

ST. PETER'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 5 FEBRUARY 2018 IN THE PARISH ROOM

Present

Father Kevin Douglas (President - from item 8), Josephine Beech-Brandt (Chairperson), Liz Brown (Secretary), Jo Mulvagh, Annie Royan, Salvatore Callea, Aga Allen, Ros Macaskill, Ian Stewart, Joyce Cullen

In attendance: (from during item 8) Sophie Bennett

Welcome

1. The Chairperson welcomed all present, explaining that Fr. Kevin would be joining the meeting later because of a commitment to a meeting with parents at St. Columba's.

Apologies

2. Fr. Kevin (until item 8), Anne Donnelly.

Opening prayer

3. In the absence of Fr. Kevin, Josephine Beech-Brandt led those present in saying the Parish Pastoral Council Prayer.

Minutes of the meeting on 6 November 2017

4. Minutes were approved.

Matters arising

5.1 Mass times – discussed on Fr. Kevin's arrival, see later.

5.2 Library (see additional later) – Annie Royan confirmed that clearing of items to the cellar could take place, but that assistance would be required with this. Books pertinent to St. Peter's will be stored in the house, under the guidance of Anne Donnelly. **Action: Liz Brown**

5.3 Annual Report of Parish Activities 2016/2017 – with apologies for delay, the report is now with the publishers. **Action: Liz Brown/Jacqueline Heron**

5.4 Letter to Archbishop – A copy of the letter was made available. It concentrates on the closure of the Gillis Centre as it affects St. Peter's i.e. the use of the Hall, and requests feedback from the cluster discussions, which had received such active support from many of our parishioners. Any response will be reported. **Action: Josephine Beech-Brandt**

5.5 Repair of Raffalovich grave at Mount Vernon – discussed on Fr. Kevin's arrival, see later.

Reports from parish organisations/activities.

6. For ease of reference, all reports received have been amalgamated in the attached document, which was reviewed in detail by all present.

- SVDP: Once the target age of “Mini Vinnies” is understood, this may be of interest to the leaders of the proposed new Children’s Group or Youth Rock.
- Facebook: Trish Dolan is to be applauded for the activity that is now evident on the page.
- Children’s Liturgy – numbers continue to be strong, with very much younger children now also attending (often accompanied by their parents). Weekly leaders are well prepared, with strong candidates emerging for assuming the overall leadership of this ministry.
- Safeguarding – currently there are 58 PVG registered volunteers (13 covered for Young People, 7 for Vulnerable Adults, 28 covered for both vulnerable groups.) All volunteers should attend training prior to taking up duties, and at least every 2 years after that. **Action: Joyce Cullen** (will continue to publish details of training sessions.)
- Altar Servers – all present are encouraged that numbers are very strong, not just for Sunday Mass.

Parish Ceilidh

7. Held on Friday 1 December 2017, this was a great success. It was very well attended, by a wide variety of parishioners. The band was excellent. All costs were covered, with a small surplus to carry over for future social events. There is enthusiasm for an International evening, and for repeating the St. Andrew’s Day Ceilidh **Action: Josephine Beech-Brandt**

Matters arising (held for discussion in the presence of Fr. Douglas.)

5.1 Mass times – Ian Stewart reported the results from the questionnaire (see attached). Briefly, of 250 questionnaires distributed on Sundays 28 Jan/4 Feb, 132 were returned (in addition there were 31 blanks returned, which may be a reflection of the number of visitors.). 110 out of 132 answered that it was a good idea for a second Sunday Mass; 82 out of 107 preferred a Vigil Mass; preferred time of Vigil Mass was equally split between 5.30pm and 6pm.

All present also considered and discussed fully the two pieces of direct feedback that had been submitted. On balance, Fr. Kevin is very supportive of the interest in another Mass: he will now consider what might be his preferred time and then seek permission of the Archbishop. **Action: Fr. Kevin/Ian Stewart for Liturgy Links.**

5.2 Library (additional) – Fr. Kevin reported that a review was underway as to the cause of the damp.

5.5 Repair of Raffalovich grave at Mount Vernon – Fr. Kevin reported that he would be seeking additional quotes for the repair needed. He would like to include benefactors in the Mass that can be said in the chapel at Mount Vernon, when the rotation for St. Peter’s comes around.

Parish Support for Charitable Causes

8. After discussion, it was agreed that SCIAF and Freshstart would remain the parish's priority charities, but that on occasion there may need to be flexibility to respond to requests, particularly those supported by other groups or individuals within the parish e.g. Open Door, Christian Aid, Mary's Meals. As it is a little unclear at present where such requests should be directed, it was suggested that a sub-committee be formed from within the Parish Pastoral Council, which can receive, review and approve requests as expeditiously as possible **Action: Liz Brown**

Date of next meeting

9. Monday 23 April

Any other business

- Hymn number board behind readers' lectern has been removed because of the damp present on that wall. If there is difficulty seeing the other board, Sophie Bennett usually has a few extra sheets of hymn numbers, if needed.
- Rite of Initiation for Children – to make parents and children feel fully welcome in the parish community, it is important that these ceremonies take place during Sunday Mass.
- John Duncan painting – Myths and Legends – commissioned in 1912 for St. Peter's Primary School, it was hung there until the new school building was built. It is a very large painting 15' x 15', and since has been on display at the Gillis Centre. It has now been returned to St. Peter's. Fr. Kevin has made an appeal at Sunday Mass inviting suggestions from parishioners about the future of the painting, and he wants this to be discussed as widely as possible.
- Property Committee (also known as Fabric Committee) – a report was not presented to the Parish Pastoral Council as had happened previously. Fr. Kevin expressed his wish that there would be a quarterly newsletter addressed to all parishioners, keeping them updated about work that was being done to the Parish building, and where possible setting out options for future work to be undertaken.
- Hospitality – Vegware can supply fully compostable, disposable cups for use in the Parish Room. The current stock is being used and in so doing, run down meantime.