

St Teresa's Parish Church

Minutes of Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held on the 19th January 2017

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

Welcome and opening Prayer said by all.

Opening Discussion; Advent/Christmas

Looking back on the feedback from 2015 it was agreed that the latest Vigil mass would be 9pm instead of Midnight.

All Christmas services were well attended in all the parishes with all the extended families home for Christmas.. The times agreed were better.

The Parish Pastoral Council wishes to thank everybody who assisted in any way.

New music is always necessary and welcome in the parish but this year we didn't get to know it well enough for Christmas- a little longer introduction for the parishioners would have been helpful. Well done to Lydia for her singing at the vigil mass.

Easter Triduum 2017 will be in Holy Trinity Lockerbie. The full Triduum will be celebrated in St Andrew's Dumfries for those parishioners living in the town. Parishioners are welcome to attend any church of course.

Deanery Pastoral Council: This will take place in Kirkcudbright on Saturday 18th February 11am till 1pm. The parish will be looking for two volunteers to attend this. Please give names to Fr Jim by 12th February.

Evacuation procedures/rehearsal:

New procedures are being put in place at the request of the Church Insurers following recent events in France when the elderly priest and his congregation were attacked.

This procedure will take place in the Spring. The back Church gates will be opened and keys put in both sacristy doors with immediate effect.

RCIA/Grow in Faith Sessions.

Suzanna working with talks on the spirituality of St Teresa these sessions will continue. There is no set RCIA sessions planned at this time.

RCIC

Bishop William Nolan will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on 24th February 2017 in St Andrew's Church . this will be done as an area basis in future years.

Thanks to Fiona, Elizabeth and Marie for their continuing work as parish Catechists.

First communion day will take place on 18th June-the Feast of Corpus Christi.

Safeguarding/PVG.

The Pastoral Council heard from John Lawson about the Safeguarding in the Parish. Catherine Lavell will now assist him. PVG's now require to be renewed every 3yrs. The Diocesan office will notify those who need to renew them. There was a deanery PVG meeting on 22November with the co-ordinators and the new Diocesan Advisor, Mr Gerry McCabe. There will be training days on 11th February and 11th March.

Improvements: The toilet roof will be seen to as soon as possible to repair the leak.

All see a big improvement in them.

School Reports: No reports.

Bereavement Group:

This is a Diocesan initiative to train lay people to take Funeral/Cremation Services in absence of a Priest/Deacon. They will be trained in the Rite For Christian Funerals. St Mary's Deanery in North Ayrshire has already started training with Fr W. McFadden, Vicar General, and this will be evaluated before being rolled out in the other 3 Deaneries. This group will be part of a parish Bereavement team who will visit those who have lost a loved one. There will be training for this and people will visit in pairs.

Ababa Project and TEACH Programme.

The charity shop will be in the Bakers Oven from 13th March for one week. There will also have a three number lottery/and a Quiz night for fundraising. We will need items for the charity shop. There will be a jumble sale for any items left from the charity shop.

SVDP:

One of the members will be leaving soon to go back to Australia. We thank Mr Ian Paton for his great work and support of the parish community and wish them well as they return to their native land.

Ecumenism: There will be Week of prayer for Christian Unity. Fr Jim has still to meet with local ministers.

Parish children/Youth work: The youth led singing is going well thanks to Darius, Maeve and Louise. Our thanks and encouragement go to all of them.

Closing remarks:

The parish Pastoral Council wishes to thank Peggy and the ladies for all the work that they did for Fr George's and Jean Moran's Funeral tea. It was a lovely way to pay homage to 2 well known friends of the parish. Thanks to all for helping out so well.

Dairy of Events:

Scottish Night 20th January 2017
Ababa Project Quiz night: Friday 10th February 2017
Deanery Pastoral Council: Saturday 18th February 2017
Confirmation 24th February 2017 in St Andrew's Church
Charity Shop week: w/c Monday 13th March 2017
Lenten Reconciliation Service: Monday 3rd April 2017
Easter Sunday: Sunday 16th April 2017
First Communion 18th June 2017.

Date of Next Meeting Thursday 23rd March 2017 and Thursday 1st June 2017

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