

St Teresa's Parish Community

Minutes of Parish Pastoral Council

15th September 2016

Present: Fr Jim, Deacon Willie, Kathleen McMillan, Elizabeth Robertson, Peggy Marshall, John Lawson, Marilyn Mc Ewen.

Welcome and opening Prayer said by all.

The Pastoral Council wishes to thank Paula Cochrane who has been Chairperson for the last 10 years. She has decided to hang up her Chairperson hat to concentrate on other activities and family commitments.

Opening Discussion; Announcement followed by Vocations Awareness Week are we aware of our own vocation?

Thanks to Sister Anouska who gave the parish a talk on her vocation, Sister also gave the talk at Moffat and Lockerbie and the Ladies Guild.

In her words "In Christ we become the best person we can be" Sister Anouska came across as a happy and cheerful person, she also spoke of we are all work in progress.

The Pastoral Council wish to thank Sister Anouska for coming to the three parishes and passing on her call to the religious life.

Fr Jim Chaired the meeting.

Evacuation procedures/rehearsal:

New procedures are being put in place due to the murder of the French priest, Fr Jacques Hamel, during Mass in his church in France recently.

There will be a key left in the working sacristy door during Mass, it will be a safe place to escape and have a locked safe area if ever required. The marshalls will be the passkeepers who will direct the way out if there was an emergency. Exits are already signposted the assembly point is the rear carpark. We also need to be aware of people with mobility problems.

The back gates will be opened for each Mass to give easy access in an emergency. There will also be a mobile phone in the Sacristy for emergencies.

.Safeguarding/PVG.

The Pastoral Council wishes to thank Paula for her commitment over the years to the PVG process, She has decided to also retire from this. The Pastoral Council also wishes John Lawson for his continuing commitment to this task.

The Parish list is updated, new volunteers are going through the PVG process. There will be training for leaders. Fr Jim attended the Scottish meeting at Tulliallan Police College. John Lawson will give the annual update at the Ministry evening in October.

RCIA/Grow in Faith Sessions.

There is one enquirer and the sessions will begin soon using the current book.

RCIC

Bishop Nolan will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on 24th February 2017 in St Andrew's Church. This will be done across the diocese on a cluster basis. To then be reviewed.

The first parents evening will be Monday 11th September. The Children will have their first meeting on 17th September.

First communion day will be 18th June 2017 the Feast of Corpus Christi.

Thanks to Fiona, Elizabeth and Marie for their continuing help.

Improvements: The toilets improvements are ongoing the Parish office will be moving from the parish house to the Church.

School Reports;

St Teresa's School will be having a Macmillan coffee morning.

Ababa Project and TEACH Program.

. Sister Getu will going to Mulingar for 2 months. Trying to arrange a visa for her to visit the parish.

Teach: There will 104 children sponsored this year a great effort from the parish

Parish Youth.

7-8 young people will be having their 1st rehearsal for leading the parish in the music and readings for the youth-led Mass. Thanks to their leaders for giving their time to this excellent work.

Justice and Peace Group

No report

Ecumenism: Fr Jim has still to arrange a meeting with the local Church of Scotland ministers.

Closing remarks:

Fr Jim spoke of training sessions in the deanery for the laity, possible starting a Bereavement group in the parish, to help families at sad and often difficult times. The sessions will also include training for Lay Leaders to receive a body into the church, a grave side service/cremation service etc.

Dairy of Events..

Mass for the Sick 25 September 2016

Ministry Evening 3rd October 2016

Confirmation 24th February 2017 in St Andrew's Church .

First Communion 18th June 2017.

Date of Next Meeting Thursday 19th January 2017

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