

# **Blessington Parish Pastoral Council**

## **Minutes of P.P.C. Meeting – Thursday 10 September 2015**

Venue: Meeting Room, Parish Centre

Present: Fr Richard Behan, Ann Creighton, Liam Fay, Eileen Gallagher, Sally Joyce, Betty Murphy, Sally Joyce, Noel Nolan

Apologies: Gerry Staines, Mary Young, Carmel O'Donovan

Chairperson: Declan                      Secretary: Liam

Matters Discussed / Decisions

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

The PPC welcomed Fr Richard to his first meeting of the PPC as Parish Priest of Blessington who opened the meeting with a prayer for our successful deliberations.

### **2 Election of Chairperson and Secretary**

Declan Naughton was unanimously proposed as Chairperson.  
Liam Fay was unanimously proposed as Secretary.

### **3 Minutes of Meeting of 11 June 2015 and matters arising**

1. These were reviewed and accepted.
2. The pre-fabs have now been sold-on over the summer break and the site fully re-instated.
3. Review and endorsement of the Confirmation scrapbooks was completed in June.
4. Other items appear as Agenda items for this meeting.

### **4 Coimín Centre Update**

1. There are plans to extend the opening hours of the coffee shop, but would need more customers to sustain this. There is now one Tús worker who is receiving training and job skills exposure.
2. DayCare is now successfully using two days per week with HSE agreement with the DayCare committee in place for some extra days, though possibly at a reduced rate.
3. There is a need to consider improved marketing and staffing hours; also to seek additional volunteers.
4. There will be a cake sale in aid of Syrian refugees on 27 September and 4 October in the Centre.

### **5 BYP Update**

1. BYP had met on 9 September with a view to raising the awareness of the current 5<sup>th</sup> Class parents.
2. New Garda Superintendent is very supportive of the initiative. Halo had met on previous Thursday morning with good Garda presence with the referring groups also well represented.

## **Blessington Parish Pastoral Council**

3. Meetings are to be set up involving parents of 6<sup>th</sup> Class and 1<sup>st</sup> years.
4. Regrets were expressed following the death of Conor Earley who had been very supportive of BYP and dCaf. A letter of sympathy will be sent to his family from the PPC.

### **6 Sunday School**

1. Fr Behan explained his experience from other parishes in this matter (Pre-Communion children and their parents go to another room at the beginning of Mass with drawings, stories from the Readings etc; return at the Offertory and may put material on the altar ; objective is to build a 'Childrens Church'). This would take place in the school year and helpers would be needed; may approach Transition Year in the Community College.
2. Need to seek help from Evangelisation Office in ABH to explain the process, possibly Rosemary Lavelle will be contacted for her views.
3. Advertise initiative in Newsletter.
4. Place on agenda for next meeting.

### **7 Gospel - Mark 8:27-35 "Who do people say I am?"**

Correspondence;

1. Note from Fr Tim expressing his thanks to the members of PPC for their support over the years.
2. Request from Office for Evangelisation and Ecumenism to attend a meeting in Arran Quay on September 17 to review the ongoing formation of Parish Pastoral Councils (this note was not seen until after the event).
3. Information from Loyola Institute, TCD, on Short Courses in Theology. More details at <[tcd.ie/loyola-institute](http://tcd.ie/loyola-institute)>.

AOB

1. A note of sympathy will be sent to Gerry Staines.
2. There was some discussion on how we might provide some assistance to the effort to support Syrian refugees. An initiative will be coordinated between PPC and Forum. There is to be a collection of clothes, toys etc this coming Saturday for refugees already in Hazel Hotel, Naas.
3. In discussing the new statue of Madonna and Child for outside the church, it was agreed that a fibre-glass model with bronze finish was best for the location. This would take 5-6 weeks to supply from order.
4. Fr Behan the proposal concerning a possible land swap at the back of the school which would result in improved schoolyard and permanent car-parking.

**Next meeting:** Thursday October 8<sup>th</sup>

**Chairperson :** Noel Nolan