

Meeting: St. Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council
Date: Monday, 30th May 2022
Location: St. Joseph's Church Hall

Present: Eileen Cunningham (EC) Amélie Davidson (AD) *Vice Chair*
 Sally Hamill (SH) Laura Hand (LH)
 Ruairidh Heron (RH) Janice Lennon (JL)
 Hugh Matthews (HM) Margaret McGrath (MM)
 Fr Stephen McGrattan (SM) *Parish Priest* George McIntyre (GM) *Secretary*
 Peter Murphy (PM) Paul Nicholson (PN) *Chair*
 Judith Wilson (JW)

Apologies: Sr Mary Mabel Chukwu (MC), Sr Juliet Obiorah (JO), Helena Rameckers (HR)

Item	Notes	Action
1.	<p>Welcome, Opening Prayer and Sederunt: SM welcomed everyone including two new attendees (LH and PM) to the meeting. AD read out the opening prayer as adapted from the Prayer for Parish Groups (D. Harrington & J. Kavanagh). PN as PPC Chair formally opened the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising: The minutes were proposed by JW and seconded by MM. There were no matters arising.</p>	
3.	<p>Report on parish life: SM reported the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More people are now attending Mass. It was commented that it was good to see faces again with most people opting not to wear face masks indicating further confidence and is a positive change post pandemic; 2. Ten children received their First Holy Communion on Sunday 22nd May 2022 followed by a celebratory First Communion breakfast held for the children, their families and the parish on Sunday 29th May 2022; 3. The organ will be removed for restoration in September 2022 and this is expected to be completed and back in place by December 2022; 4. The Synod, which is taking place at the request of Pope Francis, progressed to a second parish encounter. Fifty people attended the meeting held at St. Joseph's on Saturday 28th May 2022 to review the proposed diocesan report (synthesis) containing the findings of the Synod in the diocese. The diocesan meeting provided a further chance to refine the final draft of the report. 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; 5. PN commented that the return of the collection bags at the weekend Masses has been largely welcomed but there had been some embarrassment for those people already paying by standing order feeling obliged to further contribute to the collection. A notice was added to the newsletter (28/29th May 2022) to confirm that 	

	there was no further obligation to donate to the collection if paying by standing order and this was also reiterated by SM at the weekend Masses.	
4.	<p>Rebuilding the community after the worst of the pandemic:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hall lets have not yet returned to normal although MM reported they are picking up with two received in the last month. Prior to the pandemic there were at least a couple of bookings every month for events such as wedding receptions, anniversaries and birthdays; 2. Life Teen was unable to form due to the outbreak of the pandemic and involves resources for teaching and faith sharing for children. The package was purchased just before the pandemic and now just needs to be rolled out. An appeal for volunteers to form a core group of leaders will be made after the summer holiday, with a view to a September start, possibly including Caritas students; 3. Junior PPC may emerge as a result of Life Teen; 4. Tuesday Café restarted on the 19th April 2022 and numbers attending have begun to increase; 5. Social events are resuming with Sunday teas, and the following further events were proposed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Hot rolls after certain Sunday Masses. Restarted again on Sunday 29th May 2022 to celebrate with the children and families who recently made their First Holy Communion. About 60 people attended; b. Use of the open area. LH commented that with the better weather there may be further scope to hold other social events and possible prayer meetings; c. Mass at Kilmarnock Cemetery- Initial plans are for this to occur early November 2022. 	<p><i>SM: address parish re: Life Teen.</i></p> <p><i>MM: keep SM updated for newsletter etc.</i></p>
5.	<p>175th Anniversary:</p> <p>SM commented that there had been really good energy around this major milestone for Saint Joseph's, Kilmarnock.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PN, MM and SH formed a subcommittee to draw up a project plan and oversee the rollout of these arrangements. An action tracker was developed by SH to allow visibility of the status of the various activities and will be used to assist in the organisation and planning for the various events for the 175th anniversary. The spreadsheet can be made available to the PPC; 2. A photograph exhibition in the church hall is being arranged by PN, MM and SH. A request for photographs and memorabilia, to be provided before 6th June 2022, has been advertised weekly in the newsletters and PN also addressed the parish at Mass on Sunday 8th May 2022. Various items have been received to date including photographs from First Holy Communion, weddings, Beavers/Cubs/Scouts. A Powerpoint or slideshow presentation will also be made available in addition to table displays; 3. Further information in the form of a flier for the newsletter and poster for the noticeboard will be provided as plans are firmed up for other events; 4. Short clips of parishioners being interviewed will be arranged by AD, and Lucy Dorrian will also be approached to help with the technology involved. PN commented that it may be good to get a range of different age groups and perspectives; 	<p><i>PN, MM, SH to track actions; PN: provide PPC with spreadsheet action tracker as required.</i></p> <p><i>PN, MM, SH to arrange photo exhibition preparation.</i></p> <p><i>MM/AD to contact Lucy.</i></p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. A dramatic presentation of “how it all began” was proposed at the last PPC meeting. EC will check if this will be feasible; 6. Dr. Raymond McCluskey will present the history of the parish “The Last 175 Years” in the Church on Monday 6th June 2022 at 7 pm. Teas and coffees will be available after the presentation; 7. Preparations for Mass on Monday 13th June 2022 followed by drinks and nibbles in the hall are underway. The clergy of the diocese plus other denominations have been invited including Ministers from the Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches, the Leader of the Council and Provost. All the Altar servers have been invited and the music for the evening has been arranged and rehearsals underway. A number of further actions are required: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. PN will enquire about purchasing a cake for the event; b. Local Press- a photographer is to be identified; c. Welcome address- PN as Chair of the PPC will provide this; d. Stewarding/welcoming- individuals will be needed. SM will identify relevant individuals; e. Vestments- These will be coming from the Cathedral so can be brought over by Fr. David Borland and returned. SM will confirm arrangements; f. Car parking- It will be important to free up space for the evening so the normal daytime parking (i.e. by the Vets) will need to be empty a certain time or clear all day. SM will contact the relevant people; g. Chalice to be used in the Mass- The chalice used by the first priest to be ordained at St. Joseph’s (Fr. Martin McCluskey) will be used on the evening; 8. It was agreed that a Papal Blessing would be suitable way to commemorate the anniversary; 9. SM suggested a way is found to help people in need, and all members should consider how best to do this. Suggestions included helping refugees from Ukraine recently arriving in Kilmarnock was a possibility but further information would be needed to progress this; 10. Family Fun Day in August 2022 will be arranged by MM, EC, GM, RH and JW. This will take place on Sunday, 14th August 2022. It is intended that the attractions will include a bouncy castle, tombola, “splat the rat”, bottle and baking stalls with provision made for any inclement weather. A “petting zoo” for children was also suggested by LH. Donations will be requested for both the bottle and baking stalls and this will be followed up in early July 2022. There will be jobs for several volunteers on the day; 11. 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 September and November 2022 while the organ is undergoing restoration, and the school October week would be a possibility. SM will speak with Alba Tours about this as well; 	<p><i>EC: follow up the idea of a dramatic presentation.</i></p> <p><i>MM: to arrange for teas/coffees</i></p> <p><i>MM, JW to arrange hall refreshments; PN: enquire about a cake; RH: confirm photographer; PN: provide welcome address; SM: identify stewards; SM: Confirm arrangements for vestments; SM: contact vets.</i></p> <p><i>SM: to progress</i></p> <p><i>All: consider options for helping people in need as part of anniversary commemoration.</i></p> <p><i>MM, EC, GM, RH, JW to arrange fun day; Donation request to be made by mid July 2022.</i></p> <p><i>SM: contact Alba Tours.</i></p>
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	<p>12. 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;</p> <p>13. A Friday evening dinner dance to close the anniversary year was agreed. Friday 28th April 2023 in the Park Hotel has now been booked. The entertainment and menu choices need to be confirmed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Entertainment (band or other option) will need to be booked as soon as possible and potentially also have a fallback option; b. EC provided the menu options to the PPC members for further review and agreement; <p>14. PN proposed that a staged Whithorn Way Sponsored Walk followed by Mass at St. Ninian's Cave, Whithorn could be another event to mark the anniversary. There are number of ways that this could be done and further details will be worked up;</p> <p>15. A pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi for May or possibly early June 2023 is currently being proposed and costed. SM provided initial cost details as received from Alba Tours and will confirm the details soon. The maximum number for the trip could be 45 (a coach full).</p>	<p>AD: contact Lucy Dorrian.</p> <p>EC: determine possibilities for music;</p> <p>PPC members to feed back to EC.</p> <p>PN: provide further details on options.</p> <p>SM: confirm details for trip with Alba Tours.</p>
6.	<p>Fabric:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lighting and Painting- A paper has been submitted to the diocesan finance committee requesting approval for the spend on the upgrade and a response is currently awaited. The preference is to complete this work when the organ is away being restored; 2. Organ restoration plan is ongoing with removal planned for September 2022 and return by December 2022; 3. Restoration work on the pews by light sanding and application of Danish oil was completed in April 2022 (led by Danny Gorman and three volunteers over two days 26/27th April 2022). The pews are looking much better and a further application may be appropriate and required in another 6 months; 4. Two new lights for the front door have arrived and are expected to be fitted and in place soon; 5. Access to Altar- Safe access potentially in the form of a handrails to the Altar for those performing certain duties (reading, Altar serving and Minister of Communion) has been identified. The most appropriate means to ensure safe access to the Altar is to be determined. GM also suggested that a provision could also be made for wheelchair users to perform roles such as readings without having to access the Altar. 	<p>SM: to progress</p>
7.	<p>Stewardship:</p> <p>Contactless card payments: RH presented back on the viable options, namely, four card readers. Three options do not require a monthly fee, one does. Of the three options (Sumup, Zettle and Square) there is an initial device cost and thereafter a transaction fee. Potentially Square may be the favoured option.</p>	<p>SM & RH: to progress</p>

8.	<p>Cost of living crisis: SM commented that we will need to monitor what will be needed going forward and what additional demands there may be on existing services provided such as the Wednesday drop-in, community café or other ad hoc requests. Some 80 people have located to Kilmarnock from Ukraine with more to follow and have arrived with nothing. At the moment it is difficult to estimate what assistance will be required other than what is already being provided via local government.</p>	
9.	<p>Parish Pastoral Council guidance notes: As the previous meeting was the first for a number of the Council members, a meeting guidance note was prepared to assist in the continued smooth running of the meeting. GM presented the document compiled from inputs from HR, PN, SM and GM. Council members were issued with their own copy of the document for reference. The guidance notes were also developed to complement the previously issued document “<i>The Purpose, Structure, Meetings and Business of the Parish Pastoral Council of St. Joseph’s, Kilmarnock</i>”.</p>	
10.	<p>AOCB:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children’s colouring competition: AD suggested we hold a competition for children involving colouring in a picture of St. Joseph’s Church; 2. Post-Covid: SM commented on a number of positive aspects that have started to return to normal with Holy Water reintroduced and people only using masks where necessary. Returning to a handshake for the Sign of Peace will be considered over the coming weeks. The return of the chalice at Communion is maybe a bit further away and no decision on this has been made; 3. SSVP: AD commented that there seems to be more frequent urgent requests to provide donations for the foodbank in the newsletter. A means of identifying stock requirements earlier was discussed. 	<p>AD: to progress</p> <p>SM: tom discuss with SSVP</p>
	<p>Date and time of next meeting: Monday, 8th August 2022 at 6:30 pm in St. Joseph’s Hall.</p>	