

# Saint Mary, Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church

28 Greenock Road,  
Largs KA30 8NE

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

*Membership: Maurice Anderson, Larissa Aron, Lewis Docherty, Christopher Kelly, Bridie Lamont, Celia Lewis, Mgr. Peter Magee, Morag McGrath, Edward Stewart, Luciana Stewart, Roger Townley.*

**Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
7.30pm in the Parish Hall**

1. *Opening Prayer*

2. *Sederunt & Apologies.*

Attendance: Larissa Aron, Celia Lewis, Morag McGrath, Chris Kelly, Maurice Anderson, Mgr. Peter Magee & Roger Townley.

Apologies: Bridie Lamont, Luciana Stewart, Lewis Doherty.

3. *The 2nd Synod Encounter Review. 14th May 2022.*

Larissa reported that there had been 12 parishioners present (excluding the facilitators). Mgr. Peter added that 6 or so other submissions had also been handed in and forwarded to the Diocese. Some completed booklets could likewise have been sent to the Diocesan Team privately. One comment heard by Mgr. Peter was that some/one who had attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Encounter may have been put off participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Encounter because they had not seen their 1<sup>st</sup> Encounter comments reflected directly in the material provided by the Diocesan Team for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Encounter. Morag noted that all written commentary from the 1<sup>st</sup> Encounter would certainly have been seen by the Diocesan Team. It is impossible to include everything in a summary, which was what the material for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Encounter was doing. Mgr. Peter noted that plenty of folk couldn't attend given the short notice we got to set up the 2<sup>nd</sup> round and that it all had been a bit of a rush to prepare for. He also emphasized that the purpose of the Synod is primarily about listening to the Spirit in prayer and in the Word and offering our contributions on that basis. The Pope had made it clear that the Synod was not about gathering personal opinions as such, but about discerning the voice of the Spirit in the Church today. Mgr. Peter reported that, at a meeting of the Assembly of Priests he had attended earlier in May, most were generally happy with the response given by their parishes, especially considering the sheer novelty of the initiative and the serious logistics involved in organising it. There is a Diocesan meeting on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at St. Joseph's in Kilmarnock between

12 & 4pm to collate the final Diocesan report for submission to the Bishops' Conference of Scotland.

#### 4. *Parish Festival.*

Celia produced a Parish Festival Timetable covering events from Friday 16th September and culminating at the 10am Festival Mass on Sunday 25th September 2022. (cf. below)

There was a discussion about the Festival Dinner Dance proposed for Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> which revolved around the venue, with the parish hall being discussed against suggestions of outsourcing to a local hotel. Generally, the Hall was agreed. A raffle will be organised by May Fulton to raise funds for the new tabernacle. Detail to be progressed.

Mgr. Peter announced that Sir James McMillan has kindly offered to bring to the 10am Mass on Sunday 18th September 4 professional singers whom he will conduct in singing parts of the Mass using a composition by William Byrd. Congregational singing will also take place as normal.

Also on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>: Songs of Praise. Favourite Hymns voted for by the Parishes. Mgr. Peter will invite Largs Churches Together to take part and Celia agreed to produce a Voting Form for him to distribute at a Largs Churches Together meeting. The time is to be confirmed but 6pm was generally agreed.

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September: Toddler Group, 10-11.30am. As other churches in the town may soon face closure Celia suggested that our hall could become the venue for a regular Toddler Group, and there was an agreement that this may help to introduce people into or back into our parish. Although ideally nothing should go on in the hall while Mass is taking place, Mgr. Peter agreed that for the children's sake an exception could be made. Celia would talk to Gillian McEleney as she has a hand in managing the other Toddler Group meetings in the town. Storage for the children's toys etc was discussed with the possible provision of a hut at the side/rear of the church. To be discussed further.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September: Early Mass. The time was agreed for 7am, followed by breakfast in the hall.

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Chris confirmed that the Musical evening in the church was going ahead. Time to be determined.

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September: Garden Fete in church grounds. A few stalls are planned, and it was agreed that Mgr. Peter would make an appeal to parishioners to volunteer other stalls.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September: Closing Mass in honour of Our Patroness, St. Mary, Star of the Sea. Celia stated that the school children would want to take part in the Festival Mass at 10am. Mgr. Peter said that there could be procession with Our Lady's Statue with the children. Once inside,

the children will crown the Mother and Child. Chris referred to providing brass instrument players at the Mass and this was encouraged.

Mgr. Peter stated that he would like to have something Ecumenical on one evening (Perhaps 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>) He suggested Vespers and it was agreed he might organise the Service.

#### *5. Census.*

Larissa has created an on-line Census form which will also be produced in booklet form. It is based on the one provided by Mgr. Peter from the Archdiocese of Birmingham. There was a lengthy detailed discussion about the questions to be included, related GDPR matters and the way the Census might be distributed throughout the Parish and the town. It was agreed that we would ask Luciana to manage the database within the Parish Office. Larissa, Roger and Mgr. Peter will meet to review the questions and preparation for introduction.

#### *6. Parish Signage.*

Mgr. Peter outlined his desire to improve the external signage at the front of the church and at the side door entrance. The current signage is out of date and, for many, out of sight (on the side walls of the front area). A large notice board near the pavement on the south side of the front area would provide a clear indication of the name of the Church, its address and then all of the various Mass times, etc.. It is important that it also say “All Welcome” since people often pass and wonder if they can come in.

Various options regarding the type of signage, its content and placement were discussed. Electronic Signage was suggested as it could include the ability to alter or add notices easily as events develop. Mgr. Peter will seek assistance in progressing this from parishioners in the know.

#### *7. Update on the Sanctuary and Sacristy upgrade work.*

Mgr. Peter outlined the current status of planning regarding removing the wooden screen, repainting the Sanctuary, the provision of a granite plinth to support the new Tabernacle behind the Altar, to reposition the crucifix, the replacement of the Sanctuary carpet and building new cupboard storage space within the Sacristy. During the works in the church, weekday Mass will be in the hall, unless there is a funeral. Both Sunday Masses will be in the church.

There was a lot of detail discussed and the Council supported Mgr. Peter’s plans. Although the strictly financial side of the work is a question for the Parish Finance Committee to examine, the Pastoral Council also had a role in deliberating on it and providing its views. All had agreed with Chris that the fabric of the church was a matter for the Council too. Everyone is aware of the current economic climate, so the proposal to do these works will be accompanied by other practical gestures to use the funds we are fortunate to have to help others in need in our local community.

8. *AOCB.*

Mgr. Peter announced the retirement of *Mary Hume* as the Head at our School and that she will attend Sunday 10am Mass on 26<sup>th</sup> June when she will be presented with a cheque for £250 and a bouquet of flowers.

*Sycamore Project:* Gordon McMillan had informed Mgr. Peter that some 12 parishioners had regularly attended the Lenten sessions which had gone well. Gordon had taken part in a Zoom meeting with other Parishes chaired by Fr. William McFadden which confirmed the enthusiasm for the project. Further Sycamore events will be planned.

9. *Next Meeting, Tuesday 23rd August 2022, 7.30pm.*

10. *Closing Prayer.*

Parish Festival Timetable

Friday 16th September

Mass at 10am lead by children from St Mary's.

Saturday 17th September

Parish Festival Dinner Dance in Church Hall? (To be confirmed) BYOB. Entertainment by Ebb and Flow (musical duo). Buffet. Cost of tickets:- £10

Sunday 18th September

High Mass, 10am, with sung parts of the Mass as composed by William Byrd. A group of professional singers conducted by Sir James MacMillan. Congregational singing as well.

Song of Praise, 6pm: Favourite hymns as voted for by The local Parishes and led by choir.

Monday 19th September

Toddler group to be held in Church Hall with snacks and crafts 10 - 11.30am. Equipment borrowed from St Columba's Toddler Group

Tuesday 20th September

7am Mass. Teas, coffees and rolls available in Church Hall after Mass.

Wednesday 21st September

Mass for the sick at 2pm. Lourdes Group to arrange transport. Afternoon tea, provided by Pro-life group, served in the Church Hall after Mass. Children from Primary 7 to help

Thursday 22nd September

Musical Evening in Church, 7pm?. Choir and solo singing; solo instrumentalists.

Friday 23rd September

Family Fun Night in Church Hall. Organised by school, possibly Parent Council. Quiz or Beetle Drive and snacks

Saturday 24th September

Garden Fete in Church Grounds at 1pm: Baking stall (Pro life); St Mary's Primary Craft Stalls. Hot dogs; Treasure hunt; Possibly plant stall, whisky and gin tasting and various other Parish Group stalls. Possibly Live music. Fun run being organised by Noreen.

Sunday 25th September

Closing Solemn Festival Mass at 10am. Procession of Statue from hall. Crowning of Mother and Child. Possible involvement of children from St Mary's.