

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

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015**

**Present:** Father Berry, Brian Blacklaw (Chair), Gillian Hall (Minute), Louise Redmond, Amy Shearer, Marcus Barry, Dora Beeteson, John Wilson, Isobel Quinn, Owen Quinn, Michael Di Paola, Julia Gibson, Ryan Begley, Debbie Galbraith, Jackie Watt, Hazel Mitchell, Jim McColl.

**Apologies:** Mark Galvin and Andrew McShane

**1. WELCOME AND PRAYER**

Brian welcomed everyone, especially our new members, to the meeting and Fr Berry opened with a prayer.

**2. MINUTES**

Minute from previous meetings on 04 June 2015 and 16 Aug 2015 were taken as read. It was noted that Jim McColl was present at the 16 Aug 2015 meeting but his name was not recorded.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- **Foodbank** - Owen advised that the new foodbank delivery rota is up and running with thirteen volunteers. Donations are variable but that could be down to the time of year. Fr Berry will put a note in the newsletter in January as a reminder that the foodbank collection is still running.
- **Flowers** - Michael advised that the flower rota is working successfully and the organising of the altar Christmas Tree will be carried out by volunteers from this group.
- **Away Day**

**Retaining and re-energising the Parish Youth.**

After discussion at previous meetings it was felt that a sub-committee would be best suited to deal with this issue. Julia suggested a few names from within the PPC who could have a particular interest in youth matters and as a result a sub-committee was formed. The members will be Julia, Ryan, Amy, Gillian, Jackie, Louise and Fr Berry and the first meeting proposed for 21 January 2016.

**Bidding Prayers**

Fr Berry is at present composing the bidding prayers. The Liturgy Committee are to meet to discuss the matter of bidding prayers in more detail.

**Synod Update**

The Parish held two meetings on the first area of the Synod (Laity) and the observations/questions from these have been forwarded to the Deanery already. The second part of the Synod is Evangelisation and the Parish will meet to discuss this topic soon after Christmas.

Bishop John is visiting Parishes throughout the Diocese with the Catechesis. The meeting then discussed its feelings on the Synod up until this stage. Whilst acknowledging that a Diocesan Synod can only have an impact in certain areas it was felt that the questions for discussion were possibly too rigid and could lead to some frustration that the opportunity was missed for discussion to lead to any real change within the Church.

Father Berry referred specifically to the role of women within the Church and the importance of education for women for in areas of Theology and Canon Law and the importance of this to provide knowledge and equip them to play a valuable role within the Church.

Brian provided a quote from the latest Synod document 'Does the Parish Pastoral Council work well in co-ordinating not just pastoral initiatives within the Parish but also consider outreach?' 'When was the last Parish mission?' 'What fruits came of it and how were they cultivated?' The meeting discussed this and from it felt that outreach could be classed as helping others and reaching out which the Council do through e.g. Foodbank Appeal, Jesse Tree and Passover Meal. This led to the subject of Evangelising and how to re-engage and retain our church members. Ideally the opinion of the wider Parish would be sought and various ways of moving this forward were discussed.

Fr Berry asked Amy if she would be happy to give a talk during Mass on the importance of her faith, as she had done this previously in the Cathedral. Amy agreed to this and it was felt that this would be refreshing and hopefully engaging to the youth in the congregation to listen to one of their peers discussing this important topic.

#### 4. AOCB

- **Social Committee** – Joan was the Social Convenor and is no longer able to continue with the role. A replacement is required both from a financial but more importantly a social aspect to allow the social calendar to remain a busy one. There is a team of willing 'helping hands' and it was suggested possibly a few male members on this committee would be helpful. Fr Berry will put a note in the newsletter in the New Year to look for volunteers.
- **SCES (Scottish Catholic Education Service)** – Brian brought to our attention that a parishioner wishing to complete the Scottish Catholic Education Certificate (SCEC) had the request declined. Brian has written to Mr McGrath (Education Dept) and Fr McMahan (**Director Catholic Education Diocese of Paisley**) for further clarification on this process. A reply from Fr McMahan has been received but a reply from Mr McGrath is necessary to take this issue further.
- **Jesse Tree** - Isobel advised that this year's Jesse Tree appeal is up and running. Fr Berry to contact Sister Roseanne again after Christmas to make arrangements for her to visit the Parish to explain how our donations are put to use.
- **Travelling Nativity** -The Travelling Nativity is organised for this year and is at present moving around families in our Parish in the lead up to Christmas.
- **Signage** - Brian advised that the quotes for the roadside sign outside the Church are in and this will be going ahead. Agreement still to be reached on the colour of the sign.

- **Our Lady of Paisley Icon** – The visit to our Parish is confirmed for the first week in March. There are ideas available on how to celebrate this and it was suggested that the Liturgy Committee could discuss the options at their next meeting. We will discuss further at next PPC meeting on 04 February 2016
- **Altar Servers Outing and Christmas Treat** - Jackie advised that Ellen was happy to organise the rota for Altar Servers but felt a bit out of her depth with the fundraising activity to help with the outing. Owen advised that Ellen should provide a costing for the Funworld activity for the approval of the Finance Committee. Jackie to advise Ellen to organise selection boxes for the Altar Servers in recognition of great service and commitment that the children provide each week at Mass.

5. The meeting was closed and date of next meeting will be 04 February 2016