

St Joseph and St Patrick's, Wemyss Bay

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Thursday 7 June 2018

Attendees: Marcus Barry (Chair), Brian Blacklaw, Hazel Mitchell, Louise McCauley, Julia Gibson, Michael Tormey, Owen Quinn, Gillian Hall, John Wilson, Jackie Watt, Anne Clark, Father Berry. Isobel Quinn, Helen McMunn, Debbie Galbraith

Apologies: Jackie Watt, Ryan Begley

1. WELCOME AND PRAYER

Marcus welcomed everyone to the meeting and Father Berry opened with a prayer. Apologies from Jackie and Ryan were noted. Minute from our last meeting held on 8 February were agreed and taken as read

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Father Berry advised that there will be a significant amount of work planned in the near future between the church, church hall, church house and garden. Work planned as follows:

Building Works:

- The Grass area in the garden is to be extended and re-turfed. This work is now underway.
- The wall lights in the church are to be replaced due to a health and safety incident at another church. When this job is complete the church will be repainted.
- Fire and carbon monoxide alarms to be installed in the church hall. The hall will also be recarpeted with the profit from the church fete.
- Outside of the church house to be painted white for upkeep.

Isobel queried if replacing the carpet in the church itself could be considered in the future?

Father Berry advised that the sacristy refurbishment is being held up due to the Diocese seeking two further quotes to add to the one quote we have from our own architect.

The handrail outside church steps is in place.

The signboard outside is in place with a positive response from the Parish.

Brian advised that the planned tidy-up at the back of the church is still being considered and will hopefully tie-in with the planned painting work in the church.

Photos: John informed the meeting that these have been taken and emailed to Brian to update the PPC poster.

Fete: The fete was a great success bringing the Parish together and raising a fantastic sum of approximately £2076. Congratulations to Tracy, John and team.

Rosary on the Coast: This was a beautiful day with 56 attending in our Parish and a great mix of Parishioners and guests. Over 45,000 took part in this event countrywide.

Passover Meal: Owen advised that it was a beautiful service and thanks to all involved in the organisation. The new brochures are printed and will be used going forward.

Parish Stall: Michael has the stall at home and will organise a tailgate van to transport to the church where it can be stored whilst the plans for the stall are put in place. Father Berry has sought advice from CBC regarding how best to stock the stall. The SCIAF group are to set up a rota to man the stall. Initially the stall will run after 10am and see how it goes from there.

3. MATN

There was a meeting of our cluster group held at St Columba's on 29 May. Canon David Boyd is the moderator of our cluster and it was felt that he answered the questions well and with honesty. Some of the Powerpoint telling points are outlined below:

- A Diocesan map outlining a circle around each Parish location shows definite overlaps in certain areas. There is an imbalance throughout the Diocese.
- There is a lack of Seminarians up and coming to serve the Diocese for the future with four possible admissions planned in the next seven years.
- We have seven or eight priests from our Diocese serving in other areas or Dioceses.

The next cluster meeting is to be held on 4 September 2018 to allow further discussion on the points raised at the initial meeting. We will hold a meeting in our own Parish, prior to this to discuss our feelings after the initial meeting and to prepare for the next one.

The PPC will discuss this in detail at the morning session of our Away Day and Brian has kindly agreed to put together a presentation to aid our understanding and enable us to move this issue forward.

4. ST COLUMBA'S HIGH SCHOOL

There was an open meeting held in the Parish on 19 April with Councillor Jim Clocherty in attendance. There were lots of good quality questions and Marcus personally felt reassured and that after hearing what Councillor Clocherty had to say that it would not be politically palatable to deny our children access to St Columba's. He feels that Catholic families in this area will continue to be able to send their children to St Columba's. The possible exception would be children from Skelmorlie as this is outside council authority.

It was encouraging to note that the new Head Teacher at the Inverclyde Academy is actively addressing the negative reputation of the school with a view to turning this around although this will obviously take time.

Julia expressed concern as to whether the Catholic ethos of St Columba's could be compromised due to the large numbers of non-Catholic children attending the school. Father Berry feels that when he visits the school that the positive Catholic ethos is still maintained.

Councillor Clocherty was attending a meeting with Ruth Binks the day after our Parish meeting and would bring up the points from the previous evening. Marcus to contact Councillor Clocherty for feedback from the meeting on 20 April.

5. AOCB

Carfin:

Brian advised that Carfin Day is 5 August 2018. The ongoing question of whether we should arrange a Parish outing to take part in the pilgrimage was raised.

Away Day:

The Away Day will be Sunday 26 August at the Little Sisters of the Poor in Greenock. It was suggested that we ask Cannon David Boyd to be our guest speaker at the afternoon session to speak about MATN. Our morning session will be taken up with us preparing and forming our collective opinion and any questions for the afternoon.

Isobel and Gillian will organise the catering for the Away Day.

SCIAF:

Hazel was asked to raise the question of profit from the Parish fete. Historically when SCIAF group organised the fete the half of the profit from the fete was allocated to SCIAF and the other half to the Parish. It was explained that the new SCIAF group are taking small fundraising steps initially but have more ideas for the future.

Safeguarding:

Julia and Hazel advised that there is a new safeguarding manual with lots of new information. An important change to note is that as well as being PVG checked and completing level 1 training, new people working in the Parish with young and vulnerable people require an authority letter from the Diocese. Once these three requirements are in place then the volunteers can carry out work within the Parish and the expected turnaround time for the letters is four to six weeks.

Parish Priest Holiday:

There is a concern amongst the PPC regarding the difficulty of Father Berry being able to arrange time off for a holiday. As a Parish it is felt that we would be agreeable to a Eucharistic service being held as

a one-off at the weekend whilst providing alternative mass times at neighbouring Parishes. Father Berry believes we would struggle to gain approval from the Diocese to put this arrangement in place.

GPDR

The question of our readiness for this new legislation was raised. Both Father Berry and John feel that we have addressed this issue and have steps in place to ensure we are informed and aware of how to handle things from a data protection perspective.

Marcus closed the meeting and the date of the next meeting is our Away Day on Sunday 26 August.