

# **St Patrick's Parish Pastoral Council**

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015

## **Present**

Laura Banks, Clare Byrne, Ann Dougan, Veronica Adam, John Duffy, Sandra Sheridan, Monica MacDonnell, Fr Conroy, Mary Quinn, Elizabeth McQuade, Brian McKenna, Gillian Docherty.

## **1 & 2. Welcome and opening prayer**

Mary welcomed everyone to the meeting. Fr Conroy opened the meeting with a prayer.

## **3. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Marie Therese Cleary, Pauline Butchart, James Nicol

## **4. Minute of Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved by Brian McKenna and seconded by Sandra Sheridan

## **5. Parish Pastoral Council in the Parish Community**

Continuing from the discussions held at the previous meeting the following has been agreed:

- The Agenda for the Parish Pastoral Council meetings will be published in advance of the meetings.
- Once the Minute of the meeting has been approved by the PPC it will be published on the parish website and a printed copy will be placed at the back of the church.
- The PPC will invite parishioners to submit written comments on any matters they feel arise from the Minute of the meeting, these comments will be collected in a comments box and then brought to the PPC as an item on the agenda. All comments will be given due and appropriate consideration, however the PPC may not be able to address each comment individually at their meeting. Veronica Adam will create the comments box.
- To help us to raise the profile of the PPC there will be an open meeting of the PPC, parishioners will be invited to attend and observe the meeting with a chance to ask any questions or make any comments after the formal meeting is concluded.
- There will be a piece put together, by Mary Quinn, about the PPC and its remit, this will be published in the bulletin and online to allow parishioners to better understand our role in the parish. There is a PPC Manual, this will be located also.

It was suggested that some groups are not represented on the PPC, some individuals were elected and others invited to the council to represent parish groups. The most up to date list that could be found of Members of the PPC and the groups they represent, or whether they are an elected individual can be found as an attachment to these Minutes.

There was discussion around a Doors Open Day or Sign Up Sunday event. It was suggested that this is carried forward to the next meeting to allow the members of the PPC

to think about this and possibly bring thoughts and suggestions to the next meeting.

## **6. Corpus Christi**

Corpus Christi this year falls on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of June. Father Conroy asked for input from the group with regards to the Fun Day that is held each year on this day, as it seems that the parish perceive the Fun Day as a day specifically for the First Communicants and this is reflected in who attends the day.

It was agreed that there would be a notice placed in the bulletin expressing that the Fun Day is a day for the whole parish. Donations for the tombola and raffle are also needed. Mary Quinn volunteered the Communications group to help with teas and coffees.

The Fun Day runs from 1:30 until around 5pm and if you are able to help in any way please let Clare Byrne know.

It was also raised that the outdoor Altar that is used for Corpus Christi needs to be replaced, John Duffy will arrange the building of a new outdoor Altar, possibly including a competition for the children at the primary school to design the new Altar.

## **7. Continuing Matters**

### **(a) - Parish Plan**

(i) Communication – The group sent 2 messages for Lent and Easter. A meeting of the Communications Group has been planned for the beginning of June to plan for the next year.

(ii) Strategy – As the Pope has announced a Jubilee Year of Mercy, which will run from the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2015 to the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2016, the Strategy group have decided to use this as a focus. At the moment the group are discussing offering an Hour of Mercy for small groups in the Chapel House. There will be a further update on this at the next meeting.

(iii) Vision – Since the last meeting the vision group have introduced a Children's Resource area to the back of the church, there are appropriate books and colouring that can be used by young children. The group also ran a "Welcome Sunday", where they offered tea and coffee in the hall after 10 and 12 o'clock Masses, this was more successful at the 10 o'clock Mass, the group will be discussing this further. The group have also had sashes made for "Junior Passkeepers", there is still further work and discussion to be done around this and the group intend to meet again soon, there will be updates at the next meeting.

### **(b) – Youth Council**

The Youth Council are currently meeting intermittently, there is no further update at the moment.

### **(c) – Re-ordering of the Church Porch**

Two wooden stands have been moved out of the porch to make some more room, at the moment these stands are at the back of the church, however there needs to be more material in them, this will be looked at. The new unit for the porch will hopefully be completed this summer.

#### **(d) – Car Park**

Planning permission is currently being sought for the extension and renovation of the car park, there has been some local opposition as some trees will be cut down, however other trees will be planted in the new car park.

#### **(e) – Sacrament Preparation Support**

The parents of the Primary 3 children had an evening of prayer and reflection before the children made their Reconciliation, there was mixed feedback from this evening which has been taken into consideration for the plans going forward. The Primary 4 children preparing for their First Holy Communion and their parents will be attending a similar meeting before the communion dates, the evening will take a slightly different format and feedback from this will be welcomed.

Starting on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2015 the children of Primary 3 will begin a year of preparation for their First Holy Communion, the programme for this year is as follows:

- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Crowning of the Statue of Our Lady. The children of Primary 3 will bring the wreath and be placed under the protection of Our Lady

- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015

Feast of Guardian Angels. The parents will be invited to join their child in school to pray a decade of the Rosary. The legion of Mary will present each child with a set of Rosary beads.

- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Mary's Meals. A clothes collection will be organised in the Parish, the children will also be in attendance and they will hand over back packs as part of their Mary's Meals project.

- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Parents will be invited to join their child in school for Mass.

- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The children will be encouraged to organise something for the HCPT

- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016

Our Lady Procession. The children will process into the church with a statue of Our Lady and they will be given a special blessing in preparation for their First Holy Communion.

#### **(f) – Small Faith Groups**

The Scripture Sharing Group continues to meet each month.

### **8. AOCB**

#### **Greenhouse**

A building warrant has been granted to replace the greenhouse roof.

#### **Reacting to Special Appeals**

A point was raised asking if we as a parish should be more active in reacting to events in the world (for example the earthquake in Nepal) and raising funds to be sent to places in need. It was suggested that we could have a second collection for disaster relief in circumstances like this. Donations for local Food Banks were also discussed, with the possibility of having an event in the hall after Sunday Mass where people could bring donations for Food Banks being suggested for the future.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of May there will be a Mass for babies baptised in the last year, after Mass we will hold an event in the hall, inviting people to donate home baking, and selling this to

raise money to be sent to Nepal, the Parish will match the funds raised before sending the money to the earthquake fund.

**9. Date for Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday the 05<sup>th</sup> of August 2015 at 730pm in the Church Hall

Fr Conroy Closed the meeting with a prayer.