

Blessington Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of P.P.C. Meeting – Thursday 10th December 2015

Venue: Meeting Room, Parish Centre

Present: Fr Richard Behan, Ann Creighton, Sally Joyce, Betty Murphy, Declan Naughton, Noel Nolan, Gerry Staines, Mary Young.

Apologies: Liam Fay, Eileen Gallagher, Carmel O Donovan.

Chairperson: Gerry Staines

Secretary: Sally Joyce

Matters discussed / Decisions

- 0- Agenda
1. Opening Prayer
2. Minutes of P.P.C. meeting **Thursday 12 November 2015** and matters arising.
3. Coimín Centre Update.
4. BYP update.
5. Sunday School proposal (with Rosemary Lavelle)
6. Topic – Gospel Reading Sunday 13 December.
7. PPC AGM
8. Correspondence
9. A.O.B.
 - PPC Booklet topic selection
10. Date of next meeting
11. Closing

1. Rosemary Lavelle was welcomed to the meeting.

5. Sunday School Proposal: Tabled for discussion first as Rosemary Lavelle was in attendance for this part of the agenda.

Rosemary discussed her experience of Sunday School and how it is run in other Parishes. She circulated a document '*Children's Liturgy of the Word or Children's Church - Helping Children Make Connections*'. Children of Primary School age (Age 5 -12) are encouraged to attend. Just before the Liturgy of the Word begins the children go with the weekly leaders to the Pastoral Centre. A Gospel from the '*Lectionary for Children*' is read. There is some discussion and may be colouring of a picture on the theme. The session will incorporate various rituals. The whole process takes up to half an hour. The children return to Mass after the Prayers of the Faithful. It is a child-friendly approach and benefits both children and parents. The priest may ask children for feedback on return or display artwork.

Q&As

Who will conduct? Recommend a team. Resources are available. Teams may rotate to avoid overburden on individual(s). Recruits would need to be interested and self-motivated to be involved.

How often? Monthly or twice monthly. Big commitment to do weekly.

Recruits? Advertise in newsletter. Invite past helpers. Put a link to more information on the website for those whose interest may be sparked by newsletter notice.

We already have an ideal venue in place. Rosemary is available for training and resources. Need a good title. This meeting thought "Children's Church" is an attractive title.

Plan: Start advertising in January. Aim to get project up and running between Easter and summer break. Resume after summer holidays.

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2. Review minutes of meeting held Thursday 12/11/15 & Matters arising:

- American choirs not yet finalised. Gerry needs to discuss with Daycare. Current proposal is for one choir, one orchestra plus BYT on 22nd June.
- Statue of Our Lady. Still hoping this will arrive in time for Christmas. Lighting will be required in the Grotto area.
- Forum Meeting. Address re dementia-friendly communities. This presentation was well received. We should look at church signage etc. and be aware of modifications/additions to ensure that it is dementia-friendly.

3. Coimín Centre Update:

HSE have confirmed by email that 3 months' rent is forthcoming. Daycare have been bridging rent in the meantime.

4. BYP:

Meeting last week. The December Bulletin is ready to be printed. Counselling services in St Joseph's Hall are ongoing.

ARAS - The adult counselling services which is affiliated with HALO have requested use of space in St Joseph's Hall. This is a welcome development.

BYP poster for licenced premises has been printed and Kevin Houlihan and Michael Sargent will be commencing distribution to premises. The poster informs of the liabilities associated with supply of alcohol to under 18s.

6. Topic:

Gospel Reading Luke 3:10-18. The people asked John "What must we do?"

7. PPC AGM.

Scheduled for after 11.15 Mass on Sunday 24th January. Invite parishioners to an "Open Meeting with PPC". May sound more attractive than an AGM. Suggest holding it in the Coimín Centre with refreshments provided.

Detailed agenda and planning at January PPC meeting on 14th January.

8. Correspondence:

Nil

9. AOB

PPC Booklet topic selection – Revisit this idea after A.G.M. Might be a more useful exercise if we manage to attract new recruits – would serve as a useful induction to the group.

Christmas Masses. Declan to circulate a welcome address for comment. Volunteers timetabled for the various Masses.

10. Date of next meeting.

Thursday 14th January

Chairperson: ?