

St Bride's Pastoral Planning Team
Minutes Meeting 3rd April 2014

1. Attendance and Apologies

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

2. Review of last Parish Council meeting/ matters arising

- a. Event to mark Canonisation of Popes John XXIII and John Paul II: no definite arrangements have been made at this stage and it is anticipated the Parish will mark this important event with a prayer card.
- b. Ecumenical events: invitations have been extended to the Lenten prayer services. Bothwell Parish Church and St Bride's have been collecting for the Food Bank on a weekly basis through Lent.

3. Reports from groups:

a. ***Spirituality group:***

- Solange provided a report indicating that this group has been very active. They organised a Lenten Service of Reflection on March 26th, with participation of the Youth Music Group and all who attended found this very helpful and worthwhile. There has also been scripture Reflections every Thursday of Lent after the 9.30am Mass and there was discussion around extending this reflection to the Primary school and perhaps in the long term leading to a Scripture Study Group.

b. ***Fabric and Planning group:***

- Kevin provided an update on the membership and actions of this group including:
- Church Roof- discussing both short and long term fixes. A request has been made for a formal structural survey for the roof to enable better planning on likely lifespan and future costs.
- New glass porch- issues have been resolved. A completion certificate is expected.
- Leakage from the toilet roof- now resolved.
- Car park- this is a longstanding issue dating back to the time of the fire at St Bride's Primary School. 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.
- Lighting- the group have made enquiries about remote access to lighting for the car park which is currently operated from the Pastoral Centre.
- 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.
- Church cleaning- largely done at present by Housekeeper and a small bunch of volunteers. Father Doyle will make plea for additional volunteers.
- Next meeting Thursday 24th April

c. ***Pastoral Care group***

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

- Bereavement Counseling- the Sisters of Notre Dame run a clinic for children and a course on Bereavement and have offered to run this course for a small group. The costs could be paid through the Parish and donations through Funeral Directors.
- Bereavement support- to arrange a visit after bereavement
- Isolation of Senior Citizens- a number of suggestions have been made to improve isolation, including the Tea Dance Group, Tuesday Club, involving the young people of the Parish as part of their Caritas work among others.
- November Mass- this could become an annual event as the recent Mass run by the primary school as part of the Anniversary Year provided comfort to a large number of parishioners.
- 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.
- Assistance in getting to church- agreed to keep any arrangements informal but to encourage parishioners to consider any neighbours requiring assistance getting to Church.

d. Social Committee/ Hospitality group

- A number of events have already taken place or are planned:
- St Patrick's Night Dance
- Children's Entertainment- this will be a monthly event and even though the first event took place on Mother's Day, 40 children and their parents enjoyed an afternoon of entertainment organised by "Future Stars.
- Easter activities- there will be a, Easter Bonnet Parade and Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Monday.
- Refreshments after the Thursday morning Scripture group and 6pm Sunday evening Mass.

e. Justice and Peace group

- Solange provided a report:
- Foodbank- generosity has been overwhelming (donations, volunteers for collection and transport to Blantyre).
- Third World Group- promoting Fairtrade and helping at the Fairtrade stall
- School involvement- help from pupils at Holy Cross and Fernhill has been much appreciated.
- Talks- a series of very interesting talks have been organised over Lent
- Primary school linkage- a suggestion has been made to extend involvement to the Primary school, perhaps through a twinning project with Syria.

f. Finance Committee

The aim is to establish this group after Easter.

g. Renewal of Ministries

Father Doyle will lead in this group, but it is anticipated that the Renewal programme will begin after summer.

h. Children's Liturgy group

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

i. Parish Safeguarding group

Two new safeguarding officers have been trained and an audit has just been completed with no issues identified.

4. Parish website

The Parish website will be launched after Easter and will contain reports from all the active groups in the Parish as well as important demographics and information on all the services. It was agreed that all information will need to be moderated and it is not anticipated that there will be facilities for “live” updates.

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

Father Doyle provided a number of documents relating to Youth Ministry, detailing the key skills required, the background to the development of Youth Ministry and sample job descriptions. The Xaverians run a course on Youth Ministries over a 3-year period and run in a modular manner. These documents were also shared at a recent Deanery meeting, as one option would be to share the post of Youth Minister over the Deanery. In any case, a long-term investment would be required in terms of money, time and commitment, but there is consensus that this post would be a very positive move for the Parish. Father Doyle will continue to provide updates.

6. Pastoral Planning Team Offices/ Chair

This will be discussed at the next meeting.

7. AOCB

Father Doyle discussed an Apostolic document and an accompanying précis given by Father Paul Morton. Both documents accompany these minutes.

8. Dates of next meetings

- Pastoral planning team: Monday 19th May 2014, 7.30pm
- Parish Council Open meeting: Monday 9th June, 7.30pm