

# Portstewart Parish Pastoral Council Minutes 20.2.2015

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

20 Feb 2015

Attendance: Emer O'Keeffe, Terence Butcher, James Harley, Arlene Duffy, Edel Mooney, Aaron Doherty, Sally Andrew, Fr Austin McGirr.

Apologies: Sean Farren, Ernestine McKeever

21.1 Opening prayer led by Fr Austin.

21.2 January minutes adopted.

21.3 Centenary events proposed:

- 21-27 May 2016 Parish mission conducted by Vincentian Fathers, Dublin. (Actual date of anniversary in June.)
- 19 June 2015 (proposed). Start centenary celebrations with parish function in Parish Centre preceded by Mass. Bishop Tony to be invited because of his strong bond with the parish and to celebrate his golden jubilee. Brass Necks would be asked to be part of the entertainment. Food to be provided by contributions from parishioners; Edel to co-ordinate.
- October 2016. Close with dinner dance.
- It was felt that the whole picture for the year would emerge gradually.

21.4

- Terence reported that Fr Alan McGuckian had attended the last meeting of PAT with Stephen McNamee (Chair of Diocesan Pastoral Council) to discuss proposals. Alan had apologised for failing to consult pilot Pastoral Areas before issuing the Diocesan plan. All accepted proposed size of Pastoral Community, but thought day to day management would probably fall into three clusters: Coleraine, Portrush, Portstewart; Ballymoney, Dunloy/Cloughmills, Loughgiel, Rasharkin; Ballycastle, Ballintoy, Armoy, Culfeightrin with occasional whole Pastoral Community meetings. The current PA already frequently functioned in two clusters.
- It was suggested that a future Pastoral Community Team would act like a PPC.
- A website for the PC or cluster was proposed. It was suggested that times of other local parish masses should be included in the current website.
- Father Austin, Sean Farren and Jimmy Haughey would represent the parish at the consultation with Bishop Noel and the other Northern parishes on Thursday 26 Feb.
- Fr Austin explained that there was no policy on Eucharistic services, despite press reports, St Malachy's had introduced one on Mondays.

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21.5

- Father Austin pointed out that responses should be limited to issues concerning families.
- Aaron recommended a website 'Voice of the family'.
- It was felt that parishes with a close connection with the local GAA had advantages.
- It was agreed to hold an open meeting on Tuesday, 3 March in the Marian Hall with interested parishioners to discuss the parish response. Individual responses were also welcome.

21.6 Sally reported that the GIFT 1 programme had started with 15 Year 8s registered. The Eoghan Rua clubhouse was a very suitable venue and the committee had been extremely helpful. There had been great support from the junior leaders of Flame.

21.7 (See 21.4 above)

- Susan Hargan had retired as Chair after two years for reasons of pressure of work. Anne Armstrong from St Malachy's had been elected as Chair.
- Three Lenten formations were running across the PA:
  - Journey into the Bible, Sunday 7pm, Dunloy
  - Life Source, Thursday 7.30, Ballymoney
  - Catholicism (4 episodes), Wednesday 7.30 Portrush (Master's House)

21.8 **Liturgy group.** In effort to make liturgy as attractive as possible across the PA there would be training for Ministers of the Eucharist (Fr John Forsyth 27/28 March), Music (Sr Perpetua 14 March) and the Word (Sally and Cliodhna Rae 7 March) - all in Ballymoney Parish Centre.

Each parish would hold a week's programme, including a prayer service and Mass, demonstrating best practice. There would be ongoing training in these and other ministries.

**Youth questionnaire.** It was agreed that the proposed questionnaire would be shown to Flame, Junior Legion and DCP in order to get feedback before it was issued generally.

**Joint Churches Project.**

- The Men's Shed was still under consideration. Edel emphasised the importance of such a project in the area.
- Way of the Cross. It had been agreed by all participating churches for Good Friday. It would start at Harbour Hill and stop at various points along the Prom with hymns and prayers.
- Premises for a joint credit union had been acquired on Coleraine Road.
- A survey of youth provision was being undertaken.
- Members were reminded about the Habitat for Humanity Ball.

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21.9

- Tuesday March 3 7.30 Marian Hall; open meeting to discuss Forum on the Family.
- Friday March 20 7pm. Parochial house.

21.10 Fr Austin closed the meeting with prayer.