

St John the Baptist and St Kentigern Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 17 August 2023

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

1. Opening Prayer: Fr Jeremy opened the meeting with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to guide thoughts, words and actions for the glory of God and the good of the parish.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. Proposed – Fr Jeremy; Seconded - Rita

3. Matters Arising from Meeting 30 May 2023

a) St John the Baptist Feast Day Celebrations: Fr Jeremy congratulated those who had helped make the event successful. The barbecue grill had been cleaned in readiness for next year.

b) Archbishop's Youth Initiative: A meeting had been arranged for Wednesday 23 August at St Kentigern's for those who would like to help develop faith and social activities for the young people of the parish. A weekly club in the parish was unlikely at present, but young people might wish to attend one that was planned for St Margaret's, Davidsons Mains and, if so, Fr Jeremy would visit on some club evenings.

4. Season of Creation

It was agreed that the film 'The Letter', which highlights the issues raised by Pope Francis in his encyclical 'Laudato Si', would be streamed from YouTube in St John's hall on Tuesday 19 September. Doors to open at 7.00pm for a 7.30 start. Wine and cheese would be served. Anne and Karen volunteered to arrange the refreshments. Marlene to ask Rosalyn Mauchline, who had proposed screening the film, to suggest an appropriate charity to receive donations which would be requested at the event.

Action: Anne/ Karen/Marlene

5. Bunting Prayers Event

It was decided to postpone this to fit in with St John's 60th Anniversary Film (Item 7 on the Agenda). Paper for writing prayers for the bunting would be available at St John's on Sunday 5 November when a Brunch would also be served after Mass. Suggestions for prayers, if requested, might be thanksgiving for St John's 60 years, for parishioners who had died and for the future of the parish. The anniversary film would be shown in the hall after the Vigil Mass on Saturday 11 November. Karen and Anne to arrange refreshments for both occasions.

Action: Karen/Anne

6. St Kentigern's Social Evening

Rita confirmed that the Flaming Heather ceilidh band had been booked for 6 October and a deposit paid, with the balance due by 8 September. It was agreed that the event would start at 7pm and that a buffet would be served when the band took their break. Anne and Karen to arrange food and soft drinks. BYOB would be noted on the tickets, which would be free. Brian to set up Eventbrite booking and the newsletter would tell those who could not book online to phone Marlene to book. Rita would arrange the loan of glasses for the evening.

Action: Anne/Karen/Brian/Rita

7. Alpha

Following a discussion about the merits of faith formation programmes, it was decided that the Sycamore course should be considered. Fr Jeremy to send a link to online information to all PPC members. It was agreed that Lent would be a suitable time to start a programme and that a parish mission would play an important role in preparing for initiatives. The logistics of having WiFi in St Kentigern's were discussed so that streaming of videos could take place in either church.

Action: Fr Jeremy

8. Parishioners' Suggestions

- A previous suggestion of saying the Angelus before Sunday Mass had been trialled and it was agreed that this was a very fitting devotion at the celebration of major Marian feasts when it would be a special addition to those occasions.
- There was a suggestion regarding parishioners greeting each other before the start of Sunday Mass to make sure everyone felt welcomed. It was agreed that welcoming was an important aspect of parish life and that the passkeepers did a good job in their role. Parishioners could be reminded that their personal welcome to others, especially new parishioners, is important and, also, that attendance at parish social events is an important way of building fellowship. The consensus was that a formal period of personal introductions at the start of Mass would make some people uncomfortable and some people wanted to prepare for Mass by praying.
- A pre-Christmas 'Martha and Mary' event for women, combining prayer and activity in the form of craftwork, had been suggested by a parishioner who had experienced this in Livingston parish. It was thought this would fit well into the Advent season. Karen was willing to become involved and would liaise with those interested in taking the idea forward.

Action: Karen

9. Any Other Business

- There were no developments to report on the parking situation at St Kentigern's.
- The date of the annual Bereavement Mass was set for Tuesday 21 November at 7pm in St John's.

10. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 17 October at 7.30pm at St John's.

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 9.10pm.