

## **St Mary's Catholic Church Nairn SCO05122**

### **Minutes of Pastoral Meeting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**Present :** Father Domenico, John Dolan, Phil McBride, Steve Knight, Elaine MacDonald, Marie Cruickshank and Mary Collier

**Apologies:** Moyra Wilson. Gigi Lucas.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** One correction needed, to add Elaine MacDonald's surname, ( reporting on the SVDP), to distinguish her from the other Elaine on the council.

Approved by Phil and seconded by Steve.

#### **Matters arising:**

**Pastoral Council Elections.** Elaine De Ste Croix wishes to resign and this was accepted.

Our thanks to Elaine for being part of the Council for the last five years.

We are due to have Pastoral Council Elections, now that a new priest has arrived. It is planned to do this in the early spring. Father Domenico is to put a notice in the mass sheets, in the new year asking for any possible volunteers.

**The Prayer group** instigated by Eric ,has had one meeting so far. 6-7 people attended and this seemed to be successful.

#### **Ukrainian Refugees:**

Eric Hanna was not at this meeting . It was decided that the secretary would email him and ask if he would like to invite his contact, Jill Kent, of the Justice and Peace Group, to come from Inverness to talk and discuss with us whether we, as a parish, would want to get involved in helping refugees, of multiple nationalities, not just Ukrainians. The plan is to do this at the beginning of our next meeting in January.

#### **Financial Report:**

Money in the bank on 30/09/22 = £ 23.892.00

To date collections this year, since April = £ 15,563 ( that includes money given for the development fund, on the first Sunday each month).

Gift aid accounts for 47% of the income = £ 7,273.00

We have 30 gift aid donors, 13 weekly envelopes and 17 donations via bank.

We are having to face big increases for both Electricity and Gas prices in the coming months. We need to heat the church and the hall plus the house. Phil is going to work out an estimate of our probable costs.

The house is being prepared for rental to a retired Priest, so the cost of heating for the house, we hope, will be covered by the Diocese.

As a result of these extra large costs, we had a discussion about ways to raise extra money.

The two main options were to run a 90 Club or consider running some bingo events. We settled on the choice of a 90 club and will discuss this fully at the next meeting. The suggestion was that tickets would possibly be £ 2.50 per month.

**Xmas Fayre.** Marie has now got most of her plans in place and seems to have enough people to help out at the Fayre. We have posters ready and lots of small gifts for the young children visiting Santa.

**Assigning duties** to the parishioners. Beth Mayberry has stepped down , as safeguarding officer. She has been doing this job for about 5 years and the Council would like to express out thanks for her work.

Margaret Smith is to take over this role

**Cleaning the statues** of Our Lady and St Joseph. Steve is very happy to do this task and Father has approved.

## **AOCB**

Dates for First Communions: not yet fixed for 2023

Date for Confirmation: April 20<sup>th</sup> 2024 at the Saturday Vigil Mass, Nairn

April 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday morning Mass at Culloden.

Elaine asked about getting a cordless hoover for the Church. It was decided to change the present "Henry" for a cordless hoover that is sitting in the house.

Father Domenico is to arrange for a more sophisticated controller for the boiler to be installed. Hopefully this will help to keep the energy bills lower.

There was also a discussion about the Xmas Mass times as Father has to cover the two churches.

**Date of next meeting 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023**