

Parish of Saul & Ballee

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: **Monday, 29th April 2024**

Time: 7.00pm

Location: Parish Pastoral Centre

Attendees: Rev. Fr. Robert McMahon, Vivienne McCormick, Tommy McCabe, Paul Fitzsimons and Geraldine McVeigh.

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

1. Apologies: Rev. Jackie Breen and Paul Kelly

2. Opening Prayer led by Tommy McCabe

The Chairperson welcomed members to the meeting.

3. Adoption of Minutes from previous Meeting – 4th March 2024.

The minutes from the above meeting were circulated to all members via email prior to tonight's meeting. All agreed 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 Fr. McMahon the Chairperson and Secretary. A copy will be held on file in the Parochial Office and a copy will be published on the Parish website and displayed on the Church noticeboard.

- Action: Geraldine to email minutes to Parish secretary for publication on the Parish website.

- Action: Copy minutes to go on Church noticeboard.

4. Matters Arising

Commissioning of New and Existing Ministers

An additional commissioning of Readers and Ministers of the Eucharist, who were unable to attend previously, was held on Friday 8th March and there was a good attendance.

- Action: No action required

- **Copyright and Music Licensing Course**

The Music Licensing Course was held in the Crypt in Downpatrick on 5th March. Amanda attended and reported back. Licensing is the only way artists can get money for the use of material and each Parish now needs a license which costs £400-£500 a year. We are trying to get the Family of Parishes to join the same Licensing Company and Canon Murray is sending out a notice to the parishes. Because of licensing laws those who sing in Church are supposed to have their own license. The undertakers will check with singers at funerals to see that they have a license. There are two sections to be filled in, one for singers and one for the names of hymns being used. Schools have their own insurance and license. Fr. Robert will advise people that it is a religious service and only hymns can be used so we only have a liturgical license.

- Action: No action required

- **Lay Led Funeral Ministry**

A course for this Ministry commenced in Newcastle on 15th April. Training is mandatory and must be completed. Applicants require two references – it was felt the application form was daunting. This Ministry would be difficult for anyone with a fulltime job as they are required to be available one day a fortnight and attend renewal days. Recently 27 people were commissioned for this Ministry, and it is hoped the Parish could supply at least one.

- Action: No action required

- **Easter Ceremonies**

The Easter Ceremonies went well. The Dawn Mass on Easter Sunday was held at the side of the Church as the mountain was too dangerous – there were about 100 people present. Vivienne extended thanks to all the Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and those who helped in any way during the Easter Ceremonies.

- Action: No action required

- **Church Improvements Update**

- **Church Entrance Work**

The panels are up and plastered and the doors have arrived. The tarmac at the church entrance has been taken up and it is to be retarred tomorrow.

- **Handrail**

The handrail on the path from the Parochial House to the Church has now been completed.

- **Church Seating**

There was some damage to the seating during removal from the Chaplaincy and the joiners said it would take a lot of money to fix. Sanding and repainting the present seating is now being discussed – this would involve a lot of work.

- **Car Park**

The car park has been discussed and is possibly going ahead – it needs to be taken up and resurfaced. This would necessitate the car park being closed for 3 to 4 days. Fr. Robert is considering removing the cattle grid from the entrance to the parochial house, for safety and has asked the workmen to remove the kerb in front of the Parish Office and retar the area.

- **Sacristy**

A toilet has now also been installed in the Sacristy.

- **Painting**

The inside of the Church has been repainted.

- **Pastoral Centre**

The Pastoral Centre will be removed soon and that will be an area for disabled parking.

- Action: Fr. Robert will keep us updated on all the work being carried out.

5. Supporting our Yong People through Exams

We normally have a Mass early in May for student sitting exams. Fr. Robert is happy to proceed as we have done in the past and he will work with it. Vivienne will speak to Amanda to arrange a date.

- Action: Vivienne to speak to Amanda to arrange a date for Students Mass

6. Saul Sunday

Bishop Alan McGuckian will be here for Saul Sunday – he is doing Parish visits as well as Confirmations. Date is to be confirmed.

- Action: No action required

7. Any other Business

- **Relic of Carlo Acutis**

A relic of Carlo Acutis will visit Ardglass and Dunsford Parish on 13th and 14th May. Fr. Robert will be hearing Confessions during the visit and Bishop Alan McGuckian will celebrate Mass in Ardglass on 13th May. The relic will be in Dunsford on 14th May.

- Action: No action required

- **Enrichment programme for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

This course will begin on Thursday 13th June from 7.00pm-8.30pm online via zoom finishing on Saturday 15th June in person in The Old School, Dunsford from 10.00am-3.30pm. The programme will be delivered by Fr. Paul Byrne and Aishling Steen. Living Church are to let Vivienne know about a course for Readers of the Word.

- Action: No action required

- **Family of Parishes**

Vivienne and Tommy attended the meeting. The main thing discussed was safeguarding for the 5 parishes. Aishling Steen is to be mentor for our Family of Parishes. There will be a meeting on 28th May in Downpatrick for parishioners from the 5 parishes.

- Action: No action required

- **Website**

Paul has been unable to meet with Amanda yet but will keep us advised.

- Action: Paul to rearrange meeting with Amanda

- **300 Club**

The next draw will take place on 7th May.

- Action: No action required,

8. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader

The date of the next meeting will be Monday, 3rd June at 7.00pm. Prayer Leader will be Geraldine McVeigh.

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