

Blessington Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of P.P.C. Meeting – Thursday 22nd January 2015

Venue: Meeting Room, Parish Centre

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

Apologies: Gerry Staines

Chairperson: Declan Naughton

Secretary: Sally Joyce

Matters discussed / Decisions

Review minutes of meeting held Thursday 11th **December** & Matters arising:

- **Changes in Sunday Mass times:** 11am -> 11.15am will take effect Sunday 1st February. This is currently being notified in the newsletter.
- **Baptism Preparation Programme.** Fr Tim spoke to Fr John Dunphy of Graiguecullen. He is willing to visit Blessington or members of PPC can visit Graiguecullen to explore his programme and share ideas. Sally will make contact.

BYP:

The steering group met on 21/1/15. The Community College students have prepared a draft of the youth activities directory. The plan is to launch it at an event in the Community College on 4th March.

There have been several enquiries about a proposed parenting seminar.

Also plans for another parents evening before St Patrick's Day.

Eddie met with members of Community College Student Council who were very open in information sharing regarding the habits of local teenagers.

Discussion about the lack of services to address drug culture. Drugs Task Force services not stretching as far as West Wicklow. This lack of services in our area will be brought up with the Forum, as well as further discussion at BYP Steering Group.

Sacramental Preparation Programmes:

Confirmation takes place on 26th March. Currently no choir in place for the ceremony. Declan will ask Folk Group if members possibly available.

Review Christmas 2014:

The 4.30pm Christmas Eve Mass was again terribly crowded. This should be resolved for 2015 with extra space available.

The unwelcome intrusion of mobile phones was mentioned. Perhaps include a polite mention about this in next year's welcome address.

Also note that when overflow area is utilized in Coimín Centre at future ceremonies, additional stewarding will be required for this area.

Coimín Centre and Church upgrades.

Building works complete. Outdoor landscaping due to start. There has been a very positive response to the overall appearance of building and its impression together with existing church. Daycare researching furniture and fitted units still to be finished. New low outside wall very attractive. It may become a social congregating area and we need to keep a check that unwanted social activity is not permitted.

A.G.M. January 2015:

To take place this coming Sunday 25th January after 11am Mass. Agenda has been planned.

Lenten Talks:

Put on next month's agenda. No firm suggestions at this time. Declan to research speaker Declan Coyle.

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Topic:

Mark 1:14-20 "Follow me and I will make you fishers of man"

Correspondence:

- Letter received thanking P.P.C. for action taken regarding the foundation stone.
- World Day of Sick Saturday 7th February. Events planned by Dublin Dioceses. PPC invited to submit participants.
- Dublin Diocesan Liturgical Centre Spring Newsletter.

A.O.B.

World Day of Prayer will take place on Friday 6th March. This year's service will be hosted in Church of Ireland, St Mary's Church. Organisers have requested a guest speaker from our parish on this year's theme 'Look what they have done to me'. Sally was looking for suggestions – Fr Kevin was proposed and Sally will make contact with him to see if he is willing to participate in the service.

Next meeting: Thursday 12th February 2015

Chairperson: Noel Nolan

AGM report Sunday 25th January

Attendance 30 people

Agenda items covered. Review of 2014 as per report circulated at last meeting.

A.O.B. discussion:

- Sign of peace – concern about hand hygiene raised.
- Grandparents Mass on 28th January – lovely idea, but it was suggested that some children may feel left out as no grandparent present.
- Fr Tim addressed the meeting with a word of thanks to the PPC for their work over the years and to all parish volunteers and workers. He expressed his hope and wish that the legacy of all that had been achieved would continue.
- There was a suggestion from a parishioner present that a petition could be conducted to request that Fr Tim remain in Blessington.