

Portstewart Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting 12 February 2019

Attendance: Fr Austin McGirr, Emer O'Keeffe (Chair), Helen Conway, Sean Farren (sec), Fiona Fitzpatrick, Paddy Mulvenna, Mary Loughrey, Brian Shaw.

The opening prayer was led by Emer.

Pastoral Community Forum:

Fr Austin gave an update on the development of the Forum information about which are contained in the News Bulletin distributed recently. A key issue under discussion is the provision of Mass throughout the pastoral area. No recommendations have yet been advanced. A course for readers will be held in Ballycastle in March, commencing on 14th.

Follow Up to Away Day:

At the January meeting members undertook to bring forward recommendations on the various action points arising out of discussion at the recent away-day with Jim Deeds from Living Church office. These were presented. Among the matters on which recommendations were made and on which further action will be taken are:

(a) Updating of entries in the Parish Directory. A consolidated list of entries has been compiled by Paddy and Seán, and these will be checked for accuracy and will be posted to the website. Members were requested to submit amendments and corrections.

(b) Emer reported plans to highlight mental health awareness and Brian mentioned the efforts at school level where a Mental Health Day will be held on 21st March; initiatives to more greater environmental awareness in the Parish will include an emphasis on re-cycling initiatives.

Emer also reported that the idea of greeters before mass had been met with interest and plans are underway to create a team to organise this.

Social media and the parish, she said that it is hoped to have a Facebook page with regular updates and posts up and running soon and hope this will improve communication with the parish

Fairtrade issues will be the focus of the next meeting of the recently established women's group.

(c) Mary reported on the provision of a daily telephone call service to people aged 60+ 'Good Morning Causeway Service, and on Connected Age which aim to support people aged 60+ to reconnect with their local community and so help reduce isolation. It was agreed that information about these services should be highlighted in the Bulletin and on Church notice boards.

(d) Helen raised the possibility of an-open air Mass, a proposal which will be returned to at the next meeting; likewise with the proposal for a 'guided' Holy Hour which will have to await the completion of renovations to the Church.

(e) Fr Austin had contacted Fr Paddy McCafferty who agreed to visit our parish after Easter to lead a prayer service on the theme of Healing the Abused. This would be a good opportunity to celebrate the parish Safeguarding Group.

Also, a Mass for the Sick will take place in the Parish Centre late in the afternoon of Sunday 15th May. Hall users will be notified by Fr A.

Under AOB

Seán recommended that people giving talks at the end of Mass should be asked to familiarise themselves with the use of the microphone. Frequently such speakers fail to use the microphone effectively and their messages are not fully conveyed to the congregation.

The next meeting will be held on **12th March**.

Fr Austin said the concluding prayer