

Parish of Saul & Ballee

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: **Monday 18th November 2024**

Time: 6.30pm

Location: Saul Parochial House Meeting Room

Attendees: V. Rev. Fr. Aidan Brankin, Rev. Jackie Breen, Vivienne McCormick, Tommy McCabe, Paul Fitzsimons 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 to the meeting and asked for prayers for the Church in Need throughout the world – Bishop Alan McGuckian joined us for Mass on 16th November and lit up St. Patrick's Monument in red, the liturgical colour for the feast of Christian martyrs.

3. Adoption of Minutes from previous Meeting – 14th October 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 Tommy McCabe and seconded by Paul Fitzsimons to adopt the minutes as presented. The minutes were adopted and signed off by Fr. Brankin, 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

- **School Family Prayer Ministry**

Vivienne has spoken to the school Principal, and he is quite happy to restart the Family Prayer Ministry and suggested we do it through the whole school. Vivienne will send the information to the Principal and the secretary will send it out.

- Action: Vivienne to send Family Prayer Ministry information to school Principal.

- **November Mass for the Deceased**

The Mass for parishioners who have died this year will be held on Friday, 22nd November at 7.00pm– Jackie will be available that evening. A bulletin notice has been running for several weeks. Family members have been asked to come, and a candle will be lit for each deceased parishioner.

- Action: No action required.

- **Website/Facebook revamp**

Paul Fitzsimons has not had an opportunity to meet with Amanda but will do so as soon as possible and will reconnect to Facebook if necessary. The Family of Parishes are looking to start up a website and Facebook page for the group. Paul Fitzsimons can arrange for someone to set up a Facebook page and website for the Family of Parishes – it would be good to have it set up so that it could be easily updated.

- Action: Paul Fitzsimons to meet with Amanda re website and Facebook

- **Members for Funeral Ministry/Safeguarding**

Fr. Brankin asked someone to the Safeguarding Committee, but they are not available. Safeguarding is now up and running and is based on the Family of Parishes - there is a meeting tomorrow night. If we do not get someone from the Parish for the Lay Funeral Ministry, Ministers from other Parishes will be available.

- Action: No action required

5. Christmas 2024

Last year the Vigil Masses were in Saul at 8.00pm and in Carlin at 6.00pm. Christmas Day Masses were in Saul at 9.30am. and Ballycruttie at 12 noon. Due to Fr.Brankin now having to cover Strangford and Saul following discussion it was thought we could have Vigil Mass in Saul at 5.00pm, Ballycruttie at 7.00pm. and Strangford at 9.00pm. On Christmas Day we could have Mass at 9.30am in Saul, 11.00am in Kilclief and 12 noon in Carlin. Fr. Brankin will consider this and decide. There will be Confessions during the week and at the weekend before Christmas.

The third Sunday in Advent is Bambinelli Sunday and Baby Jesus figurines will be blessed in Saul on 14th and 15th December, in Ballycruttie on 15th December and in Carlin on 22nd December.

The Christmas Appeal last year was for Fountain Food Bank – Fr. Brankin said that they had asked for time to speak to the Parish this year and it was agreed that donations this year would be for Fountain Food Bank

Signed Christmas Mass Cards are available from the Parish Office and Vivienne will speak to Amanda about a Craft Fair.

The school does a Christmas Raffle - last year Vivienne gave them Christmas hampers as prizes – this year she will give them a Family Cinema Pass.

- Action: Information re Christmas Mass times to go in Bulletin.

- **Action: Vivienne to speak to Amanda re Craft Fair.**
- **Action: Vivienne to arrange Cinema Passes for school raffle.**

6. Any other Business

- **Youth Ministry**

Fr. Brankin has given a young Parishioner who is interested in Youth Ministry a contact who might be able to help him. Vivienne has spoken to Pathways to the Future to get information on Youth Ministry, and they are looking to set up a programme for young people. Vivienne will send out a message to those interested to tell them what is happening,

- **Action: Vivienne to contact young people with information on Youth Ministry.**

- **Presentation to Fr. Robert**

Fr. Robert's presentation will take place on Saturday 30th November at 6.00pm.

- **Action: No action required**

- **Family of Parishes**

The next meeting of the Family of Parishes will take place on Tuesday, 26th November.

- **Action: Vivienne will keep us updated**

- **Eucharistic Adoration**

Several Parishioners had raised the issue that since the hours of Adoration have changed there is no time suitable for those who are working. Fr. Brankin agreed that during Advent there would be Adoration from 7.30 to 8.30pm following Friday evening Mass.

- **Action: Adoration time to go in bulletin.**

- **Graveyard Toilets**

A parishioner has advised that the toilets in the graveyard were dirty – Fr. Brankin said he will speak to Caroline to see about getting them cleaned.

- **Action: Fr. Brankin to speak to Caroline re toilets in graveyard.**

7. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader

The date of the next meeting will be **Monday, 13th January at 6.30pm.** Prayer Leader will be Geraldine McVeigh.

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