

Minutes of Parish Pastoral Council held on Tuesday 30th April 2024.

1. Opening prayer led by Fr Peter.
2. Present: Fr Peter, Sandi & Tim Bray, Luciana & Ed Stewart, Larissa Aron, Stephanie Fisher, Sharon Gladwell. Apologies received from Lewis Docherty, Bridie Lamont, Celia Lewis, Morag McGrath.
3. Parish census has stalled somewhat. Next step is to send out forms to those on the original database. A couple of senior parishioners have volunteered to check through the list prior to the mailshot to remove any of those known to be no longer part of the parish.
4. New Lectionary (Advent 2024) will be noticeably different from current version. The translation is far more faithful to the original Greek (New Testament) and Hebrew (Old Testament). There is an opportunity here for the ongoing formation of readers, both current and new. Also, an opportunity to consider introducing the new ministry of lectorate being promoted by Pope Francis. There may be an opportunity to hold a retreat/training day for the readers. The new version will be expensive to replace, in the region of £600 for the 4 sanctuary volumes and possibly £400 for the book of the Gospels itself. Other smaller editions will be available for around £50.
5. Youth ministry. The club continues to prove popular with the current group; the leaders are trying to organise a group for older children, which was offered at the last hub meeting, but none came. Luciana, Ed and Fr Peter to work on a text to advertise the older group. Luciana & Ed will liaise with the primary school to showcase the group for P6 children.
6. Primary school. Headteachers from St Matthew's cluster group of schools met with Bishop Frank last week. The main discussions were around the RE curriculum and Sacraments. The school will be joining the parish Mass on Ascension Thursday. 11 new children have joined the school this term. The school will be showcased at events in the parish over the weekend of 11/12th May. The children have worked with Fr Peter to compose a new school prayer which was read out to the group who all expressed their admiration. The possibility of restarting class Masses in school was mooted, although it was also noted that it is a great witness when the various classes join the parish weekday Masses.
7. Holy year & year of prayer. Pilgrimage of prayer workshops are going well, have been attended by around 12 – 15 people each time so far. This Saturday will be Prayer and praise, led by members of the Maltfriscan community, who will also lead the music for the vigil Mass on Saturday evening. Sir James MacMillan will be leading the final workshop on Prayer and Sacred Music in

November. This one could be advertised more widely. Tim will commence planning for another pilgrimage to Assisi, possibly in October next year to coincide with Bl Carlo's feast day (12th Oct) and to include a visit to Rome for the papal audience. We could also look at organising a parish group to go with the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes (7-14 July 2025).

8. Parish Festival

Fr. Peter gave an update on the various events which have been planned and others still in the pipeline. A full programme is going to be published in early August and widely distributed. Celia Lewis and Louise Devine have been working hard on the preparations. Some items which we can be certain of: wide participation by the Primary School in various ways; one and possibly two concerts during different weeks of the Festival; Mass for the sick; early bird Morning Mass; children and family quiz night; dinner-dance; a drama evening; special music obtained for us by Sir James MacMillan on Sunday 22nd September; wine tasting evening; a talk on the meaning of the apparitions of Our Lady; a golf tournament; garden fete; an ecumenical service; etc.. Bishop Frank will preside at the concluding Mass of the Festival on Sunday 29th September.

9. Various

- a) New Bishop has had a huge impact already, he will be coming to the festival and will also hopefully be making a parish visitation soon as well.
- b) Buildings inspection taking place this week.
- c) Largs District churches together – Fr Peter is secretary and was able to report on some interesting initiatives being promoted: an LDCT justice and peace group; an LDCT bereavement group; an LDCT choir.
- d) Parish Hall fundraising. A new line dancing group will be taking a regular twice weekly booking in the near future; there is also the possibility of a toddler group using the hall on a regular basis, but they will need storage, which the hall currently does not have. Some type of outbuildings could be erected to the north side of the church, as this area is currently unused. Any groups wanting to use the hall must agree to our conditions which are mainly set by the Catholic Insurance Company and the Diocese.
- e) Proposal for a music club – slow response so far but we'll keep trying to advertise it.
- f) Catholic Men's Group. A way of building confidence, especially for the younger men of the parish, in the hope that they will have some form of apostolic outreach in the future. The social dimension is also hugely important for mutual support.
- g) Fr Peter feels that the synodality process is in a time of waiting as we need to see the results in order to put into practice any recommendations, possibly this should be done at a deanery level as well as parish level.

- h) New group has started for divorced, separated and civilly remarried on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The main idea is mutual support, prayer together and whatever else the membership comes up with.
- 10. AOCB. Fr Peter intends to invite a few others to join the pastoral council.
- 11. Next Meeting Tuesday 1st October @ 7.30p.m., preceded by adoration at 6.30pm.
- 12. The meeting ended with a prayer.

Prepared by Tim Bray

Signed off on by Fr. Peter

06.05.24