

Saint Mary, Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church

28 Greenock Road,
Largs KA30 8NE

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Membership: Maurice Anderson, Larissa Aron, Sandi Bray, Tim Bray, Christopher Clements, Lewis Docherty, Stephanie Fisher, Bridie Lamont, Celia Lewis, Mgr. Peter Magee, Morag McGrath, Edward Stewart, Luciana Stewart.

Tuesday, 13th June, 2023
7.30pm

1. Opening Prayer

2. Sederunt & Apologies. New members.

Apologies from: Celia, Larissa, Sandi and Edward. New member welcomed: Chris Clements.

3. Parish Census. Update and next steps – Larissa.

Larissa kindly sent Fr. Peter an email to say that the validation process of all the forms so far submitted is underway. It is a time-consuming process. The person helping her has been away of late, so that has delayed matters somewhat. Fr. Peter thanked Larissa for her dedicated work on this matter and observed that it's better to take the time needed so that the data we have is as accurate as possible.

4. Eucharistic revival of the parish. Update – Fr. Peter:

- Corpus Christi weekend

The Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on both the Saturday and Sunday was well attended by parishioners and visitors alike. The Exhibition of the Eucharistic Miracles documented by Blessed Carlo Acutis was very professionally done and greatly appreciated. There was a steady trickle of visitors to the Exhibition on the Saturday, increasing as the day moved on. The numbers were higher on the Sunday. The team from LITE (Life in the Eucharist) did a splendid job of explaining and accompanying people through the Exhibition.

The Sunday Eucharist was more solemn than usual, and people were very moved by the procession of the Blessed Sacrament through the church. Top marks yet again to our flower ladies for a spectacular arrangement around the Monstrance.

Fr. Peter formally launched the Eucharistic Revival at the 10am Sunday Mass, planting the "mustard seed" which will take time to break open and grow as the Lord desires.

- Eucharistic Adoration

Increased Adoration before weekday Masses has been well received. Further options will be considered as the Revival unfolds.

- Cenacle

Fr. Peter informed the PPC that he has formed a group of parishioners who will pray with him before the Blessed Sacrament with a view to discerning together how the Revival can be taken forward. A first meeting will take place by the end of June.

5. Youth ministry. Update – Luciana.

The main thing to report is that the Youth Hub is going very well. A number of children have now been coming for well over a year. The new P7's (as of August 2023) from St. Mary's have been invited to the June meeting. The hope is that the older children moving into S4 and above will continue, perhaps even with the possibility of a separate group being organised for them. Young adult helpers are being encouraged to assist.

6. In relation to Fr. Peter's email to PPC members of 16th May last (cf. separate attachment for ease of reference), the sharing of the results of members' own investigation into "pastoral works/activity" requiring priority attention in the parish.

High praise was given to the choir for its contribution to the Liturgy, the new organ already making an impressive contribution to the same. The same for the gardening team. The desire to see children back serving at the altar was expressed and Fr. Peter explained both the reasons for the delay and his plans to remedy the situation in the short term. An area of apostolate which may be in need regards any cruise ship staff who dock at Fairlie. It was suggested that contact be made with the chaplain to the cruise ships which dock at Greenock for any advice on how to take this forward.

It is disappointing that very few parishioners, when asked, seem willing to bring up the gifts at the offertory procession during Mass. Perhaps the significance of this role could be better explained and people encouraged to accept it when asked. Possibly even a rota could be established, although this might discourage others from accepting the role on an ad hoc basis. More broadly, it would be good to refresh the congregation with snippets in the bulletin on the deeper meaning of the different parts and aspects of the Mass. This may be something to consider in the context of the Eucharistic Revival, but needs to be done in an accessible and attractive way.

On other matters, there are other "mustard seeds" going on in the parish, all of which are positive and must be given time and space to flourish. As regards the young people, there is the Children's Liturgy and the Youth Hub. As regards prayer, there are two meetings during the week plus the extra Adoration times. As regards the Liturgy, there is the choir, the team of Readers and Eucharistic Ministers, the return of the altar servers, not to mention the Eucharistic Revival. We also now have a book club which seeks to promote adult education in the faith; nor should we forget the Sycamore meetings we have been having periodically. These are just a few of the initiatives going on in the parish alongside the longer-standing ones such as the St. Vincent de Paul, Legion of Mary, Chat 'N Do, the Parish Pastoral Council itself, the Parish Finance Council, the Parish Hall committee, etc.. Other initiatives are obviously welcome and, depending on how the Synod on Synodality goes in Rome for 2023-2024, further innovations for communion, participation and mission in all parishes could well be forthcoming in the future.

7. Parish Festival, 2024: 16th September (Feast of St. Ninian) to Sunday 29th September (Solemnity of St. Mary, Star of the Sea).

8. AOCB. New signage at the front of the church. Buildings' inspection.

It seems important both for welcoming passers-by into the church and for informing them in a way that is more easily seen of "what's on" to erect a notice board on the front lawn, nearer the pavement. Delivery vans also often don't know what street number we have and so either miss us or come with things that are for neighbours. The current signage on the side walls along the courtyard would therefore be taken down and the information updated.

Later in the summer, an inspector of buildings will be commissioned to do a root and branch inspection of all three parish buildings. While there are some obvious cosmetic items which need attention in the church, it is better first to check that structural issues are not in need of maintenance or repair.

9. Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday, 19th September at 7.30pm.

10. Closing Prayer.