

St Joseph and St Patrick's, Wemyss Bay

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Thursday 8 February 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.

Apologies: Helen McMunn, Isobel Quinn, Debbie Galbraith.

**1. WELCOME AND PRAYER**

Marcus welcomed everyone to the meeting and Father Berry opened with a prayer. The apologies were noted.

**2. MINUTE FROM LAST MEETING**

Minute from our last meeting on 7 December 2017 were agreed and taken as read.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**Building Works:**

Father Berry advised that the proposed work to be carried out in the Sacristy has been approved in principal. One quote has been received and we are awaiting a further two quotes from the Diocese to allow the process to move to the next stage.

**Handrail:**

Ryan will speak to Mackies in Largs to obtain a quote for the supply and installation of an additional handrail at front steps of the Church entrance.

**Sign Board:**

Brian provided a drawing of the proposed sign board to be installed outside the church and advised that the cheque has been written to Inverclyde Council to gain permission for the board to be put in place.

**Christmas Leaflet:**

Debbie has sent apologies for the meeting but emailed to say she felt that the organisation and leaflet distribution was handled well. There were a few new faces who joined us at the Christmas services, therefore a successful campaign with a positive result. Going forward we will look to do the leaflet drop a bit earlier to hopefully raise more people's consciousness and draw them back to Mass. Father Berry provided some information on attendees at the masses over Christmas time. It was felt that both the Christmas Vigil Mass and the Christmas Day 10am Mass were both very busy but the 1130am Mass not as well attended. An important question would be regarding the attendance of children and young people at the Christmas services.

Points for future consideration were:

- Would an earlier Mass on Christmas Eve be more convenient?
- Would a Children's Mass at 10am be an idea with children involved in the singing and music?

These matters will be discussed in more detail at our next meeting.

**Photos:**

John will take photographs of Ryan, Michael, Anne and Helen before the next meeting. To be added to the PPC poster.

**Admissions to St Columbas:**

As discussed at the previous meeting, the PPC had concerns regarding the proposed changes to the admissions policy at St Columbas High School. Marcus had written a letter to Stephen McCabe, Leader of Inverclyde Council and Jim Clocherty, Chair of Education Committee, inviting them to come to the Parish to explain the situation either at a PPC meeting or an open meeting. We await their reply.

**4. DIOCESAN STRUCTURE**

Brian distributed a leaflet called 'Making all things New' which was mentioned in last week's bulletin. Points for consideration:

- Within our cluster we are the only listed building - C Listed.
- We have car parking space issues. The common ground behind the car park was mentioned again. It is believed that this ground is owned by the surrounding houses. Jackie will provide the name of the factor to be passed to the Diocesan lawyers.
- We are located on bus routes.
- We are the only Parish with no school attached.
- A large future growth is planned in this area.
- Mass attendance figures show we rate fairly high in this area.
- Parish financially viable.

It was felt that as a PPC we must unite to champion our Parish. In order to achieve this Marcus proposed a sub-committee be created to discuss and draw up a pre-emptive document prior to our next PPC meeting. The Sub-Committee will be Owen, Father Berry, Louise, Brian and Marcus.

**5. AOCB**

**Fete:**

John and Tracy were proposing that the Summer Fete be changed to June this year. The reasoning behind this was it was hoped that the weather could possibly be better at this time. Also it was hoped that attendance could be helped by the fact that the schools had not yet finished for the summer. It was agreed that the PPC will support them and are happy to go with the change of date for the Summer Fete.

**CARITAS:**

Marcus and Father Berry had met with the students but had been expecting them to be in attendance at this meeting. Ryan advised that the students have met their ten hours of CARITAS duties to be carried out within school time but it is the Parish duties that need to be put in place still for some of the students.

**Charities:**

Father Berry advised that there are fourteen Diocesan collections throughout the year. In addition to this Father Berry is approached by charities to consider including them as extra collections throughout the year. The dilemma is how to allocate the extra collections. He proposed that there could be a small committee set up and these requests could be referred to them for consideration to ensure extra collections are managed in a fair way. This will be discussed again at next meeting.

**Certificate of Parish Missionary and Mission:**

Brian is attending a meeting regarding the above on Monday. As mentioned in the bulletin, to study for the certificate involves six module based assignments at a cost of £516. Places are available if interested and there is a possibility that the cost could be subsidised

**Rosary on the Coast:**

Brian provided a sheet with information regarding the Rosary on the Coast event which is to take place on Sunday 29 April at 3pm with groups around the country taking part. As we are a coastal Parish would we wish to organise a group to take part? This is to be discussed at our next meeting.

**Child Protection:**

Anne advised that after attending the Child Protection Course she was not provided with a certificate. Hazel and Julia will ensure that certificates will be forwarded to all attendees from our Parish.

**GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation):**

John informed the meeting that this new legislation comes into effect on 25 May 2018. It was noted that any contact numbers on the website must be consensual.

**Passover:**

It is our turn as a Parish to host this event which will be held on the Monday of Holy Week 26 March . We will extend an invitation to our neighbouring Parishes and it was questioned as to whether the CARITAS students would help out as part of their Parish duties? Previously Owen, Michael and Louise organised this event and Owen will check out if the group can do the same this year.

**Parish Stall:**

Michael questioned the possibility of a stall in the hall after 10am Sunday Mass, providing Mass cards, and other goods. Father Berry advised in his experience this needs an organiser with overall responsibility for the stock, funds etc and also helpers. Michael will obtain more information from other Parishes and we will discuss further at our next meeting.

**Request for the Finance Committee:**

Julia informed the meeting that three young people from our Parish are assisting with the sick on the pilgrimage to Lourdes this year. She will approach Father Berry to ask for a donation from the Parish towards the purchase of hoodies for the young people involved.

Marcus closed the meeting and advised date of next meeting will be Thursday 19 April 2018.