

## St Mary's Catholic Church Nairn SCO05122

### Minutes of Pastoral Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Present: Father Domenico, John Dolan, Elaine de Ste Croix, Steve Knight, Eric Hanna, Gigi Lucas, Elaine MacDonald, Phil McBride, Mary Collier, Marie Cruickshank and Moyra Wilson

Apologies: Robert McPherson

John Dolan our Chairman welcomed our new Parish Priest, Father Domenico.

**Minutes of the last meeting** : these were agreed as correct proposed by Moyra and seconded by Eric.

**Matters arising:** Phil informed us that Father Domenico has brought some relevant information about publicising endowment funds. He will get this organised and the information can be left in the back of the Church. The money given as an endowment would be held and invested by the Diocese, but would be ring fenced and available to the individual parish.

Elaine MacDonald reported that funds for the **SVDP are doing well**. It was suggested that someone should stand at the back of the Church after mass, so that people would realise there was a collection, as opposed to just leaving a container for people to notice as they go out.

There has been some response to the **appeals for help** in the running of the church, one person has definitely signed up and there are hopes for one or two others.

**The Jubilee puddings** contest was a success. There was to be no summer barbecue and the Blessings at the Cemetery are also not to happen this year.

**Pastoral council elections:** Officially the council should be in abeyance when a new priest comes in. However some of the members have only recently joined, and only Elaine de Ste Croix suggested she would like to resign. It was decided after discussion to leave things as they were for the time being and discuss at a later date.

Eric had proposed starting a monthly **prayer group**. This has been agreed with Father and will start in early September, with Exposition in the church, followed by a prayer group and discussion in the hall.

**Ukrainian Refugees:** Eric has contacted a local woman who is connected to the Justice and Peace group in St Mary's Inverness. It was agreed that Eric would invite her to come and talk to us. We could perhaps invite other parishioners who are interested in getting involved.

**Financial report:** Phil tells us that the Bank Balance was £ 24,876.00 at the beginning of July. £ 7374.00 of this is for the development fund.

There small amounts filtering in from candles = £ 269, coffee = £177.00, piety stall = £156.00

The Brownies and Guides hire the hall two evenings a week during term time and this brings in

£ 60.00 a month.

There followed a discussion about key holders and the number of people having access to the Church and Hall. For the time being Phil will come and open up the hall for the Brownies and Guides. Will discuss this further at the next meeting.

**Marie Cruickshank, the Social Secretary:** Communion dresses. Marie already has three donated by parishioners. She hopes to build up a collection, as these can be quite an expense for some families.

She has been thinking about having a “**fun evening**” for the parish, one evening in the autumn or spring. We need ideas.

**Xmas Fayre :** Date 10th December. Hopefully this can be held in the Community Centre or an alternative venue. Our Hall is really too small to accommodate the numbers of people who come. Last year there was heavy rain, which really curtailed the whole morning. Marie Neilan, a parishioner, has already offered to donate the money to pay for the hire of a venue. Marie is planning what we will offer and will assign tasks to various people.

Marie's other idea was to have a day's outing ? by Minibus, to somewhere on the West Coast e.g Plockton.

**AOCB:**

**The Beetle Drives** are to resume towards the end of December.

**Catholicism course:** this is to start on 7th September at 7pm and will run for 10 weeks.

**Soup Kitchen:** we have received a letter from Chloe Furze, a parishioner, who has had the idea of running a soup kitchen through the winter. She is proposing running it in tandem with the other churches in Nairn, so St Mary's would provide soup one day every week.

This provided a long discussion. Although the idea is admirable, it is difficult for various reasons.

There are very strict rules now about providing food for people. There has to be one main person, who has qualifications in food preparation, to cook on the premises. Every tiny ingredient has to be labelled, in case of allergy. We know that at least one of the churches has been forced to stop providing free lunches. The Diocese have already sent out strict rules to discourage this idea.

It was agreed that we would not want to become involved. Mary is to write to Chloe and explain our decision.

**Date of next meeting 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022.**

In the gap between the meeting and writing these minutes, I have spoken to Chloe Furze and she is quite happy to accept that providing soup kitchen, has too many practical difficulties.