

**Meeting:** St. Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council  
**Date:** Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
**Location:** St. Joseph's Church Hall

**Present:**

Sr Mary Mabel Chukwu (MC)	Eileen Cunningham (EC)
Amélie Davidson (AD)	Sally Hamill (SH)
Ruairidh Heron (RH)	Janice Lennon (JL)
Margaret McGrath (MM)	Fr Stephen McGrattan (SM) <i>Parish Priest/Chair</i>
George McIntyre (GM)	Paul Nicholson (PN)
Sr Juliet Obiorah (JO)	Helena Rameckers (HR) <i>Secretary</i>
Judith Wilson (JW)	

**Apologies:** Laura Hand (LH), Hugh Matthews (HM), Peter Murphy (PM)

Item	Notes	Action
1.	<b>Sederunt and Welcome:</b> SM welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introductions were made due to the new membership for this new term of the PPC. A reading from the New Testament was followed by a reflection on the reading, and prayer.	
2.	<b>Sederunt:</b> As noted above.	
3.	<b>The purpose of the Parish Pastoral Council:</b> The document <i>The Purpose, Structure, Meetings and Business of the Parish Pastoral Council of St. Joseph's, Kilmarnock</i> was circulated and read. Members were issued with their own copy of the document for reference.  The following points were noted: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prayer leaders are required for future meetings;</li> <li>2. The June AGM is uncertain this year due to the new PPC membership and the effect the pandemic has had on PPC business.</li> </ol>	
4.	<b>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising:</b> The minutes were proposed by PN and seconded by MM.  There were no matters arising.	
5.	<b>Report on parish life:</b> SM reported the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A full schedule of prayer has returned, including the Rosary and Adoration;</li> <li>2. Many people have returned, although not everybody. Younger families in particular are not returning;</li> <li>3. Sacramental Preparation has begun for P3 children who will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation this year, and Confirmation and First Communion next year. Current P4 children will receive First Communion at the end of May;</li> <li>4. Foodbank has fully reopened again and able to offer tea/coffee and a chat if needed;</li> <li>5. Funds for the organ restoration are largely in place, and the restoration will begin in September with the ceiling hopefully being painted while the organ is away;</li> <li>6. Finances have not suffered throughout the pandemic, which is remarkable and was due to people setting up Standing Orders, or keeping their envelopes for when they could return to Mass;</li> </ol>	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. The Synod, which is taking place at the request of Pope Francis, will require a second parish encounter before the Diocesan Pre-Synodal Meeting, which will take place in St. Joseph's on 28<sup>th</sup> May. A diocesan synthesis will be sent to the Bishops' Conference, and a national synthesis will be created which will ultimately input to the Synod of Bishops in October 2023;</li> <li>8. Sycamore was run for 6 weeks in Oct/Nov '21;</li> <li>9. There has been no Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) this year but it will be advertised in the summer;</li> <li>10. Deacon Kevin Rennie's ordination to the priesthood will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> July in Dumfries, with either Archbishop Nolan or Archbishop Cushley;</li> <li>11. Fr Willie McFadden is Diocesan Administrator while we wait for the appointment of a new bishop.</li> </ol>	
6.	<p><b>Rebuilding the community after the worst of the pandemic:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As per item 5.1, a full schedule of prayer has resumed.</li> <li>2. Hall lets have not yet returned to normal although MM reported they are picking up.</li> <li>3. The Choir will not return for Easter, but will hopefully be back for Christmas or possibly the anniversary.</li> <li>4. SM will write a letter to all parishioners whose addresses are held to advise of Easter service times. Some discussion took place as to what else could be included in the letter, with the following points proposed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Reassure people of the safety of the church environment;</li> <li>b. Encourage people to get in touch with the parish office if they require specific help or support to return;</li> <li>c. Offer weekday Mass as an alternative to people who are understandably nervous of busy environments;</li> <li>d. Badges to indicate a preference for social distancing.</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Life Teen was unable to form due to the outbreak of the pandemic. SM will speak about it at Mass to encourage people to volunteer to form a core group of leaders, with a view to a September start, possibly including Caritas students.</li> <li>6. Junior PPC did not receive any interest and may emerge as a result of Life Teen.</li> <li>7. Tuesday Café will hopefully resume on 19<sup>th</sup> April, following a scheduled meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April.</li> <li>8. Social events are resuming with Sunday teas, and the following further events were proposed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Further Sycamore course;</li> <li>b. Halloween quiz and St Andrew's ceilidh;</li> <li>c. Hot rolls after certain Sunday Masses.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><i>SM: send letter covering these points and Easter service times to all parishioners whose address is held by the parish.</i></p> <p><i>SM: address parish re: Life Teen.</i></p> <p><i>MM: keep SM updated for newsletter etc.</i></p>
7.	<p><b>175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A photograph exhibition in the church hall will be arranged by PN, MM and SH. This will need to be advertised in the newsletter as soon as possible. A suitable method to exhibit the photos will need to be found.</li> <li>2. Short clips of parishioners being interviewed will be arranged by AD, and Lucy Dorrian will also be approached to help. PN will address the parish to explain the project after Easter.</li> <li>3. Family Fun Day in August will be arranged by MM, EC, GM, RH and JW. This will take place on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> August.</li> </ol>	<p><i>PN, MM, SH to arrange photo exhibition preparation; parish office newsletter notice.</i></p> <p><i>AD to speak with Lucy; PN to address parish.</i></p> <p><i>MM, EC, GM, RH, JW to arrange fun day.</i></p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. A pilgrimage was discussed for May 2023, with the options of Rome &amp; Assisi, or Santiago &amp; Fatima, being preferred. SM will speak with Alba Tours about this possibility.</li> <li>5. A parish group will visit the organ workshop in Durham while the organ is being restored. It was agreed that this could be an overnight trip, combined with a visit to Lindisfarne. This would need to take place between Sept and Nov while the organ is undergoing restoration, and the school Oct week would be a possibility. SM will speak with Alba Tours about this as well.</li> <li>6. A Friday evening dinner dance to close the anniversary year (i.e. late May/early June 2023) in the Park Hotel was agreed to be a good idea. EC will contact the Park Hotel to enquire about date availability and costs.</li> <li>7. Mass on 13<sup>th</sup> June followed by drinks etc in the hall is in hand already, with the clergy of the diocese invited and other denominations also to be invited. MM and JW will arrange the refreshments in the hall.</li> <li>8. A timelapse camera filming the dismantling and, if possible, restoration, of the organ was agreed to be a good idea. AD will form a proposal for how this could be approached. SH suggested it may also be a good project for a college student.</li> <li>9. A dramatic presentation of “how it all began” was proposed at the last PPC meeting. EC will follow this up. Raymond McCluskey may give a talk on the history of the parish, perhaps a week before the anniversary Mass (i.e. Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May). AD noted this should be advertised via social media to reach a wider audience.</li> <li>10. PN, MM and SH will form a subcommittee to draw up a project plan and oversee the rollout of these arrangements.</li> </ol>	<p><i>SM: contact Alba Tours</i></p> <p><i>SM: contact Alba Tours</i></p> <p><i>EC: contact Park Hotel</i></p> <p><i>MM, JW to arrange hall refreshments.</i></p> <p><i>AD: create proposal for timelapse project.</i></p> <p><i>EC: follow up the idea of a dramatic presentation.</i></p> <p><i>PN, MM, SH to form project subcommittee.</i></p>
8.	<p><b>Fabric:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. SM reported that good progress is being made with the project plan which was created a few years ago for the fabric projects. The Building Fund has been a good support, with a pre-Covid annual intake of approx. £20,000. Total fabric costs are around £60,000 per year.</li> <li>2. The new doors are in place. They need another coat of varnish, and the steps are being built. Hopefully by Easter they will be in use, however they will only be used for special occasions and Holy Days due to cars passing the entrance.</li> <li>3. The pews require sanding and varnishing. There have been around 10 volunteers, and Danny Gorman will “trial” a pew from hall storage to determine the best way to complete this project.</li> <li>4. Rewiring and lighting are hoped to be done in 2023. The church will be closed for this, and for the ceiling painting.</li> <li>5. EC queried whether the hall kitchen will be upgraded. SM advised it will, and that there is likely to be funding available.</li> <li>6. Organ restoration funds have all been secured, with some income still expected from recitals.</li> <li>7. No pointing has taken place this year as scaffolding is not wanted around the building for the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. There are plenty of other current costs so taking a break from pointing for a year is beneficial.</li> </ol>	

9.	<p><b>Stewardship:</b> There has been no drop in income throughout the pandemic. Special Collections have suffered but is expected to increase again as people are back in church with their envelopes. The SCIAF Ukraine appeal raised almost £6,000 which was extremely generous and appreciated. The Parochial Investment Fund raises 2% interest and funds can be drawn down at any time.</p> <p>RH asked whether there is the facility for contactless payments. SM advised the infrastructure is present in the porch shop, but not set up. RH will look into options.</p>	<p>RH: explore contactless payment options.</p>
10.	<p><b>AOCB:</b> PN queried how the anniversary would be commemorated. Various options were considered, and a Papal Blessing was agreed to be suitable. SM suggested a way is found to help people in need, and all members should consider how best to do this.</p>	<p>All: consider options for helping people in need as part of anniversary commemoration.</p>
11.	<p><b>Office Bearers:</b> The following Office Bearers were elected: <b>Chair: Paul Nicholson</b> <b>Vice Chair: Amélie Davidson</b> <b>Secretary: George McIntyre</b></p>	
10.	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting:</b> Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> May at 6:30 pm in St. Joseph's Hall.</p>	