

Meeting: St. Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council
Date: Monday, 24th October 2022
Location: St. Joseph's Church Hall

Present:

Eileen Cunningham (EC)	Amélie Davidson (AD) <i>Vice Chair</i>
Ruairidh Heron (RH)	Janice Lennon (JL)
Margaret McGrath (MM)	Fr Stephen McGrattan (SM) <i>Parish Priest</i>
George McIntyre (GM) <i>Secretary</i>	Peter Murphy (PM)
Paul Nicholson (PN) <i>Chair</i>	Sr Juliet Obiorah (JO)
Fr Kevin Rennie (KR) <i>Assistant Priest</i>	Judith Wilson (JW)

Apologies: Sr Mary Mabel Chukwu (MC), Sally Hamill (SH), Laura Hand (LH), Sr Mary Rose Maduka (MRM), Hugh Matthews (HM), Helena Rameckers (HR)

Item	Notes	Action
1.	Welcome, Opening Prayer and Sederunt: PN welcomed everyone to the meeting and as PPC Chair formally opened the meeting. KR in his inaugural PPC meeting was kind enough to provide us with the opening prayer.	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising: The minutes were proposed by JW and seconded by MM. There were no matters arising.	
3.	Welcome to Father Kevin: PN provided a warm welcome to KR and asked for initial feedback on his experience so far in the parish. KR confirmed that it had been very positive, very welcoming and a good experience so far.	
4.	Life Teen: Life Teen as previously discussed 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 before the pandemic and now needs to be rolled out. There are two packages to be used, namely, EDGE for P7 to S3 and Life Teen for teenagers in S4 to S6. SM made an appeal at Mass for volunteers to form a core group of leaders with a view to a September 2022 start. Although a couple of volunteers have come forward there is a need for further support. Initial training was provided earlier in October 2022 providing an insight into the materials. The training materials have been delivered successfully at a parish level within the Archdiocese. SM will make a further appeal to parents to become involved in the Life Teen roll out and provide further information on what is required.	<i>SM: to address parish</i>

5.	<p>175th Anniversary:</p> <p>Events to Date:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A lot of planned activities have now been covered to date most notably: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The presentation of the history of the parish “The Last 175 Years” by Dr. Raymond McCluskey on 6th June 2022; b. The celebratory Mass held on 13th June 2022 with the specially prepared musical arrangement and the great turnout by both the parish and local dignitaries; c. Reception after both events above with the welcomed chance to interact and enjoy both occasions; 2. Photograph exhibition- The photographs are believed to have all been returned to their owners but a final check will be made. 3. Slideshow presentation- Due to the limited chance to view this during the evening receptions, the slideshow was repeated during the Fun Day on Sunday 14th August 2022; 4. Family Fun Day on Sunday 14th August 2022- This went ahead successfully; 5. Parish visit to the Harrison and Harrison organ workshop in Durham- The visit to the workshop on Tuesday 18th October 2022 was very successful and it was particularly good to meet the people engaged in the restoration work while seeing the current status of the work. The trip included attendance at Evensong at Durham Cathedral, Mass at St. Cuthberts plus an organ recital by Andrew Reid at Cullercoats, North Shields; <p>Future plans:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Friday 28th April 2023 evening dinner dance to close the anniversary year in the Park Hotel has been booked. The Caprington Suite can accommodate a minimum of 120 people up to a maximum of 300. The latest update is: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Entertainment has been confirmed with Sean Kelly; b. The plan is to advertise the event early February 2023 with a cut off for final numbers by mid-March 2023; c. EC previously provided the menu options to the PPC members for further review and agreement. A decision on the menu is to be made nearer the time (ie beginning of 2023) and a taster session for two people will be held following that; 7. A pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi for May or possibly early June 2023 is currently under review due to the ongoing travel issues. This is now awaiting on the travel company to provide the revised package details. Potential options for the accommodation are proving a difficulty due to closures caused by Covid but options are expected by about 28th October 2022 and will be publicised when available; 8. Due to technical issues the timelapse camera option will be replaced with a series of photographs at various stages of the organ restoration. SM contacted Raymond (RM) and Fiona McCluskey (FM) to progress this; 9. Video clip interviews involving a cross section of parishioners is being arranged to record their experiences of community life in St. Joseph’s. Fiona McCluskey has agreed to produce and interview a number of parishioners from a list generated at the last meeting. KR will also assist with the technical aspects; 	<p><i>PN, MM, to check all photos returned</i></p> <p><i>PPC members to feed back to EC early 2023</i></p> <p><i>SM: to liaise with Alba Tours</i></p> <p><i>RM, FM: Ongoing to Mar 2023</i></p> <p><i>FM, KR to progress in Feb 2023</i></p>
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	<p>10. It was agreed that a Papal Blessing would be suitable way to commemorate the anniversary. The timing will be to achieve this by the end of the anniversary year;</p> <p>11. In the previous PPC meeting SM suggested a way be found to help people in need and all members to consider how best to do this. Various options were previously discussed but no definitive target was identified other than to concentrate on existing activities such as the foodbank. SM suggested that the Christmas collection could be used to fund any future needs.</p> <p>12. Inclusion of sick and housebound parishioners- It was previously proposed that parishioners unable to participate in the anniversary events could be included by sending out something to commemorate this major milestone in the life of the parish, for example, a special prayer card marking the anniversary. SM confirmed that this will be based on a good photograph of the church after the lighting has been completed. Also, it is intended to re-start the Mass for the Sick in February 2023;</p> <p>13. The action tracker will continue to be used to assist in the organisation and planning for the remaining events for the 175th anniversary. The spreadsheet will also be made available to the PPC.</p>	<p>SM: to progress</p> <p>All: consider options for helping people in need as part of anniversary commemoration.</p> <p>SM: to progress</p> <p>PN, MM, SH to track actions; PN: provide PPC with spreadsheet action tracker as required</p>
6.	<p>Ministries: The role of Passkeepers, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers (both within the church and for house bound), Welcomers and parishioners participating in the offertory procession was previously discussed with a view to involve more people and provide opportunities for others to participate. A description of each of the above roles will provide clarity for future involvement. Clare Power (CP) has agreed to progress this.</p> <p>SM commented that the Passkeepers for the first and second collections at the weekend Masses need to start the collection a bit earlier.</p>	<p>CP: to progress</p> <p>PN, GM to feedback to appropriate teams</p>
7.	<p>Fabric:</p> <p>1. Organ restoration plan- An unpredicted split in the wood of the great organ windchest and the safe removal of asbestos from some internal components of the organ have delayed the restoration work and completion is now expected by March 2023. The additional work will come at an extra cost. As previously stated, once the organ is fully restored a solemn blessing will be provided by SM;</p> <p>2. Lighting and Painting- The painting has been completed and the final task for the lighting installation is expected to be completed on 25th October 2022;</p> <p>3. Pews- Restoration of the pews was previously completed in April 2022. The opportunity to add a further application of Danish oil while the church is closed for the lighting and painting work was proposed but not possible due to the nature of the other work ongoing. It is anticipated that this will progress at an appropriate point from early November 2022;</p>	<p>SM: to progress Mar 2023</p> <p>Established team to progress</p>

	<p>4. Access to Altar- A blacksmith visited the church on Tuesday 9th August 2022 in regard to the installation of a hand-rail on the lectern side of the altar. A response is still awaited despite a number of follow-ups and may mean going elsewhere;</p> <p>5. Building Fund- There has been unforeseen expense from the original organ restoration plan and other ongoing maintenance work for the hall and the church buildings is required going forward.</p> <p>A number of fund-raising options were discussed but it was agreed that an appeal for additional funds to the value of £20,000 would be made first at the weekend Masses.</p>	<p>SM: to progress</p> <p>SM: to progress</p>
8.	<p>Cost of living crisis:</p> <p>1. Warm spaces initiative- A local newspaper ((Kilmarnock Standard) has been running an article on the availability of warm spaces within the community. Saint Joseph's has been added to the local community list with the inclusion of the Tuesday Community Café and the Wednesday foodbank/drop in;</p> <p>2. IT equipment- RH reported that there was the potential for the re-use of castaway IT equipment from his work for those in need and unable to afford IT equipment. The SSVP are to be made aware of this possible resource for somebody in need who could benefit from access of computer/IT equipment.</p>	<p>GM to make SSVP aware and for SSVP to consult RH where appropriate</p>
9.	<p>Activities for senior parishioners:</p> <p>KR has recently completed training for using a mini-bus and there is an organised trip going to the Marian Grotto at Carfin on Monday 7th November 2022. In order to provide additional drivers and back-up to continue with these types of outings, there is a need for further drivers to be trained.</p> <p>MM is due to undergo refresher training and PN will add to this to be registered as well. There may be the potential for another driver and the individual is to be contacted.</p>	<p>MM to contact potential 4th driver</p>
10.	<p>Defibrillator installation and CPR training:</p> <p>MM provided an update on the current status. The unit will be fitted outside the hall and made available to both the parish and also to the wider community.</p> <p>MM is to contact Dennis Graham (DGr) and Jim Todd (electrician) (JT) for the installation.</p> <p>MM is a qualified trainer and is willing to provide training in the use of the defibrillator and CPR training to those who wish it.</p>	<p>MM: to contact DGr and JT</p> <p>MM: to arrange training sessions when appropriate</p>
11.	<p>Charitable Activities:</p> <p>Donation to Ecuador- A recent donation of netball and football strips has been provided by the local college. This donation includes 8 big bags of strips. Fr. Martin Chambers has a project running in Ecuador and the plan is have them despatched out there to coincide with his next visit in October 2022. An issue arose concerning the high cost of sending the big bags out to Ecuador and another way with smaller amounts is being progressed via Danny Gorman (DGo).</p>	<p>DGo: to progress</p>

12.	<p>Masses for the Deceased: SM confirmed that there will be two Masses held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday 5th November 2022- Mass to be celebrated at Kilmarnock Cemetery (Grassyards Road). St Matthews will be utilised if the weather is inclement; • Sunday 6th November 2022- Mass to be celebrated for the faithful departed of our parishes who have died during the last year. 	
13.	<p>AOCB:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Housebound – A request was discussed concerning being able to disclose the names of the sick and those who have died to allow prayers to be said for them to parishioners who are unable to attend Mass. It was considered by the Council that it was a lovely sentiment but due to sensitivities and also confidentiality issues that would need to be adhered to that this would not be possible. 2. New main doors to the church- Concern was raised regarding traffic passing the doors especially after Masses and with potential poor lighting outside that this posed a risk to pedestrians/children. SM stated that there were two new bright lights installed so should assist with the visibility but that the signage for cars will be improved to highlight the need to go slow at this point. 3. Children’s Party: The party will be organised on a date to be confirmed. Further information will be made available in due course. 	<p><i>JW to feedback on the lights SM to contact DGr about signage</i></p>
	<p>Date and time of next meeting: Monday, 23rd January 2023 at 6:30 pm in St. Joseph’s Church Hall.</p> <p>Opening prayer at next meeting: JL.</p>	<p><i>JL to prepare and read out opening prayer at next meeting</i></p>