

St Joseph and St Patrick's, Wemyss Bay

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Thursday 21 April 2022

Attendees: Helen McMunn (Chair) Marcus Barry, Louise McCauley, Michael Tormey, Gillian Hall, Father Berry, Brian Blacklaw, Hazel Mitchell, Anne Clark, Christine Malcolmson, Gerry McCauley, Debbie Galbraith, Rob Reid.

Apologies: John Wilson

1. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Helen welcomed everyone to the meeting and Father Berry opened with a prayer.

2. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Since our last scheduled meeting, Owen has resigned from the PPC. As a long-time Council member and Ex Chair we acknowledge his valuable contributions and would like to thank him for his excellent service. Pauline has also stepped down and again we thank her for her great service over the last few years. We welcome Rob Reid as a new member.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of our last meeting were approved. The typo was noted and Headstart will be changed to HeartStart.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- **HeartStart**

Christine liaised with HeartStart and has proposed the following dates for defibrillator refresher training: 12 May 22, 07 June 22, 29 June 22. The training will last approximately 90 minutes for 16 participants. It was agreed that it will be open to Mass Stewards first and eventually to the whole parish and Christine is happy to coordinate. After some discussion it was decided the proposed training on the 29 June would be postponed and rescheduled to a date in autumn.

- **Use of Social Media**

Louise, Debbie, and Helen will form a sub-group to discuss the importance of using of social media to help promote the parish. Debbie will look at dates and arrange a meeting for this group.

- **Foodbank**

It was acknowledged that the Foodbank donation box at the back of the church was receiving more donations recently. After some discussion it was agreed that the end of June appeal for the Foodbank will be promoted from the pulpit and the bulletin and go ahead as planned. Further discussion was made around the possibility of helping out the FoodBank with fuel cards. It was agreed this could be a

difficult process, and we will discuss at the next meeting. If the need for weekly deliveries to the Food Bank becomes necessary the volunteer rota will be put back in place.

5. Parish response to Synod 2023

Helen has submitted our parish response to the Diocese and thanked everyone for their efforts. When the Diocesan submission has been made this will be reported to the parish. It was understood that the Diocese received approximately 49 replies with two of those being from parishes rather than individuals. Helen suggested revisiting some of the comments from our parish Synod meetings at our away day to be held possibly in August.

The next Diocesan Parish Council meeting is to be held on 21 May 22.

6. Care and Kindness Group Update

The terms of reference for the group have been put together and they have had two meetings. A card has been drawn up showing a picture of the church, some information and is blank inside for a message to be added as required. The group is working towards getting the balance right through the correct safeguarding channels and Hazel will work with them regarding this.

7. Parish Welcome Ministry /Draft Proposal

It has been decided that Mass Stewards will be rebranded as the Welcome Ministry. Gerry has drawn up a list of possible duties and this will be open to all, not just existing Mass Stewards. Fr Berry would like to continue the practice of people being welcomed into the church and believes that it is appreciated by those attending mass. Debbie suggested the possibility of some of the Sunday School children being able to assist with some of the smaller tasks. There will be a meeting open to anyone who wishes to be involved with the Welcome Ministry, with a date to be advised.

8. Parish Contingency Plan Update

The contingency plan was compiled in 2017 and the need for an update was acknowledged. Debbie will review the report and highlight information that obviously that needs to be updated or refreshed. Fr Berry reiterated the importance of this report to allow for the wider knowledge of parish processes. A section for utilities and insurances is to be added to the plan and going forward the report will be reviewed and updated yearly.

9. Planning the way back to 'Normal' update

Gerry updated the meeting with the mass attendance statistics and advised that the spike in viewing figures on 10 April 2022, where we normally have 60-70 views for the 10am mass livestream increased to 266 views. This was due to Youtube using our parish video as a 'suggested video' option for new viewers. It was reported that mass attendees in the main are happy to retain the wearing of face masks. Mask wearing will be encouraged for the next month or so and then reviewed.

Anne and Louise reported that the Easter Egg hunt was busy , chaotic and fun with approximately 55 children taking part over the two Sunday morning masses. The cash raised from the donation bucket was taken to the Little Sisters of the Poor, as well as the leftover chocolate eggs.

Helen will ask Marie Dunsmuir to plan and recruit volunteers to set up the parish garden party. It is proposed that the garden party will take place after the summer holidays, possibly in August.

10. AOCB

This year the Pascal Meal was held at Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish and it was reported to be a successful event with a welcoming, friendly atmosphere. The event will be held next year at our parish on 3 April 2023.

Liz Hyett handed in a thank you card to the parish from the children in Nepal, thanking us for the previous donation of £734.55. Her daughter will be revisiting the orphanage on 11 May 22 and will ensure the funds will be put to good use.

It was acknowledged that Mary's Meals are not continuing with the backpack appeal for now. It was felt that we would still like to support Mary's Meals. The suggestion of taking part in the World Day of Porridge in October was mentioned but we will discuss this further in future.

Brian advised the website now has an updated PPC page, with information on council members and minutes from our meetings, once approved.

Fr Berry is considering the reintroduction of Eucharistic Ministers and will liaise with Margaret McEleney. An up to date list of Eucharistic ministers will also be drawn up.

Fr Berry is considering whether the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament should be continued before the midweek morning masses or only be on a certain day.

Fr Berry recently attended the Diocesan offices with Brian who was presented with a Diocesan Award by the Bishop for all his hard work over the years in the parish and the diocese. The council acknowledged this is well deserved and we thank Brian sincerely for his service over the years.

Michael advised that the defibrillator pads have been changed.

Hazel attended a safeguarding meeting in preparation for the upcoming audit where she raised a query regarding Equal Protection training. A link to the relevant section of mygov.scot regarding this will be put in the bulletin.

Hazel received sanitary products to be used in the church hall toilets and will organise this.

The meeting was closed. Date of next meeting 9 June 22.