



PARISH OF SAINT HELEN LANGSIDE

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

TUESDAY 10TH APRIL 2018 7.30PM ST. HELEN'S CHURCH HALL

1. OPENING PRAYER – led by Monsignor Paul.

2. PRESENT: Monsignor Paul, Deacon Kevin Kelly, Attracta O'Reilly, Clare Gonella, Grace Cohen, Patricia Weatherall, Fiona Mc Cartney, Michael O' Neill & Jackie Black

APOLOGIES: Andrea Nolan & Chiara Piacentini

3. WELCOME AND ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS: C.G. & A. O'R were both nominated for Chairperson. C.G. declined the role but was happy to be nominated for Vice Chairperson, with A. O'R willing to accept role of Chairperson. Both were nominated and seconded for amended roles.

A. O'Reilly chaired the meeting from that point onwards

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: (31/10/17) Read, discussed and approved by P.W.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

a) Feedback on Proposals agreed by Council that were to be proposed at Cluster Group Meeting in November'18 - St. Helen's Church will be part of a reduced Cluster Group along with St. Albert's and St. Leo's.

b) Children's Choir – Mgr. Paul to put notice in bulletin asking for Primary aged children who would be interested in singing at the First Communion Mass on Sunday 20th May'18. First meeting to be held after 11am Mass on Sunday 22nd April'18.

c) Review of St. Andrew's Day Meal – Great response and very positive feedback from Council and parishioners to meal. Overall food was very good, caterers very friendly and helpful. Having caterers meant people could socialise more. All in all, a very enjoyable and successful night!

d) Notices of Weddings, Baptisms and Requiem Masses -Mgr. Paul has, as far as possible, notified parishioners of Requiem Masses by putting notices in the bulletin. He has also created a database which contains the name of the deceased and date of death, as well as contact details for relatives with a view to organising an annual Requiem Memorial Mass.

6. CATECHESIS

a) Pre-sacramental – Confirmation, Holy Communion, Reconciliation and Baptism

Baptism – Hoping to introduce a Pre-Sacramental Course for Parents. D.Cohen & J. Black are developing handouts and investigating literature to provide a programme to assist parents in preparations for Baptism. Consideration will also be given to provide a booklet/pamphlet for parents/godparents. J.B. to feed back at next meeting.

Reconciliation – Preparation for Reconciliation went well. 6 children were presented. Concerns re. recordings being made during Service. Agreed that parents must be made more aware of protocol. Catechists to inform parents before the actual service.

First Communion- between 2 and 4 children involved. Frances and Jackie leading on this. Date is **SUNDAY 20th MAY at 11.00am Mass**. Consent Forms, to allow photographs, to be issued to parents.

Confirmation – Issue with Confirmation. There is only 1 child from the parish- therefore need to plan how to deliver the catechesis sessions. Will e mail Cluster Parishes to find out their arrangements for Catechesis sessions with a view to possibly amalgamating? G.C. to e mail. Date for Confirmation is TUESDAY 12th JUNE 2018 at Holy Cross.

b) Opportunities for Children – Children’s Liturgy

Noted that children are always enthusiastic about attending. Concern raised about children returning to their seats safely in the upper level of the church. J.B. to speak with Children’s Liturgy adults to ask them to remind children to keep safe by returning to seats without running.

c) Opportunities for Adults – Forward Planning

J.B. to study feedback and evaluations from previous Retreat to plan for next one. Fr. John Clark will return to parish in September and will possibly lead a retreat then. G.C. to contact Fr John to confirm.

St. Helen’s Parish to be involved in ‘Prayer around the Coast’ 29th April 2018. Will be publicised in bulletin with parishioners invited to record their interest. Cluster parishes will be invited to join St Helen’s on that day. Bus to be organised if required.

At next Meeting of PPC (May’18) liturgical plans for September’18 – June’19 will be drawn up.

d) Feedback from 5-week course ‘Let it be done unto me...’ was very favourable. Numbers have increased and people attending liked the format. Keys for hall to be cut for J.B. to facilitate future events.

7. LITURGY –LENT/EASTER

a) Feedback from Easter Services- numbers attending were high. Easter Vigil numbers have increased over the years. Children's Service was particularly poignant. Also felt the whole parish community was very much brought together. Suggestion to have flowers upstairs on the window ledges. Also, to take a closer look at distribution of Holy Communion when the Church is at full capacity. Mgr. Paul was thanked for leading very prayerful and spiritual services throughout Lent and Easter.

8. DECORATION OF PORCH.

Plans were discussed as to how best decorate the entrances to our Church i.e. porch areas. Notice boards to be covered and new signs to be put up. Possibly have ceilings painted.

9. PARISH COUNCIL

a) SVP looking for new members. C.G. to prepare information about role and ongoing commitment for potential new members of SVP. Would also like to inform parishioners that there are spaces on the bus on a Sunday to and from Mass. Will feature in bulletin at later date.

b) **Suggestion Box** – items were discussed (2nd collection rather than bucket collection, upgrade of toilets)

c) Before PPC Meetings there should be a notice in bulletin to allow parish groups to put forward any suggestions/ideas to the Council.

10. AOCB

- Discussed Mission Statement. Will be displayed on notice boards once they have been revamped
- The Befriender/Bereavement Group have been looking for appropriate cards to give to bereaved families and friends. G.C. to source.
- Family BBQ date – SUNDAY 24TH JUNE 2018

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 15TH May 2018.

12. CLOSING PRAYER

