

# Parish of Saul & Ballee

## Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: **Monday 13th January 2025**

Time: 6.30pm

Location: Saul Parochial House Meeting Room

**Attendees:** V. Rev. Fr. Aidan Brankin, Vivienne McCormick, Tommy McCabe, Paul Kelly and Geraldine McVeigh.

**Chair:** Vivienne McCormick / **Vice Chair:** Post vacant / **Secretary:** Geraldine McVeigh

**1. Apologies:** Jackie Breen

**2. Opening Prayer** led by Geraldine McVeigh

The Chairperson welcomed members to the meeting.

**3. Adoption of Minutes from previous Meeting** – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

The minutes from the above meeting were circulated to all members via email prior to tonight's meeting. All agreed and a proposal was made by Tommy McCabe and seconded by Fr. Brankin to adopt the minutes as presented. The minutes were adopted and signed off by Fr. Brankin, the Chairperson and Secretary. A copy will be held on file in the Parochial Office and a copy will be published on the Parish website and displayed on the Church noticeboard.

**- Action: Geraldine to email minutes to Parish secretary for publication on the Parish website.**

**- Action: Copy minutes to go on Church noticeboard.**

**4. Matters Arising**

- **School Family Prayer Ministry**

Invitations were sent out to the whole school – 24 replies have been received. Vivienne will request Amanda to print 24 copies of the Family Prayer Book and send them to the school.

**- Action: Vivienne to request Amanda to send 24 copies of Family Prayer Book to the school.**

- **November Mass for the Deceased**

The November Mass for the deceased was held on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Attendance was good and Vivienne extended thanks to Fr. Brankin and Jackie for saying the Mass.

**- Action: No further action required.**

- **Christmas 2024**

All Masses in the Parish were well attended. Vivienne extended thanks to Fr. Brankin and Jackie and everyone who helped in any way. Ballycruttle Mass was held in candlelight – there were a few young children there.

Cinema passes were given to the school as prizes for their Christmas Raffle - we do not yet know who the winners were.

On Bambinelli Sunday the children brought their Baby Jesus figurines to the Church to be blessed – this was very popular in Ballycruttle.

The Fountain Food Bank appeal went well – it is in great demand.

The Christmas Cards were a good success.

**- Action: No further action required.**

## **5. Catholic Schools Week**

Catholic Schools Week will run from 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January is not included as it is the Sunday of the Word of God. Schools will explore what it means to be fully alive as a human being – living life to the full in Christ. Grandparents Day is Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January with Mass in the Church. Breakfast Club will run for grandparents coming into the school.

**- Action: No action required.**

## **6. Jubilee Year 2025 – “Pilgrims of Hope”**

The Jubilee Year began on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024 with the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter’s Basilica. A number of events are being held including Jubilee of Deacons on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 24 Hours for the Lord on 28<sup>th</sup> March, Jubilee of Priests 25<sup>th</sup> –27<sup>th</sup> June and Jubilee for Schools on 24<sup>th</sup> June. The Jubilee Year was launched in the Diocese by Bishop Alan with a Mass in St Peter’s on 29<sup>th</sup> December. The Bishop mentioned pilgrimages to Saul and Knock. We need to consider if there is anything we can do as a Parish for the Jubilee Year and Fr. Brankin said he would be supportive if there is anything we wish to do. He said that maybe for Lent we could have an additional service. Vivienne suggested a visit to St. Peter’s with Mass and it was agreed we should ask around and see what people were interested in.

There is a poster for the Jubilee Year and there is an enlarged version in Clonard which is very impressive.

**- Action: Consider what we can do as a Parish for Jubilee Year and see what parishioners are interested in doing.**

## **7. Any other Business**

- **Website and Facebook**

Paul Fitzsimons was to speak to Amanda about the Parish Website and said he could possibly get someone to set up a website for the Family of Parishes. Amanda and Mary are setting up a Facebook Page for the Family of Parishes.

**- Action: Paul Fitzsimons to update us on position re Parish website**

- **Parish Draw**

The first year of the 300 Club draw is coming to an end. We need to decide if we should continue for another year or merge with Strangford. There will be a meeting at 6.30pm on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> January for promoters and anyone interested in becoming a promoter.

**- Action: No action required**

- **Cemetery Policy**

Vivienne has to arrange a date to meet with Amanda re the Cemetery Policy. Amanda has been very busy and the office is closed to the public on Wednesdays at present. Vivienne will arrange to meet with Amanda when she is less busy.

**- Action: Vivienne to meet with Amanda re Cemetery Policy.**

- **Youth Ministry**

Pathways to the Future are looking at a Youth Ministry course and the young people have said they are interested.

**- Action: No action required**

- **Presentation to Fr. Robert**

- Fr. Robert's presentation took place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November and he was very pleased. The event was well attended and Vivienne extended thanks to everyone who had helped with the catering.

**- Action: No action required**

- **Family of Parishes**

A meeting of the Family of Parishes took place on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November and Vivienne advised there was not a lot discussed. The next meeting is on 11<sup>th</sup> February.

**- Action: No action required.**

- **Training Course for Readers**

A training course for Readers will be held in Tobar Mhuire on 8<sup>th</sup> February. A notice has been in the Bulletin for a number of weeks so all Readers should be aware of it. A date for training for Eucharistic Ministers has still to be arranged.

**- Action: No action required**

- **Eucharistic Adoration**

Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 8pm has resumed but attendance has dropped.

**- Action: Adoration times to go in bulletin.**

- **Graveyard Toilets**

Fr. Brankin said the toilets in the graveyard are not in Caroline's responsibilities but he will get someone to look after them.

**- Action: Fr. Brankin to arrange for someone to look after the toilets in graveyard.**

- **PPC Training**

Training for those interested in becoming Parish Pastoral Council members and for current members will take place on 28<sup>th</sup> January from 7pm-9pm at Lecale Trinity Mercy Site. A notice is in the Bulletin and Fr. Brankin will speak at Masses this weekend and get a PPC up and running in Kilclief.

**- Action: No action required**

- **Holy Week Services**

Fr. Brankin said he would like to have something in all the Churches in Holy Week. There will be the Dawn Mass on Easter Sunday on the mountain and the Stations on the mountain on Good Friday at 5.30pm

**- Action: No action required**

**8. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader**

The date of the next meeting will be **Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm.** Prayer Leader will be Vivienne McCormick.

**8. Closing Prayer:** Meeting concluded with a closing prayer.