

**Parish of St John the Baptist and St Kentigern**

**Minutes of Transitional Council meeting held on 27 March 2019**

1. **Welcome and Opening Prayer:** Fr Jeremy welcomed everyone to the meeting which began with a prayer for discernment in recognising what God was calling us to do as a parish.
2. **Present:** Fr Jeremy, Michael Balfour, Margot Donoghue, Monique Lockhart, Marlene McCallum, John Moore, Brian Murray, Rita Phillips, Mary Strachan, Margaret Thomson.

3. **Apologies:** Tracey Boyle

4. **Minutes of previous meeting:**  
The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

5. **Matters arising**
  - The Lent prayer group and Stations of the Cross were now taking place as planned.
  - The Laetare Fair had been arranged for Sunday 31 March after Mass in St Kentigern's.

6. **View from the pews**

The consensus view was that parishioners seemed content with the steps being taken in the transition period, following the creation of the new parish. There had been some queries about the following points:

- Some people in both churches had asked why Fr Jeremy did not alternate the side he stands on for the distribution of Holy Communion. Fr Jeremy explained that he was trying to accommodate people who preferred to receive from a priest. The matter is under consideration.
- There had been little reaction to the announcement that there would only be one Sunday Mass for the parish on the respective Feast Days but Fr Jeremy was considering having an evening Mass in St Kentigern's on Sunday 23 June as the only morning Mass would be in St John's.
- It was clarified that, for the moment, those starting to gift aid or pay by direct debit should still specify which church they normally attended.

7. **Pastoral and Social Activities**

- a. **Easter Services**

The times of the Triduum services, which will all be at St John's this year, were confirmed as: Holy Thursday: 7pm; Good Friday: 3pm, Easter Vigil: 9pm. It had previously been thought that the Vigil would take place at 8.30pm, so this time had been published in the latest edition of 'Fast Forward', but it was agreed that the difference of half an hour was not too much of a problem and that most people would obtain the information from another source. Fr Jeremy will ask Magnet if they will allow the use of their car park for Good Friday parking. Parking for the other services was not thought to be a problem as people would not be parking for work.

**Action: Fr Jeremy**

- b. **Feast of St John the Baptist**

- The single morning parish Sunday Mass on 23 June will be at 10.30am, followed by a barbecue.
- The children who will have made their First Holy Communions on 15 and 22 June at St Kentigern's and St John the Baptist's respectively will be invited with their families.
- A cake for the children will be provided. It was thought that they could all process to the hall to cut the cake. They could then change out of their Communion clothes in the house before joining the barbecue activities. Brian offered to liaise with others about arrangements.

**Action: Brian**

**c. Parish Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne**

This is now planned for Saturday 13 July. Mary had contacted Sister Tessa on Holy Island about facilities for 50 pilgrims. Mass would be at 2pm after visiting sites on the island. Sign up sheets will be available in both churches. Mary will contact Sister Tessa to clarify whether or not the pilgrimage would be suitable for those with mobility problems. **Action: Mary**

**8. Website**

Work is continuing on the new parish website. Michael to email the address to council members so that they can view progress. Celia will work on content in conjunction with representatives from St John's. It is hoped to have an archive of previous content such as newsletters and photos. Fr Jeremy thanked Michael for his work. **Action: Michael**

**9. Pastoral Assembly**

Fr Jeremy welcomed ideas on the format of the assembly which would last for approximately two hours after Mass in St Kentigern's on Saturday 5 October. The following points were made:

- In order to define the scope of the discussions at the assembly, it was necessary to be clear about what we are hoping to achieve. The aim should be to produce a vision of what kind of parish we should be and how to organise to achieve that vision.
- Forms and/or post-it notes could be handed out about six weeks before the assembly for parishioners to note their visions. A dedicated gmail account could be created for contributions. Vision boards in the churches could prompt thoughts on various aims and needs e.g. youth activities, more prayer, community service. The results would then help shape the questions for the assembly. The Cluster discussions and report might also have ideas which are still relevant. While aiming for an outcome of a more strategic vision, it was recognised that some people would wish to discuss specific needs and proposals which could then be incorporated into an overall vision.
- At the assembly small groups would feed back the results of their discussions and it would hopefully be possible to identify the top three priorities for the parish.
- It was agreed that the idea of the previously discussed Volunteer Fair for 5 October should be dropped as too much would then be happening at the same time, but if people expressed an interest in volunteering to support their priorities, names should be recorded. A Volunteer Fair could take place at a later date.
- Fr Jeremy raised the possibility of employing a youth worker for a fixed term, as we were a relatively wealthy parish.
- Discussion about creating a Pastoral Council Constitution and the appointment of a new PPC was postponed as a new clergy handbook with guidance on the subject was being produced.

**10. Any Other Business**

- St Kentigern's Parish Room and Sacristy were said to be in need of an in-depth clean. Hot water was needed in the Sacristy.
- The annual presentation of the Accounts was outstanding at St John's.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Transitional Council will take place on Wednesday 29 May at 7pm in St Kentigern's Parish Room.

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 8.35pm