

St John the Baptist and St Kentigern Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 27 November 2021

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

Apologies: Brian Murray

1. Opening Prayer: Fr Jeremy opened the meeting with a prayer asking that the Holy Spirit might guide PPC members in their deliberations on the future of the community.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Matters Arising from Meeting 28 October 2021

- a) **Fundraising for Mary's Meals:** The sale of knitted items on two weekends with refreshments available had been organised. Fr Jeremy thanked Anne for undertaking the cleaning of St John's hall kitchen which had not been used for some time.
- b) **Parish Information Leaflet:** Copies of the finalised leaflet, which had taken comments from the previous meeting into account, were circulated. A decision on how to disperse the leaflets systematically would need to be taken at a later date.
- c) **Health and Safety Measures:** Following a recent incident, the issue of ensuring the church is locked before locking the gates was highlighted. There was a discussion on the advice Peter had received from a former fire officer stating that, since there were now exit signs pointing to the courtyard, the church door and both gates would need to be left unlocked, even if there was only one person in the church. It was agreed that the grass outside the main gate would be the Assembly point in case of fire, regardless of which church exit had been used. Peter to clarify with the adviser the situation regarding the parish house as a residential property in the context of a public complex. **Action: Peter**
- d) **Parishioners' Suggestions:**
 - **Advent activities:** Practical arrangements for the prayer paperchain activity and hospitality in both churches on 12 December were finalised with Martin to co-ordinate at St John's and Karen at St Kentigern's. Rita to buy mince pies. **Action: Martin, Karen and Rita**
 - **Charitable donations for homeless projects:** Having ascertained that both the chosen organisations would prefer cash donations, the proceeds of the Christmas stars charity appeal at St John's would be split equally between them.
 - **Care Home Residents' Initiatives:** The schoolchildren would be writing Christmas cards. The idea of providing the homes with a link to a streamed Christmas Mass was still under consideration.
 - **Saughton Prison:** Contact with the prison chaplain to ask how the parish might help prisoners and their families had not yet been made.
- e) **TOR Christian Foundation:** Anne reported that the Chair of TOR's trustees had said that the proposed work on St John's Hall was exactly the kind of project they might fund but the deadline for applications was 28 January. Costings for the work would need to be available by then.

4. The Synod 2021-2023

It was agreed that, in order to allow sufficient time for the two designated themes to be discussed, two meetings should be held. The first would take place on 15 January as previously agreed and the

second date would be confirmed at a later stage. The deadline for parish submissions had been extended to the end of March. From the list of suggested questions the following were chosen:

Theme 1 Communion and Participation:

- I. What does participation in the life of the parish mean?
- II. What would my meaningful participation in the parish look like?
- III. How can we, as a parish, reach out to those who don't feel welcome or are no longer interested in Jesus Christ?

Theme 2 Mission

- I. What is the work of a missionary disciple? Do I believe that God has called me to follow Him as a disciple?
- II. How can our parish be a light for our community, to share with others the love of Jesus and his saving truth?
- III. How can I respond to those needs? What can I realistically give?

The questions would be publicised before the meetings on the website, on sheets for collection in the churches, on Eventbrite when meeting bookings were made and perhaps in the newsletter. Parishioners unable to attend the meetings would be able to contribute through a Synod parish gmail account or by letter. At a later stage the parish would be required to send delegates to a deanery meeting which would feed into the diocesan synthesis.

5. Christmas Arrangements

Candlelit Masses would take place on the Monday evenings of Advent, 29 November and 13 December in St John's and 6 December and 20 December in St Kentigern's. Christmas Eve Mass times would be 6pm and 8.30pm in St Kentigern's and 6pm and 10pm in St John's, with carols at 5.30pm in both churches. On Christmas Day Mass would be at the usual times of 9.30 in St Kentigern's and 11.30 at St John's. There would be no vigil for Sunday on Christmas Day. It was hoped to have three or four passkeepers for the Christmas Masses. One Christmas Eve Mass and possibly one on Christmas Day would be streamed.

6. Parishioners' Suggestions

None had been received since the previous meeting.

7. Any Other Business

No issues were raised.

8. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 17 February at 7.30pm

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 12.03pm