

St Bride's Pastoral Planning Team
Minutes Meeting 19th May 2014

1. Attendance and Apologies

- a. Attendance: Father Doyle, Margaret-Mary Docherty, Kevin Rooney, Joseph Hughes, Solange Murphy
- b. Apologies: Charles McFarlane,

2. Review of last Parish Council meeting/ matters arising

- a. Ecumenical events: invitations were extended to the Lenten prayer services and St Bride's and Bothwell Parish Church both collected for the Food Bank throughout Lent. No other joint ventures have been planned to date, but it was suggested that an invitation be extended to Mr. Gibson and members of Bothwell Parish to attend the forthcoming Bothwell Philharmonic concert.
- b. Youth Group: Father Doyle has discussed the concept of the Youth Minister at Deanery level. He has also had provisional discussions with the Chaplain of Holy Cross and RE teacher at Fernhill School about increasing the involvement of school pupils in a number of groups, including Pastoral Care Group, Justice and Peace, as well as Children's Liturgy and Music group. The Xaverian Fathers have a model of chaplaincy that has been discussed with Father Doyle.
- c. Evangelii Gaudium Document: this is being discussed at Diocesan level. It was suggested that Father Reilly may be able to lead a discussion forum on the contents of this document in the session after summer holidays.
- d. Pastoral Priorities for Motherwell Diocese: there was some discussion around the content of this document, including rationalization of Masses and notional "twinning" of parishes. This will be discussed in more detail at the Parish meeting.

3. Reports from groups:

a. *Spirituality group:*

- Copies of the minutes of the April meeting of this group were discussed. The group continues to be very busy. Reports were given on the Lenten morning and evening reflections. Next steps are to consider retreats for different groups, bereavement courses, further talks in the parish and involvement of the primary school children, through prayer and meditation.

b. *Fabric and Planning group:*

- Kevin provided an update on the membership and actions of this group including:
- Church Roof- Richard Morris, an engineer has been asked to perform a structural survey. Any costs will have to be discussed with the Finance Committee. There may be some short-term repairs required to the roof.
- Car park- an approach has now been made to South Lanarkshire Council to formalise the arrangements to cover repairs, liability, insurance, gritting and general maintenance. In addition, Frank King is going to cost the price of barriers and remote access control of lighting. It is hoped that this issue could be chased before the end of the school term.

- Garden Maintenance- to establish costs of formalising contract- currently maintenance through informal arrangement.
- Heating- will remain an item on the agenda.
- Call Room- plans to extend an area at the immediate entrance to the Presbytery to become a formal Call Room- Frank King arranging quotes.
- Contracts: Kevin requested that copies of all existing contracts for the Parish (gas/ electricity/ boilers etc.) be passed to the Fabric and Planning Group.

c. Pastoral Care group

This group has also made considerable progress and discussed a number of areas:

- Bereavement Counseling- the Sisters of Notre Dame organize a course on Bereavement and loss in general (could include marriage breakdown, loss of job etc.) and have offered to run this course for a small group. The costs could be paid through the Parish and donations through Funeral Directors.
- Support for benefit application- introduction of Universal Benefit likely to result in increasing difficulties both on a financial level and a practical level in completing necessary online forms. Father Doyle has been informed the Parish may be eligible for support to enable purchase of computers to be housed in the Pastoral Centre and assist any parishioners in completing online forms in a private environment. This will be pursued through the local council.
- Assistance in getting to church- agreed to keep any arrangements informal but to encourage parishioners to consider any neighbours requiring assistance getting to Church. There may be the possibility
- Involvement of secondary age children- several young people already volunteer in care homes and it was suggested this could be extended to a befriending/ visiting service for isolated elderly parishioners.

d. Social Committee/ Hospitality group

A number of events have already taken place and further events are planned:

- Children's Entertainment- this will be a monthly event
- Easter activities- Easter Bonnet Parade and Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Monday.
- Refreshments after the Thursday morning Scripture group and 6pm Sunday evening Mass.
- Teddy Bears picnic June 2014
- St Andrew's night dance
- Christmas dance

e. Justice and Peace group

Copies of the most recent of the monthly meetings were distributed and discussed:

- Foodbank- generosity has been overwhelming (donations, volunteers for collection and transport to Blantyre). The foodbank will run on the 3rd Sunday of each month, with a break over the summer. Next collections 15th June and 21st September.
- Parish talks well attended and well received.
- Third World Group- promoting Fairtrade and helping at the Fairtrade stall
- Future meetings will run on the first Monday of every month

f. Finance Committee

The aim is to establish this group before the summer months. It was suggested that a reminder of the option for donations to be made through Gift Aid and Direct Debit mandates be added to the newsletter.

g. Renewal of Ministries

Father Doyle will lead in this group, but it is anticipated that the Renewal programme will begin after summer. Possibilities include retreats, information evenings and talks for Eucharistic Ministers and readers.

h. Children's Liturgy group

This group is running very well and has a good number of volunteers.

i. Parish Safeguarding group

2 new officers now in position

4. Parish website

The Parish website launched on Easter Sunday. Some parishioners had experienced difficulty accessing the site. Instructions were given both verbally and in the newsletter. It may be that modifications may be required to enable the website to open on mobile and tablet devices. One member of each of the above groups will be asked to update the website with reports/ minutes of their respective groups. The minutes of the Pastoral Planning team will also be placed on the website.

5. Report on Youth Ministry and our options for the future

As detailed above, Father Doyle will continue to provide updates.

6. Pastoral Planning Team Offices/ Chair

Joseph Hughes has kindly agreed to chair this group and the Parish meeting. An agenda will be set in advance of the next Parish meeting on Monday 9th June.

7. AOCB

The idea of a Parish project was discussed. This would be for the session after summer and after the investiture of our new Bishop.

8. Dates of next meetings

- Pastoral planning team: Monday 25th August 2014, 7.30pm
- Parish Council Open meeting: Monday 9th June, 7.30pm