

St John the Baptist and St Kentigern Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held via Zoom video conferencing on 3 September 2020

1. **Opening Prayer:** Fr Jeremy opened the meeting with a prayer for blessing on our deliberations for the good of the parish.

2. **Present:** Fr Jeremy, Karen Birnie, Janice Gomez, Marlene McCallum, Brian Murray, Rita Phillips, Peter Robertson, Anne Simpson, Martin Spears

3. **Matters Arising from Meeting on 6 August 2020**
 - a) **Parish Outreach post-lockdown:** Fr Jeremy advised that, after discussion with the Finance Committee, it had been agreed that the four charities we had decided to support i.e. Corstorphine Community Hub, Fresh Start, the Bethany Trust and North West Food Bank would each receive £1500 from parish funds. Following discussion on whether the assistance should be given in the form of cash and goods, it was agreed that Bethany would probably prefer a cheque, but Karen would ask the Community Hub and Rita would ask Fresh Start about their preference. Fr Jeremy would ask Celia Boyle to liaise with the Food Bank. If goods were required it was thought the summer Food Hamper volunteers might shop and deliver. It was clarified that these donations were at the moment a one-time gift.

Action: Karen, Rita, Fr Jeremy

 - b) **Mass arrangements:** Fr Jeremy advised that negotiations were continuing with the Scottish government about increased numbers at Mass in larger churches. The following points were made about parish arrangements:
 - Welcomers' details were on a separate sheet from attendees' details and if there had been a rota swap this should be noted on the sheet.
 - A bottleneck at the St Kentigern's exit could build up as people left and it was agreed that a second hand sanitiser stand would help alleviate the problem.
 - In St Kentigern's the list of attendees should always be in the porch, not the actual church, because of noise and chat.
 - Fr Jeremy said he would be away from 14 to 18 September so there would be no weekday masses in the churches or on Facebook.
 - The Syro-Malabar community would be using St Kentigern's every Sunday afternoon.
 - Wi-Fi had been extended into the church at St Kentigern's to facilitate livestreaming of Mass and the camera would be set up so only Father Jeremy and the reader could be seen. There were problems with the new broadband package at St John's but the final set-up would be similar.
 - Some reservations were expressed about the current shortened liturgy i.e. no Sign of Peace, no second reading, leaving the church immediately after receiving Holy Communion and no music. It was agreed that some changes might be made starting on the weekend of 12/13 September. A socially distanced Sign of Peace would be acceptable. Fr Jeremy would speak to Susan Barry and Margaret Edie about providing some instrumental music at the beginning and end of some masses. Recorded music would necessitate the purchase of another licence. If everyone in a pew moved into the Communion procession it would be possible for people to return to their pew for a few moments. Decisions could be finalised after the First Minister's three week review due on 10 September.
 - Fr Jeremy to check with Children's Liturgy team how they felt about the use of Zoom.

Action: Fr Jeremy

 - c) **Eco-congregation:** This initiative was still ongoing.

- d) **Dog fouling of St Kentigern's grounds:** Anne had not got a satisfactory response from the Council so it was decided that it would be necessary to purchase metal signs to be put up on the grass. Bookers and Amazon were suggested as possible sources for the signs.
- e) **Card payments for collections:** Fr Jeremy reported that the Finance Committee agreed in principle with the idea but considered it currently unviable.
- f) **First Holy Communions:** Three separate ceremonies were planned for November because of the numbers attending. There would be no social events. The children's preparation would take place in the halls. A plan would be sent out to parents.

4. Any Other Business

- The possibility of installing CCTV around the churches, in particular St Kentigern's, to monitor activity was raised. Signs of a suitable height to alert people to its use would have to be erected. Limited CCTV was in use at St Kentigern's to monitor use of the alarm keypads as there had been some trouble with the alarm but this would have to be publicised by signage and a note in the newsletter. Problems with the alarm would be communicated via a mobile phone app to Fr Jeremy, Dave Gilroy and Fr Henry.

5. Date of next meeting: Thursday 15 October at 7.00pm

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 8.30pm.