

Minutes of the

Portstewart Parish Pastoral Council

Meeting on Tuesday 8 January 2013 in the Parochial House at 7.30pm.

Present were

Terry Butcher (chair) Sean Farren Ernestine McKeever Paul McCormick Emer O'Keefe Edel Mooney Fr Austin McGirr

Apologies for non-attendance from Arlene Duffy Sally Andrew and Aaron Doherty

5.1 The opening prayer was led by Ernestine McKeever

5.2 Minutes of Last Meeting Were agreed with no amendments.

5.3 Parish Directory Progress on compiling the Directory was reviewed. It was emphasised that every effort would be made to ensure no parish group would be omitted. Special one page spreads will be included for groups involved in fund-raising activities. On the information available only a small number of groups yet remain to make submissions and these are being contacted.

5.4 Prayers of the Faithful Area Following a request from a parishioner urging that victims of sexual abuse be prayed for at Mass on a regular basis it was agreed that the cycle of 'Prayers of the Faithful' would be reviewed with the intention of including an appropriate prayer. This matter provoked a discussion on appropriate ways of remembering abuse victims whether by way of a special event, possibly in conjunction with other parishes, or by some other means. The Council is to return to this issue with further suggestions before any decision will be made.

5.5 Living Church area plans Fr Austin reported that the Pastoral Area Team will hold its first meeting on Sunday 13 February. Each parish is represented on the Team, our representatives being Fr Austin and Sally Andrew and Terry Butcher.

5.6 Liturgy Group Fr Austin reported that a one day session will be organised soon for all involved in liturgy activities: readers, Eucharistic ministers, and prayer leaders. It will be led by Fr Hugh Kennedy, diocesan liturgy specialist. Date to be confirmed.

5.6 Constitution draft constitution as recommended in The Irish Bishops' Conference publication on Pastoral Councils was adopted with agreement that the Council's term should be three years.

Date of next meeting - 26 February at 7.30pm