

St Joseph & St Patrick's Parish Pastoral Council Meeting.

Thursday, 6th March 2025 at 7.00pm.

Present : Fr Berry, Helen McMunn (Chair), Hazel Mitchell (Minute), John Wilson, Martin McCauley, Gerry McCauley, Brian Blacklaw, Louise McCauley, Anne Clark, Kate Borthwick, Michael Tormey, Isobel Quinn, Marcus Barry,

Apologies: Christine Malcolmson, Debbie Galbraith, Gillian Hall, Rob Reid.

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer.

Fr Berry welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the opening prayer.

2. Approval of Minutes.

Brian's surname is Blacklaw, not Blackshaw. Marcus and Isobel approved the previous minute.

3. Matters Arising from the Previous Minute.

Helen read out a handwritten letter from Martin McCluskey MP which was received following his attendance at our previous PPC meeting.

4. Safeguarding.

Hazel has not yet had the opportunity to talk to Gerry McBride re feedback about training. Gerry had been trying to arrange a meeting with both Parish Priests and Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinators and a date and time had been set. However, the meeting was cancelled due to number of people who were unable to attend – it was at 3.30pm. Hazel was unable to attend due to being at work. Fr Berry has recently attended a Safeguarding meeting.

5. SCIAF Coffee Morning.

Helen reported about how well the event went and further monies have come in. Numerous cash donations were received totalling around £700. The amount raised is around £2,700 and this is enough for two villages to have water supplied – with some left over. This is a fantastic amount of money. Helen has asked Jenna from SCIAF to come on 16th March and she will be presented with a cheque after 10 am Mass. There will be the opportunity for a photo to be taken and Louise will put this on social media. Helen will create a photo collage of the Coffee Morning too.

6. Calendar Events.

World Day of Prayer: This will be hosted at Skelmorlie Church tomorrow, 7th March 2025 at 7.00pm.

St Patrick's Night / Quiz: This is on 14th March. Marcus has organised questions for the quiz. Anne and Louise are involved with the organisation too and there is one more week to sell tickets. Fr B to spread the word about the event. Gerry will put a message on Church Suite about the event too.

Lenten Talks: Information has been shared about the talks on 20th March and 2nd April. Talks will be held in the Church which will allow them to be recorded then we can make them available for general viewing at a later date. Permission has been given for talks to be recorded and they should last for about 1hr. The talks will be publicised and will include Largs. Fr B will encourage support for talks within our Parish.

Passover Meal: Skelmorlie Church are hosting the Passover Meal this year and this will be on 14th March. We will soon get a list for names. Fr B is going to meet with the new minister, Rev Randal next week.

Easter Egg Hunt: There have previously been donations of money towards the cost of the event. The cost for this year will be around £150-£200 – this reflects the cost of inflation and everything in general increasing in price. The Easter Egg Hunt will take place after 10.00am mass. Last year, 75 eggs were hidden. Both Louise and Anne will consider ways to fund the event. Fr B will make a request for the next couple of weeks for donations at the end of mass to buy the eggs.

Post Easter Talks: There will be dates organised for post Easter talks (by Fr Carlin and Fr McGill). We will evaluate the Lenten talks first before arranging dates.

Garden Party: Having considered a variety of dates, the Garden Party will now take place on 8th June 2025. Helen will email some individuals to discuss and support it.

7. Ordination of Paul Laverty.

This will take place in St Andrew's on 24th June 2025. Paul has contacted Fr B as he would like to celebrate mass in our Parish on 30th June. Fr B shared with us that as a Parish, this is very important and is a significant event Paul being ordained. We discussed ideas for a gift for Paul. Martin will explore purchasing Icons of St Joseph and St Patrick as a gift and we could present it to him on 30th June as well as a cash gift.

8. Date of Next Meeting.

Our next meeting will be on 1st May 2025 at 7.00pm.

9. AOCB

Mr David Deegan has made enquiries re access to the Church as Amey is responsible for re surfacing the 'strip' at the front. Amey require written permission to proceed and are looking for specific dates for the work to be undertaken. We need more information about the length of time for the work to be carried out and the access required. We will need to take into account any events that may be planned in our Church. It would be sensible to include a Wednesday as there is no mass. Amey will have to liaise with BT and neighbours re any notifications of work to be undertaken. Helen will pass information to David to liaise with Amey.

Easter Time Masses: Vigil, 19th April – time to be advised by the Diocese as it depends on time for the sun setting. Day masses at – 20th April - 10.00am and 11.30am.

Following a discussion around extra services for Lent, the following was agreed.

Mondays and Tuesdays and Fridays: Exposition 9.00am, Morning Prayer 9.30am. Mass 10.00am. Stations of the Cross thereafter.

Thursday : Eucharistic Service at 10 am followed by Stations of the Cross. Mass at 7.00pm (but not on 20th March)

Fr B will say Stations, however, could be led by someone else and Fr B will guide us on this.

50/50 Winner: Jim Sharp has won £158 and Fr B will contact him.

Holy Communion under both forms: Three people have requested to receive the Precious Blood and the decision lies within the Parish about this. Fr B is still cautious of using the Chalice with Precious Blood at this moment in time. He will consider it and if he was to have it would only have one Chalice at the front of the Church. He is still conscious of people being so near to Eucharistic Ministers. We can revisit this topic again in May / June. Fr B will also seek advice about Intinction (the method of administering Holy Communion where a consecrated host is dipped into the consecrated wine and then both are received together).

Easter Vigil: With health and safety concerns at the forefront, care needs to be taken regarding lighting candles from the fire and it was agreed that people will be advised not to do so. Fr B should take care with his vestments around the fire too.

Our meeting closed at 8.35pm and Helen thanked everyone for coming along.