

St Mary's Catholic Church

Pastoral meeting 07/02/24

Minutes

Members present: Father Domenico, John Dolan, Phil McBride, Marie Cruickshank, Chloe Furze, Elaine MacDonald, Steve Knight, Eric Hanna, Mary Collier.

Apologies: Gary Douglas and Walter Wilson.

Minutes of the last meeting: approval purposed by Steve and seconded by Chloe

Matters arising: Walter had suggested having a performer eg. a singer, in the Church, to raise funds. there is a local singer , Clare Grogan, who might be approached. Marie to follow this up.

Financial Report: Bank balance end of December 23 was £ 41,455, much better than normal.

During this period, we had several, larger sums paid in. A gas refund £ 3655. Xmas Fayre £ 1669. Gift aid extra is also due . We also have extra expenses lined up. Survey for the crack in fabric £ 720 Flooring £ 820.

The 90 club is now a year old. We had £ 1950 income, £ 880 paid out in prize money an overall profit of £ 1125. People have to rejoin. Father to add this onto the Mass sheets.

List: Members of the Pastoral Council to have their names on a list in Back of the Church. A photo to be taken at the next opportunity.

Father Domenico: A discussion about greeting people onto the Church. This is happening now with several people doing it in turns.

For new parishioners can we have cards again at the back , for their details.

We had a discussion about involving the children. We could have a Children's Mass, and get them involved by them doing some of the readings, possibly write a bidding prayer and choosing the hymns.

Elaine SVDP: There are no members left in Nairn for this group. However there is £ 745.00 left in the bank account together with an uncashed cheque £274.

Elaine has tried to ask for advice from head office, but she has not had any official response. After discussing the problem , it was decided to leave the money where it is, as it is possible that a new group could open up in the future.

Church Fayre: Marie is stepping down from organising this. Marie Neilan is also stepping down from doing the teas and coffees. It was decided to tackle this in another meeting. The Fayre is booked for 7th December 2024.

Coffee morning: it was suggested that we could hold a coffee morning and raffle some of the remaining prizes from Xmas. No definite decision was made.

Confirmations: As these are on a Saturday evening, and there are only a few children, we decided that the parents would either do the teas or take the children out.

Chloe: she was asked by a parishioner to have pencils provided in the church for the children to colour their pictures. There are in fact lots provided in the upper room in the hall.

Repairs to the Sacristy: Father Domenico has contacted the Diocesan Insurance to be told it is unlikely that he could claim as this is an ongoing problem over many years. There have been inspections in 2006 plus 2010. So unless we can show that there is recent cracking then there will be no insurance.

The decision was taken that we should go ahead with a groundwork investigation.

Parking outside the Church: there has been a request from the neighbours next door, to not park on the pavement directly outside the Church. When they are trying to pull out from their house, parked cars to their right are blocking their view. Now that the road is extremely busy, it is becoming unsafe. Cars parked to the left on the wide part of the pavement will not cause problems for them.

Having said all this, there is legislation about to come in. Parking on the pavement can get a a £ 100.00 fine. Father Domenico to add to the Mass Sheets.

We suggested the remaining gate be taken off to widen the entrance, as several members have already damaged their cars. It was also suggested that we could remove the grass at the back and replace it with gravel. This would give a few extra parking places. Father to contact Sandy

Music at mass: John had an email from Maria McPherson, asking if she could organise some musicians to lead the singing of old and new hymns. John to follow .up.

Health and Safety: Our New Representative is Beth

Fundraising: In view of the likely large expense the structural problems may require, we need to start fundraising. Several possible ideas were discussed.

Bingo night, Race betting night, Quiz night, Afternoon tea.

Family fun day. St Ninian's day 16th September is his feast day. Eric had some ideas of how we could celebrate it and invite the other churches to come. eg. Get a Boucy castle

Eric is sorting out the library upstairs but would like to have some shelves downstairs with religious books and use it a lending library. Any newish religious books donated would be gratefully received.

Father Domenico: Station mass 1st March. The Bishop is coming. What do we offer as refreshments? Simple or elaborate? Father to ask for volunteers to prepare do food and clear away afterwards.

We decided on paper plates and cups, sandwiches and small cakes nothing elaborate

Date of next meeting 8th May