

# St Mary's Catholic Church Nairn

Pastoral Council Meeting Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018

**Present:** George Lavery, Patricia Robertson, Marie Cruickshank, Phil McBride, Elaine MacDonald, Elaine de Ste Croix, John Dolan, Mary Collier, Gigi Lucas, and Robert MacPherson.

**Apologies:** Father Damian

## **Minutes of the Last meeting:**

One alteration was noted on page 4. Father Damian, Patricia and John (Not Phil) had formed a subcommittee. Minutes then accepted. Proposed by Patricia, seconded by Marie.

**Coffee Morning:** Marie gave a list of people involved in helping with the coffee morning. She has people to make tea and coffee both upstairs and downstairs. People to run the stalls and the raffle. She already has some contributions for the hampers for the raffle and for sales on the stalls. She has others lined up to do some home baking. Helpers are to come by 8.30 on the Saturday morning.

The Gazebo has been bought by Patricia and will be erected early on Saturday morning.

A notice is ready to go into the Local Nairnshire next week and there are multiple posters around the town.

Marie has been given a £ 20.00 donation from a local shop, Brambles.

**String Quartet:**

Patricia has been liaising with Pluscarden Abbey about the possibility of having a string quartet to play a concert, to raise money for St Mary's. She has been given permission, but there is a problem at the moment, because one of the players is very ill. It seems likely that this will take place next summer.

**Traidcraft:**

Elaine has found that it is impossible to get Traidcraft articles to sell, on a sale or return. Therefore this idea has gone onto the back burner.

**Father Damian:** notes for the council in his absence.

He has had a meeting with all the young people and their parents. He is to start running classes for all the young people in the New Year.

He has made out laminated prayer sheets to help them to pray. He has planned to have the Nativity Play on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> about mid-morning.

He has also suggested that the young people should have a small coffee morning ? on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December and sell small items to raise money for Kerala.to go to the SVDP in Kerala. Gigi has a connection there.

A new security light has been fitted outside the back of the Parish Hall.

He will continue to pursue plans for the Hall with the subcommittee.

**George:** has been asked to do another Quiz. He hopes to organise this before lent begins.

He also suggested running "race night". Possibly in October.

A discussion took place as to suitable venues to hold these events.

### **Financial Report:**

Cash balance 31/10/18 was £ 16,672 expected to rise to £ 19,000, when the approved gift aid tax refund for 2017/2018 is received.

Gift Aid Donors have increased after the appeal, from 29 to 35 by 31/10/18.

Annual tax refund of £ 2,500 includes £ 378 from the house renovation donations.

Gift Aid tax refund claim of £ 1,500 on the Church Organ donations has been submitted

It seems that the levy from the Diocese has shot up by £ 282 per month and is now equivalent to 57% of our monthly income. Even with taking off the small monthly payments to the Priest from the Diocese, it will still be about 50%.

A long discussion was held about this. Several committee members thought that this was unacceptable and maybe we should protest.

Phil is to try and get some more information on why this levy is so high. We have a small congregation and the only way we can raise extra funds is by running events and maximising gift aid.

Major expenditure approved includes £ 425 for the restoration of the flower beds.

The money to be raised from the coffee morning is to be ring fenced to pay for new windows for the house. Estimates to be obtained in the New Year, with the work hopefully being completed in the Spring

The money raised by Father Damian's run in Dublin was £ 840.00. added to this is £ 350.00 from money set aside for charity by Father Barnett, the previous priest. This total of £ 1,190.00, is intended to be given to The Women's Aid in Inverness.

There is £ 150.00 let in the charitable fund from the past priest and it is to be sent to Lepra.

**John Dolan** said that he understood that the Total of £ 500.00 ((from the older fund) was to be given to the local group COVAS. On checking the minutes from June 2018, this action was agreed, but has not been carried out. Phil and George are to speak to Father Damian about this.

**Robert MacPherson:** Robert is to talk to Father about the dates for holding both the Nativity Play and a possible Christingle service. It seems that a number of families with children will be away on the proposed date, the weekend just before Xmas. It may be more suitable to hold it a week earlier.

He will also discuss having a Xmas /Jessie Tree

**Patricia:** Says she would like to hire out the Gazebo in exchange for a donation. It was suggested that this idea should be included in the news letter.

Date of Next Meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm