

St Teresa's Parish Community
Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)
Minutes of Meeting held on the 27th June 2013

Present: Father Jim, Deacon Willie, Paula Cochrane, Peggy Marshall, Joan Smith, Madeleine Callander, Elizabeth Robertson, Marilyn McEwan, Derek Cochrane, Beatrice Gardiner, John Lawson, Alice Miller, Cameron Ferguson, Geraldine McDermott, Liam Murray and Eileen Woodman.

Welcome and opening Prayer said by all.

1. Opening remarks from Father Jim.

Father spoke of the Year of Faith Deanery Conference held in Kirkcudbright and thanked everyone who attended and participated so well in what was a very successful event. One to be repeated for sure.

2. Minutes.

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting held on 16th May 2013 were read and approved.
Approved by M McEwen and Seconded by E Robertson.

3. Embracing Change.

The Year of Faith Conference was well attended by parishioners from each parish. It was good to get together with the other churches. It was felt that more of this type of meeting was needed in the future. Each church in turn gave a short talk on their parish. Dalbeattie started off the conference with a reflection of what occurred when Father Neil O'Donnell moved to Stranraer and how they coped. St Conal's community was in a different situation as their church was closing. They were planning to meet regularly so as to keep their area of the parish active.

It was understood that there would not be a resident priest in every parish but every parish would have a parish priest. This made everyone aware of the problems facing the deanery and the whole diocese. There is only one student studying for the priesthood at the present time.

People will have to understand that they may have to travel a distance to attend Mass. It was brought to everyone's attention that each parish has something to share with another parish, actually becoming richer, rather than poorer in the process. Perhaps in the parishes with no resident priest there could be a house mass celebrated occasionally where there is no longer a church building. With the closure of some churches those who exercised a ministry should continue that in whichever parish/church they then subsequently attend.

It was pointed out that the chart indicating parishes and parishioners was helpful in understanding the present situation.

When the mass times change we may lose some people, therefore we need to call on the help of the Holy Spirit.

Further changes will come in the future due to the ongoing shortage of priests.

The parish community needs to continue making people feel welcome when they come to worship and church activities. People must be aware of others' difficulties in getting to Sunday mass due to the changes in times of Masses and be willing to assist in getting them there.

There was a great feeling of love, kindness, excitement and joy at the meeting.

The parish priest's should have confidence in delegating more of the everyday running of the parishes.

The people who attended the meeting felt they were uplifted and asked what can we do to help? What should the Priest stop doing?

The people accepted the situation and need to be sympathetic to the real need for real change. Those with a resident priest need to be mindful that he is shared by others.

The present three Sunday masses will have to change. The Sunday evening Mass will possibly go and the final Mass at St Conal's will be on Saturday 31st August at 2pm with Bishop Cunningham and Fr Jim.

Paula Cochrane, John Lawson and Deacon Willie will attend a meeting at Lockerbie on the 1st July with representatives from Lockerbie and Moffat with Fr Jim. It was noted that St Luke's, Moffat is a Chapel of Ease.

The meeting closed with prayer, hymn and blessing

Date and time of next meeting:

Thursday 26th September 2013 7-9pm.