

St Mary's Catholic Church Nairn SCO05122

Minutes of the Pastoral Meeting on Wednesday 11th January 2023

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

Apologies: Eric Hanna and Gigi Lucas

Minutes of the last meeting: one correction was made. The plan to run a 90 club for members to pay £ 2.50 per month(not per week) as stated in the minutes.

Minutes approved by John and seconded by Phil.

Matters arising:

Eric has written to the woman that he hoped bring to talk to us about the **Ukrainian refugees**. He has had no reply, so we have decided to drop this plan.

Pastoral Council Elections: the current members should resign and offer themselves for re election if they are happy to remain.

We need around twelve members, but this is not a fixed number.

At present we have 9 active members., although one indicated that they may retire. It was decided that we should try and encourage people to join who are involved in various tasks, or are particularly knowledgeable about, eg. running the heating system etc.

Father Domenico will put a notice in the Mass sheet, to say that anyone willing to stand for election/ re election should put their names down by the end of January.

Xmas Fayre: This was great success and made about £ 1,800.00. Having it in the new venue was part of that success. The Father Xmas was not so good, as there were few children. The bottle stall, Tombola was again extremely popular. It was noted that selling raffle tickets at the door was not a good idea, as it lead to queues of people waiting to get in. This venue has been booked again for 2nd December 2023. The same parishioner has agreed to pay for the hire of the hall again.

Our thanks to Marie for her great organisational skills.

Thanks to the teenagers of the Parish who helped enormously with running the Fayre.

90 Club: This was discussed at the last meeting and we have decided to go ahead. At £ 2.50 per month = £ 30.00 per year. Hopefully people would pay that in one or two lump sums , either by cheque or standing orders. The money will go into the parish funds.

Father Domenico will announce this in the Mass Sheet.

Cleaning of the statues: Many thanks to Steve for doing this.

Financial Report: At the end of December the balance at the bank was £ 31,720.00.

£ 2,000.00 of this came from gift aid from small donations. 76% of the donations to the church now attract gift aid.

We will have a bill of £ 11,000.00 to pay as levy to the Diocese

Weekday Masses: it was suggested that to cut down on heating bills for the Church in the winter, that Mass could be said in the Sacristy. After some discussion, about using the Sacristy, the hall or the House, it was decided to keep using the Church. Father Domenico will reset the heating to turn on Saturday afternoon and the leave it on overnight until after the Sunday Mass.

Milk in the hall: There was a long discussion about the milk used for tea and coffee in the hall. Marie has a system of bring milk in at certain times and keeping a check on this through the week. It was decided just to leave things as they are. An alternative suggestion was that we use a fibre tip pen to note the date on the packet when it is open.

New Electric Cleaner for the Church: apparently the cleaner that we have changed too is still a problem as it is heavy to use. It was decided that Elaine and some of the other cleaners could look at a number of alternatives and buy a new one to suit everyone.

AOCB: There was discussion about the requirements for Health and Safety rules, and whether we should have a health and safety officer.

It was decided that a list should be made and kept in the Sacristy of medical responders, who could be there to help anyone taken ill in the church. Mary to compose a list.

Also there was discussion as to whether the women cleaning the church, should always have a second person with them, from a safety point of view. No definite decision made about this. Elaine to discuss with the people involved.

There was also discussion about the possibility of having a defibrillator available, sometime in the future.

Marie has asked that a notice should be put in the Mass Sheets to ask for any communion dresses to be donated.

Emily is still wanting to get more volunteers for the flowers. She is hoping to arrange a demonstration one evening to attract more help. We are gradually buying the odd artificial flowers to add to the displays. This will help to keep the costs down.

The council wants to say Thank You to Emily, and her friend, for her lovely displays of the Xmas flowers.

Access to the Hall: Elaine has been opening and closing the hall for the Brownies, guides and rainbows to use the in the evenings. It has been agreed now to give keys to 2 of the adults running these groups.

Father John would like to say Thank You to the council and the Parish for his warm welcome.

Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 29th March at 7pm.