

Meeting: St. Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council
Date: Monday, 23rd January 2023
Location: St. Joseph's Church Hall

Present: Sr Mary Mabel Chukwu (MC) Eileen Cunningham (EC)
 Sally Hamill (SH) Laura Hand (LH)
 Janice Lennon (JL) Sr Mary Rose Maduka (MRM)
 Hugh Matthews (HM) Margaret McGrath (MM)
 Fr Stephen McGrattan (SM) *Parish Priest* George McIntyre (GM) *Secretary*
 Peter Murphy (PM) Paul Nicholson (PN) *Chair*
 Fr Kevin Rennie (KR) *Assistant Priest*

Apologies: Amélie Davidson (AD) *Vice Chair*, Ruairidh Heron (RH), Sr Juliet Obiorah (JO), Helena Rameckers (HR), Judith Wilson (JW)

Item	Notes	Action
1.	<p>Welcome, Opening Prayer and Sederunt:</p> <p>PN welcomed everyone to the meeting and as PPC Chair formally opened the meeting. JL provided the opening prayer.</p> <p>HR stepped down from the PPC due to new work commitments. SM and the PPC members recognised HR's valued contribution to the PPC over her tenure.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising:</p> <p>The minutes were proposed by MM and seconded by EC.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
3.	<p>Life Teen:</p> <p>There is more work to do before launching this package and although actions are being taken it will not be ready by Lent. KR has prepared a sign-up sheet with the initial group being engaged in the P7 to S3/S4 age groups.</p>	
4.	<p>175th Anniversary:</p> <p>Future plans:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Friday 28th April 2023 evening dinner dance to close the anniversary year in the Park Hotel- as previously stated, the venue (Caprington Suite accommodating 120 to a maximum of 300 people) and the entertainment (Sean Kelly) have been booked. The remaining actions identified were: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The event needs to be advertised now via the parish newsletter and in the Facebook page. A poster will be created to facilitate this; 	<p>LH: to create poster SM: to progress Newsletter/ Facebook page advert</p>

	<p>b. The cut off for final numbers is by mid-March 2023;</p> <p>c. EC previously provided the menu options to the PPC members for further review and agreement. A decision on the menu is required by the venue no later than 2-3 weeks before the event and a taster session for two people will be held following the menu decision. A sub-team will review the requirements for the venue, menu choice and potential for complimentary first drink and photograph presentation projected in the room;</p> <p>d. A raffle was suggested as part of the evening’s entertainment. Depending on the sub-team feedback there may be a further request for donations at an appropriate time;</p> <p>2. A pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi (2023)– While some people have shown interest in the proposed pilgrimage in June 2023, the numbers have not been sufficient to make the pilgrimage viable at this time. Consideration will be given to organising an alternative pilgrimage in 2024;</p> <p>3. 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> <p>4. 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>5. 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 was completed. The plan to re-start the Mass for the Sick has been changed from February 2023 to later in spring to avoid the colder weather;</p> <p>6. The action tracker will continue to be used to assist in the organisation and planning for the remaining events for the 175th anniversary.</p>	<p><i>EC, LH, MM to progress and provide feedback to the PPC within 7-10 days</i></p> <p><i>PPC: carry forward to 2024</i></p> <p><i>FM, KR to progress in Feb 2023</i></p> <p><i>SM: to progress</i></p> <p><i>SM: to progress</i></p> <p><i>SH to track actions</i></p>
5.	<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.</p> <p>A description of the various ministries was provided by CP and shared with the Council members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>SM also commented at the previous meeting that the Passkeepers for the first and second collections at the weekend Masses need to start the collection a bit earlier. A further</p>	

	<p>document was created by GM, PN in collaboration with SM outlining the various timings and was shared out to Passkeepers.</p> <p>The above documents will be used and compiled potentially in A5 booklet format.</p>	<p>SM, KR to progress</p>
6.	<p>Fabric:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organ restoration plan- The restoration work and completion are expected by March 2023 with the organ installation starting 6th February, pipes in place by 6th March and then “voiced” by the end of March 2023. A certain level of silence will be required for this last pipe optimising stage and hence access to the church for prayer will not be possible. The church will require to be closed. The additional costs for the installation will be around a third more than anticipated. As previously stated, once the organ is fully restored a solemn blessing will be provided by SM; 2. Lighting- This is almost complete with one task remaining, namely, the illumination of the organ case; 3. Pews- As a follow up to the restoration of the pews in April 2022, a further application of Danish oil to the pews was progressed in October 2022; 4. Access to Altar- a photograph of the proposed hand rail was provided by SM to the PPC and the costs are just awaited before progressing; 5. Building Fund- The building fund appeal continues to grow and it is hoped the required target of £20,000 will be reached by Easter. 	<p>SM: to progress Mar 2023</p> <p>SM: to progress</p>
7.	<p>Cost of living crisis:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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. GM contacted a SSVP representative to make them aware of this possible resource and the link between RH and SSVP is now in place. 	
8.	<p>Activities for senior parishioners:</p> <p>Mini-bus- In order to provide additional drivers and back-up to continue with various outings, there was a need for further drivers to be trained. MM and PN have now both completed the necessary training. As previously stated there may be the potential for another driver and the individual is to be contacted.</p> <p>The first trip using the mini-bus was to the Carfin Grotto. It is planned that there will be further trips from March to October 2023 (locally to start with) with the itinerary to be published in due course. SSVD intend to sponsor this to keep running costs for participants reasonable. The next trip on Friday 3rd March 2023 is to Silverburn shopping centre. Once per month, housebound parishioners who can't attend Mass will be able to be transported free of charge. The initial journey involved five parishioners and is expected to be up to ten.</p>	

9.	<p>Defibrillator installation and CPR training:</p> <p>The unit will be fitted outside the hall and made available to both the parish and also to the wider community.</p> <p>MM has contacted the builders and Jim Todd (electrician) (JT) regarding the installation and is now just waiting for the task to be allocated.</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>	MM: to arrange training sessions when appropriate
10.	<p>Charitable Activities:</p> <p>Donation to Ecuador- A recent donation of netball and football strips was provided by the local college. The donation included 8 big bags of strips. Fr. Martin Chambers has a project running in Ecuador and the plan was to 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 was being assessed. While a small number of strips were able to be taken by Fr. Chambers directly, the remainder were deemed not suitable. It was therefore decided that a monetary donation from SSVP would be a better option and this has been progressed.</p>	
11.	<p>Hall utilisation:</p> <p>There have been some functions held in the hall but currently this has been limited within the parish due to the additional temporary storage requirements for the organ pipes and stage being used for the foodbank supplies. This will improve and will provide additional revenue following the completion of the organ restoration project. However, resource is an issue and one-off events can be managed but regular events become more difficult to resource.</p> <p>A Burns Supper is being planned by some parishioners for Saturday 11th March 2023. More information on what it entails will be provided in due course. Assistance will be required on Friday 10th March to help with the setting up and then on the day to help with serving food and drinks.</p>	
12.	<p>Car park signage and gritting facility:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Signage- Appropriate signage relating to car park usage is being currently; 2. Gritting facility- There are two gritting boxes in the car park and how these should be used in inclement weather and how they will be replenished opened up a possible advantage at no extra cost. By applying to the local Council to become a “Resilience Person” would enable us to receive a free grit spreader and also receive periodic replenishment of the bins by the local Council. 	SM, KR to contact DGr MM to send SM details
13.	<p>Midnight Mass timings:</p> <p>Some feedback was received regarding the late timing of the Christmas Eve and Easter vigil services. It appears that the lateness is becoming a barrier to some parishioners attending.</p>	

