

ST MARY'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 3 May 2017



PRESENT Father Eamonn, Roger Townley, Maeve Jones, Bridie Lamont, Ann McQueeney, Angela McNulty, Pat Nicol, Fran O'Brien, Gordon Sutherland, Patrick Ironmonger

APOLOGIES Sharon Murdoch

- Sharon Murdoch is resigning from the council to enable her to meet her other work commitments. Roger noted the council's thanks to her for all her contributions and support. Fr. Eamonn is speaking to some parishioners to ask if they would join the council.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- Minutes were read and approved.

MATTERS ARISING

- Bridie provided a consent form as a basis for the form needed by the Youth Group. An additional sentence will be added covering permission to leave the hall unaccompanied at the end of the group's weekly sessions.
- All other points covered in agenda items below

PPC CORRESPONDENCE BOX

- No box correspondence received. However, several items were brought to Roger's attention for discussion at the council:
 - The golden jubilee mural is not currently displayed as Fr. Eamonn is having it cleaned
 - The notice at the back of the church advising those attending funerals of the location of toilet facilities has been taken down. Fr. Eamonn will look into its whereabouts.
 - The rail needed for the front steps should not be mounted on the wall at the left side of the entrance since it would not then be usable by those who need a right-hand support. Gordon suggested it could be mounted up the angle formed by the step returns and thus be suitable for left or right hand use.
 - A comment was received about the condition of the votive candle stand and is here noted.
 - The register book containing names of the sick for prayers is full and has many old entries. A suitable new book will be purchased and Fr. Eamonn will add an item in the newsletter advising that the old book will be removed after a short period of transition and those who wish to add names should do so in the new book.
 - A concern was raised that there was only limited seating in the rear porch and that those with babies/young children had no 'cry chapel'. It was felt that the presence of all children in church during Mass is a positive experience and no additional separate enclosure should be made.

FORWARD PLANNING

- Normal rotas for readers, servers and teas/coffees etc should apply for the Mass for parish groups to be held on 4 June. A leaflet describing each group with contact details will be distributed at the beginning of Mass and parishioners interested in joining any group will be encouraged to speak to the respective contact person. An electronic copy of the leaflet will also be uploaded onto the parish web site.
- Ron Bissett is leaving the adoration group and a replacement leader is being sought by Fr. Eamonn.
- The topic of communication between the many parish groups and the council was discussed and it was agreed that council members would each be nominated as point of contact with two groups. The allocation will take place at the June meeting.

YOUTH GROUP

- No update was available. Fr. Eamonn will go to the Friday group meeting to discuss any issues with Deirdre and Fiona.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Information is being maintained on the web site. Twitter followers have increased to 73.

FIRST COMMUNION

- This is being held at 12:00 on 7 May.

CHURCH REFURBISHMENTS

- The final snagging items is still not completed but the builder is being chased.

EMBRACING CHANGE

- There is to be a one year distance learning course on parish ministry. A meeting will be held at 7pm on 29 May at St. Mary's Saltcoats where a speaker from the Maryvale Institute will provide some details. An item will be posted in the newsletter.

PARISH GOLF OUTING

- This will take place as usual in August. Fr. Eamonn will contact Gordon MacMillan to get dates.

A.O.B.

- Gordon advised that his current commitments have significantly increased and so he will have to step down from the council after the June meeting.
- Gordon will continue to progress PVG certifications.
- No further dates have been provided for additional Safeguarding training.
- Parish Mission – Fr Eamonn has contacted the Redemptorists who gave him two possible dates for this Mission in 2018. The week of 28 April to 5 May was agreed as the most suitable,

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Agreed for Wednesday 7 June 2017, 7.00pm. Since this is the last meeting before summer recess the council will move afterwards to the Queens Hotel.