Evening event**

The event for members of Pastoral Councils in Down & Connor is to be held tomorrow night – Paul and Jackie are going.

- Action:** - No further action required

### **Our Parish, Our Common Home**

Fr Alexander has not an opportunity to speak to Living Church about projects for ‘Our Common Home’.

- Action:** - Fr Alexander to speak to Living Church.

### **Altar Breads**

Fr Alexander has now made new arrangements for getting altar breads – the Adoration Convent has now ceased production.

- Action:** - No further action required

### **St Joseph’s PS Ballycruttle**

St Joseph’s Ballycruttle has been classified by the Education Authority as an unsustainable school – a letter went home advising parents today and Fr Alexander has told staff. Eleven children left this year and there are only three or four new children – the Board will make the final decision - we have to work to see what we can do to make Ballycruttle school sustainable.

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

### **Parish Draw**

The draw is doing extremely well and most people have paid up front, though there are some paying monthly. Work is starting on the Church to give it the necessary coats of lime wash but the draw money will be ring-fenced for the new Pastoral Centre, which will have two rooms a kitchen and toilets. We have got permission to keep the temporary building until the new Centre is ready – we have proved we need it. Fr Alexander will now write to the diocese. Once the plans are ready they will be put on display in the Pastoral Centre. The first draw will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> July and will be videoed.

- Action:** - No further action required

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

The date of the next meeting will be: **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm**. Prayer Leader will be Jackie Breen.

**9. Closing Prayer:** Meeting concluded with closing prayer.