

**Meeting:** St. Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council  
**Date:** Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019  
**Location:** St. Joseph's, Kilmarnock

**Present:**

Helen Donald (HD) <i>Chair</i>	Anne Dorrian (AD)
Gareth Matthews (GM)	Hugh Matthews (HM)
Margaret McGrath (MM) <i>Vice Chair</i>	Fr Stephen McGrattan (SM) <i>Parish Priest</i>
Paul Nicholson (PN)	Kieran O'Neill (KO)
Mark O'Neill (MO)	Clare Power (CP)
Helena Rameckers (HR) <i>Secretary</i>	Alistair Thomson (AT)

**Apologies:** Lizzie Heron (LH)

Item	Notes	Action
1.	<b>Sederunt:</b> All members except LH were present. SM welcomed everyone, and HD opened the meeting with a scripture reading and prayer.	
2.	<b>Minutes and Matters Arising:</b> The previous meeting's minutes were approved by HD and seconded by CP. There were no matters arising.	
3.	<b>Organ Update:</b> The organ restoration project has been launched. 7 recitals have been arranged for 2020, with distinguished organists. The hope is that some funding will be raised towards the cost of the refurbishment, as well as raising the profile of the organ in the wider community, e.g. encouraging school children to develop an interest in the organ. The organ's historical listing status, the fact that it has not been modified in any way, and the development of a restoration plan all stand grant funding applications in good stead. Matthew Hynes has promoted the recitals at Ayr town hall recitals, and he will meet with the parish organ restoration team in December to assist with the development of a fundraising plan. Leaflets detailing the recitals are available for distribution, and a smaller flyer is also available. Businesses can sponsor a recital for £200 if they wish.	
4.	<b>Review of recent events:</b> a) Mass for the Sick: AT advised that around 35 people attended, and catering was done "in-house". Nobody required transport, which was most likely due to care home regulations requiring staff to accompany people wishing to attend; b) The Marian Way: John Cairney was delighted by the turnout at the Holy Hour, and was very moved by the event. People in attendance also found it very moving. Booklets were distributed to people who were unable to attend, and therefore the paintings were accessed by a wider audience; c) Extraordinary Mission Month talks: these were well attended, with favourable reports. The retreat was a very good day.	
5.	<b>Fabric:</b> a) This year's pointing work has been completed; b) Work on the hall toilets is underway, and around £18,000 towards the £30,000 cost was funded by grants; c) The crucifix from the porch has been installed in place of Station Twelve. The old Station will be kept safe, and may fit in the Sisters' chapel. An offer of payment for a plaque to be placed under the crucifix has been received; d) PN is overseeing quotations for lighting and painting renovation inside the church. The church will have to close during the renovation, with implications for how and	

	<p>where worship takes place. The quotations vary, but could total around £60,000 +VAT; the VAT, however, may be reclaimable. The work is becoming urgent, but may need to be preceded by work on the porch. PN recommended approaching it as one project, and HR advised this would be the best approach for grant funding applications;</p> <p>e) SM presented a proposal to enlarge and brighten the porch, extending it to the edge of the balcony. The old front doors would be reinstalled. PN proposed that extending the porch would provide a more substantial base for the balcony. The project needs costed, and an architect's drawing obtained. The builders could potentially complete this work instead of pointing next year.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary:</b> The building warrant for the work to the presbytery is expected imminently. Work could then begin in Spring 2020, with the convent ready for occupation by Summer 2020. Replacement of the upstairs windows can begin January 2020. Two Sisters are currently undertaking the immigration process, and the third will come from the mother house in Birmingham.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Young People's Ministries:</b> P6/7 pupils undertaking their Pope Francis Faith Awards could be encouraged to participate in Young People's Masses. These Masses have begun, and can be expected to grow.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Elderly Parishioners' Needs:</b> Some suggestions have been received, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Annual religious service in cemetery—this has been scheduled;</li> <li>b) Showing material from Catholic film archives—PN looped old Kilmarnock photos at the café one week, which generated conversation. This can be repeated after Mass on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, and will be advertised in the bulletin;</li> <li>c) Visits to Catholic historical sites;</li> <li>d) Speaker from Scottish Catholic archives;</li> <li>e) Local historical interest speaker.</li> </ul>	
9.	<p><b>Advent and Christmas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Vigil Mass 9.00 pm; Day Mass 11.00 am;</li> <li>b) Penance Service 9<sup>th</sup> December;</li> <li>c) Carol Service 19<sup>th</sup> December;</li> <li>d) Soup and rolls after Mass 1<sup>st</sup> December;</li> <li>e) Children's Christmas Party 8<sup>th</sup> December;</li> <li>f) Senior Citizens' Dinner 5<sup>th</sup> January.</li> </ul>	
10.	<p><b>RCIA:</b> Expressions of interest had been received from people wishing to join the Catholic Church; however none of these people have attended Mass or an introductory meeting. This provides an opportunity to develop the RCIA team. SM advised some people had noted interest on the census forms, and he will also invite people who are confident in presenting and sharing their faith to join the team.</p>	
11.	<p><b>AOCB:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Training will be required for young people wishing to join the team of EMs. It was agreed this could be extended to all EMs, and will take place in early Spring 2020. CP will provide young people with assistance meantime;</li> <li>b) AD queried whether pews could be padded. This was noted to be very expensive, although some rear pews could potentially have some cushioning;</li> <li>c) A query has been received about an altar rail to assist EMs and readers who struggle with the steps. SM advised there is no obvious place to situate this, due to the planned erection of a plinth to support a statue of Our Lady and Child Jesus which has been donated to the parish;</li> <li>d) Training will also be arranged for readers in 2020;</li> </ul>	

	e) PN passed on a query re: how the donations for the café are used, as interest in the café may be generated in people are aware of how the donations are spent. MM advised that in addition to ongoing running costs, approx. £600 has been spent on the kitchen, with around £900 banked.	
14.	<b>Next meeting:</b> Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020, 7.00 pm, St Joseph's Church Hall.  HD thanked all present, and SM closed the meeting in prayer.	