

MINUTES OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

HELD AT ST COLUMBA'S ON 2<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER 2019

The Meeting opened with a prayer.

PRESENT: Fr William, Fr James, Amy O'Donnell, Tom Coyle, Ann McCarthy, Mark Traynor, Mike Maxwell, Ann Mosquera, Pauline Rourke, Carol Galvin, Lawrence Hordley, Freda Blundell & Eileen Irwin.

APOLOGIES: Tim Moore, Sue Carr, Moira Connolly, Francis Coxhead & Lynsey Weightman.

Lynsey has now resigned and we would like to thank her for the work and effort she has contributed to the Pastoral Council.

Ann welcomed Fr William and Fr James to their first Parish Pastoral Council meeting, and also welcomed back Tom and Eileen who had been ill.

	ACTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING &amp; MATTERS ARISING:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The picnic planned for 15<sup>th</sup> Sept at St Columba's: it didn't take place – maybe this is something for next year.</li> <li>b) Decree to complete the merger of the two churches: the decree has now been signed and sealed by Bishop Mark. Further information can be found on the website in regard to the details. As regards the merging of the 2 churches' finances - Fr William will ask the Diocese about this. It is not the first time churches have merged so he will ask how the finances have been worked out.</li> <li>c) Use of defibrillator – There is one in the hall at St Columba's and one to be sited in church at St Theresa's. It needs to be visible and people to know where it is kept. A training Day on the defibrillator would be a good idea. Sue Carr to be asked to organise this. The instructions on the equipment are self explanatory but there are issues around it. Maybe the youth group could attend the training.</li> <li>d) Issue of St Theresa's Parish Centre – Ann McCarthy has been in touch with Phil Black of the Diocesan clubs, asking for a meeting with himself, the Centre manager, Ann and some parishioners. No date been arranged yet. Some issues have been sorted with the new manageress ie there is not going to be a covered area backing on to the parish garden and the bins have been tidied. We just want to clarify if we have a say in what goes on in the club. The issue of the parish paying half of the cost of the heating and the car park has been raised with the Diocese by Fr Jonathan but as yet have not had a reply.</li> <li>e) The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• REPORT ON THE CHESTER PASTORAL FORUM HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY:               <p>Mike and Lawrence attended the last meeting and the Bible Month was discussed. This is in the newsletter and booklets are available at the back of church. Feast days were discussed, this year St Francis will hold events on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October, St Theresa's next year. The idea is that we celebrate each other's Feast day. Ellesmere Port has combined four churches. Each church has strengths and weaknesses and the idea is to share various areas. E.g Confirmation, marriage preparation, altar servers, SVP, Talks on faith, Eucharistic Ministers &amp; Readers training. There is a need to move forward in these areas. This is not off the ground yet - parishes need to be consulted for suggestions. It is important to get people used to getting together. At present the group is clergy heavy, more lay representatives are needed. It would be good to know if any parish has done anything on inclusivity. A discussion on ways this could be undertaken took place.</p> </li> <li>• MATTERS ARISING FROM SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:               <p><b>Communication sub-group-</b> Francis Coxhead has organised a new web site and newsletter but we don't know where it is up to. Fr James maybe able to help with this. It</p> </li> </ul>	<p>Fr William</p> <p>Sue Carr</p>

<p>was suggested that we thank Francis for the work he has done so far and ask if he can write a report before the next meeting to bring us up to date and email this to Fr James. Fr James spoke about what can be done and asked for a meeting with Francis Cox to discuss this.</p>	Francis Coxhead
<p><b>Liturgy Group</b> – The notes from the last meeting were circulated. Tom informed the group about a letter issued by Pope Francis instituting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time as the Sunday of the Word of God. It was suggested by Tom that there is a regular meeting to discuss the readings so that Readers can be better prepared to carry out their ministry. Tom was happy to do this. Bible Alive gives a very good explanation of the readings and is available on line.</p>	Tom Coyle
<p><b>Buildings</b> – nothing to report. The heating in St Columba’s church will be off until January. The three options are to use space heaters, use the church hall or use St Theresa’s church.</p>	
<p><b>Churches Together</b> – Freda has sent the notes of the activities taking place in Blacon. Stella Lumley is no longer the representative for the churches in Upton, Joseph O’Neill has taken over.</p>	
<p>There is a Community Carol Service at St Theresa’s on 9<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm for the local schools in Blacon. There is no date arranged for the parish carol service as yet. Ann McCarthy to arrange.</p>	Ann McCarthy
<p>The recent Upton Songs of Praise was well attended. Remembrance Sunday – there is a service at the cenotaph at Blacon cemetery at 12 noon and a service at Holy Ascension in Upton.</p>	
<p><b>Inclusivity</b> – a report was given out. The distributor for the digital hymn boards is no longer in this country. Tom to try and find out where his previous parish obtained their boards. Amy has put an item in the newsletter about dementia training.</p>	Tom Coyle
<p><b>Healing Mass:</b> This was well attended. Mark suggested having this service at the normal Mass. This would make it easier to give lifts and would be enriching and encouraging for those who don’t get out much to feel part of the community. Also it would enable others to have the opportunity to take part in the healing aspect of the service. Maybe try this at St Columba’s in May.</p>	
<p><b>A.O.B.</b> The Advent Talks with St Matthew by David Savage start on the 19<sup>th</sup> November in the Iona Chapel</p>	
<p>It was asked if the Pastoral Council minutes could be put on the website. Bernard to be asked</p>	Ann McCarthy
<p>It was asked if Fr William and Fr James could concelebrate Mass from time to time as they did on their first weekend with us.</p>	
<p>Hold joint celebrations in the future e.g. the Feast Days of St Columba and St Theresa. Fr William suggested “succession planning” - we need people in the pipeline to take over. Encourage people to look ahead and join the group. Fr William also asked whether we had a Constitution - this should be signed off by the Parish priest. Pauline to send a copy to Fr William and Fr James.</p>	Pauline Rourke
<p>Photos of the new Pastoral Council members are needed for the noticeboard. Ann McCarthy to ask Alison Wigglesworth to do this.</p>	Ann McCarthy
<p>Safeguarding – The parish representatives are Claire Graham for St Columba’s and Jane Walsh for St Theresa’s.</p>	
<p>DATE &amp; TIME OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm in St Theresa’s club.</p>	