

# Minutes of the meeting of Portstewart Parish Pastoral Council

Tuesday 14/1/2014  
In the Marian Hall, 7.30pm

**11.1 Attendance:** Fr Austin, Terry Butcher (Chair), Aaron Doherty, Arlene Duffy, Sean Farren, Ernestine McKeever, Edel Mooney, Emer O'Keeffe, James Harley.

**Apologies:** Sally Andrew

11.1.2 **Dr. James Harley** was welcomed to the Council.

11.2 **Opening** reading and prayer were led by Fr. Austin.

11.3. **The minutes** of the October meeting were adopted.

11.4 **Prayer service for All affected by Addiction.** Terry Butcher and Fr Austin reported on the special service held in December. Although a small attendance the service was deeply appreciated and feedback has been very positive.

11.5 **Parish Congress** planning: a lengthy discussion took place on the proposed parish congress the provisional date for which was set for Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. It was stressed that it be well publicised in advance and as inclusive of the parish as possible. Various suggestions were made for consideration by a working party consisting of Terry Butcher, Sean Farren, James Harley, Ernestine McKeever and Emer O'Keeffe to meet on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 7.30. Others are welcome to attend and it is proposed to include non-Council members.

11.6 **Pastoral Area Team (PAT):** Terry Butcher gave an update on activities and developments within PAT. Cell groups are being established within the parish to promote reflection and discussion of Sunday's liturgy, lessons and gospel readings. Cell groups will be around 12 persons after which they should divide to create a new cell. A mentoring team from Carrickfergus will provide initial guidance. Terry reported on the Christmas Craic family day held in Dunloy. Around 170 attended from the pastoral area and a very enjoyable was had by all. The day included a full meal and Mass led by Fr Raymond.

**11.7 Flame club:** the Star Club is being rebranded as the Flame Club. Rebranding is to signal more than just a change of name. It is expected that the club will become a model for youth ministry and youth service in the Triangle area.

**11.8 Centenary Booklet:** Sean reported on the work of the group which has begun developing ideas for a centenary booklet that will be published to coincide with the centenary of the opening of the parish church in 1916. Sources are being identified for material and an appeal will be eventually be made for photographs.

**11.9 Stella Maris Distribution:** a discussion took place on how to improve distribution of the parish magazine. More volunteers need to be recruited to ensure prompt delivery whenever the magazine is available. Members were asked to identify potential volunteers. The specific areas within the parish which have to be covered will be brought to the next meeting.

**11.10 Review of Our Prayerful Discernment:** Fr Austin suggested that Council meetings be more prayerful occasions and that prayerful moments punctuate discussion especially when decisions are being made. It was agreed that the Council approach the suggestion on a spontaneous basis rather than designating a member to lead, at least to begin with.

**11.11 Correspondence:** the Council's attention was drawn to the prayer service to be held during Christian Unity week on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30 in the Town Hall.

**11.13 Other Matters:** it was agreed that a speaker from Trócaire be invited to speak at a Sunday's Masses during Lent. Sean reported that he had raised the possibility of exchange visits with the Pastoral Council in the Rathmines parish in Dublin. His contact agreed to raise the idea at the parish Council and he is likely to hear response next week. The need for more Eucharistic Ministers was raised and members were encouraged to promote the ministry.

**11.14 Date of next meeting:** 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30. Arlene Duffy agreed to lead the prayers.

**11.15 Closing Prayer** was led by Fr Austin.