

Meeting: St. Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council
Date: Monday, 28th October 2024
Location: St. Joseph's Church Hall

Present:

Sr Mary Mabel Chukwu (MC)	Desmond Cunningham (DC)
Eileen Cunningham (EC)	Amélie Davidson (AD) <i>Vice Chair</i>
Sally Hamill (SH)	Janice Lennon (JL)
Margaret McGrath (MM)	Fr Stephen McGrattan (SM) <i>Parish Priest</i>
George McIntyre (GM) <i>Secretary</i>	Paul Nicholson (PN) <i>Chair</i>
Sr Marilyn Juliet Obiorah (JO)	Fr Kevin Rennie (KR) <i>Assistant Priest</i>
Judith Wilson (JW)	

Apologies: Laura Hand (LH), Ruairidh Heron (RH), Sr Mary Rose Maduka (MRM), Hugh Matthews (HM).

Item	Notes	Action
1.	Welcome, Opening Prayer and Sederunt: PN welcomed everyone and as PPC Chair formally opened the meeting. EC provided and read out the opening prayer to Our Lady of Peace.	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising: The previous minutes were proposed by SH and seconded by JL. There were no matters arising.	
3.	Ministries: 1. Retreat for Eucharistic Ministers and Readers- SM confirmed that the retreat on the 2 nd December 2024 is for readers to reflect on the ministry and formation on the New Lectionary. The retreat for the Eucharistic Ministers will be held at a time to be arranged in the New Year; 2. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)- The process to support and share faith and Catholic teaching with those who are preparing to join the Church started on 29 th August 2024 and is progressing well with eight candidates.	SM/KR to progress
4.	Finance: SM provided an overview of the current running costs and in summary our income is almost equal to our expenditure. This means that we are unable to build capital to tackle further essential projects/maintenance work. Previous large legacy contributions have now been consumed. Funds generated from the hall usage are contributing towards upgrades within this part of the estate. SM asked if it was reasonable to ask those parishioners who are able, to increase their weekly donations. The Council members in attendance agreed.	

	<p>He also asked if we had anyone with fund raising experience, for example, in applying for government or lottery grants and this is also something that could be looked at to see if we have the necessary skills within the Parish.</p> <p>PN proposed that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the Parish Finance Committee be convened to review the current situation b) a sub-committee to be formed to review the specific projects and necessary timelines to create a calendar of events c) communicate back to the Parish to enable a better understanding of the current and future challenges. <p>KR commented that this feedback could be timed along with issue of the January Statement of Accounts.</p> <p>SM confirmed that the Parish Finance Committee will be convened before Christmas 2024 and a summary of the income versus outgoings to be prepared as above.</p> <p>KR presented the new card payment machine for the Church to enable cashless donations to be made for parishioners who prefer this means of making contributions. The unit is relatively easy to use but some instructions will be prepared and located nearby.</p> <p>GM updated the meeting that a parishioner had suggested as a fund-raising activity that we could use the newsletter for advertisements for local services like some other parishes such as Saint Matthew's. SM preferred to leave the newsletter in its current format highlighting Parish news rather than utilising space for advertising.</p>	<p><i>SM to progress</i></p> <p><i>KR to progress</i></p>
5.	<p>Fabric:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Electrical work update- The hall lighting upgrades have now been completed except for one item to be addressed by the contractor in the near future; 2. Pointing of Church- Repointing and cleaning of stonework on the façade of the church was scheduled to take place between April and July 2024 but due to crumbling of the house wall, the work had to be reprioritised to deal with this first. The front of the house and some roof work has been completed but there are still three sides of the house to progress. This cannot proceed next year due to a lack of funds; 3. Hall renovations- The roof of the hall needs replaced and is the main task requiring a fund-raising project and grant funding. The fascia board around the hall may also need repaired. An inspection of the fascia below the slates around the perimeter of the hall is required. It may require replacing the old fascia with new PVC panels. Action carried forward; 4. Cupboards in Green Room (hall)- MM confirmed that new cupboard units for the Green Room just need to be purchased when hall funds accumulate with labour being provided free. Action carried forward; 5. Display board with past priests- A contractor has been identified and now just needs a sign-writer. The potential location is above the Holy Water font and donation boxes in the porch. Action carried forward; 	<p><i>SM to consult contractors</i></p> <p><i>MM to consult contractor when funds available</i></p> <p><i>SM/KR to progress</i></p>

	<p>6. Carpet at front of church- JL previously commented that the carpet just in front of the altar is showing signs of wear and tear. Professional cleaning or replacement was discussed but due to other projects pending no action was determined, as yet. JW reported that the trip hazard with the carpet on the left-hand side near the Altar has now been remedied. Action Closed.</p>	<p>Closed</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Social Events:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mini-bus trips (2025 plan): KR commented that there have been lot of proposals for the outings in 2025 and the new plan is in preparation; 2. Hallowe'en Quiz (Saturday 26th October 2024): MM reported that this had been a great success so much so the preparation for next year (Friday 31st October 2025) has already started. The funds raised were £562; 3. Ceilidh (Saturday 30th November 2024): This is being hosted by the East Ayrshire Gaelic Forum with tickets available in the hall; 4. Children's Party (8th December 2024): With Santa's availability confirmed, this is now ready to go; 5. Senior's Christmas Party (5th January 2025): The planning is ongoing; 6. Burns Supper (25th January 2025): This will follow the same format as last year; 7. Saint Patrick's Day (Friday 21st March 2025)- The planning for this celebration will begin after Christmas but due to availability issues last time, Sean Kelly has been booked to provide the entertainment and hot food is also being planned. 	<p>KR to progress</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Periodic Review of Parish Council membership:</p> <p>SM previously commented that the membership of the Parish Council was designed to be around 12 individuals at any one time and then have a periodic refresh with three members stepping down where appropriate to allow new members to join without impacting the balance of the group. SM requested that the decision to renew the Council membership be postponed until the summertime. All the meeting attendees were happy to continue in role.</p> <p>A further check is required to determine that there is a willingness for others to serve on the Council. Action carried forward.</p>	<p>SM to assess interest via a newsletter item in May 2025</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Remembrance Day banners:</p> <p>HM previously suggested that there was the potential for a Saint Joseph's flag to be presented with the other flags during the Remembrance Day Masses or at other appropriate events. MM checked with the Guides/Scouts regarding where they source their flags but this was a bit expensive. A local artist who has previously worked with the Parish is to be approached for further ideas. Action Closed.</p>	<p>MM to progress-Closed</p>

9.	<p>Deanery Pastoral Council:</p> <p>The Bishop has requested some addition structure be introduced to the Pastoral Councils with the introduction of a Deanery Pastoral Council to operate between the individual Parish and the Diocese meetings. The proposal is that the parishes in the Deanery meet twice a year to share good practice, identify where support is needed and to generally help each other where possible. Each parish will be represented by 2-3 lay individuals in addition to their priests from the respective parish or councils. The initial Deanery Pastoral Council for our area, led by SM, will be held in Saint Joseph's on 3rd December 2024. The format for the first meeting will involve a short report from each Parish, identifying the needs of the Parish and how to support each other. As part of the Diocesan Jubilee Celebrations, the Deanery Pastoral Council will be provided with an overview of one of the four documents from the Second Vatican Council, namely, Lumen Gentium (Christ is the light of the Nations) with a view to run a day session on one of these documents later.</p> <p>MM, SH and PN volunteered to attend. SM also stated that if anyone else is interested to contact either SM or KR.</p> <p>Jubilee 2025- The Year of Jubilee 2025 commences from 24th December 2024 through to 24th December 2025 and will be marked with a Mass at the Cathedral on 29th December 2024. SM shared a copy of the Pastoral Letter-Jubilee 2025- Pilgrims of Hope issued by Bishop Frank. In the letter it states that Pope Francis has invited us all to be pilgrims of hope and to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another and with all of creation. The Bishop has asked that we look around us for signs of God's love here and now in our local community and to be thankful for what God has already given us plus to pray one simple prayer more than we have before: the Glory Be. It asks for nothing, praises God and declares our faith in the Trinity.</p>	SM to provide further information in the homily
10.	<p>Pilgrimage Review:</p> <p>The recent pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela and Fatima was seen as a great success and PN thanked SM for all his significant efforts and contributions to this. SM commented that it was a very open group which built relationships and community.</p> <p>The possibilities of arranging a pilgrimage locally in 2025 (Iona, Blairs, Pluscarden Abbey or Scalan) and internationally in 2026 (Rome/Assisi or Salamanca) were discussed. SM agreed to make enquires about the Rome/Assisi or Salamanca possibilities.</p>	SM to make enquires
11.	<p>Society of Saint Vincent de Paul:</p> <p>SM commented that the current demand for food parcels is greater than the income being received putting pressure on supply. It was agreed that the recent financial details included in the Newsletter were welcomed as it allowed a clearer understanding to the wider Parish of how many food bags were needed weekly plus the associated funds involved. This may bring added donations in time.</p> <p>SM also commented that a possible solution would be to partner up with the Trussell Trust, however some concern was raised regarding the possibility of the Trust only supplying to referrals which may deter others from requesting aid.</p> <p>SM/KR to suggest this to SVDP with a view to them discussing it and investigating it further if appropriate.</p>	SM/KR to contact SDVP

12.	<p>Age of receipt of the Sacrament of Confirmation:</p> <p>The Bishop requested feedback on the current timings for the receipt of the Sacrament of Confirmation. SM commented that the Sacrament of Confirmation is normally planned for P4 in the Spring before First Holy Communion in the Summer but asked what the experience was for others at the meeting. This could be at different times depending on the availability of the Bishop and could be in P6 or P7. The view of the Council members in general was P6 or P7 was an appropriate time for Confirmation to take place.</p>	
13.	<p>Previous Open Actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was previously agreed that a Papal Blessing would be suitable way to commemorate the 175th anniversary. The original aim was to achieve this by the end of the anniversary year but it is more appropriate now to coincide it with the formal dedication of the Church. Following the Ordination of the new Bishop, this will be actioned when a date for the dedication is arranged. This will not occur before Easter 2025. Action carried forward; 2. Car park signage- Appropriate signage relating to car park usage is currently being reviewed. Action Closed. 	<p><i>SM to progress</i></p> <p><i>SM, KR to contact DGr- Closed</i></p>
14.	<p>AOCB:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collection bag placement (following the Offertory procession): JW identified that the position on the Altar steps (beside the hand-rail) where the collection bags are placed by the Passkeepers during the Offertory procession is a potential trip hazard. They should be placed in a better position to ensure access to the hand-rail by Eucharistic Ministers/Altar servers is not blocked; 2. Children’s Liturgy (Sunday Mass)- There is a need for someone to assist with the correct timing for the children (and adults) to return into the church from the Children’s Liturgy. MM suggested that this could be an addition to the role of the Sunday Passkeepers; 3. Gas cooker in hall kitchen- JW reported that there was a strong smell of gas when recently using the cooker. Action Closed; 4. Congratulations were extended to JO at the meeting on taking her Perpetual Profession of Religious Vows. In return, JO wished to thank the Parish Council, priests and Parish for the “wonderful and lovely gift of pilgrimage” and had been “blown away” by the kindness shown by the Parish; 5. Youth and young adult activities - KR has been appointed Diocesan Youth Officer. He reported that two new groups, based in Saint Joseph’s but serving the diocese, will soon begin: Young Adults- for young adults aged 18-30 will meet on the 1st Sunday of each month, starting on 1st December 2024. Each meeting will start with Mass, followed by a talk, discussion, and some time to socialise; 	<p><i>GM to inform the Saturday Vigil Passkeepers / MM to inform the Sunday Passkeepers- Completed</i></p> <p><i>MM to speak to the Sunday Passkeepers- Completed</i></p> <p><i>MM to arrange for this to be checked- Closed</i></p>

	<p>Youth- for youth in P7-S6 will meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month. It is hoped that this will start in February 2025.</p>	
	<p>Date and time of next meeting:</p> <p>Next meeting: Monday, 27th January 2025 at 6:30 pm in St. Joseph’s Church Hall.</p> <p>Opening prayer at next meeting: JO</p>	<p><i>JO to prepare and read out opening prayer at next meeting</i></p>