

**St Teresa's Parish Community**  
**Minutes of Parish Pastoral Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018**

**1. Welcome and opening Prayer said by all.**

**2. St Teresa's Parish 1958-2018- 60th Diamond anniversary year.**

a) Unfortunately Bishop Nolan will be in Rome on the 30<sup>th</sup> September for the Scottish Bishops' 5 yearly "ad limina" visit and therefore cannot join us to celebrate 11.30am mass as our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Instead we will make this celebration our annual Mass for the Sick and in doing so make it a significant day in this wonderful annual event supported by our SVDP Conference and the Ladies Guild.

b) The school children will be invited to design a logo for the new hymn books which parishioners will be invited to fund by donations in lieu of a dedication label in the inside front cover of a hymn book. The new hymnals are approximately £10 each.

c) We will soon recruit some parish volunteers to collate and display those items handed in from fellow parishioners of memorabilia and photographs covering the 60 years of parish life. This display will be around the walls of the church during the months of September and October.

d) We will of course look at the little bits of painting and re-decoration required in time for the celebration on 30<sup>th</sup> September. This will include our main doors and particularly our side walls.

e) We will seek further quotes to see if we can reduce the cost of re-carpeting, concern was raised by a number of members at the current quote. Re-carpeting is not entirely just for aesthetical reasons but will help to solve the problem we have of the slippery tiled areas of the church. Meantime fundraising initiatives will continue.

f) We will soon fix a date and time for our Ecumenical Songs of Praise service. Guests from the other main Christian Churches will be asked to choose and introduce their favourite hymn on the night and if possible the story of each hymn will be told too. Volunteers are sought to be part of this sub-group with Fr Jim. John (Lawson) joined the sub-group, others are invited to speak with Fr Jim to help organise and arrange this event.

g) The idea of having speakers over a period of Sundays has proved more challenging to arrange as those approached so far have not been available as it is a holiday time. At this moment in time we will not now be actioning this idea. This may be an idea we can do another time.

**3. Present:** Fr Jim, Marilyn McEwen, Terry Harkness, Elizabeth Robertson, Peggy Marshall, John Lawson, Madeliene Callander, Paula Cochrane, Kathleen McMillan, Pat Dickson.

**4. Previous Minutes.**

Minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 were approved by Terry Harkness and seconded by Elizabeth Robertson. It was noted that the date of 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion was 3<sup>rd</sup> June not the 18<sup>th</sup> as stated

**5. Matters arising:** No matters arising not already on the agenda

**6. Joint PPC Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018.** Members were pleased with the response Fr Jim and Fr Gerald had forwarded to Bishop Nolan. It was noted that similar concerns from other areas of the diocese also offered Parish Sisters are being reported. We await Bishop Nolan's reply.

**7. Lent/Easter evaluation.** As always a great big thank to everyone who helped prepare the Church, the Liturgies and the grounds. All agreed the ceremonies were wonderfully celebrated and well attended. The addition of Irene, Allene and Cliff being received into the Church further enhanced these most uplifting experiences. In 2019 the Triduum for all Dumfries parishioners will be celebrated in St Andrew's Church.

**8. May Day Procession and BBQ.** A sincere thanks to all who worked so hard to make what has become an annual event such a success.

**9. Finances.** As per our legal requirement the annual financial statement has been lodged with the diocesan finance office. Soon a parish statement will be issued and Fr Jim will meet with the Parish Finance Committee members.

**10. RCIC.** The final Saturday Club preparation session has taken place. 6 children and 1 young adult will celebrate their First Holy Communion at 11.30am Mass on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Our sincere thanks to our parish Catechists: Fiona, Elizabeth and Marie for their great work in preparing and facilitating the parish preparation programme. The Ladies Guild will offer their usual splendid hospitality in the hall following the Mass. Thanks were expressed to our Catechists for all their dedication and hard work.

**11. In God's Image/PVG.** Our Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Mr John Lawson spoke regarding the newly published Safeguarding instructions in the Catholic Church in Scotland, called "In God's Image." They come into juridical force following a decree from Bishop Nolan. They are absolutely without reservation mandatory in every parish in Scotland. Copies of the new instructions are available to download on the Scottish Bishops website. John and Mrs Catherine Lavell our other Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator, have been very busy with diocesan training in Kilmarnock on the new document for all PSC's. Level 1 training and the other steps of preparation for all parish volunteers is mandatory before any post is taken up. Even if a volunteer belongs to a professional body engaged in working with children or adults at risk (ie: Teaching/Nursing/Social Work/Youth Work) these volunteers must still participate in the Catholic Church's training programme-without exception. Currently there are 7 trainers in our diocese with another 6 due to complete training soon. Parish volunteers can access on the diocesan website the diocesan wide training programme so that they can travel to another venue other than their home parish to complete the training. Hopefully this access to the training diary will enable volunteers to complete their preparation sooner and be able to take up their new position quickly.

Regarding personal safety, all volunteers should try as far as possible to avoid being on church premises on their own. They should try and arrange for at least one other parishioner to be with them for their own personal safety whether cleaning the church or hall or rehearsing a service working in the sacristy or library etc. If you cannot find another to join you the individual should make sure they lock themselves in the premise to carry out a task on their own.

Level 1 training has been arranged here at St Teresa's for Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August in the Parish Hall from 2.30pm till approximately 4pm.

Catherine will work through the renewal of those parish volunteers whose PVG was issued in 2014/2015. As you know all PVG's have to be renewed every 3 years. The process of renewal is a much simpler one than the initial PVG and should be quite painless to all.

A great deal of additional work has been carried out by John and Catherine in this very busy year in the Safeguarding world of the Catholic Church in Scotland. All members spoke highly of that work and commended John and Catherine for all they had achieved to keep our parish as safe as we possibly can.

**12. Bishop Barren Conference.** The Conference is due to take place in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh on 6<sup>th</sup> September. When ticket sales opened the tickets sold out fast so much so that we could not get any tickets for the approximately 50 parishioners signed up. An enquiry has been made to those responsible to see if an additional date will be added to cope with this wonderful response. We await further news.

**13. RCIA/Grow in Faith Sessions.** Congratulations to Irene, Allene and Cliff were expressed by all present. The ceremonies of reception were so inspiring to us all. We wish them well as they continue to grow in the Catholic faith. Our Catechists, Elizabeth and Deacon Willie were thanked for all their great work in this very important area of parish life. A number of the group travelled to the Cathedral last week to visit the Bishop as all those who had been received from across the diocese met for the Neo-phytes (New plants/growth) gathering.

**14. Repairs:** Some painting to be done before October in the Church and our front doors. Soundproofing for the Children's Room which now doubles as the confessional is required as voices can be heard in the church when speaking with the priest. The recent burst radiator caused damage in the choir area. It is now under repair. The electrical point and heater in the Baptistry will also be repaired soon as will the WC lock.

**15. Ababa Project and TEACH Programme.** Congratulations were made to the Charity shop team for the wonderful effort made from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March. Members acknowledged the wonderful and

great hard work made to organise us all by Project co-ordinator, Beatrice (Gardner). It would not have been possible without her enthusiasm and commitment. Uncertainty exists as to whether we can gain access to the shop again due to redevelopment plans for the town centre. Beatrice has lodged her details with those responsible asking to be kept up to date. Paula said the development work is under the auspices of a group called, "Plain Staines Quarter" and she will send a link to this group for Beatrice to keep tabs on its' progress. The monthly updates and collections continue to go well. This Easter the parish sent an additional gift of £5,000 to Sr Gimate who has been in touch to say "Praise Be" the sisters were hoping to be able to send some of their members for professional training next year in order to keep their clinics/ schools/ projects professionally competent so that they do not lose their licence to provide all they do from the Ethiopian Government. They were so grateful that our gift arrived just when they needed it. TEACH recruitment for season 2018/2019 will begin soon.

**16. Parish Youth:** The music and reading at the youth led masses have been greatly appreciated. It has been wonderful to see our young people so involved. Thanks to Maeve and Darius and Louise for working so well with our young people in these activities.

### **17. Dairy of Events.**

- a) 3<sup>rd</sup> June First Holy Communion Day
- b) 8<sup>th</sup> June. Murder Mystery evening fund raiser. £5 per head-pay at door.
- c) 14<sup>th</sup> June. 100<sup>th</sup> ann. national Education Mass in Falkirk Stadium. Our local schools are attending.
- d) 15<sup>th</sup> June. In St Joseph's College Chapel at 6.30pm. Concelebrated Mass led by Bishop Nolan for the retirement of Mr Kevin Jones. All welcome.
- e) 19<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> June. St Joseph's College Musical, "Our House" at 7.30pm.
- f) 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Deanery Pastoral meeting in Kirkcudbright. 11.30am till 3.30pm.
- g) 24<sup>th</sup> June. Youth trip to Carfin
- h) 19<sup>th</sup> August. In the parish hall. Level 1 Training. 2.30pm till 4pm.
- i) 26<sup>th</sup> August. Whithorn Pilgrimage.
- j) 16<sup>th</sup> September 11.30am Mass followed by buffet in Parish Hall for Fr Jim 25<sup>th</sup> ann.

**18. Dates for future meetings:** Thursdays 13<sup>th</sup> September and 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018.

**Closing remarks:** With "Embracing Change" continually being put into practice from September 2018 Saturday morning Mass, Confession and Adoration will take place alternatively between ourselves and St Andrew's. Meaning that on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays it will take place at St Teresa's and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays it will be available at St Andrew's. On months when there is a 5<sup>th</sup> week it will not take place at all.

Members were reminded that the discussions at the PPC are not secret and pertain to the life of the parish and should be discussed with fellow parishioners so that all that we have reflected upon at PPC meetings can be known and shared as widely as possible that we may gain from further comment.

Issues as and when they arise should be discussed with and brought to the attention of Fr Jim and if necessary he will bring the item to the attention of the PPC to seek further advice/insight on the matter.

Fr Jim expressed his thanks to all for their attendance and participation tonight.

**The meeting closed with prayer, hymn and blessing.**