

St John the Baptist and St Kentigern Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 7 June 2022

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

Apologies: Janice Gomez

1. Opening Prayer: Fr Jeremy opened the meeting with a prayer for guidance to discern God's will.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. Proposed – Karen; Seconded - Brian

3. Matters Arising from Meeting 26 April 2022

- a) **Health and Safety Measures:** Sr Mary Pierre, the Archdiocese's Director of Property, had informed Peter that Fire Risk Assessments would be carried out in parishes on a regular basis by qualified professionals. The contract for this was going out to tender.
- b) **Eco-congregation initiative:** Formation of this new parish group was ongoing. Karen hoped this would result in improvements in combating waste by making recycling easier on parish premises.
- c) **Music evening:** It was hoped this would take place in late August or early autumn. Susan Barry was working on a hymns supplement.
- d) **Men's Group:** A date for the proposed social evening had not yet been organised.
- e) **Corstorphine Fair:** The contribution of the parish's representatives as part of the Corstorphine Churches Together group and the distribution of packets of seeds had been well received.
- f) **Drumbrae Gala:** This had not taken place this year and its future was uncertain.

4. Parish Synod Review and Next Steps

Brian's summary and grouping of proposals had been circulated with the Agenda. The following points were considered:

- Anne and Bevinda Foster had been in touch with the headteachers of St Augustine's and St Andrews's schools respectively about involving pupils in music at the churches.
- Prayer intentions for the parish could be included in the Holy Hour on Wednesday evenings. Rosary on Zoom could continue at another time of the week. It was mentioned that it was difficult to tell people who were arriving at St John's to be quiet when the Rosary was being said in church but it was possible to close the inner doors.
- It was agreed that the books available for borrowing in St John's should be moved to a more prominent position. A Book Exchange scheme could be promoted.
- A Bereavement Group, suggested at the Parish Assembly, could support the recently bereaved, help those not familiar with the Liturgy to deal with the funeral Mass, send a card on the anniversary of death, keep a Remembrance book and organise the annual Bereavement Mass. Marlene and Rita to try and establish a group. Marlene to send item to newsletter asking for volunteers. **Action: Rita/Marlene**
- Brian suggested that parishioners who had been on pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostelo might be willing to organise a social event to share their experiences.
- Fr Jeremy explained that the Feast of St John the Baptist had to be moved this year because the Feast of the Sacred Heart fell on 24 June and took precedence. Therefore, the planned Vigil Mass would now take place on Wednesday 22 June, followed by the Cheese and Wine get-together. Fr Jeremy to buy the wine and Anne to provide cheese and crackers.

Action: Fr Jeremy/Anne

- Brian said he would update his summary of proposals before the next meeting in light of discussions. **Action: Brian**

5. Parishioners' Suggestions

- Karen had been asked by some parishioners if the Oratory would be open for private prayer again. Fr Jeremy said that, as he was not intending to use the Oratory for Mass, the tabernacle would not be returned to the Oratory. Karen to ask the people who had raised the question if they would still want access if the Blessed Sacrament was not in the Oratory. **Action: Karen**
- Anne asked Fr Jeremy how he would like to celebrate the 10th anniversary of his ordination on 30 June. Parishioners had enquired. It was agreed that there would be celebratory refreshments on Sunday 3 July after 9.30 Mass in St Kentigern's and 11.30 Mass in St John's. The PPC would take Fr Jeremy out for a meal on 30th June. Anne to book. Peter and Anne would address parishioners in St Kentigern's and St John's respectively on the weekend of 25/26 June to make parishioners aware of the celebrations. Marlene to send item to the newsletter. **Action: Anne/Peter/Marlene**

6. Any Other Business

- Arrangements for the annual barbecue to celebrate St John the Baptist's Feast Day were confirmed for Sunday 19 June. Barbecue food, beer, teas and coffees, potato salad, coleslaw and home baking would all be provided.

7. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 22 September at 7.30pm in St Kentigern's Parish Room.

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 9.20pm