

St. Joseph and St. Patrick's Wemyss Bay.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Thursday, 5th February at 7.00pm

Present: Father Berry, Brian Blacklaw (Chair), Gillian Hall (Minute), Joan Riddell, Louise Redmond, Michael Di Paola, Julia Gibson, Marie O'Hagan, Jim McColl, Marcus Barry, Isobel Quinn, Owen Quinn, Dora Beeteson, Andrew McShane, John Wilson, Mark Galvin, Hazel Mitchell.

Apologies: Kevin Beaumont.

1. WELCOME AND PRAYER

Brian welcomed everyone to the meeting and Father Berry opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. MINUTE FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minute from meeting held on Thursday 04th December was accepted without any changes.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- **Jesse Tree:** Isobel reported that the Jesse Tree and little coin appeals of 2014 had both been a great success. A full car load of mother and baby items had been delivered and gratefully received to the Sisters in Glasgow. The proceeds of the little coins jar had totalled an amazing £570. The Sisters intend to visit the Parish in the future as a thank you and to provide us with more information on their work.
- **Liturgy:** Due to a miscommunication the Liturgy Committee meeting has not yet taken place but is planned soon in preparation for Lent/Easter. Father Berry advised he will have a meeting for the Eucharistic Ministers. and also for readers to plan and prepare for the Lent/Easter services. Father Berry is considering holding a series of talks to run during Lent on the topic 'Introduction to the Gospels'. More information to follow.
- **Passover:** The Passover celebration is to be held on the Monday of Holy week with a requirement of thirty people in attendance. The invitation has been extended to the other parishes in the village to hold their celebration but as Father Berry has not heard from Reverend Speirs as yet we are working on the assumption that we will again host this year.
- **Parish Visiting Group:** Father Berry is in discussion with Christine re the level of PVG cover required and this is ongoing. Father Berry can foresee the need for visits in the future.
- **Bag Pack Appeal:** Louise advised that the appeal is ready to go and suggested the beginning of Lent as a good time to start. The appeal will be launched in the newsletter and she also proposed the following.
 - Children in the Parish will be especially encouraged to be involved and help.
 - We can produce backpacks if required or the people donating can provide their own.
 - It will be made clear that if you wish, you can donate a filled backpack or alternatively individual items to help fill a backpack.
 - If preferred a cash donation can be made.

- Themed weeks, whereby one week e.g. stationary is donated to fill the backpacks, next week toiletries and so on.

Owen enquired about the possibility of personalised backpacks with the Parish name. This will be investigated.

- **Website:** Brian is in touch with the Webmaster and advised that the website has been updated and there are pages dedicated to Justice and Peace, Our Lady Undoer of Knots and a **Justice and Peace** diary of events which is constantly updated. There is also a link to email addresses for our local MPs/MSPs and councillors which are easily accessible if required. Any suggestions or ideas for the website please see Brian.
- **Communication:** Apologies from Kevin for this meeting but the issue of updating communications is an ongoing one.
- **Parish Visit to Krakow:** Joan to contact interested parties as ideally she would be able to confirm numbers for the tour operator by the end of **February to ensure** the best price for the trip. The possibility of a small flyer to be distributed to gauge any further interest was discussed.
- **Bus Trip to Carfin Grotto:** Brian advised that there is a Diocesan trip to Carfin that we could join up with. The details will be confirmed from the diocesan website but is thought to be around August 2015. Father Berry suggested we shelve the idea of a parish trip to Carfin for now and await more information on the Diocesan trip.
- **Development Team:** Brian had sent an email with information on the Development Team. The team members are: Father Berry, Angela Harkness, Fiona Houlihan, Brian Stewart, Owen Quinn and Brian Blacklaw. Following the brief as per Brian's email the first meeting will be held soon. Father Berry further added the importance that we as a parish have plans in place and strategies for the future to cope with the possible changes ahead.
- **Thank you Evening:** Joan and Brian advised that this evening will go ahead after Easter but date TBA. Hopefully having it at this time will allow us to utilise the outside space around the Church Hall.

4. AOCB

- **Synod Update:** Brian advised that the Diocesan website has been recently updated with information on this matter. The Preparatory Commission has been chosen and is made up of the Bishop, five members of the clergy and seven lay members. They will meet in the next two weeks. Father Berry advised that the Bishop has arranged for talks to take place at the Cathedral every Sunday in Lent between 2-4pm. He has invited Bishops from all over the country to speak and details of the topics for discussion and the speakers will be found on the Diocesan website.
- **Assisted Suicide Bill:** The bill is going to the floor of the House of Commons soon for debate and vote. Father Berry advised that the Bishop will be providing us with postcards to sign at mass to show our support against the Assisted Suicide Bill. These will be available from this Sunday 8th February. It was decided that the cards will be placed on the benches along with pens due to the logistical problems with filling them out at the back of the church on the way out. Father Berry pointed out that although the church has a clear position on this matter,

he felt that as there were real emotional and spiritual issues involved here that it should be clear the postcards were there if individuals wished to offer their support but must not be pressurised into doing so. It was suggested that a Bidding Prayer be offered for wisdom and guidance on the right decision being made on the Assisted Suicide Bill.

- **Parking:** Parking is still an ongoing issue at the front of the church. Various options were discussed including parking at angles in these spaces and the possibility of putting up signs to encourage considerate parking. Father Berry said that he would like to again address this issue at Mass to encourage Parishioners to park responsibly and hopefully this will be successful and no further action will be necessary. It is recognised that there is a need for more parking spaces at the Church and Brian advised that the proposal to change some of the church garden into parking spaces is ongoing and we are awaiting costs for the groundwork.
 - **Welcome Brochure/Cards:** The idea of a welcome brochure for new parishioners was discussed. This would include useful information to help the new parishioner feel included and most welcome in our Parish. Father Berry to discuss with Reverend Speirs re the possibility of a shared brochure/card with our other local churches as it is believed they already have a brochure in place.
 - **St Patrick's Night:** Joan advised that the Social Committee have been asked to take over the organising of the St Patrick's night for this year. The proposed date is 13th March 2015. A note will be put in the newsletter to advise the date for the social committee to begin the preparations.
 - **Three Parent Embryo Bill:** Owen expressed his surprise at how easily this Bill was passed at its initial stage. It was explained that this Bill had statutory instrument status and as such is not classed as a new law. The Bill was still to be passed by the House of Lords.
 - **Foodbank:** Marie wondered if a reminder was necessary to ensure the continuing success of this appeal as it appeared donations had dwindled. It was then discovered that due a rostering issue the donations had been delivered to the Foodbank twice in one week which gave the appearance that the donation box was empty.
 - **Altar Servers Fundraiser:** Julia advised that that Ellen the new Altar Servers Organiser, has proposed a cake and candy fundraiser and she asked that we support this if we can. Date TBA.
 - **Statues:** The positioning of statues around the Church remains an ongoing topic of discussion within the Parish and Father Berry receives feedback with many different opinions. The size of the statues, search for a suitable position within the Church and the possibility of some of them being replaced by pictures are all matters for consideration and to be discussed at future meetings.
5. Brian thanked everyone for their attendance. Date for next meeting Thursday 23rd April 2015.