

## *Blessington Parish Pastoral Council*

Minutes of P.P.C. Meeting – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Venue: Meeting Room, Parish Centre

Present: Sally Joyce, Declan Naughton, Betty Murphy, Fr. Tim Murphy, Carmel O Donovan, Mary Young, Ann Creighton, Noel Nolan, Eileen Gallagher.

Apologies: Liam Fay

Chairperson: Noel Nolan

Secretary: Sally Joyce

### Matters discussed / Decisions

Review minutes of meeting held Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015 & Matters arising:

- Sally has contacted Father John Dunphy by email. He replied that we were welcome to attend the next scheduled baptismal meeting on 25 February at 7o'clock in Graiguecullen. This is perhaps too soon for us to arrange and we would not have an opportunity to talk much directly with Fr John on the evening. Sally will make contact again and request a more in-depth face-to-face meeting specific to our enquiry.
- World Day of Prayer takes place on Friday 6 March. Sally has spoken to Father Kevin who is willing to be the guest speaker on the evening.
- Music for the confirmation ceremony has been resolved. Teachers from St Mary's school will prepare pupils to perform in a choir for the occasion.

Coimin Centre and Church upgrades :

- The mirror art by Cruthú is now installed in the Bell Tower Porch. The porch however is closed this week due to outdoor works. There remains a plaque to be fitted to wall opposite mirror as part of the installation.
- Daycare have ordered furniture which will take up to 6 weeks to deliver. Baltinglass Daycare has contributed €5k and the HSE €5k towards furniture expenses.

2015 Synod of Bishops document review:

Generally the reaction was one of disappointment at the general tone and frame of mindset contained therein. We felt it was unproductive to make a response to the questions within the framework presented. We decided instead to compose an honest and personal response in a letter format to some of the things we found favourable / unfavourable in the document. Anybody who has an opinion can email Sally by the middle of next week and a letter will be formulated letter collating our representative views.

Review A.G.M. January 25<sup>th</sup> 2015:

Fr Tim suggested that for next year we might revert back to having the A.G.M. at the December mulled wine evening. Bigger audience of people who are well connected in parish activity. The post -11am mass AGM has failed to attract a wider audience.

Some issues were raised in A.O.B. at the A.G.M.

- Hand hygiene and sign of peace: PPC discussion felt that on balance it was a positive inclusion as part of the mass and would be missed if it was discontinued.
- Grandparents Mass: Comments about children feeling left out due to absence of grandparents was

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subsequently mentioned to Carmel Dillon who has taken note.

Lenten Talks:

Following discussion it was suggested we aim for 4 consecutive Wednesday evening talks – 4 / 11 /18/25 March on the theme of ‘Lent – a time of positive change’. This will incorporate the next BYP parent’s seminar on 11th March. Suggested speakers are local man – Howard Dalzell, Fr John Dunphy, and Declan Coyle.

Plan – confirm speakers availability and advertise programme.

BYP Update:

The Community College Directory launch planned for 4th March will be deferred as more work needs to be done on the publication.

Sacramental Preparation Programmes:

First Confession has taken place as has the Ceremony of light.

Betty mentioned a new pilot Confirmation Programme by the Irish Bishops Drug Initiative - “The Confirmation Commitment” - elements of which can be included in future years.

Topic:

Mark 1:40-45: ‘Be cured – and the leprosy left him at once and he was cured’.

Correspondence:

Nil

A.O.B.

Folk Group practice takes place on Wednesday evenings. Occasionally this clashes with another church event. Declan was passing on a request that if this happens could the Folk Group leader be notified.

The parish is still looking to recruit an organist. Mary suggested putting a notice up to that effect in Maynooth University.

Next meeting: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Chairperson: Gerry Staines