

Minutes of the Portstewart Parish Pastoral Council

Meeting on Tuesday 2 October 2012 in the Marian Hall 7.30pm.

Present were

Sally Andrew Terry Butcher Arlene Duffy Ernestine McKeever
Edel Mooney Fr Austin McGirr

Apologies for non-attendance from Aaron Doherty and Sean Farren

2.1 The opening prayer was led by Sally Andrew

2.2 Minutes of Last Meeting

Were agreed with no amendments. Arising under 1.1: the suggestion box – Fr Austin suggested parishioners use the letter box in the door of the Sacristy rather than place a new box in the church. A note will be inserted in the Bulletin. All agreed.

2.3 Agreeing a Mission Statement

Four members had versions of a possible Mission Statement which we discussed under criteria provided by a fifth member. We agreed that we would each have a copy of all four and study these further and decide at the next meeting the best definition of what we are to do as a Pastoral Council.

2.4 Review of Portstewart Parish's response to Listening Event

Copies of the responses made at the Diocesan Listening Event on 3 March 2011 had been circulated to all members. Reading these comments should give us a programme for work in our parish. A lively discussion followed around what were the major themes emerging from the comments: a need for education in the faith; improvements to our participation in Liturgy. The five points covered in the report entitled "Living Church" were seen to have their roots in these comments. Discussion included practical steps which could be taken and good practice seen in other parishes and churches.

2.5 Contacting Parish Groups

We decided to leave this to the next Agenda for meeting on 6 November
We agreed to put on the next Agenda also:
Election of chairperson and Secretary

2.6 Correspondence

1. The Year of Faith

Diocesan Liturgical Commission has suggested "A Liturgy to mark the beginning of the Year of Faith" on 11 October which is Evening Prayer of the Church. We agreed that this should take place.

2. Weeks of Guided Prayer

Members were given copies of a flier from Down and Connor Prayer Ministry offering a week of Guided Prayer, given by trained prayer guides in parish facilities. This should be of interest to parishioners keen to spend time at prayer.

Date of next meeting - 6 November at 7.30pm Marian Hall