

# **Blessington Parish Pastoral Council**

## **Minutes of P.P.C. Meeting – Thursday 12 November 2015**

Venue: Meeting Room, Parish Centre

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

Apologies: Carmel O'Donovan, Eileen Gallagher

Chairperson: Sally Joyce

Secretary: Liam Fay

### **Matters Discussed / Decisions**

#### **1 Welcome and Introductions with Fr Richard Behan PP**

The meeting was opened by Fr Richard with a prayer for our successful deliberations - *May we always serve the Kingdom of God.*

The Agenda followed is shown above.

#### **2 Minutes of Meeting of 8 October 2015 and matters arising**

1. These were reviewed and accepted.
2. The statue of The Virgin and Child will not now be on site for 8th December but will be installed in time for its dedication and blessing at one of the Christmas Masses.
3. The Induction of Fr Richard Behan as Parish Priest of Blessington will take place at the 8pm Vigil Mass of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on 7th December and will be performed by Bishop Eamon Walsh. PPC will be involved in the ceremony which will also be attended by Valleymount PPC. Representatives of all five churches in the Parish will also attend as will members of St Mary's Church of Ireland parish.

#### **3 Coimín Centre Update**

1. Still awaiting movement from the HSE on outstanding payments.
2. Café is developing well with a good complement of volunteers; user numbers continue to rise.

#### **4 BYP Update**

1. There has been no committee meeting since 7 October; next meeting is planned for 2nd December.
2. Distribution of signage is no further advanced
3. The role of the Forum was queried as it was expected that this body would be approaching publicans etc.
4. An Garda Síochána also need to engage as the timeframe is becoming urgent.

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### **5 Sunday School**

1. Rosemary Lavelle of the Evangelisation Office is due to visit the parish on the coming Monday and is expected to attend the next PPC meeting. Following this it is envisaged that the PPC will announce the initiative in the Newsletter and seek volunteers after this.

### **6 Gospel**

Topic : Mark 13:24-32 *"But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father".*

### **7 Correspondence**

None

### **8 AOB**

1. PPC Booklet - Sally and Gerry had attended its launch. The various topics covered in the booklet (for example, Outreach) were individually discussed in small groups and overall the booklet was considered to be extremely helpful. It was suggested that the PPC could take an individual topic for discussion at future monthly meetings. The booklet launch also included a workshop on the Papal Encyclical on climate change - *Laudato Si* - which was very good.
2. It was agreed that the PPC should work on signage etc for the church following the recent presentation to the Forum on making Blessington 'Alzheimer Friendly'.
3. An approach had been made to the PPC by a parishoner, Ken Hannaway, who is a counsellor specialising in suicide awareness and mental health. It was agreed that he attend the January 2016 meeting.
4. There will be a Carol Service on 16th December in the church.
5. An approach has been made by two touring American choirs for a concert, possibly in June 2016, to be held in the church. They are the City High School Chamber Orchestra (?) and the Raleigh Boychoir of North Carolina.
6. Fr Behan advised that Mr Gerry Malone is training as a Deacon for the area and will be involved in different aspects of parish life, including PPCs.
7. Planning for the PPC AGM will be on the agenda for the December meeting.
8. The use of the Coimín Centre for private celebratory parties was discussed and not considered an appropriate use of the space.
9. The annual 'Mulled Wine' gathering of parish groups will take place in the Coimín Centre on Monday 14th December, 8pm.

Next meeting: Thursday December 10th

Chairperson : Gerry Staines