

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

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Thursday 11th February 2016 at 7.00pm

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

Apologies: Hazel Mitchell, Amy Shearer.

1. WELCOME AND PRAYER

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

2. MINUTE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute from the previous meeting held on 3rd December 2015 was taken as read and approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- **Retaining and Re-energising the Youth:** Julia reported that the Youth Sub-Committee had met twice since the last PPC meeting. The Youth Committee and six students from St Columba's studying for their Caritas award are organising a 5-a-side football tournament to be held at Wemyss Bay Community Centre on Sunday 10th April 10-4pm. The students will be responsible for the organisation of the event, including fundraising ideas, team selection, advertising etc. They will meet to discuss the ideas and plans at school and report back to the Youth Sub-Committee at the next meeting scheduled for 10th March. The plans are all in hand for now but it is expected that wider Parish involvement and support will be required nearer the time
- **Synod - Interim Report:** Brian had sent out the latest Synod interim report to the members prior to this meeting. It was felt that possibly still more input was required from previously asked questions. In a matter previously discussed regarding the role of women in the Church, Fr Berry informed the meeting that Bishop John has advised that there are bursaries available for women to study theology. While these emanate from France they would be on an "Open University" type basis. These opportunities exist and it was hoped this information would be made more widely available.

The question previously raised re Catholic Education teaching certificate, being more easily accessible is to be raised directly with the Diocese.

Another Synod topic, the Laity involvement in the Parish was raised by Owen. It relates to the issue of an updated contingency plan should the situation arise that the Parish had to operate without a Priest. Do we have one? Should we have one? What do other Parishes have? It was felt this would be a positive thing to do and we will look at proposals as to how best to do this. Owen and Debbie will put a few ideas together and report back at the next meeting. If anyone has any input on a contingency plan please email Owen or Debbie.

Any thoughts, feelings or ideas for the Synod topics please forward to Brian, Synod email address or directly to Bishop John.

- **Establishing a Social Committee:** As discussed at the last meeting there are plenty of volunteers happy to assist with social events but no-one really willing to take charge. It is proposed that a calendar of events is drawn up with hopefully different volunteers from the Parish taking charge of each event. Louise advised that herself and Anne have ideas for future events including:

- i) **St Patricks Night Celebration-** this is planned for Friday 18th March.
- ii) **Easter Egg Hunt** - Easter Sunday.
- iii) **Parish Fete** - August.

There are plans also for the end of the year, including a race night and a ladies night. We were reminded of the importance of the social aspect of these events as we come together as a Parish and not just the fundraising side.

- **Our Lady Of Paisley Icon visit :** The visit to our Parish will be from 3rd March to 10th March. Fr Berry advised that when the statue arrives in to the Parish the Deacon will hold a celebration at that time, but how we will celebrate during the visit of the statue is still to be finalised. Possible ideas include a Holy Hour and a proposal to involve the children of the Parish in the laying of flowers at the foot of the statue. Fr Berry to provide more information via the newsletter soon.

4. AOCB

- **Sunday School Invitation:** Gillian, on behalf of the Sunday School, invited the PPC members to visit the Sunday School to see them at work. The open days will be Sunday 13th or Sunday 20th March. The Sunday School is held at Wemyss Bay Community Centre from 11am until 1145 and everyone will be most welcome. Gillian will send a reminder email to the PPC members nearer the time of the open days.
- **Visit to Cathedral Door of Mercy:** Brian advised that as part of the Holy Year of Mercy celebrations, a door at St Peter's in the Vatican **has been** unbricked to allow visitors to pass through the door to symbolise moving into a state of being closer to God. This celebration is being replicated in Cathedrals closer to home and a Parish pilgrimage to the Cathedral is proposed. This could take place up until November and dates will be disclosed at the next meeting. Julia reminded us that some children from the Parish are visiting the Vatican at the end of May and the possibility that they may like to talk about their visit prior to the Parish pilgrimage to the Cathedral. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.
- **Passover Meal:** Fr Berry had not heard anything from Inverkip Parish Church regarding their hosting of the Passover meal on the Monday of Holy Week. Owen will speak to the Minister regarding this with a view to our Parish hosting the Passover meal if they were unable to.
- **Sisters of Life- Jesse Tree:** Fr Berry was speaking to Sister Andrea of the Sisters of Life and proposes to invite her to visit our PPC to discuss the work of her Order and to see if we can offer our assistance with the good work they do. She would meet with the PPC prior to the wider Parish in order to gauge how best to proceed.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Meeting closed. The next meeting will be Thursday 21st April 2016.