**St John the Baptist and St Kentigern Parish Pastoral Council**

 **Minutes of Meeting held on 16 January 2024**

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

Marlene McCallum

1. **Opening Prayer**: The meeting opened with prayer.
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

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

1. **Matters Arising from Meeting 17 October 202****3**
2. **St Kentigern’s Big Breakfast:** Thanks were expressed to all who had helped make the occasion a success.
3. **Singalong in St John’s Hall:** The afternoon with Christmas music and refreshments had been enjoyed by the people who had attended.It was decided that a similar event would take place on 9 April from 2 to 3.30pm. Anne to ask Margaret Edie if she would be able to play on that date. It was agreed that the parish’s social events needed to be more widely publicised. Marlene to send details of the Singalong for inclusion in the West Edinburgh Voluntary Sector Activity Programme. **Action:** **Anne/Marlene**
4. **Lent and Easter**

The following special services, devotions and activities are scheduled:

1. Mondays: Evening Mass with Adoration and Confessions on 11 and 25 March at St John’s. A Penitential Service at St Kentigern’s on 18 March with visiting priests to hear Confessions.
2. Tuesdays: Schoolchildren coming for some morning Masses at St Kentigern’s.

Sycamore Course in the evenings, beginning on 13th February.

1. Wednesdays: Stations of the Cross after morning Mass at St John’s.

Holy Hour to alternate between the churches in the evenings as at present. Prayer leaflet for private Stations of the Cross to be available.

1. Thursdays: Stations of the Cross after morning Mass at St Kentigern’s.
2. Fridays: Exposition after morning Mass, with the Divine Mercy chaplet on First Friday.
3. Saturdays: Stations of the Cross to be trialled after Saturday Vigil Mass on 2 March.
4. Sunday 17 March: A special Stations of the Cross for children to be held in St Kentigern’s at 3.30pm.
5. Ash Wednesday: Morning Mass in St John’s and evening Mass in St Kentigern’s.
6. The Easter Triduum to take place in St Kentigern’s this year.

1. **Sycamore Faith Formation Courses**

A further planning meeting was due to take place on Tuesday 23 January. Marlene to remind volunteers and send an item to newsletter to encourage others to volunteer. Flyers and posters to be displayed in the churches. Details regarding publicity, helpers’ duties etc would be confirmed at the planning meeting. **Action: Marlene**

1. **Parish Mission**

The Mission will take place between 19 and 24 May. There will be daytime and evening events in the churches. The two Redemptorist priests who will be leading the Mission will visit the parish about a month beforehand. Promotional leaflets will be available. The theme will be Mission and Invitation in preparation for the parish’s Autumn Enquirers Course.

1. **Use of St John’s Oratory**

In response to requests for a prayer space at St John’s outwith service times, there was a discussion about allowing access to the Oratory during daytime hours. It would be necessary to rearrange the space to facilitate a more spiritual atmosphere as the Oratory was no longer used for services. Some appropriate artefacts could be sourced. It was agreed that clarification about the insurance implications should be sought and that the Oratory could be made available on a trial basis.

1. **Newsletter Sick List**

It was agreed that this way of obtaining prayers for the sick should be reinstated with the proviso that the sick person, or, if they were incapacitated, an immediate family member, must give permission for the name to be included. The name would be removed after two months unless there was a request for it to remain.

1. **Parishioners Suggestions**
* Queries had been raised about the purchase of cleaning supplies for the churches. Karen had been responsible for St Kentigern’s church supplies for some time, but not the hall’s. No-one currently had responsibility at St John’s. It was agreed that supplies needed to be monitored. Karen would take over purchasing for the hall at St Kentigern’s and ask people to report requirements. Certain items, such as paper towels would now be ordered online through the parish for both churches. Monitoring of requirements at St John’s to be organised.
* A parishioner had asked if the saying of the Hail Mary prayer after the Intercessions on Sunday could be restored. It was stated that this was not liturgically correct, but might be allowable on a few occasions.
* It was suggested that an invitation to the Sycamore course could be extended to other local Christians. It was agreed that anyone was very welcome to participate, but the initial course was being trialled mainly for parishioners, widening out in future.
* Concern had been expressed that that, because St John’s had a Vigil Mass and a Sunday Mass, the congregations were not close-knit and it was also harder to recruit sufficient volunteers. It was agreed that there was no easy solution to this.
1. **Any Other Business**

Arrangements for the Archbishop’s visit on 11 February, when an archdiocesan award would be presented to Margot Donoghue were discussed. It was agreed that there would be a brunch following Mass. **Action: Karen/Anne**

1. **Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 16 April at 7.30pm at St John’s**

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 9.15pm.