

St Joseph and St Patrick's, Wemyss Bay

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Thursday 9 June 2022

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

Apologies: Hazel Mitchell

**1. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of our last meeting were approved with no amendments.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- **Heartstart**

The next Heartstart course will be held in September with date to be advised. Christine gave the sad news that since the last course on 12 May 2022 David McDonald from Heartstart has passed away.

- **Foodbank**

There will be a push leading up to the summer holidays. On Sunday 26 June there will be a collection point for foodbank donations after 10am Mass until 1pm. Isobel suggested the possibility of parishioners making cash donations to be sent to the foodbank on behalf of the Church. It was decided a cash collection box will be available in the church for the purposes of this charity drive over the summer. Details for the i58 Project will be published in the bulletin as they accept cash donations on behalf of the foodbank.

**4. Planning the way back to 'Normal' update**

- **Mass Attendance**

Gerry advised total weekly mass attendance since the end of February has been approximately 180. We no longer count the numbers for formal reporting and the virus figures at the moment appear to be going in the right direction.

- **Eucharistic Ministers**

Margaret McEleney is in the process of reintroducing the Eucharistic Ministers, but only for 10am mass at the moment.

After the summer mass schedule, we will revisit the possibility of reintroducing Altar Servers. Fr Berry will visit St Ninians Primary School when the new term starts with a view to begin this process.

- **Offertory**

Fr Berry would be happy to reintroduce this if the congregation is happy to take part. It was decided the Welcome Ministry will do the Offertory initially and we will review at next meeting.

Marcus is in the process of reorganising the role of Mass Stewards to one of Welcome Ministers and this transition will happen in the near future.

- **Use of Hall after 10am Mass**

As the Sunday School is finished for summer holidays the possibility of using the hall for teas after 10am mass was raised. When Sunday School returns, by rearranging the times slightly we could possibly have both Sunday School and teas in the hall after 10am Mass. It was questioned whether the Sunday school would return to Wemyss Bay Community Centre. Louise advised Hazel had spoken about a possible safeguarding issue with regards to the toilets. We will seek clarity on this and discuss at our next meeting.

Father Berry will mention from the pulpit the possibility of the Sunday Tea Rota being reinstated temporarily over the summer holidays and gauge interest.

5. **Garden Party**

The date for the Garden Party/Extended Tea Room will be Sunday 28 August. Helen will liaise with Marie to put plans in place.

6. **PPC Away Day**

The Away Day will be held in Little Sisters, Greenock on Sunday 21 August with more information to follow.

7. **Diocesan Parish Council Update**

The last meeting was held on 19 May, with Helen awaiting the minute from this meeting. Helen shared a Powerpoint presentation with us regarding the Synod and the following points were noted:

Thirteen Parishes submitted responses.

There were 35 individual responses to the initial questions.

There were 46 online questionnaires completed, with 17 being anonymous and with some extreme responses. Helen went through a few points of discussions from the DPC meeting and felt the points that resonated most were in line with our own views from the Parish Synod Meeting.

The importance of linking with schools to encourage people back to church was stressed. Any further information Helen receives from the DPC will be forwarded to the PPC.

Brian attended an open meeting regarding the Diocesan Synod Response last Tuesday 7 June. The response has been condensed to a ten page document to be forwarded to the European Bishops and subsequently to the Vatican.

#### **8. Care and Kindness Group Update**

The card that the group will be using has been printed and was shown to the meeting. Hazel has met with the group and provided a safeguarding strategy. Going forward the group plan to open up to the wider parish once they have a few visits completed.

#### **9. Parish Welcome Ministry /Draft Proposal**

The Mass Stewards/Welcome Ministry rota is in place for the summer holidays. As previously discussed the process of changing the role of Mass Stewards to a Welcome Ministry role is in progress with a view to being in place when the summer rota ends. Due to there being no 5pm Sunday mass during July and August, Louise suggested the mass stewards from this mass should be considered if replacements are required for the other masses.

#### **10. Parish Finance Committee**

The importance of having this committee was stated and meetings will restart in the near future. John Wilson will be part of the committee going forward.

Fr Berry advised figures below:

Savings £50k

Parish Loan £95k-£97k

Fr Berry feels it is important to keep cash in savings for the up and coming repair to the sandstone at the front of the church building and to cover any other unexpected expenses.

Fr Berry wished it to be noted that he feels the finance processes delivered from the Diocese are working well and delivered professionally.

#### **11. Parish Contingency Plan**

Helen and Debbie have started work with a view to updating and tweaking the original document. It was noted that in the event of Fr Berry suddenly not being able to carry out his duties, this would be reported firstly to the Dean who is Fr Danny McLaughlin.

#### **12. AOCB**

Debbie watched Fr Matthew Carlin's Youtube video 'Come home to Mass' and recommended it to the PPC.

Helen closed the meeting and advised the date of the next PPC meeting will be decided at our Away Day.