

Meeting: St. Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council
Date: Monday, 13th March 2023
Location: St. Joseph's Church Hall

Present:

Sr Mary Mabel Chukwu (MC)	Desmond Cunningham (DC)
Amélie Davidson (AD) <i>Vice Chair</i>	Sally Hamill (SH)
Laura Hand (LH)	Ruairidh Heron (RH)
Janice Lennon (JL)	Margaret McGrath (MM)
Fr Stephen McGrattan (SM) <i>Parish Priest</i>	George McIntyre (GM) <i>Secretary</i>
Paul Nicholson (PN) <i>Chair</i>	Sr Juliet Obiorah (JO)
Fr Kevin Rennie (KR) <i>Assistant Priest</i>	Judith Wilson (JW)

Apologies: Eileen Cunningham (EC), Sr Mary Rose Maduka (MRM), Hugh Matthews (HM), Peter Murphy (PM)

Item	Notes	Action
1.	<p>Welcome, Opening Prayer and Sederunt:</p> <p>SM welcomed DC to the meeting. PN welcomed everyone to the meeting and as PPC Chair formally opened the meeting. PN also read out a reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Hebrews plus an opening prayer adapted from the words of St. Patrick as provided by HM.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising:</p> <p>The minutes were proposed by MM and seconded by SH. There were no matters arising.</p>	
3.	<p>175th Anniversary:</p> <p>Future plans:</p> <p>1. Friday 28th April 2023 evening dinner dance to close the anniversary year- as previously stated, the venue (Park Hotel Caprington Suite) and the entertainment (Sean Kelly) had been booked.</p> <p>Following a review by the sub-team and in order to keep the costs reasonable, a proposal to use the Church Hall instead of the Park Hotel was agreed by the Parish Pastoral Council after the last meeting and the subsequent actions relate to this venue change.</p> <p>The remaining actions identified were:</p> <p>a. The event has been advertised via the parish newsletter and now needs to be added to the Facebook page. To date around forty tickets have been sold with another forty tickets available. A further appeal to sell tickets will be made at the weekend Masses;</p>	<p><i>SM: to progress Facebook page advert and make a further appeal at Mass for further support</i></p>

	<p>b. A raffle was suggested as part of the evening’s entertainment. An appeal for donations will be made from next weekend (25/26th March);</p> <p>2. A pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi (2023)- while there was some interest in the proposed pilgrimage, the numbers were not sufficient to progress this at this time. Further consideration will be given to organising an alternative pilgrimage in 2024, see section 4;</p> <p>3. Timelapse film showing the dismantling and rebuilding of the organ- this is currently available on the Facebook page but a summarised version will be prepared as a record of the various stages involved in the restoration project;</p> <p>4. Video clip interviews involving a cross section of parishioners are being arranged to record their experiences of community life in St. Joseph’s. Fiona McCluskey (FM) 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>5. 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>6. The Mass for the Sick is to be held on Sunday 28th May 2023 at 1pm. SSVP are to be contacted regarding cover for transport costs. Assistance with catering on the day will be required;</p> <p>7. 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>SM: to progress</i></p> <p><i>FM, KR to progress</i></p> <p><i>FM, KR to progress</i></p> <p><i>SM: to progress</i></p> <p><i>SM: to progress PPC: to progress</i></p> <p><i>SH to track actions</i></p>
4.	<p>Pilgrimage:</p> <p>Potential venues for a pilgrimage in 2024 were discussed including Iona, Durham and other UK locations plus overseas locations including Knock, Salamanca and Santiago de Compostela. It may be possible to get cheaper accommodation at the Royal Scots College in Salamanca and potential availability is to be checked.</p>	<p><i>SM: to progress</i></p>
5.	<p>Ministries:</p> <p>A description of the various ministries and actions required for Passkeepers, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers (both within the church and for house bound), Welcomers and parishioners participating in the offertory procession has been compiled. The document is to be shared with the people currently performing these Ministries before it is more widely shared out to the parish.</p>	<p><i>SM, KR to progress</i></p>
6.	<p>Fabric:</p> <p>1. Organ restoration plan- The “voicing” process is to commence on Monday 20th March 2023 and will take about ten days to complete in time to be used for the Easter Vigil. There have been additional costs due to unforeseen circumstances in relation to electrical installations and asbestos removal. Once the organ is fully restored it will be solemnly blessed and dedicated using the</p>	

	<p>traditional French blessing of a pipe organ whereby the organist (Andrew Reid from Harrison and Harrison) improvises eight themes in response to invocations for the organ. This will take place on Sunday 16th April 2023 at 6 pm and will be two sessions of 35/40 minutes with an interval for refreshments in the hall;</p> <p>A further series of seven recitals has been set up starting from May 2023 and will be open to schools to attend the sessions;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Access to Altar- the hand rail is currently being manufactured; 3. Building Fund- The special maintenance fund appeal has just reached and exceeded the required target of £20,000 in time for Easter to cover the identified shortfall; 4. Heating costs- despite careful usage, the gas bill for the October 2022 to end February 2023 was £10,000, three to four times more than we would normally pay. 5. Pew cushions- the Church Cushion Company provided samples of pew cushions and fabrics for our consideration. It was decided not to progress at this time. 	<p><i>SM: to progress Mar 2023</i></p>
7.	<p>Activities for senior parishioners:</p> <p>Day trips using the mini-bus- the next planned trip is to New Abbey/Sweetheart Abbey in Galloway on Monday 1st May 2023.</p>	<p><i>KR to progress</i></p>
8.	<p>Defibrillator installation and CPR training:</p> <p>The unit will be fitted outside the hall and made available to both the parish and to the wider community.</p> <p>MM has contacted the builders and an electrician 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>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p> <p><i>MM: to arrange training sessions when appropriate</i></p>
9.	<p>Hall utilisation:</p> <p>The Burns Supper held in the Church Hall by parishioners on Saturday 11th March 2023 was reported to be a great success and has been planned again for next year on 27th January 2024. The PPC recognised the efforts made by the organisers and volunteers who came together to make this a great success. A sum of £775 was raised towards the special maintenance fund.</p>	
10.	<p>Car park signage and gritting facility:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Signage- Appropriate signage relating to car park usage is currently being reviewed; 2. Gritting facility- We now have a grit spreader and this will be in place in a couple of weeks. 	<p><i>SM, KR to contact DGr</i></p> <p><i>MM to progress</i></p>

11.	<p>Reintroduction of pre-COVID liturgical practices:</p> <p>The reintroduction of the pre-COVID liturgical practices, namely, the physical handshake of peace and drinking from the chalice were discussed. Some other parishes are looking to reinstate the reception of the chalice on Holy Thursday. Both could be reinstated in an opt-out basis, that is, if an individual wishes to wave rather than shake hands and opt out of taking reception of the chalice then this could allow things to return to a more normal status.</p> <p>Two things need to be checked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with the Eucharistic Ministers regarding how to purify the sacred vessels • See how practical this can be done but on an optional basis 	SM/KR to progress
12.	<p>Security:</p> <p>The provision for panic alarms both for individuals and for use in the Church buildings was raised particularly where individuals are isolated and need assistance. There are some arrangements already in place and no immediate action was identified but it may be something that may need further consideration going forward.</p>	
13.	<p>AOCB:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hallowe'en Quiz: A request was received from a parishioner regarding when this was to be held as a Friday was not the best day as some children were out guising. It was confirmed that it would be held on the Saturday this year. 2. A simplified doxology/Amen response was requested. 	SM to consider and advise
	<p>Date and time of next meeting:</p> <p>Monday, 22nd May 2023 at 6:30 pm in St. Joseph's Church Hall.</p> <p>Opening prayer at next meeting: JO</p>	JO to prepare and read out opening prayer at next meeting