

St Mary' Catholic Church Nairn

Pastoral Council Meeting Tuesday 11th September 2018

Present: Father Damian, George Lavery, Patricia Robertson, Marie Cruickshank, Phil McBride, Elaine MacDonald, Elaine de Ste Croix, John Dolan, Mary Collier.

Apologies: Gigi Lucas, Robert MacPherson.

Minutes of the Last Meeting accepted. Proposed by Patricia, seconded by Phil.

Matters Arising: None.

Financial Report: The balance in the bank account = £ 16,874.00

We are still awaiting gift aid from the past two years.

The amount is approx. £ 4,500.00

We are also awaiting approval for gift aid for the Donation for the new organ.

Parish Project: the money raised was £ 12,400. The total cost was £ 34,350. Therefore £ 22,000.00 came from parish funds.

Outstanding tasks are for repairs/replacement of windows. Costs unknown. Father Damian has decided to leave this outlay for the present and possibly consider it in a year.

Running costs: these are £ 600.00 per week , weekly collections average £ 510.00 per week, = £ 26,520.00 per year. This is a gap is about £90.00 per week = £ 4,680.00 per year. We need to think about how to fill this.

Social Program:

The recent barbecue made a profit of £ 44.00.

5th October: George has organised a Quiz in the Seaforth Club.

The Club has offered the room free, but they will take the profits from the bar.

Cost to attend is £ 8.00 per team of 4.

There will be a raffle and prizes. The posters will be distributed to the local Churches by Father Damian. 4 bottles of wine for prizes to be donated.

1st December

Coffee Morning at the Church Hall and grounds. Patricia will donate the money to buy a gazebo, to erect in the front of the coffee room. We will need prizes for the raffle and items to sell.

Suggestions are for Jams, Baking, Plants etc

Entrance fee £ 2.00

Organisation , we need Helpers for serving teas/ coffee, people to wash up. Sellers of raffle tickets and most importantly people to fold the tickets.

7th December,

Marie to host a social evening at her home for the committee.

January the idea for a Burns Evening has fallen through.

Patricia announced that the Peter Zanre Moray String Quartet have said they would be happy to do a concert for us. We discussed the possibility of having this at Pluscarden maybe in May. Patricia will investigate.

Youth For Christ:

Marie information.: This is a National organisation, local contacts the Baptist Church. Marie hosted two students from Argentina last year, for a week. She found it quite hard work and is not keen to repeat it.

They want to employ a Youth Leader based at Nairn Academy and they are asking each Church to contribute £ 3000.00 per year towards their salary. We discussed this and held the view that we are already looking after our own Catholic Children and apart from that there is no way we can afford to support the scheme.

Traidcraft:

Elaine talked to us about Traidcraft and their Social Justice program. She would like to see if it is feasible to set up a small café in the hall, both to sell small items and to educate children about social justice. Her idea is to talk to Oxfam and see if she can get an arrangement with them, to get some of their stock on a sale or return basis. She already has literature for children, to encourage them to become more aware of where their food/clothes come from and how the people who provide it are employed.

It was agreed that she could try this perhaps once a month, on a Saturday morning in the hall.

Book review: Elaine discussed wanting to build up a library of books or simply book reviews. It was decided that this should wait until a library was established upstairs.

Competent Business:

Patricia has sent a cheque for £ 100.00 to Sister Annie in Aleppo.
|This was money given for the Light a Candle cards.

Father Damian, Patricia and John had formed a sub-committee, to look at ideas for improving the Hall. They have asked a joiner Alan Maine to come round and give them some advice on organising a disabled toilet.

Father Damian has spoken to Tom Heggie, a Local Counsellor, about the possibility of getting some help from Community Funds, as the foodbank is based in the Hall .

Father Damain wanted to thank Marie McGinley , who has moved away, for all her work in advising about the house renovation.

He also wanted to thank Marie. Stephen Lawrie, and John for their help with the Barbecue

Phil said that in view of Health and Safety rules, when we ask for volunteers to do any manual work, such as demolishing the shed, we should try and get younger, rather than elderly parishoners to help.

Next Meeting:

20th November 2018 at 7.30pm.