

St Mary's Catholic Church Nairn SCO05122

Minutes of Pastoral Meeting 11th May 2022

Present: John Dolan, Father Damian, Eric Hanna, Elaine MacDonald, Stephen Knight, Elaine de Ste Croix, Phil McBride, Mary Collier, Eric Hanna and Moyra Wilson

Apologies: Marie Cruickshank and Gigi Lucas

Minutes: were read and approved by John Dolan and seconded by Elaine McDonald

Matters arising: Elaine M. stated that as a result of the appeal, they have a man and a woman who have both said they would possibly join. They have 8 members at present and this would bring them up to 10.

The Lenten Lunches were successful and £ 405.00 was raised. This money was split as a donation to Mary's Meals £ 250.00 and Traidcraft £ 195.00. Father Damian has had a letter of thanks from Mary's Meals and Elaine had a letter from Traidcraft.

The confirmation went very well and was a good celebration for the families and the Bishop.

The Counsel would like to say thank you to all those involved in making both these occasions so good. A lot of effort was put into both the food and the flowers.

Julie has now changed the names on the website, to include the new members.

The SDVP Box has been stolen for the 2nd time. It has now been decided, with advice from the police, to no longer leave it, or any other money in the church. We are to have a collection at the end of Mass, as people leave, on the third Sunday of every month.

Endowments: this was discussed at the last meeting. Phil has failed to find any official leaflets, so it was decided we could make one of our own. This will be discussed at the finance committee.

Synod Meetings: These were held after the Saturday evening and Sunday Masses. They were well attended by parishioners. The reports will go to the Diocese and then eventually all will be all collated and go to Rome. This is to give a general picture of how the Church is working worldwide.

A lively discussion was held about the fact that each church will not get any individual feedback. As a result we thought it might be a good idea to look at organising a future planning process for our own Church.

Mr and Mrs MacPherson who facilitated the Synod meetings, spent a lot of time and effort with their presentations. This was much appreciated and the Pastoral Counsel would like to say thank you to them, on behalf of the Parish.

Finance: The bank balance is £ 22,500.00. Gift Aid for 21/22 will be £ 3,500.00

Utility bills are of course expected to be higher as the year progresses.

Moyra: She spoke about the Flowers for the Church. We are in desperate need for extra people to help with the flower rota. She also asked if a fund could be established to help pay for these. At present the parishioners doing the flowers simply pay themselves. After discussion, it was agreed to have a church collection in both Advent and Lent, to pay for flowers for Xmas and Easter. Any other bills for flowers can be re-imbursed by the accountant when necessary.

We also discussed general work in the church e.g cleaning, looking after the linen etc

It was decided that Father Damian would put a notice in the Mass sheets to try and encourage a wider group of people to help.

Jubilee Pudding Competition: This is to be held next Sunday 15th May. Marie has already issued instruction sheets. Father Damian has a voucher for the first prize and two other prizes have been donated. There will be separate prizes for the children.

Summer Barbecue: to be held on Friday 26th August.

Blessings at the Cemetery: the same weekend on the Sunday.

First Communions: 19th June. Marie is organising this. Father Damian to donate the cake. The Communicants can have their teas upstairs and members of the parish downstairs.

Eric Hannah; Eric would like to establish a monthly prayer group. This would consist of Eucharistic adoration in the Church followed by a prayer group in the hall. Ian Gordon is happy to provide music in the Church and Eric has spoken to several people who are happy to be involved, including his wife and her friends who are not Catholics. This will be planned with Father Damian.

Pastoral Council Elections: The term for this council is over now and elections are to be planned for the Autumn. The present membership will be dissolved.

It was decided to keep the membership to adults, rather than include teenagers, which was suggested. We should aim for 10 members.

AOCB;

Diocesan letter: Rupert and Chloe Furze, parishioners, have written a letter to the Bishop. They were suggesting that as a parish, we should try and do something to help the Ukrainian refugees. The idea being that if we had a family in Nairn, as a parish, we could provide meals, assistance and friendship.

The council discussed this and as there is another woman in the town, who has already started thinking along these lines, and has actually travelled out to Poland, we decided that it would be better to await the results of her trip. John, as chairman, said he would liaise with her.

Hall Rental: Phil was approached by a woman who wanted to hire the hall for a commercial venture. This began to prove difficult. We have decided that we will let only to non-commercial groups and ask for donations, rather than rent. Recently a Brownie group have started to use the hall and are very happy with it.

Date of next meeting 23rd August