

ST MARY'S CHURCH NAIRN SC005122

Pastoral Council meeting Tuesday 13th March 2018

Present: Father Damian, George Lavery, Patricia Robertson, Marie Cruickshank, Gigi Lucas, Phil McBride, Elaine Mac Donald, John Dolan, Mary Collier.

Apologies: Elaine de Ste Croix, Robert MacPherson, Ann Marie McGinley

Minutes of Last Meeting accepted. Proposed by Patricia, seconded by John

Financial report:

The balance in Bank account 12th March = £ 27,381

To be added profit from Fashion Show = £ 3,048

After estimated costs for the parish project, there should be a balance of £ 15.307.

Accounts details attached.

House renovations update:

The painters are starting this week. The colours will be mostly neutral, with oatmeal for the carpets. There will also be industrial cleaners, followed by blinds being fitted, and carpets laid.

Hopefully the house will be ready to move into within the next month.

Social Programme:

The committee expressed their appreciation for Marie's fantastic efforts in producing the very successful Fashion Show, and for contributing such a large sum for the Parish Project.

Marie wished to express her thanks to all those who helped.

Dates: 28th/29th April, George to talk about gift aid after Mass
Parish barbecue **Friday 31st August** and the Visit to the Cemetery
Sunday 2nd September.

September /October George will do a Quiz night. He will enquire about using the Seaforth Club, or other suitable venues. It was noted that we should try not to clash with other Church's activities, so that they can support us and vice versa.

Coffee morning **1st December**. After some discussion it was decided that it should continue to be on our own church premises.

Marie has offered to have a social evening/ meal at her house again, just for the Pastoral Council. **Friday 7th December**

Marie is still organising a Burns supper for **25th January 2019**. The manager of the hotel has changed so she needs to check details with him.

Youth Ministry: There was some difficulty in organising the recent retreats offered by the Nuns, therefore no one from Nairn attended. Father Damian has been to a Youth Co-ordinator Course in Birmingham, plus a similar event in Glasgow. Some of the leaders from Glasgow Archdiocese may come up help. The plan is that there will be a **HIGHLAND DEANERY COMMON YOUTH PROGRAMME** for all the parishes.

Lourdes Trip: 2 older girls are hoping to go on this. The cost is being subsidised and kept to £ 300. The date has been changed from April to October, to fit more comfortably with school and exam timetables. At present discussions are taking place with parents, some of who may also go. Child protection rules must be adhered to.

First Communion 3rd June. There are 4 children.

Stephen Lawrie is helping Ian provide the music. The music is to be child centred, and the parents are involved with the choices. There will be a communion breakfast after the Mass.

AOB:

Patricia spoke about the **Pluscarden Pilgrimage** 24/06/2018. The Mass is at 3pm.

There are 15 people signed up already. She is encouraging the Children's liturgy group to come, with their parents. The Bishop has asked that all the parishes in the Diocese should go. Patricia is very keen the people from Nairn should go as a Parish group.

It may be that a coach could be booked.

STAY AWHILE on Good Friday. This was discussed at the last meeting. Father Damian wanted to think about it before making a decision. He has now agreed that this can go ahead.

The church will be open from 7-9pm on Good Friday, with refreshments in the Hall run by Patricia and Elaine.

Father Damian told us that he has had discussions with the ministers of the Old Church, St Ninian's and the United Reform Church and they have agreed to a plan for Holy Week.

There will be a poster in the Nairnshire, detailing the various services in all these churches, including our Stay Awhile.

On the Monday evening there will be an ecumenical service at St Mary's. There will also be an ecumenical service on the beach, early on Sunday morning.

Healing Mass:

Patricia said that a number of people have been asking her whether there can be more healing masses for the sick. Father Damian said that the first one was held on World Day of the Sick.

He will think about possibly doing another, later in the year. There was some discussion as to whether this should be on a weekday or a Saturday.

Rosary on the Coast: A request has been made for the Parish to participate in this. After some discussion, with varying views put forward and with reference to the events in Poland etc, Father

Damian concluded that he would like more time to reflect on the matter.

Marie said that someone had been asking why the minutes were not displayed at the back of the Church. This person is elderly and doesn't have a computer. Mary agreed to give a set of minutes to Father Damian, so that they could be hung from the board at the back of the Church.

Charitable giving: Father Damian said that we have £ 1000. Remaining in restricted funds to be given to charity. These monies date from Father Barnett's time. He suggested giving £ 500 to Mary's Meals. This was agreed.

There was discussion about where to place the other £ 500. We discussed Women's Aid and Sure Start. Both these are in Inverness. The feeling was that we should give locally. John suggested COVAS. This is a small local charity, not well known, who give support to mainly women but also men who suffer domestic abuse. The foodbank supply them with food and Social Services re house them. John has agreed to find out more about the charity and bring it to the next meeting.

The Hall

Father Damian spoke about his future ideas for the Hall. He would eventually like to rename it the Mary McKillop Hall and Catechetical Centre.

He would like the upstairs room have religious books and he is thinking about contacting the Josephite Sisters, to persuade them to think about setting up an exhibition re: Mary McKillop. He would like to develop a link with Australian visitors, as she is Australia's only Saint.

It was noted that as the Hall is used for the Foodbank and also Whist Drives, there may be a possibility that one of the Highland/Nairn groups would provide a grant. He will do some further investigations.

Patricia stated that she had some new "**Light a Candle**" cards for Easter and the Money from them will go to the Church in Aleppo, Syria.

Date of next meeting 19th June 2018