

St Teresa's Parish Community

Minutes of Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held on the 4th February 2016

Present: Fr Jim, Deacon Willie, Madeleine Callander, Joan Smith, Paula Cochrane, Derek Cochrane, Kathleen McMillan and Elizabeth Robertson.

Welcome and opening prayer said by all.

Opening Discussion: How do we celebrate the Year of Mercy.

Paula and Derek Cochrane have offered to take any special intentions to Rome with them. The Stations of the cross from St Conal's are now dedicated and installed at the Sacred Heart shrine. We discussed different pilgrimages for the Year of Mercy: Carfin, Whithorn and Schoenstatt near Glasgow. We were asked to encourage more people to attend the Chrism Mass and the Whithorn Pilgrimage this year. Some parishioners are taking part in the pilgrimage to Rome with the Diocese in June. Deacon Willie will lead Adoration on Monday nights 7-8pm during Lent. There will be a Deanery evening for the Year of Mercy including Confession. This is to be arranged.

Our chair, Paula Cochrane, then took us through the business of the agenda.

Advent/Christmas:

The 7pm Vigil Mass was very well attended the church was full. For the future we need to encourage people to fill up the seats from the front. Also we need to prepare extra seating down the side aisles rather than at the back-this is a fire exit and must be kept clear. Better planning will ensure this is done. Our thanks go to the Pass keepers for their work at the vigil. Thanks also goes to the Choir who did an excellent job in leading us in the music for the Mass, especially the new Mass Setting.

Lent/Easter:

Mass on Ash Wednesday will be at 11.30am. Adoration during Lent will be on Monday's 7-8pm led by Deacon Willie. There will be an extra evening Mass on Thursday night during Lent at 7pm followed by our Faith Sharing meeting. The Lenten Lunches will again be in St John's Church Lovers Walk on Fridays. Triduum: Holy Thursday Mass will be at 7pm followed by quiet time in front of the Blessed Sacrament in the hall. Good Friday service will be at 3pm Stations of the Cross will be at 7pm. Easter Vigil Mass will be at 9pm.

Safeguarding/PVG.

The PVG's are almost finished and up to date. Thanks to John and Paula.

RCIA/Grow in Faith Sessions.

We have 1 enquirer who will be Confirmed and receive First Communion at the Easter Vigil Mass. The sessions are well received by those who come along. There will be the Sacrament of Confirmation for a young couple preparing for marriage on 21st February 2016. The work book used in the Growing Faith Sessions is also used by Fr Jim in the Prison.

RCIC

Bishop William Nolan will confer the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion on the children on 22nd May 2016 at 11.30 am Mass. We have 10 children for the Sacraments and 8 others

making their first Confession. The Saturday morning meetings with the children are well attended thanks goes to Fiona, Elizabeth and Marie. We also wish to thank all those who lead the Children's liturgy on Sunday morning, and the 6 new volunteers for offering to assist.

Improvements: The toilets are the next item to be up dated and the toilet in the back sacristy will also be looked at. There will be improvements to the choir area by increasing the height of the choir surround and a hand rail will be fitted at the steps and in the Sacristy.

School Reports

St Joseph's College is being updated and the school children are being decanted into portacabins for the next 2 years. Thanks go to the schools for preparing the church for Education Sunday. Miss Blount and Dominic gave us a great insight to school life at St Teresa's. Thank you to both.

Ababa Project and TEACH programme.

The Ababa team are having a charity shop in the old Olivers Bakery in Dumfries from 7-12 March see Beatrice if you can help in anyway.

There are 98 children in the TEACH programme. A great effort from the Parish. The monthly collections are still doing well.. The group are trying to contact Bob Geldof as he is in concert at Palmerston Park soon and it was through Band Aid our project was started.

Parish Youth.

Young Sean McCrone is going to World Youth Day in Poland our best wishes go with him. We are arranging a bowling and pizza night for the Altar servers to thank them for their good work over the year.

It is also nice to see the young ones being prepared to accept new ministries.

Justice and Peace Group

No report

Fair Trade

Fr Jim will speak to Pat.

SCIAF: Wee boxes will be here for Lent. The government will match all the collections for SCIAF as they did last year.

DCN :

The Parish is looking for new ways to work with our local Ministers in our area and has withdrawn from the DCN. Fr Jim is trying to arrange a meeting with this in mind.

Dairy of Events.

Ababa Charity Shop Week 07-12March 2016

Lenten Reconciliation Service and 1st Confession Monday 14th March 7pm

Chrism Mass Tuesday 22nd March in St Margaret's Cathedral Ayr at 7pm.

May Day Mass and BBQ: Sunday 8th May 2016.

Confirmation/1st Communion day Sunday 22nd May at 11.30am .

Date of Next Meeting Thursday 19th May 2016

The meeting closed with prayer, hymn and blessing by Fr Jim.