

St Teresa's Parish Church

Minutes of Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held on the 19th May 2016

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

Welcome and opening Prayer said by all.

Opening Discussion; First Communion/Confirmation Memories.

FR Jim asked us what memories we have from our own Communion and Confirmation.

Paula remarked that this Sunday will be the 41st anniversary of her 1st Communion.

Marilyn remarked that she had just been looking at her 1st Communion photos.

We all spoke of the special days they were. Elizabeth remembers that her Communion dress was made from her mother's wedding dress. Deacon Willie and Marilyn remembered that they were the first Confirmation group in St Teresa's. Fr Jim remembers his 1st Communion in St Robert's Glasgow and all the children being bussed down the road to the church hall so they did not get themselves dirty.

Kathy spoke of Confirmation in her parish was every 3 years. John's memory was that Bishop Black was taken ill and they had to find someone else. These were good memories.

Fr Jim handed the meeting over to Paula Cochrane.

Lent/Easter review:

The Holy week services were well attended. Elizabeth remarked that Exposition was a welcome extra during Lent. There was a good attendance at the Chrism Mass and there should have been more said regarding the Year of Mercy. Next year the Triduum will be in St Andrew's Church.

Safeguarding/PVG.

The Annual audit has been sent to the Diocese. There were 6 records to be re-submitted as they were lost at the Diocese office. It was pointed out that it would be nice to get an Email reply that they have received them. Paula and John have still 3 people to see re PVG's. The Parish Pastoral thanks John and Paula for their good work. There will be a deanery meeting at St Andrew's for the Safeguarding group.

RCIA/Grow in Faith Sessions. There is a good attendance at the Faith Sharing sessions, the Book we are using is easy to follow and is being used at Holy Trinity, St Luke's and in the prison. Paula said that Rebecca is using this book in her work experience.

Christina was Confirmed and received Communion for the first time, at the Easter Vigil. 3 parents of the children preparing for Confirmation/ 1st Communion have spoken to Fr Jim regarding Baptism.

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 9 children from St Teresa's and 1 from St Luke's Moffat for the Sacraments. The Saturday morning meetings with the children are well attended thanks goes to Fiona, Elizabeth and Marie.

Improvements: The toilets are the next item to be updated and the toilet in the back sacristy will be looked at as well. This has not started yet as Fr Jim is looking to move the Parish Office over to the Church and there will be some changes to the Confessional area. Fr Jim also will be looking for help with the Parish administration. Moving the office will also let the church be open more days.

School Reports;

We are aware that the pupils at St Joseph's will be decanting to porta cabins while the School is modernised. Peter Sanders is at St Teresa's as part of his teacher training we wish him well.

The Parish Pastoral Council sends its condolences to the family of Ellen (Gracie) Hamilton who was at St Teresa's school for 19 years as the secretary who sadly passed away on Monday 16th May.

Ababa Project and TEACH Program.

The Ababa team charity shop raised over £3500 well done to all this was a great parish event. Our thanks go to Beatrice for looking after this all week. This event was a good learning curve for other groups who may be considering this type of event in the future. Beatrice had also a letter in the Scottish catholic Observer about our mission in Ethiopia.

Teach: St Luke's Moffat raised £1000 with a coffee morning.

Rosie's birthday bash and race night raised £1000. Des donated £500 from his retirement party for the project. The group has sent the Sisters £8000. We will have some feed back from the Sisters as to what it will be used for.

Parish Youth.

Young Sean is going to world youth day in Poland our best wishes go with him. We had a bowling and pizza night for the Altar servers from St Luke's Holy Trinity and St Teresa's 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

SCIAF; The government will match all the collections for SCIAF like they did last year £1 for £1.

The SVDP work away in the background visiting parishoners, helping those in need. The Pastoral Council thanks them for all the good work they do.

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..

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

RCIC Thanksgiving Mass Sunday 5th June 2016.

Jumble sale in Parish hall 25th June 2016

Whithorn Pilgrimage Sunday 28th August 2016

Autumn Fare Saturday 1st October continuing on Sunday 2nd after morning Mass.

Date of Next Meeting Thursday 15th September 2016

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