

St Joseph's and St Patrick's, Wemyss Bay
Parish Pastoral Council Annual General Meeting
Thursday 13th October 2016

Attendees:, Brian Blacklaw (Chair), Louise Redmond, Jackie Watt, Dora Beeteson, Marcus Barry, Hazel Mitchell, Isobel Quinn, Owen Quinn, Gillian Hall, John Wilson, John Watters, Pam Blacklaw, Helen McMunn, Eugene Lafferty, Mark Galvin, Debbie Galbraith, Julia Gibson, Jim McColl

Apologies: Andrew McShane, Michael Di Paola, Ryan Begley

1. WELCOME AND PRAYER

Father Berry opened the meeting with a prayer and Brian welcomed everyone to this year's AGM.

2. APPROVAL OF LAST YEAR'S AGM MINUTE

The minute from last year's meeting was agreed and taken as read.

3. REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2015-16

a) THE SYNOD

Brian gave a recap on the Synod to date. The final document arrived today 13 October 2016 and will be sent to Rome for ratification. Meanwhile Bishop John is keen to see that the various principles from the document are implemented as soon as possible to ensure no loss of momentum.

Brian wished to record his thanks to Mary McCauley for all her dedication and hard work as the Parish delegate for the Synod.

b) THE PARISH IN THE ABSENCE OF FATHER BERRY

It was felt that due to the fact that the second draft of the contingency plan was just completed by Debbie and that the Parish had some good practices already in place, that we managed to cope with Father Berry's absence reasonably well.

On behalf of the Parish we wished to record our heartfelt thanks to the Priests from the adjoining Parishes, namely Fr McGarry, Mgr Gallacher, Mgr Cavanagh and Fr Bolland for their generosity and assistance allowing us to continue to celebrate Mass during the time of Fr Berry's absence. Special thanks must be given to Fr McGarry who organised the Priests rota and handled the Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

Thanks also to the Parishioners involved in the various duties around the church, ie opening and closing Church before and after services, counting and banking money, taking eucharistic services and many more. With this help and the rotas we already have in place for altar serving, reading, cleaning, flowers etc, this helped ensure our Parish operated as normally as possible during the past months. The Parish duties will continue to be carried out by the volunteers for the foreseeable future. Fr Berry added his thanks to Brian as all the points made above are very relevant and valid but they could not have been implemented so successfully without a coordinator - Brian. His hard work was greatly appreciated.

We will use the experiences over the last few months and learn from them to ensure that going forward our Parish is even better equipped to operate as a Priestless Parish should this be the case. We sincerely hope this will not be necessary and thank God that Fr Berry is back!

c) PASTORAL COUNCIL INITIATIVES

There were various initiatives that we hoped to start in the last year:-

Football Tournament - This was organised by the youth sub-committee and was a great success which we hope to repeat again this year.

Youth Involvement in the Parish - Our desire to incorporate young people into the liturgy in terms of readers, cantors and taking part in offertory has not been so successful to date. It is hoped that with some more work and interaction with St Columbas that we can improve on this going forward.

Other activities – e.g. Jesse Tree, Foodbank collection, small coin collection and Marys Meals activities. The Foodbank collection continues with a rota in place to deliver the Parish collections. The other activities will continue at the appropriate times.

Social Events - These events continue to be organised successfully by Anne and Louise and we thank them for their hard work. Thanks also to the SCIAF group for their effort and hard work in organising the Parish Fete. Well done to all involved in this wonderful Parish event.

4. Council Membership

a) RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

There were two resignations from the council:

Amy Shearer - Amy is resigning due to her University commitments, we wish her every success with this new chapter.

Jim McColl - Jim has been involved in the PPC for 15 years and we wish to sincerely thank him for his hard work and dedication to the Parish during this time. Jim will continue to be active with his other commitments within the Parish.

We are delighted that Isobel is staying as a member of the Council.

b) NEW MEMBER

Helen McMunn was welcomed as a new member of the PPC.

5. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES 2016/17

a) IMPLEMENTING THE SYNOD

At the Away Day Bishop John was keen for us to push ahead and implement the work we plan to do whilst the final draft Synod document was being approved in Rome.

The idea is for us to take a few principles from the Synod and apply them to our Parish and develop from there. Possibly something we do well as a Parish and something we can improve on. Exactly what principles we will work with and how we work with them going forward will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

b) YOUTH FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

In Ryan's absence, Gillian read an email from him regarding the proposed event next year. It is important to build on the success of last year's event and learn from it to ensure the tournament this coming year is even better. Ryan will meet with the Caritas students after the October holidays to ensure the students are well organised and understand what is involved to allow them to take ownership of the organisation of this event.

Louise added that this year's tournament should be open to younger members of the Parish as well. The tournament and its planning will be discussed in more detail at future meetings

c) BACK PACKS

Louise advised this successful initiative is planned for the lead up to Easter 2017. Louise will produce leaflets nearer the time for guidance to allow people to understand the various options e.g they can fill a whole backpack or donate single items to help fill up a backpack. Again this will be discussed again in more detail in the near future.

6. AOCB

a) CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS TIMES

Christmas and New Year's Day fall on a Sunday this year. After much discussion it was agreed that the Mass times will be as follows:-

Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve	Carols at 730pm and Mass at 8pm
Christmas Day Masses	10am and 1130am
New Year's Eve Mass	5pm
New Year's Day Mass	11am
Morning Masses on 2 nd and 3 rd January	will be at 11am

b) HOLIDAY OF OBLIGATION MASSES

Going forward there will now be two masses on the feast day itself due to the Parish situation and demand. These will be at 10am and 6.30pm. There will be no Vigil Mass.

c) SUNDAY SCHOOL

Debbie advised that approximately 50 children registered for Sunday School this year. New Books were purchased for the first communion class and these were funded by the Sunday School themselves.

d) SISTERS OF THE GOSPEL OF LIFE

The Sisters will be coming to the Parish to discuss their work prior to the Jesse Tree Appeal. This date to be confirmed.

e) CHILD PROTECTION

Julia advised that herself and Hazel will be on a Child Protection Training on 3 December 2016 and will give a talk to the wider Parish on this important subject sometime in January

f) CONTINGENCY PLAN – UPDATE

Debbie advised that she has produced an action log to enable the contingency plan to be completed in the near future. This will be distributed to those involved.

Brian thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting was closed.

